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Let's Define Stewardship

stewardship **noun**

stew·ard·ship (ˈstü-ərd-ship) 'styü-; 'st(y)ürd-

[Synonyms of stewardship >](#)

- 1 : the office, duties, and obligations of a [steward](#)
- 2 : the conducting, supervising, or managing of something
especially : the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care
| *stewardship of natural resources*

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/stewardship>

2

Who entrusts things to us?

GOD

3

What does God entrust to us?



Time



Talent



Treasure

EVERYTHING

4

But it isn’t polite to talk about money...

That is what our society
says sometimes, but God’s
prophets in the Hebrew
Scriptures and Jesus
talked about
money/wealth/economic
systems A LOT!



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Stewardship

About the giver’s need
to give/how they use of
the gifts that have
been entrusted to
them.

Fundraising

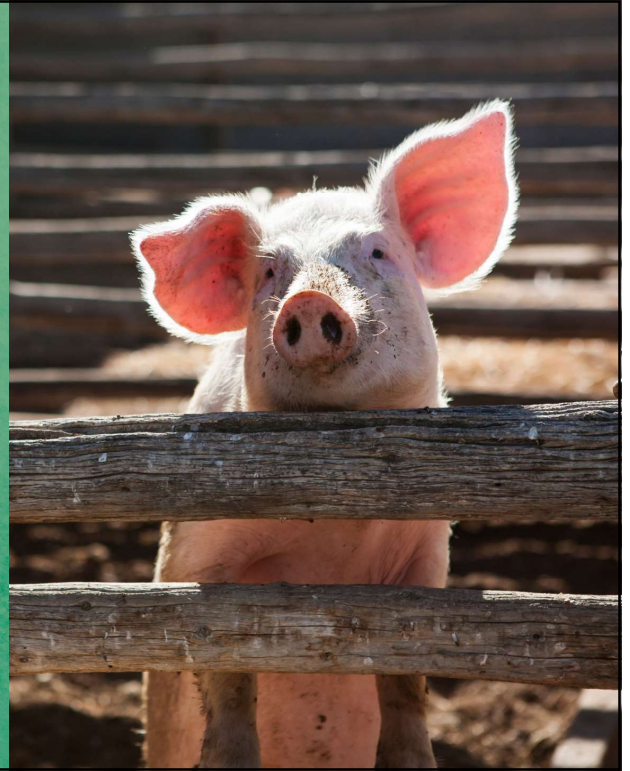
About the institution’s
need to receive.

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Etymology of Steward

Comes from the term “sty warden”

The person entrusted with guarding and caring for the pigs or other livestock.



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4 Parts of our Relationship with Money

Earn

Do you receive/earn/get your money in a way that is consistent with your faith?

Share

Do you share/donate/give away your wealth in a way that is consistent with your faith?

Save

Do you save/invest your money in a way that is consistent with your faith?

