



Upstate New York Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

"We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part . . ." 2 Corinthians 8:1-3

March 29, 2016

Greetings to the Leaders of the ELCA Upstate New York Synod,

You and your congregation's leaders are prayerfully invited to participate in the Generosity Project! It is an engaging, fun and interactive 3.5 hour workshop for all ages, hosted by **Atonement Lutheran Church**, 116 W. Glen Ave, Syracuse, NY on **Saturday, April 16 9:30 am – 1:00 pm**.

The Generosity workshop is an outcome of the ELCA Macedonian Project and a joint effort of the Upstate New York Synod and our ELCA Churchwide ministries. It is inspired by the generous giving by Macedonian churches for the relief of the saints in Jerusalem (II Cor. 8.1-7),

The hope of the Generosity Project is to support congregations in:

- Supporting and connecting all ages and all generations as stewards of God's abundant grace.
- Equipping households as places where generosity is practiced daily as a reflection of one's faith.
- Growing a spirit of generosity that overflows with abundant joy from households to congregations to ministries throughout one's neighborhood and into all the world.

The key to the long-term success of the Generosity Project in your congregation, and ultimately in our Synod, is the selection of a diverse team of 5-9 people to attend the workshop. A strong focus of the project is on households. Please consider inviting at least one household that has one or more pre-teens or teens. Also consider inviting wise elders, couples, singles, young adults, and current stewardship and Christian education leaders. A team representing mixed ages and stages will insure a meaningful intergenerational event and create diverse leadership for developing this ministry in your congregation.

Participants will become acquainted with resources and approaches that effectively develop the faith practice of generosity, both in congregations and in households. Following the workshop, your team will be invited to replicate and expand the experience in your local setting. The Upstate New York Synod Stewardship Table in partnership with the ELCA will support you in your commitment as together we develop a culture of generosity that overflows with abundant joy.

To register, call the synod office at 315-299-4955 or e-mail Kathy Neugent at kneugent@upstatenysynod.org.

If you have any questions or would like to see The Generosity Project come to your area of the Synod please do contact Rev. Paula Roulette (runper@aol.com) or Rev. Norma Malfatti (nmalfatti@upstatenysynod.org).

We are excited about where the Holy Spirit will take us in this initial gathering as we learn from one another about how to be faithful stewards of all God has entrusted to us.

Blessings in your ministry!

The Upstate New York Synod Stewardship Table