



South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

“That All May Be Fed”
A Simple Fall Program for Growing Stewards
By Pastor Bill Tesch

OVERVIEW

- It's simple:
 - three people,
 - three stories,
 - one invitation.

NEEDED FOR THIS PROGRAM:

- Three people to share a story (see Weeks One through Three below)
- One council member to invite people to fill out a “Commitment Card.” (see week Four below)
- Two or three letters (see weeks One, Three and Four below).
- One or two people to assist with two or three mailings (see weeks One, Three and Four below).
- One person to write three very short Bible reflections (see weeks One through Three below).

NOTE:

- **Throughout** this fall program, be sure to display prominently the new VISION STATEMENT of the South Dakota Synod, “That All Bay be Fed.” Display it in the bulletin, in letters, and as posters around the church building.

WEEK ONE: GOD'S STORY

- Recruit someone to share their favorite Bible story about food (without notes) and share the ways that God has guided them to use and manage what God has given them to “feed” (spiritually, physically, emotionally, etc) others -- for the sake of God’s people and for the world.
- Preach a sermon on God’s invitation to us to join him in God’s mission to feed people in their deep spiritual and physical hungers. The Pastor affirms that he/she will be completing a “Commitment Card” on the final “Filling the Plate” Sunday in three weeks.
- Send home a Bible Reflection on this text related to OUR IDENTITY – STEWARDS of GOD’S HOUSE: Genesis 1:26-31
- On Monday or Tuesday -- Send a Letter inviting people to reflect on their favorite story from Scripture and how God has called them to use and manage what God has given them for the sake of God’s people and for the world. In this letter outline what you will be doing over the next three weeks, and inform them that in week 4, you will be inviting them to consider “what percentage of what God has first given you, is God calling you to give for God’s work through _____ church?”

WEEK TWO: OUR STORY

- Recruit someone to share a story of how God is feeding people in their deep spiritual and/or physical hungers through a ministry of your congregation and thank people for their giving, which God is using for ministries like these. CONSIDER CONSTRUCTING THE STORY IN THE FORM OF A RECIPE (see attached “Recipe for a Recipe”)
- Send people home with a South Dakota Synod Cookbook, and a letter inviting them to find a recipe and a “featured recipe” (as story) that they like. Encourage them to think about how God is feeding their physical and spiritual hungers in their own life. Remind people that in two weeks you will be inviting them to consider “what percentage of what God has first given you, is God calling you to give for God’s work through _____ church?”
- Send home a Bible Reflection on this text related to how God makes use of our gifts feed people in their deep physical and Spiritual Hungers

WEEK THREE: MY STORY

- Recruit someone to share a story of how God fed them in their deep spiritual hunger (or, as another story prompt– a time when their congregation was really there for them when they needed it. Consider having them tell part of their story in the form of a “recipe.” (see attached “Recipe for a Recipe”). Thank the congregation for their love and support and remind them that next week people will be invited to consider: “what percentage of what God has first given you, is God calling you to give for God’s work through _____ church?”
- Send people home with a Bible reflection on this text related to how God invites our gifts for God’s work. Include in that letter a copy of the
- On Monday or Tuesday -- Send a Letter with a “Commitment Card” (see attached) inside of it and explain what you have been doing these past three weeks, and that next Sunday you will invite everyone to consider “what percentage of what God has first given you, is God calling you to give for God’s work through _____ church?”

WEEK FOUR: “FILLING THE PLATE SUNDAY”

- Have fun! Make the worship festive. Have a copy of the “Commitment Card” in the bulletin. Have a special place for people to bring the “Commitment Cards” forward during the worship service.
- Preach a sermon on the opportunity to join God in God’s mission and/or to respond in love to God’s blessing. The Pastor affirms that he/she will be completing a “Commitment Card” today.
- At offering time: Have a representative from the council stand and say: “My family and I are honored that God has invited us to give a portion of what God has first given us for God’s work through _____ church. Now God extends this invitation to all of us: “what percentage of what God has first given you, is God calling you to give for God’s work through _____ church?” Please take a moment now to fill out the ‘Commitment Card.’ If you did not bring one with you today, one is provided for you in today’s bulletin. After you are finished, I invite you come forward as households and place your commitment card in the place provided here at the front of the worship sanctuary. Let this be a joyful act of worship for each of us.”
- After all have come forward – sing a hymn about feeding, harvest or mission.
- Celebrate! Have an ice cream social, pot luck or other special event after worship.
- Later that week: Send a thank you to those who completed a “Commitment Card,” and send a follow up letter to those who were not present that day, inviting them to complete a card. OR, just have a “Commitment Card” in the bulletin next week, and let people know that if they didn’t have the opportunity to fill one out yet, they still can.

AFTER WEEK FOUR:

- Report to the congregation the results of “That All May be Fed.” Thank the congregation for all they do to feed people in their deep physical and spiritual hungers.

**“That All May Be Fed”
Commitment Card**

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____
Address: _____ **e-mail:** _____

Please prayerfully consider this question: “What percentage of what God has first given you, is God calling you to give for God’s work through _____ church?”

After prayerfully considering what percentage of what God has first given me/us, that God is calling me/us to give for God’s work through _____ church, I/we have determined that, with God’s help and blessing...

I/We will give \$ _____ per week month quarter (circle one).

**“That All May Be Fed”
Commitment Card**

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____
Address: _____ **e-mail:** _____

Please prayerfully consider this question: “What percentage of what God has first given you, is God calling you to give for God’s work through _____ church?”

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