



stewardNet

News and inspiration for church leaders

Winter 2014



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

You're receiving this email because you or your congregation indicated you are a stewardship leader in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). If you'd prefer to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please [let us know](#).

Dear friends,

Welcome to stewardNet! You are part of a growing network of stewardship leaders in the ELCA. Stewardship ministry is crucial to the life of our church, and we are grateful to you for your passion, energy and commitment.

In this newsletter, you'll find links and ideas that might be useful in your stewardship ministry as a church leader. It's our hope that stewardNet will serve as a source of inspiration to you as you encourage others to faithfully steward God's rich blessings.

Watch for this periodic newsletter in your inbox in the months ahead and be sure to encourage others who would benefit to subscribe to stewardNet by visiting www.ELCA.org/growingstewards.

We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life. Thank you for doing God's work with a faithful, generous heart!

Faithfully,

Steve Oelschlager
Stewardship Program Coordinator
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

P.S. We'd love to hear from you! Have a link or idea you want to share in our next issue? Email stewardnet@elca.org.

Giving thanks to God *Happiness through gratitude*

Psalm 100 puts it this way: "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."



Louie Schwartzberg, an award-winning cinematographer, includes these same themes in his inspirational [TED talk](#) about the Happiness Revealed project. Make sure to catch the whole video.

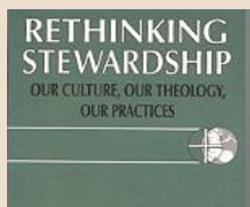
Making a difference with clean water *God's work. Our hands.*

As mentioned in the above TED talk, most of us take clean water for granted, but that is not a reality in some parts of the world. [Learn how](#) ELCA World Hunger is helping to improve lives around the world by meeting this basic need.



Rethinking stewardship *Food for thought*

"The church needs to learn to talk about money without talking about giving." [Watch Luther Seminary](#) professor Rolf Jacobson summarize his ideas for rethinking stewardship. His thoughts and others are included in the publication "Rethinking Stewardship," which can be ordered [here](#).



Changing the world through how we save *God's work. Our hands.*

In Rethinking Stewardship, Rolf Jacobson suggests stewardship is so much more than the money we give to our church. Along those lines, when we invest with our ELCA Mission Investment Fund we help strengthen the ministry of our church, even as we save for our future. View this [engaging video](#) about the one life we have to live.



New stewardship resource from the ELCA *Print and electronic resources*

Stewards of God's Love is a new resource from the ELCA that can be used for year-round stewardship ministry in congregations. Rooted in a holistic, biblically based approach to stewardship, Stewards of God's Love challenges all Christians to reimagine the ways in which they steward God's resources in response to Jesus' commandment to love God and our neighbors. Copies were mailed to the stewardship chair in each ELCA congregation in early September.



To order a print copy or download the pdf version, [click here](#).

Stories of Faith in Action' *Print resources*

Discover stories of the people whose lives have been touched by ELCA ministries in the past year in this annual publication. You'll also find resources on Mission Support and how the important contributions members make to this church are put to use in life-changing ministries across the country and around the world. Order your [free copy](#) of Stories of Faith in Action today!



Sayings, quotes, thoughts *Og Mandino*

"Remember that there is no happiness in having or in getting, but only in giving. Reach out. Share. Smile. Hug. Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself."



Biblical foundations *Matthew 6:31-34*

Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.



Get connected! Find ELCA [stewardship resources online](#)

