

Planned Giving Articles

*Your church can customize, copy, and paste the following text into your print and digital pieces to encourage stewardship and to inform people about how to make planned gifts to benefit your church.*

*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.*

Becoming God-pleasing Stewards

We become God-pleasing stewards when God’s will becomes our will. The psalmist wrote, “Teach me to do your will, for you are my God” (Psalm 143:10). Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we begin to understand what God’s will is. Through faith in Jesus, our desire to seek God’s will leads us to do his will*.* “I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart” (Psalm 40:8).

By the power of the Spirit and out of love for and gratitude to God, we become faithful stewards. Faithful stewards grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, who earned our righteousness and was punished for our sin. Faithful stewards love the Lord with all their hearts, souls, and strength, and their neighbors as themselves (Mark 12:30-31). Faithful stewards cherish God’s love for us and yearn for a closer relationship with their heavenly Father, who graciously walks in close fellowship with us as he fulfills his promise to draw near to those who draw near to him (James 4:8). When our management of God’s blessings is weak, faithful stewards turn to their merciful Lord for free and full forgiveness.

An integral part of faithful, God-pleasing stewardship is serving the Lord by serving others. At Jesus’ return, “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me’” (Matthew 25:40). What a privilege the Lord gives us to express love and compassion for others! “Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality” (Romans 12:13).

May God’s blessings be with you as you seek to do his will as loving and faithful stewards.

Why an Endowment Fund?

An endowment fund is a donor restricted gift that is not spent immediately but is invested. Endowments annually distribute a portion of the invested funds to provide ongoing, predictable financial support for our Savior’s ministry.

Giving through an endowment fund provides the following benefits:

* An endowment fund provides members with the opportunity to leave significant financial gifts to their home congregation, generally at their death, without the funds significantly distorting the congregation’s annual budget.
* A congregational endowment fund provides a framework for receiving cash gifts, appreciated property (stocks or real estate), and other planned gifts, such as through a will, trust, beneficiary designation on a retirement account, or insurance proceeds.
* An individual can use an endowment to continue his or her offerings to a ministry even after being taken to heaven.
* An endowment provides additional funding for current operations as well as money for future and expanded efforts.
* An endowment is an ongoing witness of Christ’s love that compelled you to make a current or estate gift (will, etc.) to glorify God and share his love with others.

A donor or group of donors can work with WELS Foundation to establish an endowment fund. WELS Foundation provides a full-service endowment program including promotional material, endowment statements, investment management, and annual distributions.

To learn more about supporting [Congregation Name] through an endowment fund, contact [Counselor Name] at [counselor contact information].