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* [*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.*

## **Stewardship Corner**

Do you realize that our wonderful and loving God has called you, through faith, to be his steward? “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last”(John 15:16). God won’t change his mind about calling you to be his steward. “For God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable”(Romans 11:29). Through faith, you are not only called to be his steward; you are empowered to be a God-pleasing steward.

## **Stewardship Corner**

In Titus 3:14 we read, “Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good . . . and not live unproductive lives.”One way we live productive lives is by being active and involved in the work of the church. Each of us has a special role to play in extending God’s kingdom through the church. God calls us to be participants, not spectators. We may sing in the choir, teach Sunday school, serve coffee, collate bulletins, serve on committees, usher . . . Whatever we do, we’ll want to “serve wholeheartedly, as if [we] were serving the Lord, not men”(Ephesians 6:7).

## **Stewardship Corner**

Our heavenly Father has given each one of us spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are Spirit-endowed abilities for Christian service. We do not deserve them and cannot earn or achieve them through our own efforts. By God’s grace we have been given spiritual gifts so that we can edify God’s church. As stewards, we should attempt to identify our spiritual gifts and use them within our churches. If we choose not to use the spiritual gifts that God has given us, we are robbing the church and forcing other members of the body of Christ to carry our loads.

Giving Opportunity Continues in 2017 . . . and Beyond

If you’re 70.5 or older, you can make qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) from your IRA to your church, synod, and other WELS organizations without counting the distributions as income for federal income tax purposes. WELS member Alan Kohlhaas says the process is “very smooth.” “One check sent directly to WELS from my IRA holder counts as part of the required minimum distribution, but no taxes are paid on the transfer. The QCD also allows me to maximize the donation and use the standard deduction on my tax return.” Learn more at wels.net/qcd or by calling your local WELS Christian giving counselor at 800-827-5482.