



We are stewards

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Zumbro Lutheran Congregation Education

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Our journey of faith leads us

to build bridges of understanding and
peace,

to reach out with compassion and

to share the hope of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.



STEWARDSHIP

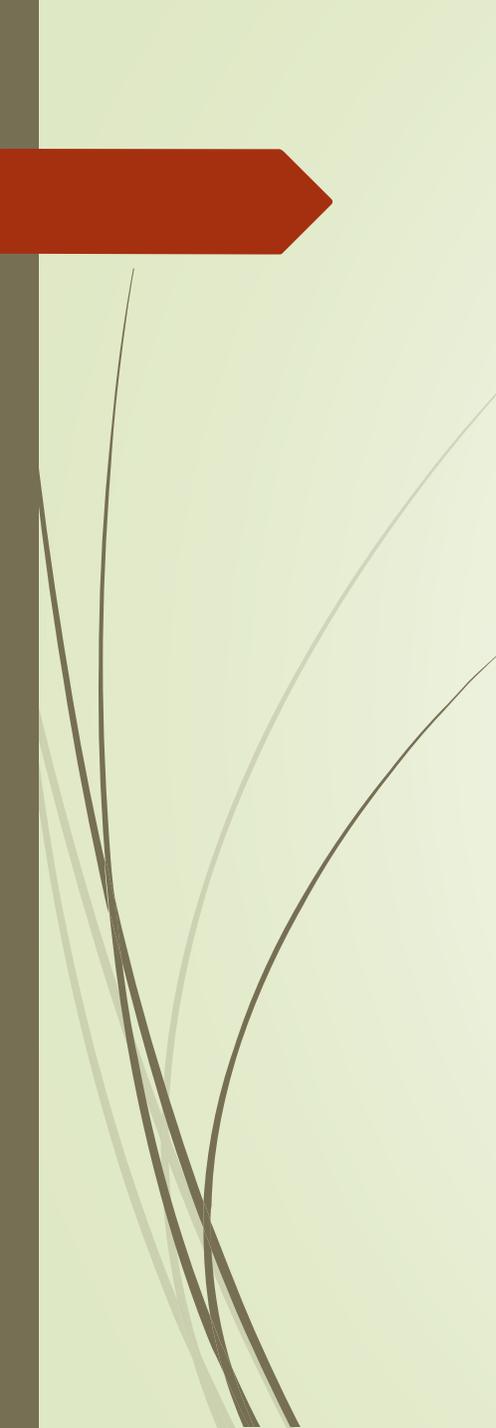
Protect

Grow

Nurture

Support





“I understand stewardship to be a lived theology founded on the claim that all resources begin with and belong to God. Practicing stewardship reshapes how Christians manage all resources including “our” money, materials, and relationships. Stewardship is a lived concept, most often resulting in sharing that surprises, compassion that complicates, and love that inspires.”

Adam Copeland



➔ What are we responsible for?

“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.”

– C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



“As Christians in the 21st century, we need to embrace this larger biblical view of stewardship, which goes beyond church budgets or building projects, though important; it connects everything we do with what God is doing in the world.

We need to be faithful stewards of all God has given us within the opportunities presented through his providence to glorify him, serve the common good and further his Kingdom.

➡ Hugh Whelchel, Executive Director of the Institute for Faith, Work & Economics



What do we take care of?





Time How do we spend our time?

- “It is absolutely essential, I believe, to be intentional about how we live our days – how much activity we’re willing to pack into our lives; whether we are attentive to people around us, or perpetually distracted by buzzes and dings and our own monkey-mind.”
- Our time can be as much a treasure as our finances. Can the church talk about our calendars as theological documents?
- What do we give our time to? Do we intentionally make time for spiritual practices, or do we simply hope they will happen?

Maryann McKibben Dana



Relationships What are we doing to protect and grow the relationships we have with our family and with our friends?
How do we nurture these relationships?

- It takes time and intention to sustain a healthy relationship
- “It takes two”, but you can control your part.



Work Are we doing everything we can to help our employers or employees and their goals?

- ▶ Work is integral to human existence. As creatures made in God's image, our work is good and blessed when it cooperates with God's purposes for the world. God blesses us with the capacities to do good work.
 - Work for subsistence – we work in order to live
 - Work to enhance our lives – it is socially valued and contributes to a person's sense of well-being, identity, and self-esteem.
 - Work as a form of service

When we care for ourselves by living fully into our callings, we are also stewards of God's creation.

Kathleen Cahalan



History How can we protect and share the history of our family, community, nation?

- What am I doing to preserve my family history?
- What am I doing to share the lessons of our history?
- How am I sharing my faith history?



Physical Health It is mostly in your hands. How do you protect your health? What do you do for your future self? How do you protect your family's health?

Without God we would be nothing. God knit us and formed us, and in God we are wonderfully made (Ps. 139).

God gives life and breath to all things, for “in him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28)

Mind, Intellect How strong is your mind? Is it as strong as it was 10 years ago? Is it stronger?

- You eat right. You exercise. You get your flu shot.
- What are you doing to grow your knowledge, and grow your mind?



Reputation We personally as well as collectively are always creating a reputation.

- ▶ What will your legacy be? How will you be known?
- ▶ How are you sharing this responsibility with your family and community?

Your mother may have said “Don’t do or say anything that you don’t want on the evening news.”

This is truer now more than ever before.



