Planned Giving Reprintables

*WELS Ministry of Christian Giving has edited and approved the following resources for your church to customize (when necessary) and use as needed. They are intended to encourage members about good stewardship practices and to inform them about ways to make planned gifts to benefit your church and other WELS ministry. Consider using them at your website, in bulletins or newsletters, etc. To use, modify as you’d like. Then highlight the text and copy and paste it (Ctrl-C, Ctrl-V) where you want it to go.*

*The first article is from Stewardship Advisors. To learn more, visit* [*www.stewardshipadvisors.org*](http://www.stewardshipadvisors.org) *or call Ron Chewning at 888-783-2790. WELS Ministry of Christian Giving obtained permission to share this. The second article is intended to introduce readers to the start of a planned giving committee at your congregation that will regularly communicate opportunities to support the Lord’s work through planned gifts.*

Beginning Again

Sometimes it’s good to get back to the basics. When the whirlwind of holiday events and celebrations is over, it’s a good time to take stock of the past year and prepare for the coming year. For some this means remembering its blessings; for others, sorrowing over its setbacks.

Whether rejoicing or sorrowing, however, God is there with us. He was here “in the beginning.” He created it all. When “the earth was formless and empty, [and] darkness was over the surface of the deep, the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, ‘Let there be’ . . . And there was . . .”(Genesis 1:2,3).

All it takes is a word from God’s mouth and there it is. He created it, owns it, and loans it to us for our use. In addition, all the time, he is there with us; never will he leave us (Hebrews 13:5). God has forgiven our past sins, and there is no cause for worry over what the New Year will bring, for God has already been there.

Each of us can make a new beginning; in fact, each day, each moment, can be a new beginning. God promises to provide for all our needs. Paul wrote, “And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus”(Philippians 4:19). Believing this promise, we do not need to fear for our futures, financial or otherwise. We can afford to be generous givers because we are covered by God’s promise to care for us.

By God’s grace, let us make that new beginning. May we live according to God’s plan for us and manage the vast resources he has loaned to us to the best of our abilities. May we honor him in all we say, in the way we live, and through our generous offerings as we work to make his name known.

Planned Giving: Another Way to Praise God and Support Ministry

In [Month] the Church Council approved the Board of Stewardship’s request to start a planned giving committee to communicate to and assist members with gift options beyond cash offerings. [Insert a quote similar to what follows.] “Our wish is to present opportunities for members to continue their support of the important kingdom work the Lord allows us to do here at [Church Name] even after they are in heaven,” said [Church Leader’s Name]. “Really it is just a more formalized way of continuing a cycle of blessings. As we have been personally and spiritually blessed through the ministry of [Church Name] by the gospel motivated generosity of those who have gone before us, this initiative will allow us to be a blessing to the generations that follow us.”

In the past, planned gifts (particularly through wills) have helped with such essential items as [list items at your church that were funded by planned gifts]. Looking ahead, planned gifts may be a necessary source of funding for the operating budget. [Insert a quote similar to what follows.] Per congregational treasurer [Name]: “Unless general fund giving keeps pace with or exceeds the growth of our expenses, we will continue to need additional income sources to fund our operating budget. Next year about [number] percent of our overall budget will need to come from those special gifts.” [Name] also notes there is a growing list of maintenance projects that could be greatly helped by special gifts.

This focus at [Church Name] is part of a wider synod effort to make WELS members aware that there are ways to arrange personal finances to support both family and ministry (whether through your church, synod, or another WELS-affiliated ministry) while possibly reducing taxes. WELS Ministry of Christian Giving works with WELS Foundation to provide educational materials for churches to share and WELS Foundation administers the gifts. WELS even provides Christian giving counselors to every congregation to personally assist members with fulfilling their charitable goals (there is no cost or obligation).

To learn more about the options for supporting [Congregation Name] through a planned gift, contact [Committee Member] by calling [phone number] or e-mailing [e-mail address].