



The following are suggestions to nurture generous and giving hearts in a congregation. Check the ELCA Web site on stewardship www.elca.org/dcm/stewardship for more suggestions.

- Teach giving as a faith practice, emphasizing that financial giving is more an expression of faith than it is a financial matter. Promote a year-round stewardship ministry that includes education, interpretation, and an annual response effort.
- Contact your synod's stewardship resource person through your synod office for help in finding resources, program development, mission focus and visioning.
- Find out if there is a Mission Interpreter Program in your synod. Invite a Mission Interpreter to speak in your congregation, or, if there are no interpreters, encourage your synod to begin such a program.
- Use the Making Christ Known newspaper for new-member classes, adult forums and confirmation classes. Invite members and prospective members to come hear the story of who we are as the ELCA, what we do in ministry together, and how our churchwide ministries are funded.
- Adopt a congregational World Hunger giving goal for the year as an expression of our discipleship in a hungry world. Encourage ongoing regular giving to the Appeal. Distribute monthly World Hunger envelopes and regularly remind members of the needs and opportunities through newsletters, bulletin articles and inserts.
- Establish a special congregational offering to provide Christian education learning materials and Bibles for a congregation in your global Companion Synod or another place with needs.
- Plan a "Gift-giving Ministry Fair" in your congregation in the fall. Use the RESPONSE Catalog to learn of gift-giving opportunities that make a difference in the world. Contact your synod for local ministry projects that could also be gift-giving opportunities. Make this fair a congregational event and encourage people to begin their Christmas gift shopping in this way.
- Help broaden your congregation's ministry and vision by sponsoring a missionary through the ELCA Missionary Sponsorship Program. Find out about a specific mission project in the world or in your synod that your congregation can support during your years of discipleship.
- Consider enhancing your ministry by developing a relationship with a new congregation through a Mission Partner connection. Through Mission Partner relationships, new and redeveloping congregations are able to become self-sustaining.
- Invite an ELCA Foundation representative to lead an adult forum. Learn about ways to continue to support ministries beyond your lifetime. Begin a "Wills Awareness" program in your congregation.

- Request a Salt: Seasoning Faith and Generosity brochure. Review the modules available and inquire about those that sound interesting. Salt modules can be used for congregational visioning, stewardship planning, and personal growth. They may be implemented in a cluster arrangement with other congregations or in retreat settings.
- Help children understand giving as part of discipleship. Have your Sunday school join other ELCA Sunday schools participating in the new annual World Hunger Sunday school project.
- Travel through Lent with children, using the World Hunger 40-day calendar and coin box, linking simple study, prayer and giving.