

## **Financial Stewardship**

### **Bible Passages:**

Matthew 6:19-20 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, ... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Malachi 3:10 “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, ... Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

II Corinthians 5:14,15 “For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”

I Corinthians 16:1,2 “Now about the collection for God’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.” *(This was a collection for the people in Jerusalem who may have been poverty stricken because of famine. Paul is writing to the church in Corinth.)*

II Corinthians 9:6-7 “Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

### **Objective:**

To teach and encourage the good management of God’s possessions.

### **Rationale:**

Our Lord has given us many blessings, spiritual and financial, in various measures. In our thankfulness to Him, we are to manage those blessings wisely. In order to carry out the work of the church, we need to return a generous proportion of God’s gifts. It all starts with people being in the Word. Remember Martin Luther spoke about three conversions, *first the heart, then the head, and finally the pocketbook*. When we study the Word of God, we will find ways He wants us to be good stewards.

**During the next 7 years:**

1. We envision “an ongoing program of personal financial stewardship.”

**To make this vision a reality,**

- a. The Elders will form a Stewardship Committee to give immediate attention to financial stewardship. (Cf. Appendix 2)
- b. The Stewardship Committee will study stewardship material (time, talent, and treasure...) and begin visitations to every member immediately.
- c. A regular stewardship program will incorporate an annual Stewardship Sunday and a face-to-face visit at least every third year to discuss with members the whole range of their stewardship life.
- d. The Stewardship Committee will develop a regular, ongoing program of information, personal encouragement and individual visitation regarding deferred giving, scholarships, wills, trust funds, etc.
- e. The Planned Giving Committee will invite the WELS Gift Planning Counselor to our congregation annually.
- f. In addition, the Planned Giving Committee may invite other qualified individuals to address the congregation, as they deem necessary.

2. We envision an improved system of reporting our current financial status to all our members.

- a. The Finance Committee will use the Worship Bulletin to report budgetary needs vs. income-to-date on a weekly basis, beginning immediately.
- b. The Monthly Church Newsletter will be used to report pertinent financial information in an understandable format.
- c. The Finance Committee will periodically survey the congregation to assess what financial information is desired for the above.
- d. We recommend using any newly developed technology to report the above information, i.e. E-mail, web-site.
- e. The Finance Committee will make use of oral presentations/discussion sessions to the congregation as needed.

\*Based on discussion at the Congregational Meeting, January 12, 2002, we suggest that the Stewardship Committee conduct an annual survey regarding time and talents and that the information be updated on congregational database.