

Consecrated Stewards



CONSECRATED STEWARDS...

... a stewardship education emphasis that:

- Is founded on our Lutheran understanding of biblical stewardship principles.
- Helps awaken in Christians the Spirit-led desire to make a free and joyous response to the grace of God in Jesus Christ.
- Is easy to organize and implement.
- Can be used any time of year.
- Uses a trained “Guest Leader” to train, motivate, and assist congregation leaders in maximizing results.
- Typically results in a 15%-35% increase* in annual offering commitments.

* Individual results vary. Increases in amounts committed to annual envelope giving typically range between 15% and 35%. A congregation's results could be more or less. LCEF cannot guarantee results in a *Consecrated Stewards* program or in the fulfillment of the commitments. The level of cooperation and participation of congregation members will impact results.

Raising Annual Giving by Raising Christian Stewards

It is said that congregations that fail to talk about Christian stewardship on a regular basis often find themselves talking about money all year long. Some congregations do talk about stewardship but only in the context of the annual budget. However, budget-focused stewardship programs rarely raise more than what is needed to meet the budget.

Consecrated Stewards

- Focuses on the biblical principle of grace-motivated giving, not on church budget shortfalls.
- Urges Christian stewards to take a step forward in faith in light of God's grace.
- Raises people to a new level of spiritual commitment and annual giving.

Why It Works!

In addition to the Holy Spirit's blessing, the effectiveness of *Consecrated Stewards* can be attributed to three factors:

1. It is founded on solid, biblical principles reinforced in materials and activities.
2. It is easy to implement and organize.
3. It provides a trained Guest Leader to keep the process on track, maintain the biblical focus, and avoid expensive shortcuts.



Key Elements in *Consecrated Stewards*

At the core of *Consecrated Stewards* is the approach that offers a thoroughly Lutheran perspective; a trained Guest Leader; and the educational, administrative, and follow-up support congregations seek.

- Publicity resources for reaching every member.
- Role-specific instructional material for each *Consecrated Stewards* team member.
- Four weeks of Bible study and stewardship sermons, including a special Bible study led by the Guest Leader.
- Focus on prayer throughout the entire emphasis.
- Coordinated children's ministry materials for age three through 6th grade.
- Stewardship witness talks in which members of the congregation share their stewardship journeys.
- Celebrations of ministry – Weekly celebrations of special ministries within the congregation, providing an opportunity to recognize members for their “time” and “talent.”
- Leaders luncheon to inspire your leaders' growth and commitment.
- “Consecration Sunday” worship and luncheon – Commitment place as an act of worship.
- “First Offering Sunday” Celebration – Celebrates the results of the emphasis and encourages people to begin their commitment on a certain day.

An LCEF-Trained Leader Makes a Difference!

- *Consecrated Stewards* Guest Leaders are LCEF-trained and certified to provide a customized design, team training, and ongoing support.
- The *Consecrated Stewards* Guest Leader makes three on-site visits to provide training, lead a stewardship Bible study, and assist with the congregational commitment process.
- The *Consecrated Stewards* Guest Leader provides phone and/or Skype support for additional team meetings.

A Four-Phase Process

DECISION PHASE: The time in which the congregation gathers information about the program and considers participation in the program. The length of time will vary by congregation, depending on the approval process.

PREPARATION PHASE: Four weeks prior to the congregational Program Phase. It is a time of prayer, preparation, and publicity for the program. It could be longer, but should not be shorter.

PROGRAM PHASE: Four weeks of concentrated emphasis on stewardship education and commitment. (Experience has shown that this is the best length for such an emphasis.)

FULFILLMENT PHASE: In keeping with Capital Funding Services tradition of attention to follow-up, this phase addresses the initial offering, program evaluation of the program, and ongoing attention to stewardship education.