

Generous Stewards

Syllabus for the Parish Lay Ministry Academy

Leader: Rev. Paul Mussachio, Lead Pastor, Preston Meadow Lutheran Church (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 at this session.**
- 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.

For the May session, compose a short campaign to increase awareness of generosity for the context in which you serve. "Short" means something of 6 weeks or fewer, as opposed to a year-long campaign. See notes on this program after syllabus.

May

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

Book Links:

Not Your Parent's Offering Plate: https://www.amazon.com/Not-Your-Parents-Offering-Plate/dp/1501804928/ref=sr_1_1?crid=WPFSWLIYGT65&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.G3TpbfgGhGYoHQFCJisvCnoGxXS6MQi5i LEunezxUWk4UhC58zacG4r7lxcSRcFkenbp69e1hr1ieHGhzrtIXvJP-KUphN6WishnrjEZO.AjUzSpbqs75U8DOLIJOpwL-Xl5esF3vf4oc4jhHuRvU&dib_tag=se&keywords=not+your+parents+offering+plate+book&qid=1738013149&srefix=not+your+parents+%2Caps%2C136&sr=8-1

Giving to God: https://www.amazon.com/Giving-God-Bibles-Living-Generous/dp/0802829260/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2FJ9NBYHXNY54&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.w-lk_2HsZVjK6ld8lRTl8B1rRUUp013n2Hz4p6ZL9Gml.FilvA9ZtvJT48YD3VdAUeodIDg_MtUKGY5NNHvIB3LI&dib_tag=se&keywords=giving+to+god+by+mark+allan+powell&qid=1738013112&srefix=giving+to+god%2Caps%2C120&sr=8-1

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

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

+++ I noticed that they're redoing their website, and I hope it's open soon for us to order the book. If it's not available in March, we'll pivot to a different option. +++

***** The Money Autobiography Template and the Generosity Campaign instructions follow on the next pages!**

Money Autobiography Template

As you think about your relationship to money, record your thoughts to each section. Send to Pastor Paul before the April session.

- 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?

Generosity Campaign

1. Compose a short campaign for your context to increase awareness of generosity among the people you serve. This could include a sermon series, bible studies, service projects, community outreach, or combination of everything mentioned.
2. This does not have to be 'fully baked.' It can be bullet points and ideas from which you can build in the future.
3. Questions to consider:
 - a. What will be your main area of focus?
 - b. How will you communicate that to your context? What are the main communication channels (bible study notes, sermons, emails to members, temple talks, etc)?
 - c. Who will help you when it comes time to implement? Who's on your team?
 - d. When will you launch this campaign with your group?
 - e. What are your hoped for outcomes? How will you know if this is successful or not?
4. Play around with this some and be creative and innovative in your approach. How can you mix this up so it's not more of the same, or the 'same old, same old?' What are some fresh ways that you can reach your context?
5. Please send to me before the May session.