



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 the Winter 2014 issue of stewardNet for church leaders!

The video clips and resources highlighted in this issue are centered on leadership, change and vision and how these ideas might be useful in your stewardship ministry as a church leader.

Links to new annual report covers and money autobiographies, as well as an inspiring presentation from Dan Heath, are just a few of the pieces we've gathered to enrich your stewardship ministry in the new year.

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

In Christ's service,

Steve Oelschlager
Stewardship Program Coordinator
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

P.S. Help us grow our network! Be sure to encourage others who would benefit to subscribe to stewardNet by visiting www.ELCA.org/growingstewards.

The crazy ones who "think different" Leadership and vision

Most likely you have seen [this advertisement](#) from Apple many years ago, but have you watched it thinking about Jesus, the church and our mission to make close the kingdom of God? "The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do." In Corinthians, Paul talks about us being "out of our minds" for God. How does your discipleship and understanding of stewardship cause you to "see things differently"? How can our church be remarkable so that we cannot be "ignored"?



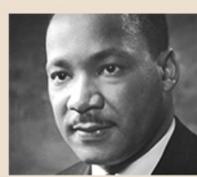
Change comes from feeling not thinking Leadership tactics

Lutherans can be a heady crowd, so it is easy for us to think that change is an intellectual process that comes from thinking, analyzing and laying out the facts. In this [short video](#), Dan Heath, author of "Switch," says that is rarely how change happens. How can we help people to see, feel and be inspired so that change can be motivated from the heart? If people were more passionate about their faith, maybe their stewardship practices would be more inspired, and the ministries of our church would have the needed resources to grow. Read the book ["Switch"](#) for more intriguing ideas about change.



How great leaders inspire action Simon Sinek on leadership

Consistent with the previous message from Dan Heath, Simon Sinek formulates in [this TED talk](#) a simple but powerful model for inspirational leadership, all starting with a golden circle and the question, "Why?" His examples include corporations, Martin Luther King Jr. and the Wright brothers. "People don't buy what you do, they buy why you do it. We follow those who lead because we want to." So why do we do what we do as a church? How do we articulate that vision in compelling ways?



What do we get when we give to a good cause? Seth Godin on the power of story

Why on earth would a rational person give money to charity – particularly a charity that supports strangers? What do they get? [Click here](#) to see how Seth Godin answers these questions.



Thinking different at Jacob's Well Talking about money

Greg Meyer is the pastor of an emergent ELCA congregation in Minneapolis called Jacob's Well. In this [audio clip](#) from a Luther Seminary stewardship conference, Pastor Meyer tells about things they have learned at Jacob's Well through lots of experimentation. One finding is that the top three things people want to hear about are money, relationships and religious pluralism. In particular financial challenges are "killing people" and are the cause of much hurting and suffering, so the congregation has set a goal that everyone in the community have a budget they can live on. All the presentations from this conference on Stewardship with Adults Under 40 are available [here](#).



Money autobiography Moving from the past to the future

This [practical resource](#) from the ELCA uses conversation and reflection to get at the attitudes, principles and practices related to the teaching and management of money in your congregation. How can healthier mindsets allow us to more easily connect money with ministry, mission and our vision? A [similar resource](#) for use in forming a personal money autobiography is also available.



Annual report covers Our mission together

For many of us, the ELCA is the most important organization that we are a part of for making a difference in the world. What better symbolism than to wrap the printed overview of your congregation's year in ministry with a common cover design that is shared with other ELCA congregations? You can order your covers, which include a special message from Presiding Bishop Eaton and a graphic of where your offering goes [here](#).



Sayings, quotes, thoughts Robert F. Kennedy

"Some believe there is nothing one man or one woman can do against the enormous array of the world's ills against misery, against ignorance, or injustice and violence. Yet many of the world's great movements, of thought and action, have flowed from the work of a single person. A young monk became the Protestant reformation, a young general extended an empire from Macedonia to the borders of the earth and a young woman reclaimed the territory of France. It was a young Italian explorer who discovered the New World, and 32-year-old Thomas Jefferson who proclaimed that all men are created equal. 'Give me a place to stand,' said Archimedes, 'and I will move the world.' These people moved the world, and so can we all."

Biblical foundations Luke 4:18-19

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

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



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