

Philippians Workshop

Help for pastors, laity collaborate on stewardship

The Philippians Workshop is based on Paul's words in Philippians Chapter 1. In that chapter, and throughout the whole book of Philippians, we see how all the leadership of the congregation is working together in the realm of stewardship: Paul, Timothy, deacons, overseers and lay "partners in the Gospel" are all mentioned within just the first three verses!



> Target audience

The workshop is designed to bring together pastors and congregational lay leaders. Each congregation will know best just what lay leaders should attend, but for many congregations the board of stewardship, treasurer and church council are a good place to start. We especially delight in opening up the Scriptures for pastors and congregations who have struggled with stewardship in the past or who have been reluctant to take up an intentional stewardship focus for whatever reason.

> Venue

We can serve group sizes from one or two circuits on up to a regional or district level gathering, providing that the local host congregation can accommodate a larger group.

> Time frame

Since one of the goals of the workshop is to bring together pastoral and lay leadership, an evening workshop that includes dinner is recommended, and two hours should be allotted for presentation time. This also makes it easier for Rev. Heath Curtis or Rev. Nathan Meador to arrange travel. A limited number of Saturday engagements throughout the year may be possible, but we have found laity are more inclined to give up a weekday evening rather than a Saturday.

> Personnel

Either Pastor Curtis, LCMS coordinator for stewardship, or Pastor Meador, assistant coordinator for stewardship, may conduct the workshop based on scheduling and availability. Both pastors have direct experience in large and small, metro and rural parishes.

> Calendar

As with most events like this, it is easier to schedule at least a few months in advance, but if you have a nearer date in mind, just ask.

> Cost

There is no charge for this service — we are happy to help. In some of our speaking engagements, our hosts will insist on a small honorarium or on picking up travel costs, but that is above-and-beyond generosity on the host's part as far as we are concerned. We love to get out and speak with God's people, and this is by far the most enjoyable part of our work!

> Format

Here is a sample schedule of the workshop that we recommend, subject to local circumstances of course:

- 3 p.m. Pastors arrive, opening devotion
- 3:15 p.m. Intro to stewardship theology and practice for Lutheran theologians
- 5:30 p.m. Lay leaders arrive for dinner
- 7 p.m. Presentation for lay leaders on theology and practice of stewardship in the parish
- 9 p.m. Wrap up.

> Sign up

For more information and to schedule a workshop, email: stewardship@lcms.org