

Faith Aflame: 360 Degrees

Living as God's Child



Session Two – Case Studies

Case Study One: *The Young Suburbanites*

St. John Lutheran Church is a large church in a growing suburban community. The church has a school which is regarded highly in the area.

The pastors of St. John have just completed a series of sermons on Christian stewardship. The series was well received by the members and especially touched the heart of one young mother. She made an appointment to meet with the senior pastor.

“Pastor,” she said, “I have been thinking about the sermon you preached last Sunday. It really made me think.”

She went on to tell the pastor that she had been talking with her husband about what they gave in the offering each Sunday—which wasn’t much. Both she and her husband had good paying jobs, but the tuition for their two young children who attended the grade school, the payments on their new house, the loans on their two vehicles, college debts still needing to be repaid, and other bills were more than they could handle and still give to the church—in fact, their expenses were more than their income.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What stewardship issues are involved?
2. What can/should/might be done to help this young mother?



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Case Study Two: *Spiritual Growth*

Trinity Lutheran Church is located in a small town.

At a recent meeting discussion centered on the lack of involvement in church activities by the members of the congregation. Most seem to have limited time to give to their spiritual growth. As the meeting went on an idea surfaced.

“Didn’t we at one time have midweek classes here at the church?” one of the members asked. “Perhaps we could reestablish a program that would focus on Christian education and ministry programming. A light supper could be offered and classes would be provided for children, youth and adults so the entire family could be involved together.”

“How would we get people here?” another asked. “Calendars are really full. The school has practice for sports teams on almost every night there is no game. Then there are dance lessons and piano lessons and who knows what else.”

“People need to prioritize their time for what is really important,” said an elderly member.

Discussion went on for quite a while until it was time to adjourn. No consensus was reached and no plans were made for the spiritual growth of the members of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What stewardship issues were involved in the discussion at Trinity?
2. What can/should/might the members of Trinity do to address these issues?

