

# CORE VALUES

*devotional* for congregation councils



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

CHRIST-  
CENTERED

GENEROSITY

RELATIONSHIP RECONCILIATION

## Core Values

Core Values reveal our DNA together as synod. They are values that will guide our work together—values that have been in our DNA for generations and will be in our DNA into the future. Today, we explore our value:

**Generosity** *There is enough; there is more than enough. We will trust God's provision for tomorrow. With gratitude for what God first gives us, we live and give generously today.*

## Prayer

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit, lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

*The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.*

**Meditation on the Scripture** Hold a moment of silence as a group.

## Exploring Our Values More Deeply

This video conversation features Bishop Tim Smith and the Rev. Danielle DeNise sharing what it means for them and our synod to be Generous.

## Questions to Consider

Turn to a neighbor seated near you and share your thoughts on these three questions. After you have had a chance to share in small group, share as a larger council for several minutes.

\*Share a time when you have experienced the generosity of God.

\*Who is someone in your life that you would consider a generous person?

\*Consider someone in your life today who would benefit from your generosity. How can you demonstrate generosity to that person today or this week?

## Closing Prayer

Generous God, teach me to be generous as You have been generous with me. Teach me that all I am and have are gifts from You. And gifts, Lord, are meant to be shared. Show me the joys of generosity. Make me a gift to others in Your name for the sake of the world. Amen.