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 resource is from Stewardship Advisors. To learn more, visit stewardshipadvisors.org or call Ron Chewning at 888-783-2790. WELS Ministry of Christian Giving obtained permission to share this.*

Stewardship of Much or Little

Those who become prosperous are often tempted to become filled with pride; and those who have little material possessions can be tempted to feel jealous or envious of others. Agur, a writer of proverbs, gave us this warning: “Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God” (Proverbs 30:8-9).

God blesses us with work and the ability to earn our incomes. Unfortunately, we may foolishly begin to believe that we are solely responsible for the success we’ve achieved. As Moses wrote, “You may say to yourself, ‘My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.’ But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth” (Deuteronomy 8:17-18). We should understand that only by God’s grace are we able to have a place to call home, a savings account, and a retirement plan. God’s Word is clear that we are managers, not owners. “The earth is the LORD’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” (Psalm 24:1).

Even though temptations can attack us in times of prosperity or poverty, the Holy Spirit, working through the Word, enables us to understand that all we are and have are gifts from God through his Son Jesus. Joseph provides us with a good example of such thinking. Separated from his home and family, he still trusted God and feared him, refusing to give in to the temptations that came with the position God enabled him to fill. As second in command in Egypt, one of the most powerful kingdoms of his day, he retained his humility, realizing that he was only the manager of Egypt’s resources. He managed those resources well, working at it “with all [his] heart, as working for the Lord, not for men” (Colossians 3:23). Just as God empowered Joseph in his stewardship, so he does for us today, whether our resources are vast, as were Joseph’s, or small.

Gone, but Not Forgotten

Motivated by the love of God in Christ to be the best stewards of his blessings that we can be, it is natural to strive to leave an impact that lasts beyond our lifetime. We want to do all we can possibly do to witness our Christians values for the benefit of our children, grandchildren, and anyone else who knew us.

One way to do this is by supporting the future gospel ministry of [Congregation Name] through an endowment fund. Through WELS Foundation, an individual or family can add to an existing endowment or establish a new endowment fund to provide ongoing, dependable support of the congregation’s operating needs or a specific area of our ministry. You can create an endowment now and add to it with an estate gift, or arrange to establish one (or more) through your will. You can establish the fund in your name or in honor of a loved one. There are many possibilities.

Long after you have gone to heaven, the endowment fund(s) you started or added to will continue supporting the sharing of Jesus Christ—witnessing your values to future generations.

To learn more about how you can establish an endowment fund for the benefit of [Congregation Name], call WELS Christian giving counselor, [Counselor Name], at [contact info]. You will be surprised how easy it is!