Spend

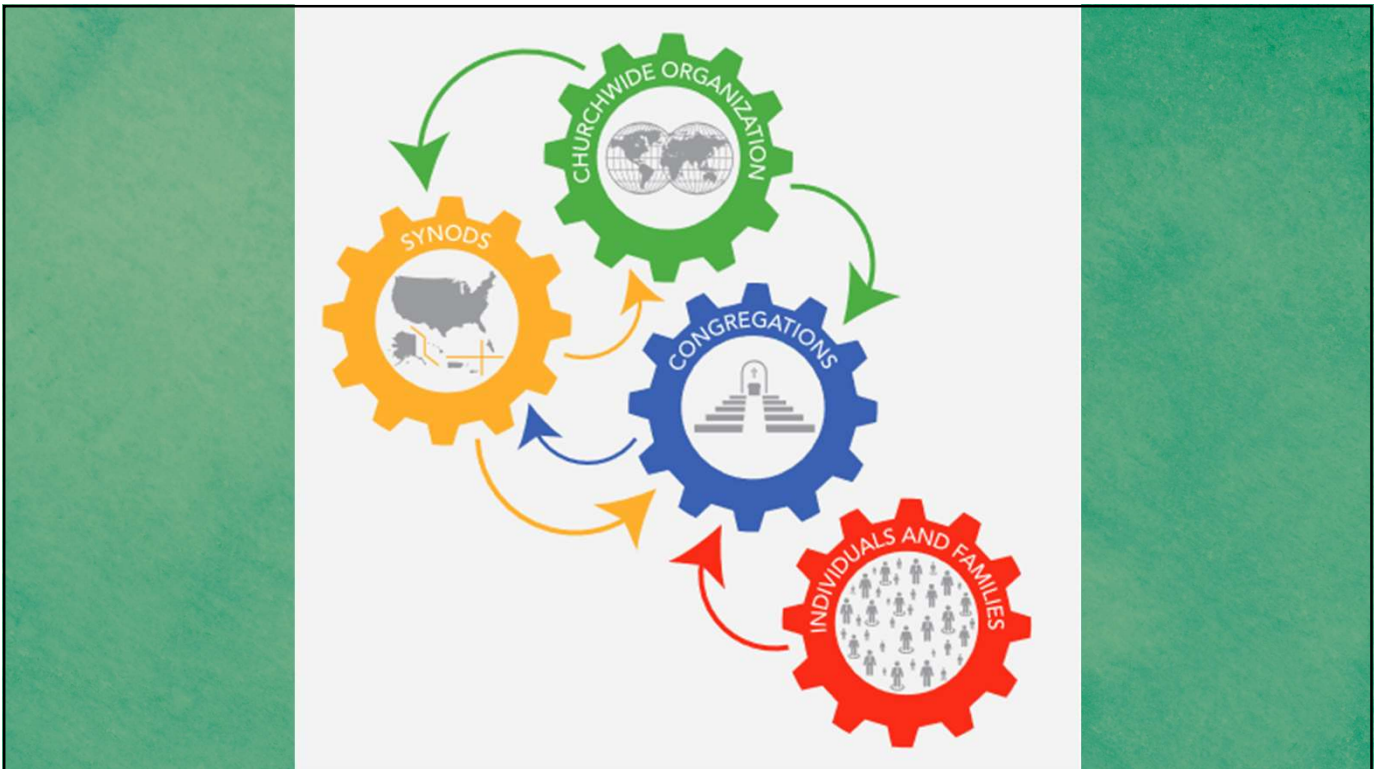
Do you spend your money in a way that is consistent with your faith?

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“Let’s Talk About Money” Workshop
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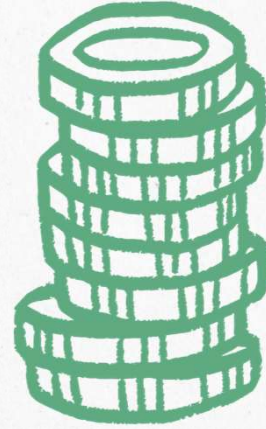
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Motivations for Giving

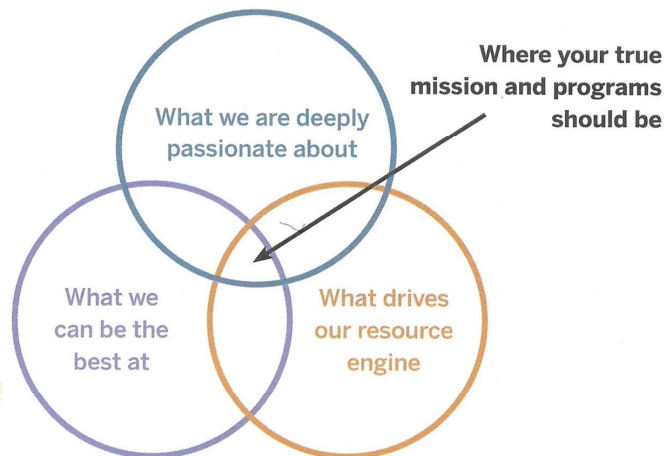
- Giving to achieve reciprocity with God
- Giving to achieve reciprocity with particular group
- Giving as an extension of the self
- Giving as an act of thankfulness or altruism



