

God is great and good

By Pastor Nancy Larson
ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission

*God is great and God is good,
let us thank him for our food.
By his hands we all are fed.
We thank you God for daily bread.*

Perhaps you learned this table prayer as a young child as I did. Maybe you have even taught it to your own children or grandchildren. On the face of it, this seems to be a simple little prayer. Yet it teaches us all some valuable lessons.

Yes, indeed God is great! Read Genesis 1 and hear again about the power, majesty and might of God who created the heavens and the earth. God's word had the power to call forth all that we see around us and so much more.

God is also good as we find in Genesis 2 when God creates humankind and exhibits compassion and love for this crown of creation. Yes, God knew that this human creation would need companionship and so God reached out with the closeness of God's own touch and created a human partner.

How wonderful for children to learn early in their life and faith development about the greatness and grandeur of God, as well as the love and closeness of God. How wonderful for all of us to realize these truths about God. When we are able to acknowledge God in this simple yet profound way, we are off and running toward a healthy relationship with God.

This basic foundation of faith will shape how we see ourselves and our place in the world. Yes, God is great and God

is good and we thank God for everything—yes, we thank God for "...food and clothing, home and family, daily work and all that I need from day to day. God also protects me in time of danger and guards me from every evil." (Martin Luther's explanation to the First Article of the Apostles Creed in the Small Catechism)

God does it all! Yes, this God who is good and great has done it all for us in Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!

To download this article or for more stewardship and mission support resources, visit www.neiasynod.org/synod_resources/Stewardship-MissionSupport.asp.



Still time to register for Assembly

Early bird registration ended May 8, but voting members and visitors can still register for the Northeastern Iowa Assembly set for June 8-10 at Wartburg College, Waverly.

Every person attending Assembly must be registered. The voting member registration fee is \$190 for those staying on campus; \$140 for commuters. The fee includes three meals on Saturday and two on Sunday.

Any interested person may register as a visitor, but visitors do not have voice or vote. Visitor registration fee is \$160 with on-campus housing and meals; \$110 for commuters with meals; \$60 for commuters without meals.

Registration materials and the agenda can be downloaded at www.neiasynod.org/synod_resources. Call 319-352-1414 to learn more.

NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD

Bishop Rev. Dr. Steven L. Ullestad – ullestads@neiasynod.org
Assistants to the Bishop

Rev. Mark A. Anderson – andersonm@neiasynod.org
Rev. Darrel W. Gerriets – gerrietsd@neiasynod.org
Linda J. Hudgins – hudginsl@neiasynod.org

ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission

Rev. Nancy J. Larson – nancy_larson@elca.org

Star Editor

Marcia Hahn – hahn@neiasynod.org

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Send news for the July/August issue to Marcia Hahn by June 15. We welcome story ideas related to the 2012 theme, "Strengthening Leaders."

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