

# More/Enough

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ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission

When my nephew was very young, I remember his first words were “momma,” “dada,” “no” and “more.” He said “more” a lot and with much emphasis—he really said it as “MORE!” My nephew isn’t the only child to grab hold of this word and concept early in life. The desire for more seems to be ingrained in us all from a very early age, and we live in a culture that continues to fuel that desire.

I remember reading many years ago that true human happiness is not achieved by having everything we want, but by being satisfied with having what we need. Unfortunately, too often we have come to believe that our wants are actually our needs—the newest technology, the bigger boat, the latest fashion, the nicer car. We like to be up-to-date with our appliances and decorating. The list can go on and on. We not only try to keep up with the Joneses, but with what TV, radio, and magazines tell us is in, hot, or the latest.

Our drive for more can push us to spend beyond our means, make use of expensive credit cards, or dig ourselves into high personal debt. This, of course, can have significant impact on how we are able to respond to God’s call to be generous disciples. Recognizing and controlling our need for more is a great first step in

living as disciples of Jesus and faithful children of God.

A recently published book titled *How Much is Enough?* addresses this very issue. The subtitle “A Deeper Look at Stewardship in an Age of Abundance” acknowledges that most of us have our needs met and then some. Contributors include Charles Lane, Craig Nesson and Stephen Bouman, among others.

I highly recommend taking some time to read the six brief articles, beginning with the foundation of trust in God’s abundance and grounding in Biblical principles. The final article focuses on financial health as an expression of faith. There are also some helpful appendixes, including one on how to write a money autobiography and a self-assessment tool. This small book (49 pages) is a thought-provoking resource for steward leaders both rostered and lay.

To download this article or for more stewardship and mission support resources, visit [www.neiasynod.org/synod\\_resources/Stewardship-MissionSupport.asp](http://www.neiasynod.org/synod_resources/Stewardship-MissionSupport.asp).



## Register for WIYLDE

Registration has begun for the Wholly Iowa Youth Leadership Discipling Event (WIYLDE) set for July 27-Aug. 1, 2012, at Luther College. WIYLDE is a ministry and leadership workshop for high school youth of ELCA congregations in Iowa and is supported by all three ELCA Iowa synods.

Registration fee is \$325 if registered by June 15, and \$350 after that date. The Northeastern Iowa Synod is offering \$100 early-bird camperships to students registered by June 15. To learn more about WIYLDE and how to register, visit [www.luther.edu/ministries/congregations/wiylde](http://www.luther.edu/ministries/congregations/wiylde) or call 563-387-1327.



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Send news for the June issue to Marcia Hahn by May 2. We welcome story ideas related to the 2012 theme, “Strengthening Leaders.”

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