

# Generous Stewards

## Syllabus for the Parish Lay Ministry Academy, Spring 2021

**Leader:** Rev. Paul Mussachio, Lead Pastor, Preston Meadow Lutheran Church ([www.pmlc.org](http://www.pmlc.org))

I am an ELCA Level 2 Certified Coach in Stewardship and currently serve as the Lead Pastor for Preston Meadow Lutheran Church in Plano, TX. I'm honored to join you in this journey as you develop your leadership skills and answer the call to serve God through the church!

**Aim of our time together:** Learners will come away with a deeper understanding of their philosophy of stewardship and generosity and how to activate that among their congregations and networks.

### March

- We will discuss the book, *Giving to God*, by Mark Allan Powell. Please be prepared to discuss.
- In as succinct a way as possible, write down your definition of stewardship and be prepared to share with the group.
- Who are the greatest examples of stewards in your life? Why are they so? What makes them different among the many others you know?
- Biblical texts of Stewardship

### April

- Before the class, compose a money autobiography and send to me. Template follows after the syllabus.
- We will discuss the book, *Embracing Stewardship*, by Charles Lane and Grace Duddy Pomroy. Please be prepared to discuss.
- What does it mean *to be generous*? Thrivent Financial's report on 5 Dynamics of Generosity.
- Blessed to be a blessing -- Special surprise in store. I'll need to have your address to send you something in the mail!

### May

- Reflections on the special surprise!
- We will discuss the book, *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate*, by J. Clif Christopher.
- Final reflections on stewardship and generosity.

**\*\*\*Meeting Dates:** I have some conflicts with the already scheduled times for PLMA because of other commitments, so we'll need to be flexible when we gather. We're fortunate to be able to do this via Zoom, and the class sessions will go for 75 minutes (or a bit longer based on how the discussion is flowing). Once the Spring Semester PLMA roster is set, I'll send a poll out to find the best time that will work for us to gather to discuss this important component of our discipleship and leadership in the church.

- We will meet during the week of March 15<sup>th</sup>, to be determined with class poll.
- April 17<sup>th</sup>, regularly scheduled gathering of PLMA
- We will meet during the week of May 17<sup>th</sup>, to be determined with class poll.

## Book Links:

**Not Your Parent's Offering Plate:** [https://smile.amazon.com/Not-Your-Parents-Offering-Plate/dp/1501804928/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=not+your+parents+offering+plate&qid=1613055697&sr=8-1](https://smile.amazon.com/Not-Your-Parents-Offering-Plate/dp/1501804928/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=not+your+parents+offering+plate&qid=1613055697&sr=8-1)

**Giving to God:** [https://smile.amazon.com/Giving-God-Bibles-Living-Generous/dp/0802829260/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=giving+to+god&qid=1613055202&sr=8-1](https://smile.amazon.com/Giving-God-Bibles-Living-Generous/dp/0802829260/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=giving+to+god&qid=1613055202&sr=8-1)

**Embracing Stewardship: (Best to order from their dedicated website)**

<https://embracingstewardship.com/collections/frontpage/products/embracing-stewardship-book>

## Money Autobiography Template

As you think about your relationship to money, record your thoughts to each section.

- 1) **What is the earliest experience with money that you remember?**
- 2) **As a child growing up, did you feel rich or poor? Why?**
- 3) **What was your attitude toward money as a teenager? How was this influenced by peers or siblings?**
- 4) **How were your attitudes and behaviors about money shaped by your mother, father, or grandparents?**
- 5) **What role did money play in your life as a young adult? How was this influenced by a spouse or co-workers?**
- 6) **How did your relationship with money change when you became a parent?**
- 7) **What is your happiest memory in connection with money?**
- 8) **What is your unhappiest memory in connection with money?**
- 9) **How does your faith guide you in your use of money?**
- 10) **How do you feel about your present financial status compared to the past?**
- 11) **How have you discovered that financial health is an expression of faith?**
- 12) **Are you generous or stingy with your money? In what ways?**
- 13) **How do you practice proportionate giving and tithing?**
- 14) **When are you willing to give to the church and other causes with no strings attached?**
- 15) **What kinds of risks are you willing to take with your money?**
- 16) **What will you do with your money as you approach the end of life?**