

STEWARDSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Goal; The goal of the Stewardship Committee is to promote healthy Christian giving which includes the giving of our financial resources and our time. We do this to spread the transformative good news of the gospel to everyone we can reach.

Strategy; To accomplish our financial goal of healthy giving, the Stewardship Committee adopted and implemented the Consecration Sunday Program as outlined by Herb Miller in his New Consecration Sunday book. The main focus of this giving is to have each parishioner ask themselves the percentage of their income they believe God is asking them to give. We have also encouraged personal involvement in some type of church activity or function according to each parishioners God given talents.

Results; The 2009 Consecration Sunday program has had the effect of creating an estimate of income that exceeds last years income even though Ascension suffered the loss of some long standing and generous members. This stabilized income gives the budget committee a base operational funding level to build its budget upon. This creates an entirely different method of budgeting from Ascensions previous experiences. Rather than putting a budget into place and then attempting to meet expenditures, the financial commitment level of our congregation is first established and the subsequent budget is resolved to meet the level of anticipated income. The budget committee is in the process establishing the 2010 budget as of this writing.

The reorganization of our financial structure is being established using the guidelines of the ELCA. The financial secretary and treasurer are separate voluntary positions and both will now hold voting Council positions. The collection, counting and depositing of God's offerings are being established according to recommended ELCA guidelines.

Stewardship has also developed guidelines for use of the Good Samaritan Fund. This fund remains solvent and is a wonderful vehicle for Ascension to help those struggling within our own congregation. The Good Samaritan Committee consists of three to five members and the guidelines are not meant to restrict their judgment in approving requests, but rather to give clarity to the funds intended use.

Conclusion; This year has been tremendously rewarding to the Stewardship Committee. The support and financial commitment we received throughout this process proved humbling to our entire stewardship committee and I would like to personally thank all of you for your support. God bless each of you throughout the holidays and the Lord be with you throughout the new year.

Ted Menold
Stewardship Committee Chair