

THE GENEROSITY PROJECT

Growing in God's Grace Generation to Generation

WELCOME



A synod, congregation and household ministry



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



THE GENEROSITY PROJECT

Growing in God's Grace Generation to Generation

Writer and editor: **Linda Staats,**
ELCA Generosity Project coordinator

Co-editors and contributors: **Jen Kooistra**
Stephanie Luedtke

Contributors: **Heather Roth Johnson**
Aly Kohlmeyer
Laura Ramlow
Jennifer Rome
Holly Slater
Sara Yotter

To host a workshop, train leaders or for more information, contact:
ELCA Generosity Project coordinator
TheGenerosityProject@elca.org

Permission is given for congregations and households to reproduce the handouts and resources for the implementation of The Generosity Project. Reproduction for resale or paid presentations is prohibited. All handouts and activities are to clearly identify the source as The Generosity Project – ELCA. 2019.

Copyright © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Dear Generosity Project Partners,

When children, youth and adults are bombarded 24/7 with messages urging them to spend, your congregation can become a faithful voice teaching them to share. Engaging all generations and equipping households to respond daily to God's extravagant generosity is a year-round opportunity. Equipping individuals of every age and stage of life to live as grateful stewards and committed followers of Jesus offers many creative possibilities.

What are the goals of The Generosity Project?

The goals of The Generosity Project are to connect people ages 2 to 102, equip all ages and households for the faith practice of generosity, and to grow in God's grace generation to generation.

What are the components of The Generosity Project?

The welcome pages introduce you to the 11 multifaceted components of The Generosity Project, its history, and the values, principles and goals that shape it.

The Generosity Project may be used for a gathering of congregations, a single congregation's fall stewardship focus or a preaching series for worship. It can provide learning materials for family camp, VBS, confirmation, intergenerational Sunday school or take-home study. Its potential applications for an expanded, year-round emphasis on stewardship are endless.

What are the anticipated results?

Congregations across the ELCA that participated in a pilot for The Generosity Project reported that the experience changed the way they viewed and approached stewardship, opening up new and creative conversations between all generations. Yes, the project addresses how we fund ministry, but more importantly, it addresses the role of money in our lives and how we equip all ages and households for the faith practice of generosity – year-round.

You are invited to network and connect ...

Please join the TGP network and share your generosity stories and ideas on [The Generosity Project ELCA Facebook page](#). An overview of The Generosity Project components, information for downloading free TGP resources and ordering the 5G curriculum are found on pages 5 and 6.

Together, may we discover, celebrate and share God's life-giving generosity. May we be inspired by the stories of generosity from the generations in our midst and encouraged by the faith-filled ministries and practices of the households, congregations and synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry!



Linda E. Staats
ELCA Generosity Project Coordinator 2019
TheGenerosityProject@elca.org



THE GENEROSITY PROJECT

Growing in God's Grace Generation to Generation

VISION

- Being generous: An individual's identity and daily decisions as a consumer shaped by God's Story in Jesus.
- Connecting generations: All ages and all generations recognized as recipients of God's grace and as stewards of God's abundant generosity.
- Equipping households: Households equipped as places where God's generosity is received, practiced, and responded to with joy, at home and away, 24/7/365.
- Creating centers of generosity: A spirit of generosity developed that overflows from households to congregations to neighborhoods and into all the world.
- Living God's Story: A confidence and trust in God's grace and generosity created that fosters a belief – With God, all things are possible, “there is more than enough!”

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- God's Story in Jesus shapes our lives, our identity and our daily decisions.
- All ages have the ability to be generous and God's stewards.
- Generosity is best practiced and formed in households, supported by the community of faith and all generations.
- Faith is nurtured and a climate of trust developed when values and finances are discussed between generations.
- Generosity is essential, as the vital, daily expression and practice of Christian faith.

GOALS

- Grow an individual, household and congregational culture and spirit of sharing.
- Recognize God's grace and generosity through cross-generational interaction.
- Practice generosity and mature as Christ's disciples and God's faithful stewards.
- Celebrate God's Story of generosity, locally and globally.
- Sing, pray, practice, move, laugh, learn and worship together.

