

About Stewardship

Stewardship is not a program. It is not about raising money, though giving money is one tangible result. It is not here today and gone tomorrow, or next month. Stewardship is an ongoing journey. It is about life. In fact, stewardship is a way of life. It is about the mission and ministry of this congregation, from this congregation, outside this congregation, and beyond this congregation, but it is still more than that

God has made each of us a steward and has given us each resources, abilities, and talents that are unique. We give them back to God in abundant generosity and thanksgiving for nothing less than the work of his Kingdom.

- Our stewardship emphasis is on *commitment*—of money and of time and talent. All of us are called upon to be stewards of our lives, to express our sacred mandate to proclaim the Gospel and to be a vital Christian presence, in our local community and beyond!
- But LCN's stewardship appeals also emphasize education, so that all of us will internalize better the theology of stewardship—recognizing God's generosity to us and returning to him, in of a spirit of abundant grace a portion from the "first fruits," rather than from our left-over change. That education is to be more about joyful giving than about money, more about our need to give than about the church's need for funds, and it should challenge our involvement throughout the year.

The first step—it may be a "leap of faith"—is to plan an annual financial commitment. Yes! Take a proactive stance towards your Christian giving! Considering your household income, what sum can you plan to use as an expression of your gratitude to God? Attached is a Proportional Giving Chart. This chart is provided as an aid to understanding what is meant by pledging a percentage of one's income. We are hopeful that the hearts of all will be led to some form of joyful, thankful commitment.

When income grows, we can grow in service to God and in mission and ministry to greater community. When time and talent increase, our growth in discipleship can also be enhanced. When our understanding of stewardship grows, we will grow spiritually in responding to God's boundless generosity of grace and good will—and so better appreciate and more vibrantly share the faith and love God has given us in his Church and through his people.