

# Called to share God's love wherever we may be

*This stewardship article by Pastor Dave Nerdig appeared in a congregational newsletter and has been slightly edited.*

Today I want to talk with you about being part of something bigger than ourselves.

I had an officer in one of my congregations who, when asked to explain the unexplainable, would say, "I don't know. It's beyond me." I received that response in a favorable way.

The older I get, the more comfortable I am with accepting that there is much I neither know nor understand. But I like this response for another reason. While independence is certainly a good thing in the church, there are times when some things are "beyond me." At times like those, we need to move to interdependence.

As a congregation, I would like us to consider deepening our financial connection with the Northeastern Iowa Synod. If you are like me, at this point you are getting your excuse ready for why it is unrealistic to expect us to send more of our hard earned dollars to the synod office. That response is only natural, but it is a response we can no longer afford.

To do what God has called our congregation to do, we need to realize that some ministries are "beyond us." We need to realize we can only reach out to the ends of the earth with our ministry if we partner with the synod and the larger ELCA. Turn to this column next month and I will share with you exactly how the synod uses the dollars it receives to partner with us in ministry. I'll explain how a portion of

---

"To do what God has called our congregation to do, we need to realize that some ministries are "beyond us."

---

our dollars pass from us through the synod to the ELCA to be put to work for us in a larger sense.

Right now, I would like you to consider what it means to our ministry that we are able to invest less than one percent of our general fund to something beyond ourselves. What does it mean that so little of what we have received is pushed into ministry for the greater good?

We are a vibrant, loving parish, called to share God's love wherever we may be. I believe that it is time to challenge ourselves to consider what that means when it comes to our budget.



Your partner in ministry,

— Pastor Dave Alan Nerdig  
Bethesda Lutheran, Jewell

To download this article or other stewardship resources, visit [www.neiasynod.org/ministries/generosity](http://www.neiasynod.org/ministries/generosity).

## Flood buckets delivered to Mason City

Pastor Scott Duffus of Grace Lutheran, Tripoli, delivered 30 flood buckets to the Mason City Fire Department in September to help with cleanup following recent flooding.

The buckets, which had been stored at Grace, were part of the 150 flood buckets that congregations brought to the 2017 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly as part of the synod's Disaster Response Network. This is the second time this year that flood buckets have been delivered to a community affected by flooding.

Congregations interested in making flood buckets to replenish the synod's supply can download an instruction sheet at [www.neiasynod.org/disaster-response](http://www.neiasynod.org/disaster-response).

