



Steward Tips

Central/Southern Illinois Synod

February 2016

Part of our stewardship ministry is to assist individuals and congregations with the development of financial strategies that will help them to be good stewards of the resources that God has given them. This issue of "Steward Tips" focuses on a free ELCA stewardship webcast, ELCA World Hunger 40 Days of Giving, and a congregational stewardship program.



ELCA Stewardship Webcast February 27, 2016

The ELCA will host a live stewardship webcast on Saturday, February 27 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Four Central/Southern Illinois congregations will serve as off-site viewing centers. There is no charge to participate in the webcast, but those who attend are asked to contact the site that they will attend.

Designated viewing sites include:

- Epiphany Lutheran Church, 1501 Chautauqua St., Carbondale, IL; (618) 457-2065
- Faith Lutheran Church, 520 E. Highway 50, O'Fallon, IL; (618) 643-5562
- Lutheran Church of Mahomet, 410 E. Andover Dr., Mahomet, IL; (217) 586-4786
- Trinity Lutheran Church, 100 W. Cherry St., Fairbury, IL; (815) 692-3692

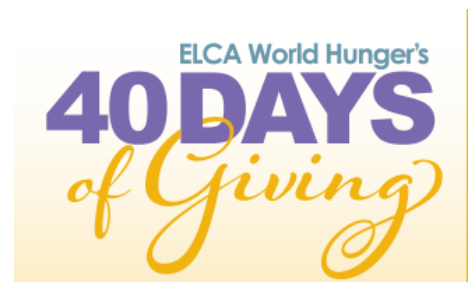
Featured presenters include: ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Rev. Bob Davis (Macedonia Project); Mr. Steve Oelschlager (Online Giving); Rev. Charles Lane and Ms. Grace Duddy Pomroy (Embracing Stewardship); and Rev. Stephen Bouman. A new stewardship resource entitled "Embracing Stewardship" by Lane and Pomroy will be introduced during the webcast. For more information about "Embracing Stewardship", visit www.embracingstewardship.org

Participants are asked to arrive at the local congregational viewing centers no later than 10 a.m., in order to be seated for the webcast. For additional information, please contact any of the viewing sites listed above.

ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving

You are invited to participate in the ELCA World Hunger's "40 Days of Giving" journey through the Lenten season. Resources include: 40-day Lenten devotional; a six-week study guide; daily e-blasts; a special certificate of recognition; and new Lenten resources.

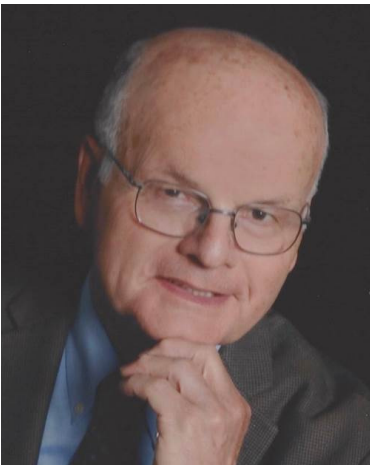
Visit www.ELCA.org/40days and click the "Sign Up" button to join ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving.



You may send feedback, resource recommendations, and contact information to:
Pastor Bob Dealey at Bob.Dealey@csis-elca.org

Stewardship Perspective, (Part 2)

By Bob Clark



Bob Clark is a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Champaign and is involved in the congregation's stewardship ministry. Part I of this article appeared in the 2015 December issue of "Steward Tips".

One Congregation's Stewardship Campaign

Our congregation began its' stewardship planning late fall. Our discussions included "Our Duty and Delight", a stewardship program by Mark Allan Powell and focused on the theme of "The Joy of Giving". We decided to emphasize what we, as a church, could accomplish together as we told God's story through the perspectives of congregational members. As a result, we held our stewardship emphasis during Lent using gospel-related lessons and sermons, followed by personal testimonials from lay members.

The first presentation included stories by lay members who had recently returned from a mission trip to El Salvador. Three high school students related their experience and talked about support they had from the congregation in terms of prayers, logistics, and financial support. Week two, the presenter was a new member who had recently become involved in a fundraiser for the homeless in our community. The week three presenter spoke about our congregation's support of the ELCA malaria campaign and support of our companion synod in Madagascar. In week four, a charter member, who had been with the congregation for more than fifty years, spoke about the struggles of the church in its early days and how the congregation always focused on preaching, teaching, and reaching others. Her great love for the church and what we can accomplish by working together came shining through. Each presentation was followed by a stewardship related hymn: "Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling", "O Zion Haste", "Take My Life That I May be" and "We Give Thee But Thine Own".

Each week, we kept focused on what we do worldwide, in our community, and what we do for each other through the eyes and voices of a variety of members—youth, a new member, and a charter member. Stewardship materials and pledge cards were mailed during the latter part of the campaign.

We discovered that Lent worked well as a time for stewardship emphasis, as it is a traditional time for renewal and commitment. Our church uses a unified budget approach to support local and benevolent needs and the new pledging period began May 1st of the year. In 2014, Stewardship Sunday was held the week before Palm Sunday and the results of the stewardship campaign were very positive. The congregation received more pledges in terms of number of commitments and amount pledged than it had in several years. We hope that the involvement of so many different members will lend itself to stronger programs in the future.

Because each church has its' own style and context, how to approach stewardship activities in each church may differ. Good ideas come from many places. The pastor should not be expected to oversee the stewardship program alone; the more people who involved in the program, the better it will be. The task is to plan and deliver a message that will resonate with all members. A program that is gospel-based, centers on helping others, caring for the poor, and telling Good News is a message that is effective.

The ELCA's tagline: "God's Work. Our Hands." certainly applies. Could you find a stronger message for a successful stewardship program? If we work and pray together and tell the story, we can go forth boldly and know that the Holy Spirit will accompany us along the way.

