

Personal budgeting can lead to generous giving

Very often Christians are not generous givers—not for lack of desire, but because their personal finances are out of control.

Families who are in debt, who don't have a budget, who are ensnared by credit cards cannot see a way to give generously and also must live with the anxiety of not being financially secure.

So, one of the most effective ways of helping the ministry of a congregation to thrive is by helping families control their own finances. This is the premise

behind the resource from the ELCA titled *Money Leadership for Thriving Congregations*. The materials can be used in the context of a two-day retreat or six two-hour small group sessions.

The participants are guided by a local leader to write a "money autobiography" and to review the units on:

- Giving
- Saving
- Spending
- Debt Management
- Financial Planning

- Money Leadership in the congregation

At the end of the course, each participant or family is invited to create a "personal action plan" to lead them out of debt and in to savings, allowing them to become generous givers.

All the materials are available from the ELCA Resource Catalog at <http://resources.elca.org/Products-Stewardship.html> or by calling 800-638-3522.

Day of Renewal is April 3

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Nazareth Lutheran, Cedar Falls,

9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Rostered leaders from the Northeastern Iowa Synod are invited to a "Day of Renewal" Thursday, April 3, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., at Nazareth Lutheran, Cedar Falls

Pastor Joelle Colville-Hanson will present "The New Town Crier," a look at how social media is a continuation of the way communication of the Gospel has been evolving since the Church's beginnings.

"It is important for the church to be where people are, and social media is where people are," Colville-Hanson says. "It is the new town square."

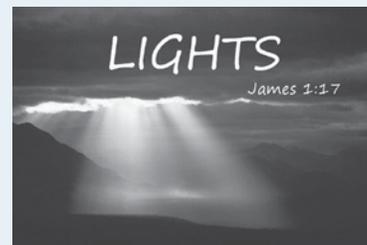
Social media has been around since before Facebook, and Pastor Joelle Colville-Hanson has been using it since 1996. She will reflect on the theological implications of social media, give examples of how colleagues in the synod are using it, address any questions or concerns about social media, and share ways the synod can help and support congregations in their social media outreach.

This event is free for rostered leaders and includes lunch. To register by Monday, March 24, call the synod office at **319-352-1414** or send an email to hamiltonl@neiasynod.org.

LYO Assembly

March 22-23, 2014

*Camp Ewalu,
Strawberry Point,
Iowa*



High school youth from the Northeastern Iowa Synod are invited to attend the annual Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Assembly March 22-23, 2014, at Ewalu Camp and Retreat Center, Strawberry Point.

The theme for the assembly will be based on James 1:17: "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

This event will feature games, discussions, activities, worship and more. Keynote speaker will be Pastor Jealaine Marple of Elvira Zion, Clinton, Iowa. She will speak about vocation. Susan Entriiken, youth worker for St. Timothy, Hudson and practice discipleship coach for the synod, will speak about dealing with failure and forgiveness.

Registration is due Sunday, March 16. The registration form and more information can be downloaded at www.neiasynod.org/youth/default.asp#LYO.