

That all of them may be

ONE!

John 17:21

Nebraska District LCEF

May 2011

A Few Thoughts

As you read this newsletter, you will notice there is a special stewardship focus. When some people read or see the word :

“Stewardship”

it seems to make them uncomfortable for whatever reason.

Think once about the following situation: The scene is a typical American city or small town. As a family drives past their church, they notice the message board on the front lawn. It says that the sermon title for next Sunday is, “Christian Stewardship.” The husband says, “Oh, it looks like the pastor is going to preach about....” You finish the sentence for him.



What do you suppose he thinks the pastor will preach about? My guess is that many would respond with the word “money.” It seems to be what comes to mind for a good number of people when it comes to stewardship.



Christian stewardship is so much more. It is a spiritual matter. It has to do with God’s relationship to us in Christ Jesus and how we live out that relationship. The definition that we have for Christian stewardship in our Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod, I believe says it well:

“Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.”

LCEF Sunday in June

Are you 1 of nearly 40 congregations who will be celebrating **LCEF Sunday** in June in the Nebraska District?

Seventy volunteers throughout the District attended training sessions in April led by Paul Pettit

and Gene Gierke of the Nebraska LCEF program. Resources were shared to make this event successful throughout our congregations in sharing the mission of LCEF “to support the Church in fulfilling its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by

Did you catch those words **free and joyous**? That’s what stewardship can become in our lives when we know God’s great love for us in His Son Jesus, our only Savior and Lord.

As you read about all of the different ways LCEF has the opportunity to partner with you in stewardship, I pray that God’s Spirit may more and more empower that free and joyous response in all of our lives as we celebrate His love for us in Jesus.

A fellow steward, celebrating God’s love with you!

Rev. Gene Gierke
Romans 15:13



being a Christ-centered servant partner of the LCMS, ensuring that funds and services are available now and in the future.”

If your congregation would like to conduct an LCEF Sunday in June, please contact us today at 888-643-2961, Ext. 1011.

Special points of interest:

- Happy Mother’s Day!
- Celebrate LCEF Sunday in June
- Stewardship Focus for YOU!
- FREE “Journey to Discovery” materials

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The Large and Small of Stewardship

Do you find your congregation spending time talking about money instead of ministry? **Consecrated Stewards** is an eight-week stewardship program that offers Bible studies, special sermon outlines, a celebration dinner, and Consecration Sunday. Our trained guest leaders are willing to assist your congregation in this process.

Divine Shepherd, Omaha, has experienced first-hand the blessings of Consecrated Stewards. Rev. Dr. Mark Hannemann, Senior Pastor, states, "Thanks to this Christ-centered, Gospel-motivated, whole-life stewardship approach, our congregation ended 2010 in the "black." We have seen an increase in worship attendance, and have seen greater participation of our members in mission, service and Bible studies."

The rural congregation at **First Lutheran, Bloomfield,** also has witnessed the blessings from participation in this stewardship program. Pastor Duane Fahr comments, "This congregation has grown into a very steady giving pattern. What has been the most impressive has been the faith growth in our members."

To learn more, contact Gene Gierke at 402-641-1485.



Promoting Good Stewardship



LCEF promotes good stewardship of the blessings God has bestowed upon us. Through the **Joyful Response** program, churches and schools can receive electronic payments directly to their LCEF StewardAccount from church members' personal bank accounts or StewardAccounts.

Learn more at www.lcef.org

This FREE services is:

- ◆ **Simple.** Electronic payments are automatically transferred on the dates requested.
- ◆ **Safe.** No worrying about lost cash or stolen checks.
- ◆ **Convenient.** Donations and/or tuition payments are transferred directly to the church or school.
- ◆ **Stewardship-minded.** Electronic transfers create a consistent cash flow for the church or school, and these dollars continually support the ministry of Church Extension.

From Vision to Reality

"Everyone knows that a capital funding campaign will focus on pledges and money, but **CFS** was different. The focus was on the spiritual aspect of the campaign," stated Herb Barelman, LCEF Congregational Representative, **Pilgrim, Bellevue.**

CFS (Capital Funding Services) assists congregations to raise dollars for capital expansion or debt retirement by custom-building a capital stewardship empha-

sis that fits your unique setting, vision, and purpose.

Whether your congregation worships 500 or more, 100 or less, or somewhere in between, CFS has the perfect match of services

and consultants to assist your needs.

Make your vision a reality. Contact us!



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Take a Stewardship Journey

There are many ways stewardship can be taught and experienced. Supporting your efforts, LCEF has resources that can supplement or begin your stewardship education program. **“Journey to Discovery,”** a cooperative effort of LCEF and Concordia Publishing House (CPH), is a Bible study stewardship resource.

Based on a travel theme, **“Journey to Discovery”** takes participants on a voyage of prayer, discussion

and reflection on stewardship. The complete kit goes beyond just offering a leader’s guide and workbooks. The supplemental items, including videos to introduce each lesson, luggage tags, and traveler’s checks, make the process engaging and exciting.



