

Show thankfulness through grace to others

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.”
— Col 3:14-15

“And be thankful.” This is one of the shortest sentences in all of Saint Paul’s writings, but it summarizes one of Paul’s most consistent themes — be thankful.

As the annual celebration of Thanksgiving approaches, it may be more difficult to find things to be thankful for this year. But if we have

a roof over our head, food to eat, and people who care about us, we have more than many people do. More than that, we are also embraced by God’s grace through Jesus Christ. So, despite the present days’ sorrows, we can show thankfulness.

I think the best way to show thanks is to share. If you have food, share some with those in need. If you have income, share some with those in need. If you know God’s grace, share some grace with others.

We all deeply appreciate those who have given to the food banks, food shelves, and Little Free Food Pantries.

We are grateful to those who continue to give to the ministries of their congregations and the larger church. But let’s also be grateful to those who, in these times of division, stress, and grief, show grace to be forgiving, share kind words and do acts of mercy. Sharing grace is also a kind of stewardship.



— *Pastor Mark A. Anderson*
Assistant to the Bishop

INSPIRED GIVING

Harvested crops can make generous gifts

You can use the produce you grow to feed the poor, fund your congregation and so much more!

If you are a producer of a marketable commodity, you can make a gift with your unsold inventory. Whether the commodity gift is corn, beans or cattle, the synod is prepared to partner with you, the producer, to make the gift happen.

Upon receiving intent of this gift, the ELCA Foundation will establish an account at the appropriate elevator or processor and work to receive and sell the inventory. We’ll distribute the gift according to your wishes, benefiting the ELCA ministries or congregation(s) of your choice.

MINIMUM GIFT AMOUNT: \$10,000

Any fees associated with the sale of the commodity will be deducted from the proceeds.

With a gift of grain or marketable commodity, you can:

- Use stored commodities or unsold inventory to

- make a current gift, maximizing the benefit to ministry while reducing taxable income
- Deduct overall production expenses, even if grain is used to make a gift.
- Make an outright gift, or add to (or establish) a donor advised fund or named endowment fund

Ready to take the next step? Contact Pastor Mark Anderson at 319-352-1414.

