



# Year 'round Planning Calendar

*for Growing Stewards in your Congregation*

## January

- THEME & FOCUS
- EARTHKEEPING
- GROWTH
- GIFTEDNESS
- FINANCES
- LIFESTYLE
- PLANNING

- Know how much **God loves you**. *Luke 15:11-32*
- Conduct a **church energy** assessment.
- Read *Ask, Thank, Tell* by Charles Lane. *(Augsburg Fortress)*
- Give a **spiritual gifts inventory** or update time & talent sheets.
- Develop a **special appeal schedule** for the year.
- Offer a men's winter retreat - *Appletree*.
- Review vision and mission.

## February

- Rejoice in **God's presence**. *Luke 15:1-10*
- Introduce a **recycling** program.
- Orientation** for new leaders—council and stewardship team.
- Celebrate **gifts, skills, and talents** discovered.
- Share **stewardship stories** in meetings.
- Sermon on **life and faith** priorities.
- Set **goals and priorities** for current year.

## March

- Understand **God's purpose**. *Luke 7:31-35*
- Read ELCA statement on **caring for creation**.
- Conduct **new member orientation**.
- Tell a story** in worship of how someone used their time or talent.
- Receive a special **Lenten offering**.
- Do a **Lenten service project**.
- Read *The Power of Asset Mapping* by Luther Snow. *(Alban Institute)*

## April

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- Live in **God's relationships**. *Luke 11:1-10*
- Plant a **church garden**.
- Offer *Kids, Money & Stuff* workshop.
- Start planning **ministry fair** for fall.
- Write **letter of appreciation** to members for first quarter.
- Plan a **sabbath rest** activity from *Sabbath* by Wayne Muller. *(Bantam)*
- Read *Effective Church Leadership* by Harris W. Lee.

## May

- Become a **good receiver** from God. *Luke 14:25-35*
- Go on a **field trip to a local nature center**.
- Read *The Generosity Factor* by Ken Blanchard and S. Truett Cathy. *(Zondervan)*
- Conduct a **leader appreciation** service.
- Use *Try-a-Tithe Sunday*.
- Plan a **family game or movie night**.
- Offer leadership to **twelve new people**.

## June

- Discover your **time and talents**. *Matthew 25:14-30*
- Offer **garden flowers and vegetables** to the community.
- Offer a **stewardship activity** for summer camp.
- Recognize** vocation gifts and talents.
- Send a reminder to worshippers about faithful **summer giving**.
- Attend a **family church camp**.
- Offer **leadership development** experience like *Growing Leaders*.

## July

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- Learn how money **serves God** and helps others. *Luke 12:13-21*
- Offer a **creation activity** at vacation Bible school.
- Tell a **mission support story** at vacation Bible school.
- Preach a sermon on **spiritual gifts**.
- Review **mission support** and benevolence commitments.
- Go on a **summer mission trip**.
- Review and revise **leadership succession** plan.

## August

- Take risks** for God. *Matthew 13:44-45*
- Plan a worship with *Seasons of Creation* liturgy.
- Conduct a **stewardship orientation** for the congregation.
- Evaluate **leadership development** plan.
- Form **annual response** action team.
- Have a **congregational picnic**.
- Read *How Your Church Family Works* by Peter Steinke. *(Alban Institute)*

## September

- Express **gratitude** to other children of God. *Matthew 20:1-16*
- Conduct **audit of hazardous materials** on church property.
- Read *Giving to God* by Mark Allan Powell. *(Eerdmans)*
- Offer a **spiritual gifts inventory** to every worshipper.
- Conduct a **tither's table event**.
- Plan a **fellowship event** around rally day.
- Develop a realistic **timeline** of congregational events.

## October

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- Care for **Planet Earth**. *Matthew 21:33-41*
- Offer Bible study, *Awakening God's Call to Earthkeeping*.
- Offer *Give* Bible study.
- Offer a **ministry fair** for congregation and community.
- Receive an offering for **World Hunger**.
- Offer a **women's fall retreat** – *Appletree*.
- Review all worshipper **involvement**.

## November

- Connect **blessings** to God's community. *Luke 18:1-8*
- Evaluate **progress** and **set goals** for next year.
- Share a **mission moment** in worship.
- Review **gifts inventory**.
- Invite **annual financial response** from members.
- Plan a **sabbath rest activity** from *Sabbath* by Wayne Muller. *(Bantam)*
- Evaluate progress** on goals for the year.

## December

- Grow as **God works** in your life. *Luke 5:33-39*
- Promote **alternative giving** ideas.
- Simple living: read *Whose birthday is it, anyway?* *(Alternatives)*
- Conduct a **spiritual gifts** event.
- Invite people from the congregation to make a **year-end gift**.
- Do an **Advent service project**.
- Prepare **annual report**.