Stewardship Under the Cross

PLANNING OUTLINE

Teach the Word • Ask God’s People to Act • Plan Accordingly • 9–12 Months of Teaching • 4 Week Focus to Ask

LAYING THE PLAN STARTS NOW

NOTES
Begin Teaching the Congregation

Date of Stewardship Sunday (SS)
The process of Teaching the Word, Asking the People to Act, and Planning requires 9–12 months.

Planning the Timeline
The process of Teaching the Word, Asking the People to Act, and Planning requires 9–12 months.

Budget Due Date (BDD) no sooner than 9 months from today: ____________________________
Date of Stewardship Sunday (SS): BDD – 2 or so weeks: ____________________________
Begin Teaching Entire Congregation SS – 6 months: ____________________________
Leadership Training Time amount of time between today and SS – 6 months: ____________________________
Begin including stewardship focus in bulletins SS – 4 weeks: ____________________________

During Leadership Training Time
1. Pastor teaches what the Word of God says about stewardship to the lay leadership from the inside out.
2. Pastor makes specific plans for teaching the entire congregation during the six months prior to SS. This will include making plans for the adult Bible class (specific studies on specific dates), planning newsletter articles and planning sermons.

Resources for Pastor’s Planning
There is a library of documents available for free at lcms.org/stewardship to help congregations grow in their understanding and implementation of a life of stewardship. For example:

1. Stewardship Under the Cross is a free, downloadable book that narrates an LCMS congregation’s process of going through stewardship instruction for the first time. Great for elders or church council to read together. It is short, but has lots of information including Bible studies, timelines and newsletter articles.

2. In the “Stewardship from A to Z” resource, see especially “New Testament Stewardship” under “Theology of Stewardship.” This is a comprehensive Bible study introducing stewardship. Explore the many other Bible studies as well.

3. In the “Stewardship from A to Z” resource, also look for “Stewardship in the Lectionaries” under “Bible Studies, Sermons and Pastoral Aids.” Use this resource to find which Sundays will have stewardship themes in the assigned readings during the 6 months leading up to SS.

4. There is much, much more in “Stewardship from A to Z” as well! Spend some time now looking through it and finding materials you want to use.

5. Each month lcms.org/stewardship posts a new newsletter article and Generosity Thoughts bulletin blurbs with devotional thoughts keyed to the lectionary (both 1- and 3-year). All of the resources at lcms.org/stewardship are yours to download, edit, cut and paste, and use in any way you want. And don’t be afraid to make your own resources, pull in material you like from other places, etc.