

REDISCOVER MACEDONIA

A spirit of gratitude and generosity



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

ELCA Macedonia Project Glossary of Stewardship

Asset-based	An approach to life situations that looks at the assets and gifts provided by God rather than needs and scarcity of resources.
Competency	Quality of being capable, or qualified to understand certain concepts, perform specific activities, practices or skills.
Consecration Sunday	Annual financial response method that uses guest leader, leader dinner and a special Consecration Sunday. Materials are under copyright by the Rev. Herb Miller. Resource can be ordered from Augsburg Fortress.
Consultation Process	An annual process through which synods and congregations enter into conversations about ministry which we share together.
Corinthians	People of a city in southern Greece. An important trade center in the first century. The apostle Paul wrote several letters to the Christian community in Corinth.
Earthkeeping	Ministry focusing on caring for God's creation.
Faith Commitment	An invitation for people to indicate their response to God's blessings and to do God's work. This term may be used instead of a pledge. This commitment may be expressed in percentage of household income and/or dollars.
First Fruits	Returning the first and the best to God each day. This can include giving the first 10 percent of congregational or personal income to God.
First-Mile Giving	This is financial giving to the ongoing ministry of the congregation including worship, education, evangelism, social ministry, facility operating costs and administration.
Second-Mile Giving	This is financial giving to support ministries inside and outside the church that are important to the giver, and beyond the ongoing ministry of the congregation.
Gifts	All that God has given and entrusted to each person including

time, skills, spiritual abilities, talents and finances.

Holistic	A broad and deep approach to understanding and teaching stewardship in the life of the congregation including lifestyle, giftedness, earthkeeping, education, finances, leadership development and planned giving.
Learning Event	An activity that engages a small or large group in a common educational task involving engagement, reflection and shaping future behaviors, practices or skills.
Macedonia	A geographic area in northern Greece. This was home to the Macedonians at the time of the apostle Paul.
Mission Interpreter	A trained volunteer leader from a congregation who tells stories about ministries locally, regionally, nationally and globally. The focus is on thanking, informing, teaching, inspiring and inviting people to make possible together what we could not do alone.
Mission Interpretation	Telling stories about how we make a difference in the lives of others through our giving locally, regionally, nationally and globally.
Mission Support	The portion of offerings that congregations share with their synod and churchwide ministries for God's work both in and beyond the congregation.
Mission Partners	Volunteer(s) from one congregation who partner with another congregation on a specific project for a specific period of time.
One-to-One Conversation	Engaging in an open and honest conversation with another person in a way that explores beliefs, life experiences and opinions about specific topics.
Offerings	Giving of individuals and households in response to God's blessings and doing God's work. This most often takes the form of money to support ongoing ministry in the congregation or special ministries.
Proportionate Giving	Based on New Testament teaching, this involves returning a portion of one's gifts to God in accordance with how one has been blessed by God.
Relational Ask	Ability of an individual to build a personal relationship with another person or group as a foundation to ask for participation, actions or a specific gift.

Statements of Intent A statement that each congregation is asked to sign indicating the amount of Mission Support percentage and/or dollars that will be passed on to the synod in the coming year.

Stewardship While this specific word is not use in the Bible, it was created by church leaders in the 1890s to describe efforts to collect offerings for missions in the Western U.S. and missionaries abroad.

For more than a hundred years, leaders and groups have defined this word differently:

The word of the social gospel made flesh.

John M. Versteeg (1923)

What I do after I have said: I believe.

Clarence Stoughton (1949)

Partnership with Christ, through the Holy Spirit, in following the purpose of God in the world.

A.C. Conrad (1955)

That for which I am responsible to God for my fellow men (and hence) consecration of this task (of uniting people to the church).

T.A. Kantonen (1956)

A dictionary definition of stewardship could include:

The aspect of religious life and church administration dealing with the individual's responsibility for sharing systematically and proportionately their time, talent and material possessions in the service of God and for the benefit of all humankind.

Stewardship Key Leader

A person in service to the ELCA to guide congregations through a building fund appeal, capital appeal or debt retirement effort. Go to www.ELCA.org/skl.

10 – 10 – 80

A guide for financial life planning. Give 10 percent to God. Save 10 percent. Live on 80 percent.

Tithes

First fruits giving in response to God's blessings. This is typically given before other types of giving.

Tithing

Based on Old Testament teaching, returning 10 percent of all one has received from God. The ELCA teaches households to grow toward a tithe and give beyond a tithe as you have been blessed.