

Good \$ense Stewardship Resource

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- creating a culture of generosity that assures the resources necessary for your church to reach its ministry potential

Good \$ense has several components. The primary one is the budget class. It is a six-hour course that teaches the biblical principles related to money and trains on basic budgeting tools. Attendees leave with a God-honoring budget. Another component is pastoral teaching. This section provides access to messages and sermons at various times throughout the year to teach the biblical view concerning our attitude and relationship to money. The final component is counselor training. Volunteer counselors provide free, confidential budget counseling (e.g. Stephen Ministry type program for finances).

Who is using **Good \$ense**? Community of ChristChurch in Hillsboro is one Lutheran congregation that has used this program. At www.goodsenseministry.com, there is a list of other Oregon congregations that have used this program. Please check it out!



Oregon Synod Partner Ministries Supported

- ELCA- churchwide
- Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
- Luther Seminary
- Pacific Lutheran University
- Campus Ministry - 8 sites
- Lutheran Community Services Northwest
- Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
- Consultation to Clergy
- Lutheran Education Network Support (LENS)

Oregon Synod Ministries

- Synod Mission Initiatives
- Mission Strategy
- Candidacy and Pastoral Commitment
- Communication Committee
- Outreach Committee
- New Congregational Starts
- Latino Strategy
- Multicultural Committee
- Congregational Ministries
- Church and Environment
- Global Missions
- Education Committee
- Youth Committee
- Worship Committee
- Stewardship Committee
- Endowment Fund

We Are Gifted

is a stewardship publication of the Oregon Synod.

WE ARE GIFTED...

OREGON SYNOD
Quarterly Stewardship Mailing
2007 Fall



Bishop Hanson's Stewardship Comments

by Becky Brown, Oregon Synod Stewardship Chair

At the May 2007 Oregon Synod assembly, the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Mark Hanson, was the guest speaker at the stewardship luncheon on Friday. The room was packed as we ate our box lunches and listened in rapture (it's the Lutheran type of rapture) to Bishop Hanson's comments about stewardship. He began by talking how he learned from his grandparents and parents the meaning of stewardship. He remembers his grandmother saying repeatedly "It is so good because God is so good."

The bishop's next topic discussed the importance of stewardship in congregations. It depends on developing historical patterns of giving and the passion of the pastor. The pastor(s) must be a good role model for stewardship if her/his congregation is going to grow in that area of ministry. We need to have two foci – sharing our money and sharing our time/ talents.

With time running short, Bishop Hanson talked about developing a culture of best practices. As a



church, we need to improve our stewardship education for seminarians, pastors, and bishops so that they can better lead congregations in this critical mark of discipleship.

How goes the stewardship education in your congregation? If you would like some suggestions, please contact either Rev Phil Reitz at 1-800-755-5831 X104 (Region 1 Stewardship Specialist) or Becky Brown 503-244-1797 (synod stewardship committee chairperson).

Good \$ense Stewardship Resource

Have you been looking for a resource to help teach biblical money management skills at your congregation?



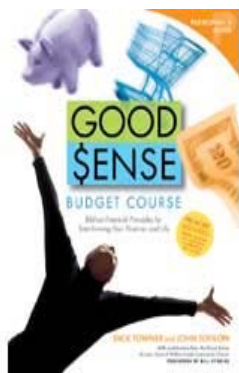
Have we got a suggestion for you! Fifteen years ago, the Willow Creek Association (connected with Willow Creek Church in South Barrington, IL) developed a curriculum that teaches, trains, supports, and encourages congregations in the core value of biblical stewardship. The materials can be used as a stand-alone system or in conjunction with other stewardship resources. The program is called **Good \$ense**.

Stewardship of financial resources lies at the heart of Christian discipleship. The failure of the church to articulate a biblical perspective on money and possessions gives way to the messages of materialism that are rampant in our culture. This program helps leaders diffuse society's messages.

Benefits of the program are:

- helping individuals in removing money as a barrier to full devotion to Christ
- freeing individuals from the bondage of consumer debt

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Stewardship Fall Cluster Gatherings

Do you want to spend an evening or an afternoon with sparkling, dynamic people including our new bishop? We have the event for you! The synod stewardship committee is sponsoring the fall cluster gatherings this year at seven locations around the state. Please look at the schedule below to determine which meeting will best meet your schedule. **Put this date on your calendar today.**

September 29th – Zion in La Grande; early afternoon

September 30th – Zion in Redmond; time is TBD

October 16th – Calvary in Grants Pass; 7-9pm

October 17th – Gloria Dei in Coos Bay; 5:30-8:30pm

October 23rd – St Andrew in Beaverton; 7-9pm

October 24th – Our Savior's in Salem; 7-9pm

October 25th – Creator in Clackamas; 7-9pm

We will spend two exciting hours together with some clusters sharing a meal before the actual meeting begins. Bishop Brauer-Rieke will share his thoughts about our synod and our national church and their ministries. We want your input by responding to statements about our ministries in the synod. You will leave the gathering with stewardship resources that you can use in our congregation. Invitations will be mailed to each congregation by the end of August. Please contact your pastor or cluster dean for more details.