

**EPIC-Effective Practices for Innovative Church Councils**  
**Generosity Team or Stewardship Committee February 17, 2018 Small Group #2**

**1. Practical matters**

- a. 50% of the congregations in our synod do not have a Generosity Team or Stewardship Committee.
- b. Do you need one?

**2. What does a Generosity Team or Stewardship Committee do, Part 1?**

- a. ASK members of your church to support the ministry
- b. THANK members for their generosity and teach members to count their blessings and give thanks to God.
- c. TELL members stories about ministries of the church and what difference they make in the world and in the lives of real people.

**3. What does a Generosity Team or Stewardship Committee do, Part 2?**

- a. Educate the congregation
  - i. Personal Finance
  - ii. Biblical principles about giving time, talents, treasurers, tithing
- b. Create a climate of gratitude
  - i. Abundance not scarcity mindset
- c. Invite the congregation to give generously during a special generosity/stewardship emphasis
  - i. Fall Stewardship Drive-educate
  - ii. Consecration Sunday-celebrate, appreciate
  - iii. Pledge Cards-commit
  - iv. Mission Budget
- d. Communicate with the congregation about
  - i. new programs,
  - ii. need for additional funding,
  - iii. “make a difference moments”
  - iv. stewardship updates and inspirational information in newsletter/social media

**4. Are there any resources for Generosity Teams or Stewardship Committees?**

- a. YES, check out the books below.
  - i. *ASK, THANK, TELL*, by Charles Lane
  - ii. *Embracing Stewardship*, by Charles Lane and Grace Pomeroy
  - iii. *Not Your Parent's Offering Plate*, by Clif Christofferson
  - iv. *Preaching Stewardship*, by Craig Satterlee
  - v. *The Soul of Money*, by Lynn Twist
- b. YES, Check out these materials

Ask Pastor Laurie Skow-Anderson to email copies of Stewardship for All Seasons or Pay It Forward, resources that she has written.

Contact the Resource  
Center for additional ideas.

- i. *Financial Peace University*, Dave Ramsey
  - ii. *Share/Save/Spend*, Nathan Dugan
  - iii. Cross-Gen Generosity Project and Cross-Gen Care of creation Workshops-Amacher, Skow-Anderson, Ramlow
- c. YES, Check out these websites
- i. Elca.org/resources/stewardship, check out the book markers, Giving Magazine with complete stewardship programs, narrative budget, and 100s of other great resources
  - ii. Luthersem.edu/stewardship, great ideas, blogs stewardship insights
  - iii. Care of Creation
- d. YES, Walking Together workshop
- i. *Ain't Nothing but an Offering Plate, Empty all the Time* workshop
- e. YES, contact Bishop Rick Hoyme or Pastor Laurie Skow-Anderson and they will meet with your church council and help them get the generosity team, stewardship committee started.

## 5. How do we do a fall stewardship campaign?

- a. Gather a committee-decide on your goal-For example:
  - i. last year we received 59 pledge cards-this year we want to increase it by 20% to 69 pledge cards.
  - ii. Last year 87% of our members gave exactly the same amount as they did the year before. This year we are challenging all our members to take a STEP UP in Giving and give 1% more than last year and encourage our member to grow toward tithing. We will send a letter in a specially colored envelope, an email, and if necessary, follow up with a phone call to from our stewardship committee, to invite them to attend Consecration Sunday celebration
- b. **Make a plan-how will you accomplish your goal?**
  - i. How many weeks?
  - ii. Will the pastor have a special preaching series?
  - iii. Will you use personal stories?
  - iv. Who will write and send the letters? Emails? Make phone calls?
  - v. Who will organize the food, decorations, setup and clean up for the celebration dinner?
  - vi. Who will hand out pledge cards, collect and tally them?
  - vii. Who will write the thank you notes? Report to council? Write the annual report?

**STEWARDSHIP/Generosity Team-MAKE A DIFFERENCE MOMENT**

**A Formal stewardship program isn't always possible for every congregations.**

The SRT recommends that every Sunday right before collecting the offering, the pastor or usher, makes a **one minute "Make a Difference" announcement** about how the money that goes in the plate or the money that is given electronically is making a real difference in the life of someone else here at our church, in the surrounding communities, in the state of Wisconsin, in the USA, in the world. You aren't asking for money, you are thanking them and reminding folks about the good things that their money is doing that they might have forgotten or never knew. You fill in the blanks below and get a volunteer to say thank you and remind people how their offering and gifts make a difference. See the Faith in Action booklet for ideas. Brainstorm 52 ways to say "thank you" and share how their offering is making a difference.

<b>Where does our church make a difference?</b>	<b>How does our money make a difference? List 12 things in each box.</b>	<b>Date repeat 12 times</b>
<p>At Dovre Lutheran                      Example:                      Say something like:  <b>Thank you for your generous offering today. What you give makes a difference. Because of your gifts ...children come to know and love Jesus through our Sunday school program.</b>                      Member/church building focus)</p>	<p>1. SS            7.                      2. VBS         8.                      3. building    9.                      4.                10.                      5.                11.                      6.                12.</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month: do 12 of these on the first Sunday of the month, local thank yous on the 1<sup>st</sup>.   <b>Always say Thank You and mention Jesus!</b></p>
<p>Locally (nonmember focus)                      Example: Thank you...because of your gifts nonmembers children can attend Bible camp and learn about Jesus.</p>	<p>1. Bible Camp 7.                      2. Food shelf 8.                      3.                9.                      4.                10.                      5.                11.                      6.                12.                      7.</p>	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month</p>
<p><b>Synod, State or National Example:</b>                      Thank you...                      Because of your gifts campus ministries in EC, RF, and Stout are sharing the good news about Jesus with college students.</p>	<p>1. Campus Ministry 7.                      2.                8.                      3.                9.                      4.                10.                      5.                11.                      6.                12.                      7.</p>	<p>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month                      NWSWI.org for ideas</p>
<p>Global Example: Because of your gifts and offerings farmers in Malawi are learning new methods of growing food that resists drought and can eliminate famines.</p>	<p>1. Malawi       7.                      2. Kits           8.                      3. quilts        9.                      4.                10.                      5.                11.                      6.                12.</p>	<p>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month                      See Stories of Faith in Action booklet for ideas.                      ELCA.org                      Websites for ideas</p>