

Faith Aflame: 360 Degrees



A Congregational Process To Change the Stewardship Culture

Summary

Keys:

- Identity
- Ownership
- Responsibility

Resources:

- Consecrated Stewards
- Faith Aflame Newsletter
- Faith Aflame Workshops
- E-learning Modules
- Web Site
 - Resources
 - Podcasts
 - Blog



The Biblical basis: *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.* Titus 2:11-14

The definition: Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.

The vision: That the stewardship culture in each congregation would be one where every professional church worker and every member would know that they are God's stewards by His grace, live as His disciples, and manage the gifts He entrusts to them with joy and generosity—all so that His purposes would be accomplished and His mission enhanced.

The goal: That stewardship would be **enlarged** (it is much more than finances) and **elevated** (made a priority) in every congregation.

The materials: Five components of *Faith Aflame* will be shared with congregations for intentional year-round stewardship education. The five components include:

- Living with God's Word (Biblical Basics)
- Living as God's Child (Getting Personal)
- Living as God's Family (Focusing on the Congregation)
- Living as God's Leader (Leading in life and in God's family)
- Living as God's Servant (Serving God and our neighbor)

The process:

- A three hour introductory workshop is conducted for each component.
- The congregation commits to the year-long process.
- The stewardship culture is assessed and plans are made for change.
- A Stewardship Learning Community is initiated.

The urgency: Research indicates that there is little appreciable difference between the behavior and attitudes of those who attend church and those who do not. Many, if not most, church goers believe they own what they have. Many church goers are trying to serve both God and money, something which Jesus says cannot be done. (Matthew 6:24) Jesus came that we might have life and have it abundantly! (John 10:10b)

For more information see the Faith Aflame website at www.lcms.org/faithaflame or contact Rev. Wayne J. Knolhoff at stewardship@lcms.org