Stewardship
What every congregation should know

Rev. Dr. Richard J. Wolfram
Asst. to the President – Stewardship Ministries, Michigan District, LCMS

Rev. Daniel C. Meckes
Administrative Pastor, Faith, Bay City
Michigan District Stewardship Committee Member

Stewardship

"Therefore we must use all these things upon earth in no other way than as a guest who travels through the land and comes to a hotel where he must lodge overnight. He takes only food and lodging from the host, and he says not that the property of the host belongs to him. Just so should we also treat our temporal possessions, as if they were not ours, and enjoy only so much of them as we need to nourish the body and then help our neighbors with the balance. Thus the life of the Christian is only a lodging for the night, since we have here no continuing city, but must journey on to heaven, where the Father is."

Martin Luther

Stewardship

INTRODUCTION
All people are stewards by birth.

By grace we are Christian Stewards.

Stewardship

INTRODUCTION

The members of a healthy congregation understand that they …

- are stewards by God's grace
- are free to live as God's disciples
- are free to manage the gifts God entrusts to them with joy and generosity

all so that His purposes would be accomplished and His mission enhanced.

Stewardship

INTRODUCTION

- **Christian** – one who believes in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- **Disciple** – one who follow Christ and learns from Him.
- **Steward** – one who manages all that God so graciously entrusts to him/her.

Stewardship

1. What kind of steward are you forming in your congregation?

2. What are the stewardship challenges your members face?

Stewardship

- How do the leaders of your congregation set an appropriate example as leaders in the area of Christian stewardship?
- What is the goal of your congregation's stewardship ministry?
- How is your congregation helping members grow in living out their faith in daily life?

Stewardship

Good steward conversation starters:
- Who taught you about stewardship?
- When did you become a steward?

Stewardship

Ownership
- God is the Owner.
- God calls us to be Stewards.
- Stewards are accountable to the Owner.

Stewardship

Stewardship and Relationships
1. To God
2. To Myself
3. To Others
4. To the Gifts God Gives (Creation)

Stewardship

5 Pillars of Congregational Stewardship

1. **Education** – Providing Intentional, Systemic, Year Round, whole life Stewardship education
2. **Annual Challenges** – Providing an annual stewardship challenge
3. **Money Management** – Personal money management and asset mapping

Stewardship

5 Pillars of Congregational Stewardship

4. **Leaving a Legacy –** Providing a lifetime plan for giving
5. **Over and Above Giving (Capital)** – Providing an "over and above" opportunity for extending ministry

Stewardship

Stewardship Primer

1. Making the Case for Christian Stewardship
2. Foundation for Christian Stewardship
   (Titus 2:11-15)
3. Fundamentals of Christian Stewardship
4. Definition of Christian Stewardship
5. Identity of the Christian Steward

Stewardship

Stewardship Primer

6. Stewardship is a Spiritual Issue
7. Changing the Stewardship Culture
8. The Chief Steward and Stewardship Champions
9. Plans and Processes for Congregations
10. Step by Step Resources

Stewardship

Technical, Adaptive or both?

Technical changes are the kinds of changes we make on the outside. They are intended to "fix" something quickly.

Adaptive changes are the internal changes in our attitudes, beliefs and feelings.

Stewardship

Stewardship is a Spiritual Issue

- It is about God's relationship to us.
- It is about the relationship we have with our neighbor.
- It is about growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- It is about living out our identity as God's children.

Stewardship

Stewardship is a Spiritual Issue

"If we are not willing to teach ourselves and our fellow believers how to manage our lives for the Savior, the sinful world is more than willing to teach its brand of self-centered living."

Stewardship

Questions?