Dear friend in Christ,

As I reflect on the turmoil and divisiveness of the present moment, I think of the apostle Paul’s words in Romans 12:2, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God...”

In a time of cultural consciousness growing, there is enormous explanatory power in understanding how the evolving consciousness of society influences every aspect of our human experience. This understanding is critical for stewardship, including values and practices of faith and stewardship.

Two articles from Luther Seminary on the changing paradigms of faith and giving at the 2020 SOFIA can be found here: [link]

We'd love to hear from you! Have a link or idea you want to share in our next issue?

Sincerely,
[Signature]

Stewardship Program Coordinator
Steve Oelschlager
8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631-4101
800-638-3522
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OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Through the resourceful servants congregational financial assessment site we are landfilling congregations all over the world. Here are some key stats from the last fiscal year:

- Over 4,000 congregations were served
- Over 60% of congregations received a report back on their financial health
- Over 80% of congregations recommended changes to improve financial health

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THE EXPLANATORY POWER OF EVOLVING CONSCIOUSNESS

With the rise of the internet and the digital revolution, the concept of virtual space has become a reality. This has led to a new way of thinking about the relationship between people and the environment. As cultural consciousness grows, so does the need for stewardship.

One way to deal with this problem is to selectively read what we agree with and ignore the rest. This is known as “critical consciousness.”

The series encourages us to transform our stewardship practices into ones that are just, sustainable and peaceful. The Earth Charter articulates the values that guide our stewardship practices.

Almost all U.S. congregations ceased in-person religious services in March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, yet for the vast majority of these faith communities, their work and religious activities signals to donors that your congregation merits donations.

The ELCA is working to gather all stewardship-related videos in one central location. Visit our Video Showcase here.

The Earth Charter is neither a theological nor an environmental document but a foundational ethical document calling for actions to build a more just, sustainable and peaceful society.

The Earth Charter articulates the values that guide our stewardship practices. Both pieces rely on the work of the Lake Institute on Philanthropy at Indiana University.

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https://www.elca.org/stewardNet/Article/View/114925/Other-Items-of-Interest

The most telling and profound way of describing the evolution of the universe would undoubtedly be to trace the evolution of love.

As much as we might bristle at the prosperity gospel or theologies that see power and money as the end goal, there is a growing recognition that we need a different way of thinking about faith and giving.

What do we do when particular passages from the Bible suggest accepting things that we don’t find acceptable?

New opportunities

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