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CLARIFY YOUR MISSION

The Hedgehog Concept

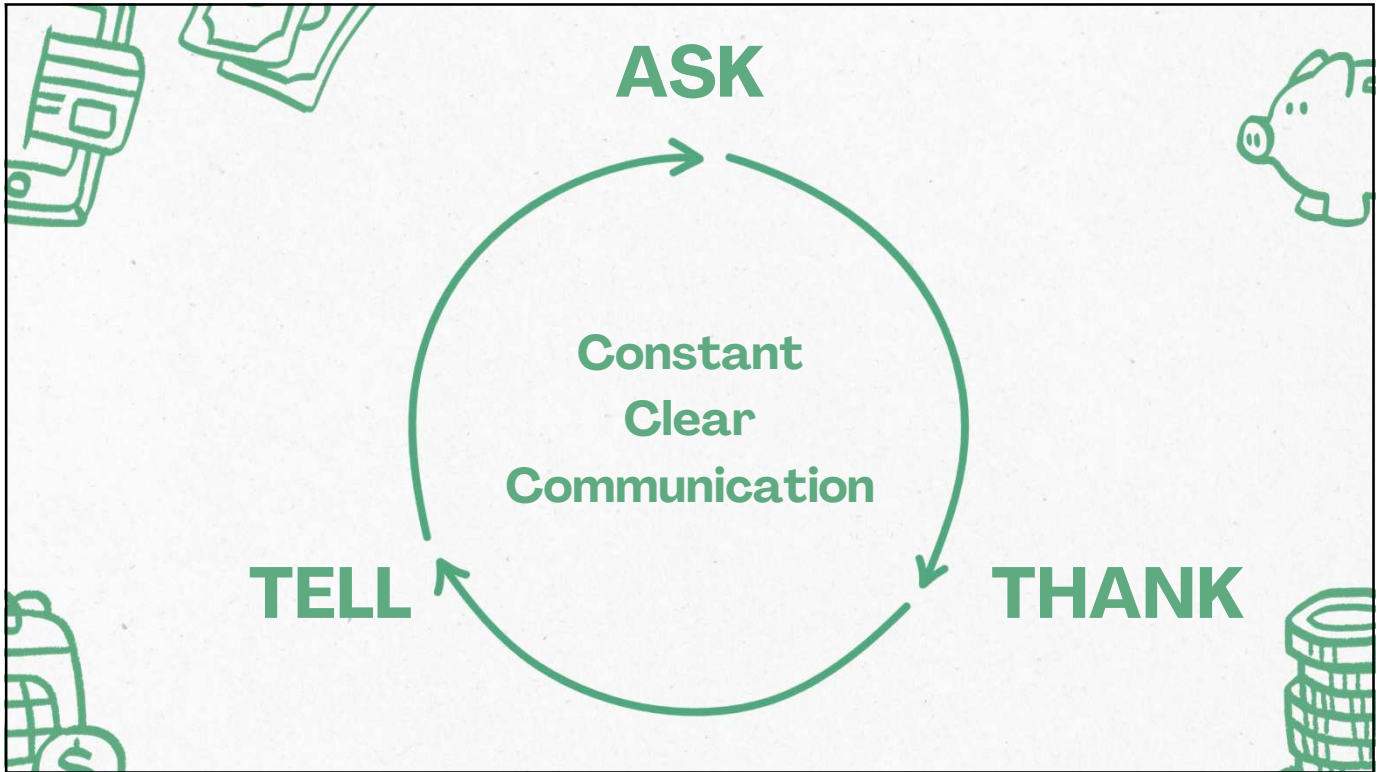


"The essence of the Hedgehog Concept is to help an organization obtain piercing clarity about how to produce the best long-term results, and then exercising the relentless discipline to say "No, thank you" to opportunities that fail the hedgehog test."

— Jim Collins

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Ways to save/invest that work for you ...and God’s mission



Mission Investment Fund
A Financial Ministry of the ELCA



ELCA
Foundation



ELCA Federal Credit Union

thrivent[®]



SPEND

Review your expenses

When was the last time you reviewed all your expenses to ensure they were:

- necessary
- in line with the your values/mission
- the best value
- couldn’t be covered in some better way



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How do you communicate about ministry spending?

Investment in
Ministry Plan
(Annual Meeting)

Giving
Statements

During the
Offering

Regular
Communications

18

Healthy Financial Practices

When was the last time you reviewed your financial procedures:

- Financial Secretary vs. Treasurer
- Double signers
- Expense approval
- Counting procedures
- etc.



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Quick Recap

- Everything is God’s (including money/wealth).
- God has temporarily entrusted some of those things to us.
- So our faith should inform our relationship with money (how we earn, share, save, and spend it).
- Congregations should be models of and nurturers of good stewardship.
- There are lots of resources out there to help you!

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