HISTORY – The GENEROSITY PROJECT

The Generosity Project is an expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) Macedonia Project, with initial funding provided by Thrivent Financial Services. The purpose of the Macedonia Project is to grow faithful steward leaders.

The Rocky Mountain Synod, a regional ELCA office, submitted the original proposal for The Generosity Project in 2011. Synod staff representing Outreach and Mission (the Rev. Jim Hytjan), Stewardship (the Rev. Dan Bollman), and Children, Youth and Household Ministry (Linda Staats), collaborated to create an approach to stewardship that crosses all generations and focuses on equipping households.

With continued support from the ELCA beginning in 2013, The Generosity Project: Our Table is Ready became an introductory, in-depth workshop. It was piloted nationally, including events in 10 synods and more than 50 congregations. These events provided valuable insight for the 2018 expanded curriculum, The Generosity Project: 5G. A note of gratitude to all those who helped pilot, shape and contributed to The Generosity Project (TGP).

RESOURCES

The following resources support The Generosity Project and are available through the ELCA:

- **The Generosity Project: Foundation and Fundamentals**

A summary of the basics that ground the multi-generational, household approach to stewardship and discipleship. TGP is based on commonly held best practices in faith formation, research, Scripture and a Lutheran understanding of baptism. It includes questions to ponder and next steps to consider.

- **The Generosity Project: Introductory Workshop**

The three- to four-hour TGP Introductory Workshop is intended for hosting by synods or groups of congregations, with the purpose of introducing The Generosity Project to teams of people from multiple congregations and/or a network of leaders within a geographic area. The ELCA Generosity Project coordinator or a regional Generosity Project Network leader is available to facilitate the process and content. The goal is for people to experience multi-age interaction, conversation, and a sample of activities from TGP: 5G curriculum.

- **The Generosity Project: 5G**

TGP: 5G is a multi-use curriculum and resource for congregations and households to use as they grow and live into the faith practice of generosity. The curriculum consists of: a planning guide, five one-hour sessions, worship and Live It Out!, a take-home resource.

- **The Generosity Project: Annotated Bibliography**

A list of books, web sites, articles and research for those who wish to go deeper and/or extend the focus of generosity into a year-round initiative.

ORDERING INFORMATION

- The Generosity Project resource is available online at [ELCA.org/generosityproject](https://elca.org/generosityproject).
- There is a nominal fee for the 5G Curriculum. All other TGP resources may be downloaded for free.

For more information, to train local leaders, or to invite a facilitator to lead an Introductory Workshop in English or Spanish, contact the ELCA Generosity Project Coordinator at TheGenerosityProject@elca.org.

The GENEROSITY PROJECT

FOUNDATION AND FUNDAMENTALS

WHY CONNECT GENERATIONS AND
EQUIP HOUSEHOLDS

INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP

HOSTING AND FACILITATION GUIDE
FOR 4-HOUR WORKSHOP

THE GENEROSITY PROJECT 5G

5G PLANNING GUIDE

5G SESSION I

BEING GENEROUS: THE WHY (GENESIS 1:27-31A)

5G SESSION II

CONNECTING GENERATIONS: THE WHO (JOHN 6:1-14)

5G SESSION III

EQUIPPING HOUSEHOLDS: THE WHERE (ACTS 2:41-47)

5G SESSION IV

CREATING CENTERS OF GENEROSITY: THE HOW (2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-9)

5G SESSION V

LIVING GOD'S STORY: THE HERE AND NOW! (MATTHEW 19:23-30)

5G SESSION VI

GATHERING AT THE TABLE: WE WORSHIP

LIVE IT OUT!

A HOUSEHOLD SUPPLEMENT CONNECTING CHURCH AND HOME

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY, CURATED RESOURCES AND MORE...

RESOURCES FOR: PREPARING, EXPANDING AND GROWING
A YEAR-ROUND FOCUS ON STEWARDSHIP