St. John, Seward, recently used this resource

during their stewardship

emphasis. The congregation chose these materials citing that it is “a good reminder that life is a journey...the work for our Lord is not finished until He returns.” Being good stewards, St. John congregation would like to share the kit along with 60 participant books **FREE** to any congregation choosing to use this stewardship resource. Contact Jan Bruick in the Nebraska District LCEF office: 888-643-2961 X 1011 to learn more.



Good Stewardship with E-Statements

LCEF’s **MyAccount** online information system offers users the ability to receive e-statements and eliminate traditional mailings.

MyAccount is a secure online service in which investors and borrowers can quickly access LCEF investment and loan information and statements, as well as conduct transactions from certain accounts.

MyAccount promotes the good stewardship of resources. By using these financial services, you help us reduce administrative costs, which in turn allows us to keep loan rates to churches, schools and



rostered church workers as low as possible.

MyAccount access is granted through an application process. Go to www.lcef.org to find and complete the application for your user name and password.

As always, we’re just a call away if you need assistance: 800-843-5233.



K.I.D.S. Into Stewardship

Providing kids a fun way to learn about discipleship, stewardship and how to invest money while helping to build God’s Kingdom is what the **Kids Into Discipleship & Stewardship (K.I.D.S.)** program is all about! Kids invest their funds which earn interest and are used for low-interest loans to churches, schools and rostered church workers. . .all to share the good news of Jesus Christ!

Join us today in this stewardship opportunity for kids by contacting Gene Gierke at 402-641-1485.

Save the Dates:

Building/Planning Workshop



June 18, 2011

K.I.D.S. Stamp Program Workshop



July 30, 2011

Nebraska District
LCMS Office, Seward



Lutheran Church Extension Fund Investment Interest Rates

May
2011

1-800-843-5233
www.lcef.org

10733 Sunset Office Drive
Suite 300
St. Louis, MO 63127

StewardAccount® Certificate

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$100	--	0.500%
\$1,000	--	0.625%
\$5,000	--	0.750%
\$10,000	--	1.375%

Dedicated Certificate

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$100	--	0.375%
\$1,000	--	0.500%
\$5,000	--	0.625%

Custodial accounts for minors: \$25

Fixed Term Notes

(Minimum Investment \$500)

	Rate	APY
6 Month	--	0.500%
9 Month	--	0.625%
1 Year	--	0.750%
18 Month	--	1.000%
2 Year	--	1.125%
3 Year	--	1.375%
5 Year	--	2.000%
6-10 Year	--	2.250%
11-15 Year	--	2.500%
16-20 Year	--	3.000%

Floating Term Notes

(Minimum Investment \$100)

	Rate	APY
2½ Year (30 Month)	--	0.720%
5 Year (60 Month)	--	1.650%

Family Emergency StewardAccount Certificate

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$25	--	1.500%

Balances of <\$10,000 require monthly electronic investments

HSA FlexPlus Certificate

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$1	--	1.250%
\$2,500	--	1.750%
\$5,000	--	2.250%
\$15,000	--	2.750%

Next Generation Note*

(Minimum Investment \$5000)

	Fixed Term - Rate	APY
Next Generation	--	3.500%

IRA Dedicated Certificate

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$100	--	0.500%
\$1,000	--	0.625%
\$5,000	--	0.750%
\$10,000	--	1.375%

IRA Jumbo Notes

(Minimum Investment \$100,000)

	Rate	APY
5 Year Fixed	--	2.375%
60 Month Floating	--	2.025%

Cemetery Perpetual Care StewardAccount® Certificate

	Rate	APY
\$1,000	--	1.250%
\$25,000	--	1.375%
\$50,000	--	1.500%
\$100,000 +	--	1.750%

Congregation Endowment Note

(60-Month Floating)

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$1,000	--	2.025%
\$10,000	--	2.150%
\$100,000	--	2.275%

Congregation Endowment Note

(5-Year Fixed)

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$1,000	--	2.025%
\$10,000	--	2.150%
\$100,000	--	2.275%

Congregation Certificates

(Minimum Investment \$100)

	Rate	APY
Demand	--	0.500%
StewardAccount® Certificates		
\$100	--	1.250%
\$250,000	--	1.375%
\$500,000	--	1.500%
\$1,000,000 +	--	1.625%

*In conjunction with the purchase of the Next Generation Note, you have made a contribution to the LCEF. A portion of this contribution is non-deductible and considered a premium on the purchase of the note since you are receiving a benefit in return for the contribution (i.e., a 1.5% higher interest rate on the balance of the note). The APY on the principal amount of the Next Generation Note is 3.546%. If the non-deductible portion of the contribution (premium) is deducted from the interest you receive on the note, the yield-to-maturity is reduced to 1.82%.

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks.