

How to Utilize This Collection of Resources

“There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call — one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (Eph. 4:4–6)

Every congregation is the same, and yet every congregation is uniquely different. The same Word of God is to be preached in every pulpit, and yet any preacher with experience can tell you about how difficult it is to preach the Word of God in a given place to a given people in a given situation. The rural church surrounded by corn fields, the urban church surrounded by blight, the suburban church surrounded by new growth — all need the Word of God and each brings its own background, assumptions and blindspots that must be taken into account by the pastor.

This collection of resources includes some items that are important for every pastor and stewardship committee to consider, and it includes items that are specifically tailored to specific settings. In other words: Not everything in this book is for you; it is not meant to be read cover to cover. Rather, the resources are arranged into various groupings so that you can easily find what will be of benefit to you in your unique setting.

Theology of Stewardship

This section includes short essays that really are meant for everyone. They place stewardship in the context of Lutheran theology and lay the foundation for the rest of the resources. Read these first!

Bible Studies/Sermons/Pastoral Aids

Everything in the church comes back to the Word of God. These resources can be used in your congregation as you find them here, or you may use them as springboards for creating your own studies. Permission is granted to copy, paste, edit and duplicate as you see fit.

Nuts and Bolts

Here you will find how-tos, tips and plans for implementing stewardship programs in your congregation.

Practical Wisdom

Here you will find interesting articles about demographics, personal money management and other topics that provide insight into teaching stewardship.

May our gracious Lord grant your congregation every blessing in Christ Jesus!

Rev. H.R. Curtis
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