



Congregation Name: _____

Pastor: _____ Weekly Attendance: _____

Budget Summary

Current Yearly Spending: _____

Current Yearly Income: _____

Offering Plate Giving: _____

Rental Properties: _____

Farmland Rental: _____

Interest Income: _____

Investment Income: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

TOTAL: _____



Current Surplus (Shortfall): _____

Shortfall being made up from:

Savings: _____

Borrowing: _____

Deferred maintenance: _____

Other: _____

Estimate of time this can last: _____

Planning the Timeline

The process of Teaching the Word, Asking the People to Act, and Planning requires 9–12 months.

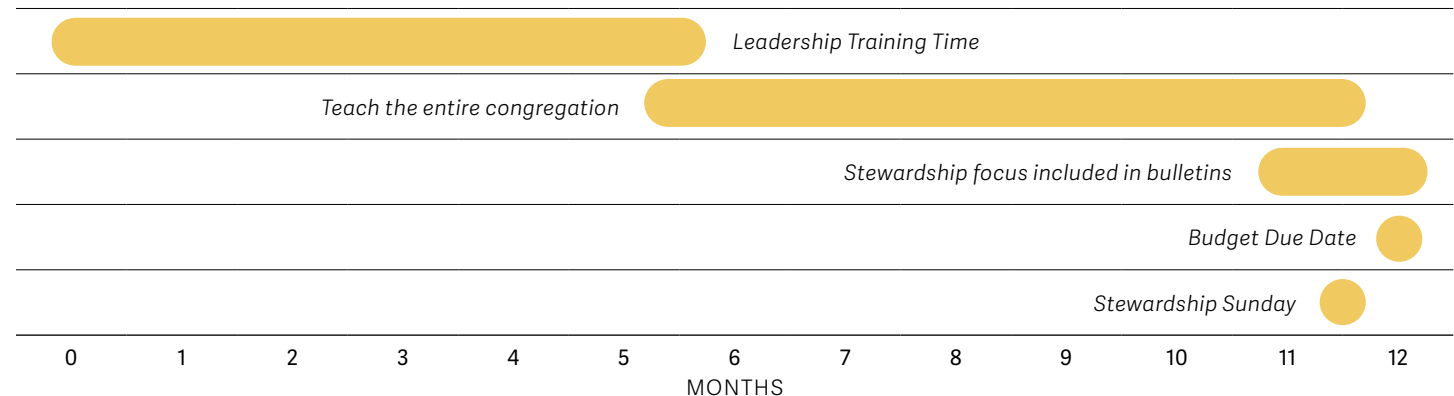
Budget Due Date (BDD) no sooner than 9 months from today: _____

Date of Stewardship Sunday (SS) BDD – 2 or so weeks: _____

Begin Teaching Entire Congregation SS – 6 months: _____

Leadership Training Time amount of time between today and SS – 6 months: _____

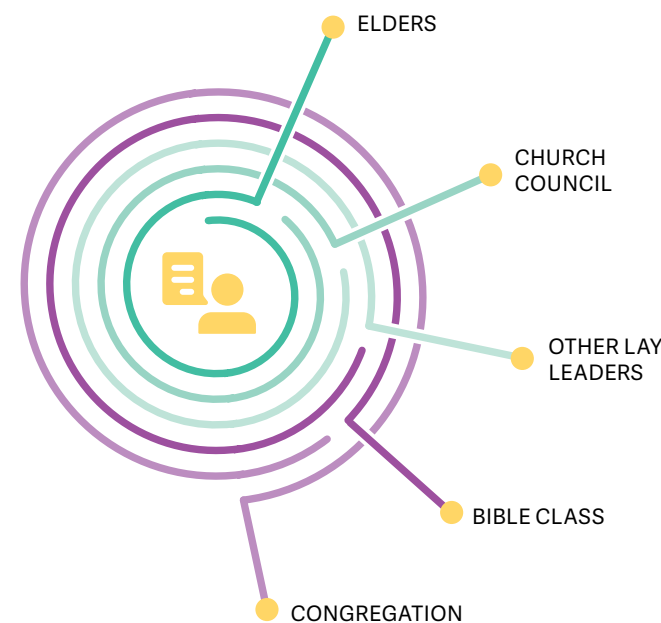
Begin including stewardship focus in bulletins SS – 4 weeks: _____



During Leadership Training Time

1. Pastor teaches what the Word of God says about stewardship to the lay leadership from the inside out.

2. Pastor makes specific plans for teaching the entire congregation during the six months prior to SS. This will include making plans for the adult Bible class (specific studies on specific dates), planning newsletter articles and planning sermons.



Schedule for Leadership Training

Date(s) for Study with Elders: _____

Date(s) for Study with Church Council: _____

Date(s) for Study with Other Lay Leaders: _____

Notes on Resources for these studies: _____

Schedule for Teaching the Congregation

Dates for In-Depth Bible Study: _____

Note: These dates should happen in the first 2 months of this block of time during the main Sunday bible study class.

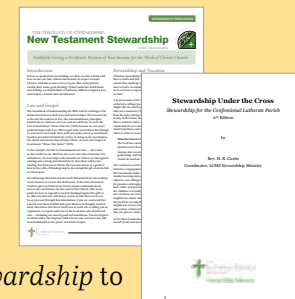
Preaching Dates: _____

Note: See "Stewardship in the Lectionaries" to choose these dates.

Notes on newsletter articles and Generosity Thoughts

bulletin blurbs during time frame: _____

Resources for Pastor's Planning



There is a library of documents available for free at lcms.org/stewardship to help congregations grow in their understanding and implementation of a life of stewardship. For example:

1. *Stewardship Under the Cross* is a free, downloadable book that narrates an LCMS congregation's process of going through stewardship instruction for the first time. Great for elders or church council to read together. It is short, but has lots of information including Bible studies, timelines and newsletter articles.

2. In the "Stewardship from A to Z" resource, see especially "**New Testament Stewardship**" under "Theology of Stewardship." This is a comprehensive Bible Study introducing stewardship. Explore the many other Bible studies as well.

3. In the "Stewardship from A to Z" resource, also look for "**Stewardship in the Lectionaries**" under "Bible Studies, Sermons and Pastoral Aids." Use this resource to find which Sundays will have stewardship themes in the assigned readings during the 6 months leading up to SS.

4. There is much, much more in "**Stewardship from A to Z**" as well! Spend some time now looking through it and finding materials you want to use.

5. Each month lcms.org/stewardship posts a new **newsletter article and Generosity Thoughts bulletin blurbs** with devotional thoughts keyed to the lectionary (both 1- and 3-year).

All of the resources at lcms.org/stewardship are yours to download, edit, cut and paste, and use in any way you want. And don't be afraid to make your own resources, pull in material you like from other places, etc.