



Year 'round

Planning Calendar

for Growing Stewards
in your Congregation

January

THEME & FOCUS

Know how much **God loves you**. *Luke 15:11-32*

EARTHKEEPING

Conduct a **church energy** assessment.

GROWTH

Read *Ask, Thank, Tell* by Charles Lane. (*Augsburg Fortress*)

GIFTEDNESS

Give a **spiritual gifts inventory** or update time & talent sheets.

FINANCES

Develop a **special appeal schedule** for the year.

LIFESTYLE

Offer a men's winter retreat - *Appletree*.

PLANNING

Review vision and mission.

February

Rejoice in **God's presence**. *Luke 15:1-10*

Introduce a **recycling** program.

Orientation for new leaders—council and stewardship team.

Celebrate **gifts, skills, and talents** discovered.

Share **stewardship stories** in meetings.

Sermon on **life and faith** priorities.

Set **goals and priorities** for current year.

March

Understand **God's purpose**. *Luke 7:31-35*

Read ELCA statement on **caring for creation**.

Conduct **new member orientation**.

Tell a story in worship of how someone used their time or talent.

Receive a special **Lenten offering**.

Do a **Lenten service project**.

Read *The Power of Asset Mapping* by Luther Snow. (*Alban Institute*)

April

THEME & FOCUS

Live in **God's relationships**. *Luke 11:1-10*

EARTHKEEPING

Plant a **church garden**.

GROWTH

Offer *Kids, Money & Stuff* workshop.

GIFTEDNESS

Start planning **ministry fair** for fall.

FINANCES

Write **letter of appreciation** to members for first quarter.

LIFESTYLE

Plan a **sabbath rest** activity from *Sabbath* by Wayne Muller. (*Bantam*)

PLANNING

Read *Effective Church Leadership* by Harris W. Lee.

May

Become a **good receiver** from God. *Luke 14:25-35*

Go on a **field trip to a local nature center**.

Read *The Generosity Factor* by Ken Blanchard and S. Truett Cathy. (*Zondervan*)

Conduct a **leader appreciation** service.

Use *Try-a-Tithe Sunday*.

Plan a **family game or movie night**.

Offer leadership to **twelve new people**.

June

Discover your **time and talents**. *Matthew 25:14-30*

Offer **garden flowers and vegetables** to the community.

Offer a **stewardship activity** for summer camp.

Recognize vocation gifts and talents.

Send a reminder to worshippers about faithful **summer giving**.

Attend a **family church camp**.

Offer **leadership development** experience like *Growing Leaders*.

July

THEME & FOCUS

Learn how money **serves God** and helps others. *Luke 12:13-21*

EARTHKEEPING

Offer a **creation activity** at vacation Bible school.

GROWTH

Tell a **mission support story** at vacation Bible school.

GIFTEDNESS

Preach a sermon on **spiritual gifts**.

FINANCES

Review **mission support** and benevolence commitments.

LIFESTYLE

Go on a **summer mission trip**.

PLANNING

Review and revise **leadership succession** plan.

August

Take risks for God. *Matthew 13:44-45*

Plan a worship with *Seasons of Creation* liturgy.

Conduct a **stewardship orientation** for the congregation.

Evaluate **leadership development** plan.

Form **annual response** action team.

Have a **congregational picnic**.

Read *How Your Church Family Works* by Peter Steinke. (*Alban Institute*)

September

Express **gratitude** to other children of God. *Matthew 20:1-16*

Conduct **audit of hazardous materials** on church property.

Read *Giving to God* by Mark Allan Powell. (*Eerdmans*)

Offer a **spiritual gifts inventory** to every worshipper.

Conduct a **tither's table event**.

Plan a **fellowship event** around rally day.

Develop a realistic **timeline** of congregational events.

October

THEME & FOCUS

Care for **Planet Earth**. *Matthew 21:33-41*

EARTHKEEPING

Offer Bible study, *Awakening God's Call to Earthkeeping*.

GROWTH

Offer *Give* Bible study.

GIFTEDNESS

Offer a **ministry fair** for congregation and community.

FINANCES

Receive an offering for **World Hunger**.

LIFESTYLE

Offer a **women's fall retreat** - *Appletree*.

PLANNING

Review all worshipper **involvement**.

November

Connect **blessings** to God's community. *Luke 18:1-8*

Evaluate **progress** and **set goals** for next year.

Share a **mission moment** in worship.

Review **gifts inventory**.

Invite **annual financial response** from members.

Plan a **sabbath rest activity** from *Sabbath* by Wayne Muller. (*Bantam*)

Evaluate **progress** on goals for the year.

December

Grow as **God works** in your life. *Luke 5:33-39*

Promote **alternative giving** ideas.

Simple living: read *Whose birthday is it, anyway?* (*Alternatives*)

Conduct a **spiritual gifts** event.

Invite people from the congregation to make a **year-end gift**.

Do an **Advent service project**.

Prepare **annual report**.