



PLC GIVING PRINCIPLES

Prairie Lutheran Church embraces the Five Holy Habits as guiding principles for its ministry.

One of the Holy Habits is **Giving**. The following are guiding principles which inform our beliefs, processes and disciplines.

Stewardship is a spiritual matter. Stewardship is chiefly about the alignment of individuals' hearts and their wealth. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21) Jesus was relentless in making the connection between peoples' faith and finances. As Luther observed, people experience three conversions; one of the head, the heart and the pocketbook!

Pastoral involvement is essential. The lead pastor is the key figure in congregational stewardship. As the spiritual leader of the congregation, it is necessary that the lead pastor give leadership in the area of stewardship. Vocal, visible and consistent communication about Stewardship sets the direction and tone of generosity for the congregation.

Annual campaign for the general fund. Every year a campaign will be developed and deployed for congregation wide participation. There are basically 5 methods for an annual emphasis/campaign. One method will be used for 4 to 6 years so that the congregation can grow in understanding the consistent message of generosity. An Estimate of Giving card will be used so clear commitments can be made.

The annual stewardship campaign will focus chiefly on the need of the giver to give.

Everything that we possess is on loan from God. The general fund supports the ministry commitments of the congregation which are reflected in the annual budget. The budget is not the basis, reason, or focus for inviting members to contribute their wealth to the ministries of the church. The annual campaign offers the congregation an opportunity to invest their financial resources in the ministries of the church as an expression of their faith.

Encouragement of tithing as a spiritual discipline. Scriptures lift up the practice of giving away 10% of ones wealth. We invite members to grow towards and beyond the biblical model of tithing. The church is God's chief vehicle for doing ministry in the world. We invite members to use the local congregation as the main vehicle for their giving.

Regular three year capital appeals. In addition to the annual general fund, every three years an appeal will be organized to capture ministry opportunities. Funds will be designated for significant new mission ventures, debt reduction and capital improvements.