

MONTANA SYNOD RESOURCES:

Summer Stewardship Conversation Via Zoom **Wed. July 20th: 6:00—7:30 pm**

Join with others in the Synod for a 1 1/2 hour time of learning with Peggy and Dennis Trotter on basics of Stewardship and Generosity. Topics to be covered include the state of giving in the church today, challenges and opportunities to talk about money in the church and a beginning conversation about how to equip leaders to encourage and strengthen generosity in the congregation. Watch the News of the Week for more details and the Zoom link.

Fed By Ravens: based on 1 Kings 19

Peggy Paugh Leuzinger and Synod Stewardship Consultant Dennis Trotter will begin another round of “Fed By Ravens” to equip teams of stewardship leaders in congregations about stewardship, the “ask”, thanking people, and cultivating generous supporters of ministry. Please contact Peggy if you would like to learn more. This is a free service to Congregations in the Synod which will begin in the Fall of '22.

Stewardship Consulting or Coaching for Congregations and Ministries: DEM Peggy, Pastor Lindean Barnett-Christenson and MSU Campus Pastor JP Carlson have completed the “Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising” and are available to consult with congregations in the Synod on Stewardship and Generosity or contact Peggy about “coaching” around the topic of Stewardship.

Mission and Vision of your Ministry: Contact Peggy to schedule a workshop or learning event in your setting to strengthen your leaders in generosity and to clarify the vision and mission of your ministry.

Contact Dennis Trotter to guide and consult with you in your ministry setting regarding Stewardship and the financial realities in your midst.

Stewardship Resources on The ELCA Website

Under resources and then Stewardship the ELCA has numerous resources to view and download.

WWW.ELCA.ORG

RECOMMENDED STEWARDSHIP BOOKS

[A Spirituality of Fundraising](#) by Henri Nouwen
Nouwen presents in this small book that it's about God and about God's mission for the sake of the world that happens through the use of money. He states that fundraising is primarily about relationships. Some gurus in the Stewardship world describe this book as the most important to have in terms of understanding money in ministry.

[Not Your Parents' Offering Plate](#)

by J. Clif Christopher

Christopher offers a pastoral view of the challenges of asking for and being aware of the relationships between parishioners, congregations, clergy and money. He offers clear suggestions about the need to know the people and to see how people give that is, at its heart, a spiritual issue.

[Giving to God](#) by Mark Allan Powell.

Powell offers a biblical foundation for our thinking and acting around stewardship. He contends that a biblical view of stewardship sees it as an act of worship, an expression of faith as well as a discipline.

[Abundance: Creating a Culture of Generosity](#)

by Michael Ward

Ward, a partner with GSB Fundraising offers practical ideas to help a congregation or ministry move from a culture of scarcity to a culture of abundance. Generosity is a gift from God.

[Beyond the Offering Plate: A Holistic Approach to Stewardship](#) edited by Adam Copeland

This book of essays by church leaders explores stewardship as more than relationship with money. Time, work, body, mind, spirit, community, technology are some of the topics covered in this helpful book that expands the conversation and learning about all aspects of life.

[Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation](#) by Charles R. Lane

This book offers a brief and simple outline for stewardship, as contained in the title. Ask. Thank. Tell. Repeat.

Montana Synod Stewardship Resources

Equipping for the ministry of the Gospel:

- **Generous Givers**
- **Supporting Ministry**
- **Transforming Lives**



Equipping for Ministry



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Pastor Scott Thompson
Pastor Lindean Barnett-Christenson
Pastor Tim Tostengard
Pastor Phil Wold

Generous Givers

Who has inspired you by their generosity? In a world that perceives scarcity, who has been an example to you of someone who “sees” abundance and shares of their abundance with others? As recipients of the grace of God, a generous response is care and concern for others. Generosity is a spiritual practice/a habit of the heart. What is your practice of giving/serving? How is your value of being generous reflected in your calendar or by your bank statement? Generosity is an intentional practice. Generosity inspires more generosity.

We need to tell and hear the stories of the generosity of God’s people.

Supporting Ministry

Ministries are dependent upon the generosity of their supporters. Giving to help support, sustain and / or strengthen ministries, congregations and other organizations is the life blood of the organization. What non-profit organizations do you support? What inspires you to give to support the work of that ministry? If you are giving out of guilt or obligation, what would you need in order to feel inspired to support the ministry or congregation at a higher level?

As leaders in a congregation or ministry —

- Ask for the generous support of members and participants/supporters.
- Thank the supporters for their gifts of all sizes.
- Tell of the impact of the ministry in the community/ congregation or world.
- Clarify and share the mission of the ministry — the purpose of why you do what you do.

Money follows mission.

Transforming Lives

Congregations

Congregations in the Montana Synod exist to share the Gospel message of grace and hope for the sake of the people in an area. Congregations are called to impart, share and strengthen faith in the lives of those who are a part of the congregation and those who are not. Congregations exist to transform lives with the love and grace of God! Congregations exist to empower members to be agents of that grace for the sake of the world.

Where do you see examples of that transformation? What difference does that transformation make? How can you participate in that transformation and share it for the sake of others?

Synod

The Montana Synod exists to accompany and strengthen congregations to carry out their ministry and mission for the sake of a hurting world. As your congregation is able to do more collectively than as any one person, so too is the Synod able to impact others for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Together we impact ministries, support and strengthen congregations in Northern Wyoming and Montana and touch lives around the world. Thank you for the generosity of your congregation as you share Mission Support with the Synod and ELCA. Together we share the Gospel of grace and love with a hurting world, feed the hungry, raise up and equip leaders and so much more!

