



Year-Round Stewardship

Best Practices

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Learning Objectives

- Develop a working definition of Stewardship
- Learn theology, principles, and tools for Year-Round Stewardship practices
- Outline a Year-Round calendar of Stewardship-focused activities for your congregation

Introduction



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Stewardship: A Working Definition

- What images come to mind?
- Different than “Finance”?
- The heart of stewardship

Learning Objective #1



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Year-Round Stewardship

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)

Glory to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Glory to God from generation to generation, in the church, and in Christ Jesus for ever.

(Ephesians 3:20-21)

Learning Objective #2



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Year-Round Stewardship

- Stories build community and relationships
- Year-Round Stewardship invites people into an on-going, every day, faith-filled story of generous word & action
- We are *already* stewards, for the sake of the Gospel

Learning Objective #2



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Year-Round Stewardship

What does Year-Round Stewardship look like?

How many things should I do?

Is it all on me?

Learning Objective #3



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Year-Round Practices

A Year of Generous Living

Advanced

- ▶ Twelve months of stewardship themes
- ▶ Twelve months of stewardship activities

Intermediate

- ▶ A Liturgical Calendar of Stewardship themes

Beginner

- ▶ Three Simple Things you can do this year

Year-Round Practices



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Your Congregation's Year-Round Stewardship Plan

- Fill in important dates
 - Easter - April 4
 - Patronal Feast
 - Important Community Events/Meetings
- Work from what you ALREADY do
- Focus on Easter and beyond

Learning Objective #3



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Year-Round Practices: Monthly Themes

January: Telling our Stewardship Stories

February: Why do we give?

March: The power of our Money

April: Finding More from Less

May: Creating a plan to fix the world

June: Preparation for Pledge Season

July: Sharing with our neighboring congregations

August: Needs Assessment

September: Pledge Season Pep Talk

October: St. Francis & the Environment

November: The Communion of Saints is the Original Legacy Society

December: Incarnate Gratitude

Year-Round Practices - Advanced



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Stewardship Themes & Activities – The Liturgical Calendar

- ▶ Advent: To a world longing for change, we focus on our **gratitude** for all we have received and **communicate our hope** for justice and peace
- ▶ Christmas: The greatest gifts are the ones we give to each other through our **faithful generosity and abundant love**.
- ▶ Epiphany: We focus on how we are **Christ's body in the world** as we manifest God in our lives, families, and work
- ▶ Lent: Dust to dust is a powerful reminder that **planned gifts** are an essential part of faith-based fundraising and giving.
- ▶ Easter: Our faith and our works are alive, just as Jesus lives. Renewed with joy and refreshed by the waters of Baptism, we can't help but **shout our Alleluias to a world longing for love**.
- ▶ Pentecost: Our faith scatters us in all directions as we bring **healing, feeding, comfort, teaching, faith, and love** to a hungry world.

Year-Round Practices - Intermediate

**TENS Provides
downloadable
seasonal reflections
in English and
Spanish to help you
set the tone**



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Stewardship Themes & Activities – The Liturgical Calendar

- ▶ The Epiphany: What is the star that guides you in your ministry? **How does your faith inform your giving?**
- ▶ The Presentation: When you lift up your eyes to **glimpse the future of the Church**, what do you see?
- ▶ Ash Wednesday: If you had to give up everything you had, **would you still find yourself rich?**
- ▶ Rogation Days: What is our commitment to the Earth? How does our stewardship for **God's greatest gift** to us inform our generosity?
- ▶ Ascension: What gifts does your church need to **prepare** itself for future generations? To serve your neighbors?
- ▶ Transfiguration: If we truly saw the face of Jesus in each other, **how would we treat our neighbors?** How would we provide for their needs?
- ▶ All Saints: What are the lessons about giving and generosity that you have learned from **the saints in your life?**
- ▶ Your Patronal Feast: Who are the people who left legacies and planned gifts to your church? What will your legacy be?

In addition to the seasons of the Church year, the great feasts and fasts are good times to talk about stewardship. Use these conversation topics in small groups.



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Year-Round Practices - Intermediate

Helping people live generously

[W]e are making a statement of hope for the Church – for the institutions and for the members. Living generously is about more than making gifts to fund ministry. To live generously is to view the world not through a series of transactions – as pieces of a pie or coins in a jar – rather as a pattern of opportunities and impacts. When we look about us and see abundance, we recognize the hope that God has for all of Creation. When we look about us and see possibility, we understand that our work in the reign of God has consequence, impact, results. Living generously defies the culture of scarcity and fear-driven decision making. Living generously is living gracefully.

(TENS.org)

Wrap-Up



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Year-Round Resources

www.tens.org

TENS Toolkit for Year-Round Stewardship

<https://www.tens.org/resource-library/tools-best-practices/year-round-stewardship-planning-tools/>

Additional Resources



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Thank you!

For more information, tools, webinars, and
resources, visit www.tens.org

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