

Workshop to teach fund-raising skills

How to Teach Generosity through Excellence in Fund Raising
 April 27, 2017 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 St. Paul's, Waverly

Congregational leaders are invited to learn financial development and fund-raising strategies at a workshop set for Thursday, April 27, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waverly.

The workshop "How to Teach Generosity through Excellence in Fund Raising" will share basic skills with pastors and other leaders on how to write effective letters, visit with donors, speak to congregation members about estate planning, and receive bequests to the congregation.

The event is sponsored by the Northeastern Iowa Synod and the Iowa Chapter of the Association of Lutheran Development Executives. Fund-raising professionals will present on the best practices in their fields.

Sessions begin at 10 a.m. with a presentation on when and how to write a great ask letter and thank you letter, presented by members of the Wartburg College Development Office — Denny Haugen, senior major gift officer; Jay Boeding, major gift officer; and Don Meyer, senior gift planner. Pastor David Assmus, gift consultant with Wartburg Theological Seminary, will present how to make a great ask visit.

Afternoon sessions include Pastor Mark Anderson, assistant to the Bishop, who will share how to communicate mission. Mike Klinefelter, regional gift planner for the ELCA Foundation, will discuss estate planning and when and who to call at the foundation for assistance.

The cost to attend is a \$50 non-refundable advance fee per person; however, those who complete the workshop will receive a certificate of completion and a \$100 rebate. Continuing education credits are also available. Lunch is included.

The workshop is limited to the first 25 people to register and send their checks to the synod office by the April 20 deadline. To register, download the registration form at www.neiasynod.org/ministries/stewardship or contact the synod office at boltec@neiasynod.org or 319-352-1414.

Charitable giving can reduce IRA taxes

Members of the baby boomer generation have been very good at saving for retirement. Combined, they hold roughly \$10 trillion in tax-deferred savings accounts, such as 401(k)s and IRAs.

Generally, people age 70 1/2 years and older are required to begin annual withdrawals from their tax-sheltered retirement accounts, re-

sulting in unwanted taxes on those withdrawals. The penalty for not taking those distributions on time is a 50 percent tax bill on funds the retired did not withdraw.

But there is another option. Many people can have their required IRA distribution go directly to an eligible not-for-profit, such as their congregation. This tax-free qualified charitable distribution (QCD) goes directly from the IRA to the charity and does not have to be claimed as income. As you make your financial plans for 2017, consult your tax professional and ask about making a qualified charitable distribution.

— *Pastor Mark Anderson*
 Assistant to the Bishop



Benefit Coverage During Transition

When a call ends or starts, there are plenty of details and emotions to sort through. Portico Benefit Services can help with the complexity.

In times of transition, it's important for each party involved — pastor, current congregation and new congregation — to contact Portico right away.

Download the ELCA Benefit Coverage in Times of Transition guide at www.neiasynod.org/call-process.