

## Join an online stewardship event

ELCA “StewardCast” with  
Presiding Bishop Eaton  
Saturday, Feb. 27, 2016  
10:30 a.m. - 12 Noon

Rostered and lay leaders are invited to join a live stream of a stewardship event in Chicago with Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton on Saturday, Feb. 27, at 10:30 a.m. This “StewardCast” will include learnings and inspiration for stewardship leaders and team members using experiences from Bishop Eaton, the ELCA Macedonia Project, an ELCA online giving pilot, and new resources.

As church together, ELCA members face the challenges of current culture and world issues while striving for a deeper understanding of what the resurrection of Jesus Christ means today. Addressing these circumstances is not a financial issue, but a spiritual one. This online “StewardCast” invites and encourages us to engage and critique culture in our role as stewards.

The purpose of this live webcast is to thank, inform, teach, inspire and connect with current and new steward leaders. With fresh perspectives, practices and skills, we strive together to address the challenges and issues faced in stewarding congregational and community contexts.

Audiences for this event include mission support and stewardship leaders, congregational stewardship committees and team members, and individual rostered or lay leaders. The format is a combination of presentations and informal discussions led by keynoters. There will be a live audience and an opportunity for online participation.

## Gratitude creates happiness

by Pastor Mark Anderson, Assistant to the Bishop

During the month of February, Saint Valentine’s Day helps us to remember the joys of romance and family. So, February is a good time to ask, “What makes a happy marriage?”

USA Today, on Oct. 24, 2015, published an article about a University of Georgia study on this subject:

*“After interviewing 468 married individuals on relationship satisfaction, covering everything from communication habits to finances, they found that the “most consistent significant predictor” of happy marriages was whether one’s spouse expressed gratitude. “Feeling appreciated and believing that your spouse values you directly influences how you feel about your marriage, how committed you are to*

*it, and your belief that it will last,” says study co-author Ted Futris.”*



I would expand on these findings and suggest that real happiness in not just marriage, but in all of life is deeply rooted in an attitude of gratefulness, especially as opposed to an attitude of entitlement.

Gratitude is also the basis of stewardship—being grateful for our salvation and for being entrusted as stewards of God’s gifts of time, talent, and treasure. So let us pray to be grateful for our spouses, for our families, and for all the gifts we have to share with others.

This event will be broadcast live on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2016, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon CST. Participation requires online registration, which can be done at <https://community.elca.org/ELCAStewardCastFeb2016> until midnight on Friday, Feb. 12.

The fee to participate online is free without resources, or \$25 with resources, including the new book *Embracing Stewardship* by the Rev. Charles Lane and Grace Duddy Pomroy. Those registered will receive the online address to participate at least 24 hours prior to the start of the event. Participants will also be eligible for additional promotions.

— Pastor Mark Anderson

### StewardCast Agenda

- *Introduction:* Mr. Keith Mundy
- *Starting With Why to Strengthen Mission & Giving:* Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
- *Learnings from the ELCA Macedonia Project:* Rev. Bob Davis
- *Learnings from the Online Giving Project:* Steve Oelschlager
- *Introduction to Embracing Stewardship:* Rev. Charles Lane, Grace Duddy Pomroy
- *When Faith and Finances Collide:* Rev. Dr. Stephen Bouman
- *Closing Reflections:* Presiding Bishop Eaton

Register at <https://community.elca.org/ELCAStewardCastFeb2016> by Friday, Feb. 12.