Digital Footprint How do you protect your digital footprint? This may relate to your family's security and reputation.

- Technology is a gift from God. How can we use it to benefit others?
- Are your daily practices with your digital tools supporting your relationships with others and building up God's beloved community?
- How is technology shaping you – positively and negatively – for discipleship, witness, and service?
- We leave a digital footprint in the digital world.
What kind of footprint is technology leaving in our lives?

Talents

- Are you organized?
- Are you good at motivating people?
- Knitting?
- Home repair?
- Gardening?
- Sewing?
- Technology?
- Teaching?
- Listening?
- Serving food?
- What are your talents?
- **What can you do to grow and use these talents?**
- **Can you develop new ones?**

Community It's just us.

What can we do to nurture a healthy community?

- ▶ “The call to love God and neighbor helps us understand that spiritual disciplines are gifts of love, not acts of obligation. (...) They are meant to be a way of loving the one who first loves us (1 John 13:34).
- ▶ (This) reveals the double gift of life in the Spirit; as we draw near to God in prayer, we find ourselves drawn closer to our neighbors; and as we reach out to our neighbors with love, we experience God reaching out with love for us.”
- ▶ To love your neighbor with your **heart** is to desire full and abundant life for others.
- ▶ To love your neighbor with your **soul** is to foster closer connections with others.
- ▶ To love your neighbor with your **mind** is to share with others in the pursuit of God's wisdom and truth.

John W. Vest



Faith, Spirituality Your faith may be strong. Its strength may vary. You may feel “spiritual, but not religious”. What do you do to grow your faith?

Spiritual disciplines in our lives

- Prayer
- Participation in public worship
- Gratitude
- Fellowship in the community of faith
- Self-examination
- Self-discipline
- Self-offering

“Becoming better stewards of our spiritual gifts will require, among other things, recognizing the rich diversity of gifts that are found in the body of Christ and the great value of the various gifts God has given to each of us.”

David Gambrell

Environment

- ▶ “Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground-everything that has the breath of life in it-I give every green plant for food.”
Gen 1:28-30
- ▶ What are you doing to the environment?
- ▶ Whose responsibility is it?
- ▶ What is your role in ensuring a healthy eco-system?
- ▶ What is your role in destroying the environment?
- ▶ How does your vote affect the environment?

As stewards of all creation, God calls on us to take responsibility for what has been given to us.



What can we give? What can we do?

➤ Treasure

➤ Time

➤ Talent





God loves a cheerful giver.

➤ 2 Corinthians 9: 8-12

“⁸ And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹ As it is written, ‘He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.’

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹² for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.”

What is most important?





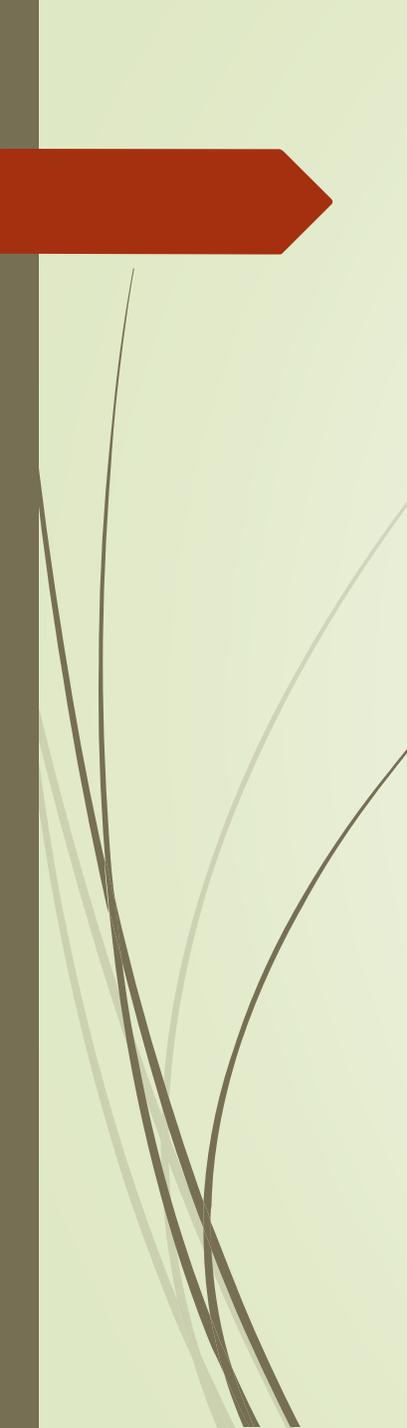
“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21)

Self-Assessment

What is most important to you?

- Name three things that are highly important to you in your personal life.
- Name three for your community life.
- Name three global issues that are important to you.

Family
Friends
Faith
Work
Entertainment
Health
Exercise
Hobby
Education
Environment
Art
Music
Games
Social Media
Play
Books
Language
Politics
Travel
Spirituality
Home



Three personal things	How much of your time is devoted to this?	Is this enough? How can I do more?
1.		
2.		
3.		
Three community matters		
1.		
2.		
3.		
Three global issues		
1.		
2.		
3.		



Recommended Reading

Beyond the Offering Plate: A Holistic Approach to Stewardship, in ten approachable chapters written by seminary professors, engaged pastors, and church leaders, the book aims to expand our notion of -- and approaches to -- holistic stewardship.

Edited by Adam Copeland

Westminster John Knox Press

Louisville, Kentucky 2017