

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
1700 Westport Rd.  
Kansas City MO 64111

### The Stewardship Horizon

Having looked at local, synodical, churchwide, and global stewardship, let's turn once more to the north, to Immanuel at Westport Rd. and Bell St. Immanuel can be described as **a metro congregation with a local address**. It has its own spectrum of ministries such as worship, learning, fellowship, and caring. And it is, at the same time, part of even more overlapping communities that stretch all the way around the world.

Your stewardship – what you give of yourselves and what you give of all that God has entrusted to you – has a wide-ranging impact along the stewardship horizon. As you consider your commitment of support for ministry and mission in and with and through Immanuel, you are invited and encouraged to survey the stewardship horizon for all the ways that God is and will be at work in and with and through your giving.

Stewardship  
360

## Taking Another Look

treasure  
responsibility  
neighborhood  
stewardship  
love  
journey together  
talents  
friendships  
time  
helping  
give  
ministry



Last year, Immanuel's theme for its Annual Stewardship Response was **Stewardship 360**. This year, we will continue reflection on that theme as Immanuel moves toward completion of calling new pastoral leadership.

Again, the image of **Stewardship 360** comes from the notion that the circumference of a circle, the girth of a sphere, and the equator of the earth can all be described as being 360 degrees around. If I face north, then turn to the right and keep going around to the north again, I will survey 360 degrees of the horizon.

If I do a similar survey with the stewardship of God's people – how we care for and make use of the blessings that God provides – what will I see? What are the **360 degrees of stewardship**?

# Commitment Sunday is October 23

## Annual Stewardship Response 2016

### Local Stewardship

Beginning at the northern position along the stewardship horizon, then, let's consider Immanuel itself as a congregation of God's people in Christ. While participants in Immanuel's ministry may live all over greater Kansas City, making this a truly "metro" congregation, our "house" is located in midtown at Westport Rd. and Bell St. Thus Immanuel is a vital part of two neighborhood areas, Volker and West Plaza, as well as Westport at large.

Immanuel offers a uniquely traditional form of Lutheran Christian worship that strives to coordinate the Readings for the Day with the hymns, instrumental music, and liturgy into a rich and coherent whole. Along with this, Immanuel offers ministries of learning, caring, and involvement with the larger community.

Immanuel's facility is available to local groups for meetings and other gatherings, serves during the summer as a host site for YouthWorks, and is the venue for the annual Metro Lutheran Ministry Christmas Store. Immanuel also actively supports Children's Memorial Lutheran Church and Bessie's House, both in northeast Kansas City, as well as ecumenical partnerships such as Shepherd Center Central, Community LINC, and Communities Creating Opportunity.

- ◆ Where do you see God at work through Immanuel in the local community?
- ◆ How is God calling Immanuel to join in that work even more fully?
- ◆ What does the giving of Immanuel's people – your time, talent, and treasure – make possible that might not be possible otherwise?



### Synodical Stewardship

Turning now from the north toward the east to survey the stewardship horizon, what comes into view is the **Central States Synod**, of which Immanuel is a part. The word *synod* comes from Greek – a combination of *syn-* (*together*) and *hodos* (*way, path, journey*). This Synod is all of its congregations on a ***journey together***.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) actually has 65 synods. Some are much smaller geographically than ours, and a few are larger. Ours is the states of Kansas and Missouri combined – a large territory. Within that territory are 177 congregations, along with Bethany College and Bethany Home in Lindsborg, Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Washington University St. Louis, and Hollis Renewal Center.

- ◆ Where do you see God at work around the Central States Synod?
- ◆ How is God calling Immanuel to join in that work?
- ◆ What does the giving of Immanuel's people – your time, talent, and treasure – make possible that might not be possible otherwise?

### Churchwide Stewardship

Turning now from the east toward the south along the stewardship horizon, the **ELCA** as a whole comes into view. That's almost 4 million believers in nearly 10,000 congregations within 65 synods!

Just as each synod is God's people on a ***journey together***, so the ELCA is God's people on a ***journey together*** – to do the work of God in ways that none of us would be able to do on our own. This includes 26 colleges and universities, 8 seminaries, and partnerships in a host of social service agencies such as Mosaic and Lutheran Disaster Response.

In addition, ELCA is promoting initiatives to eradicate malaria and hunger around the world, as well as welcoming refugees and immigrants seeking a new beginning.

- ◆ Where do you see God at work around the whole ELCA?
- ◆ How is God calling Immanuel to join in that work?
- ◆ What does the giving of Immanuel's people – your time, talent, and treasure – make possible that might not be possible otherwise?



### Global Stewardship

Our survey of the stewardship horizon now turns toward the west, to view not a single country, but the whole world that God loves. Believers who belong to the ELCA share in a wide variety of partnerships.

We belong to the Lutheran World Federation and Lutheran World Relief, both founded in the wake of World War II. We have missionaries active in more than 40 countries. We work cooperatively with local church groups and accompany them in sharing the good news and meeting the needs of daily life, such as CROP Walk for World Hunger and the Water for Life effort in Kenya.

- ◆ Where do you see God at work across the face of this vast planet?
- ◆ How is God calling Immanuel to join in that work?
- ◆ What does the giving of Immanuel's people – your time, talent, and treasure – make possible that might not be possible otherwise?