

# Living God's Abundance Benefits Congregations

As it is written, "The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little." 2 Corinthians 8:15

"When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion." – Ethiopian Proverb

When we work together, we are stronger. When we combine our resources we can accomplish more. The Ethiopian proverb says, in a more colorful way, what Paul was saying to the Corinthian church about his fundraising efforts in support of the famine stricken churches in Judea.

*Living God's Abundance (LGA)* is not about raising funds for the Synod Office in Tulsa. Through LGA, your Synod office will work with local congregations to enrich existing ministries and launch new ones that we will identify and imagine together. *Living God's Abundance* will help us combine our resources to strengthen the web of congregations that make up the Synod. In doing so, we might not catch lions, but we will become more effective in doing the work Jesus commanded his Church to do.

So how will congregations benefit?

## Growing Disciples

LGA will provide grants and other resources for raising up disciples for Jesus Christ both within the church and in the communities where we serve. Have you ever dreamed about...

- Starting a food pantry, or a program for children in the community, or an outreach ministry for senior citizens?
- Developing or buying resources to help you reach new members, equip new and experienced disciples and grow Christ's church?
- Planting new ministries with other congregations or partners?

## Inspired Leaders

LGA will give us the financial resources to equip new leaders for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and encourage those who have been leading for decades. Imagine...

- Participating in training and resource networks for council members, Sunday school teachers, worship leaders and other congregation leaders.
- Pastors and other rostered leaders continuing to learn how best to care for your congregation and lead more effectively in mission and ministry.
- Raising up young leaders for our church and God's world.

## Vibrant Connections

Not only will we be stronger and more effective in mission and ministry if we combine our financial resources, we will also grow if we work together in other ways. Through LGA,

- Your congregation will have the opportunity to improve your access to and use of technology for learning, networking, sharing ideas and gathering together.
- Mission Clusters and congregations in similar contexts can sponsor gatherings, events, and activities that will enrich your ministry, mission and outreach.

## Sharing Abundantly

Congregations that turn in on themselves tend to decline and die. Those that share abundantly beyond themselves tend to grow and thrive. Jesus invites us to give our lives away, not try to save them. Jesus promises to be with us and take care of us as we reach out to others in his name.

Participating in LGA will give your congregation the opportunity to

- Have a broader conversation within the congregation about stewardship, generosity and giving,
- Discuss ways to grow your mission and ministry together.

These are only a few of the ways your congregation can benefit from participating in *Living God's Abundance!*

Through *Living God's Abundance* individuals, families and congregations are invited to invest in mission and ministry in order to strengthen our whole synod, including your local congregation. As Paul instructed the Corinthians, each of us is invited to participate according to their needs.

Your synod staff and the leadership of *Living God's Abundance* are available to come and help your congregation dream, imagine, connect, and plan for mission, for ministry, for stewardship and for your participation in *Living God's Abundance*.

Call, email or write us today!

Your Partner in Christ,



Bishop Mike Girlinghouse