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.*

**Stewardship Corner**

Economist John K. Galbraith wrote, “Money ranks with love as man’s greatest joy. And it ranks with death as his greatest source of anxiety.” Money has the potential to control our thoughts and our decision-making process. The apostle Paul expressed some keen insight when he wrote, “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10). Money is not dangerous, but evil flows from the love of money. “One eager to get rich will not go unpunished” (Proverbs 28:20). If we love money, our view of life will be affected, and we will suffer many griefs. The correct view of life is to see how God has given us everything, spiritually and physically. With faith in him we can avoid anxiety and instead find joy in using our money to bless his kingdom and our fellow man.

**Stewardship Corner**

Because of our hard work and toil, we often take personal credit for our financial success by saying, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me” (Deuteronomy 8:17). How easy it is for us to say, “It’s my money!” However, God reminded the people of Israel as he does us that he gives us the ability, energy, and skill to produce wealth. Through Moses, God said, “Remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth” (Deuteronomy 8:18). We need to remember that without God we don’t have wealth or even existence.

**Stewardship Corner**

In Proverbs 27:2 we read, “Let another praise you, and not your own mouth.” In other words, we should not be tooting our own horns. The apostle Paul proclaims, “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord” (2 Corinthians 10:17). Our only reason for boasting lies in the Lord. Without God’s gracious gifts, we are nothing, have nothing, and can accomplish nothing. Let the “self-made man” examine his life, and he will see that without intelligence, ambition, ingenuity, and helpful people along the way, he would not have attained the success that he enjoys. All these are gifts from God. Well-being in any area of our lives can be traced back to the goodness of God who so tenderly watches over us and provides for our needs.

Blessings of a Charitable Trust

Mr. Pralle contacted me in the spring some years ago. He had heard about the charitable trust and wondered if and how it might work for him to accomplish his goals. He wanted to avoid paying capital gains taxes on his investments. He also wanted to provide income for himself and a couple of his close friends.

This quiet Christian steward was most appreciative of the fact that with a charitable trust he could have all this and ultimately make generous gifts that would help more souls reach heaven with him. After the various parts of his estate accomplished their temporal purpose, there would be an eternal impact. He wanted to share his blessings and, through the WELS Foundation, his first distribution has been made. Years from now another round of gifts will be made for those ministries he wanted to bless.

What a joy chatting with Mr. Pralle and his friends during those years after the documents were signed. For a decade he enjoyed the income and anticipated gifts. Now he enjoys heaven, and his love for the Lord lives on!

*This article by a WELS Christian giving counselor shows one example of how planned giving can be a blessing for you and others. For more information on planned giving options, contact our congregation’s giving counselor, [name], by calling [phone number] or by e-mailing him at [e-mail address].*