

Current Best Practices for Congregational Stewardship
Proposed by Deacon Timothy Siburg for the Congregations of the Nebraska Synod

Understanding of Stewardship

- Starts with identity of being a baptized Child of God
- What does it mean to be a steward?
- Defined holistically, and applied across the whole life and breadth of the congregation and ministry
- Time, Talent, Treasure
 - Also- passions, questions, dreams, ideas, stories, vocations

The Stewardship Team

- A cross-generational, and diverse group passionate about telling stories of faith in action, serving neighbors, and not afraid to think about faith & money
- Ideally a team of 5-7 people
- Comprehensive stewardship ministry- Ask, Thank, Tell
 - Go about the work of asking
 - Go about the work of thanking
 - Tell the story of faith and ministry in action, often and always
- Pastors and ministry leaders talk about tithing & money openly and honestly
 - Lead by example

Giving

- Offer as many ways to give as possible (across generations)
 - Passing a plate- cash, checks
 - In-kind donations (food, goods, etc.)
 - Online giving
 - Automatic Deposit
 - Mobile Giving
 - Giving Kiosks
- Reduce designated giving
 - Allow congregation's mission/vision/budget to dictate giving to needs by larger community
- Year-round
 - Seasonal planning

Budgets

- Narrative/missional budget
 - Have the numbers, but put the mission, ministry, and story first

*Compiled by Deacon Timothy Siburg for the congregations of the Nebraska Synod.
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