

# Look at money from God's perspective

By Pastor Nancy Larson  
ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission

"It's God's money, all of it." I remember hearing that statement as a teenager when I attended a Nazarene church with a good friend. I hadn't thought of it that way before, but it is true. This pushes me to try to think about money in a different way—from God's perspective. To begin to shift our thinking about money is a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth by a renewing of the mind. Financial decisions can truly be an effective means of drawing closer to God by more fully trusting God.

I'd like to share a brief story:

*I have been the treasurer at Trinity Lutheran Church in Belmond since January of 2011. When I took over my duties, we were already in the hole for the year and had an \$18,000 loan. We struggled every month to meet monthly bills and were always behind on benevolence. There were several discussions throughout the year about catching up.*

*Our council decided to hold a FUN Day to bring the congregation closer together and to start working on a project to pay off some of our debt. The day was a great success and things started to turn around.*

*During this same time, a discussion about how much Mission Support we were paying was brought up at a council meeting. Some felt that because of our monthly amount, we were never going to get caught up. Our Stewardship committee met and it was decided that we would start paying 10% of the offerings every month for Mission Support.*

*Starting February 2012, I send a check by the 5th of every month for 10% of our giving into the Synod. It is the first bill I pay. I am pleased to announce that we now only have a \$2,000 loan and all bills are paid as soon as they are received. I am a firm believer that because Trinity Lutheran has decided to give God his portion first, we have been blessed and will continue to be so into the future.*

Marilyn Janssen, Treasurer,  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Belmond, Iowa

*The bottom line is that we are not owners of anything material; we are stewards.*



The Lord's Prayer addresses the priorities of our relationship with God. Jesus leads us to trust in and depend upon God for basic needs such as daily bread. Just as young children naturally stay close to their parents because of their basic needs, we too can draw close to God by recognizing that we are fully dependent on God.

The bottom line is that we are not owners of anything material; we are stewards. God's message to us about money is... that it's not our money; it's God's! We can be released from the tyranny of money once and for all as we draw closer to God and deny money from having power over us.

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).