

REDISCOVER MACEDONIA

A spirit of gratitude and generosity



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

Writing a Congregational Money Autobiography

An autobiography is a story about oneself. Have you ever seen an autobiography about your congregation? It could be as simple as collecting notes from meetings or letters to the congregation. It could also be a collection of "Thank You" letters that individuals or organizations have written to your congregation over the years. This autobiographical activity focuses on the attitudes, principles and practices related to the teaching and management of money in your congregation. Over the years there are probably several individuals who have played a key role in shaping this story.

An autobiography can be approached in many ways. One approach is to make a timeline from the founding date until today and mark key activities, teachings or memories that shaped the congregation's relationship with money. A second approach is to invite a variety of people to answer the following questions and then create a narrative story based on their responses. Select an approach that involves as many people as possible and then discuss how this is shaping your actions about money for the future.

1. What is your first memory about what it means to be a steward in this congregation?
2. What has your congregation taught people about regular giving, special giving and planned giving?
3. What has been your most positive experience with money in the life of this congregation? What contributed to making this experience so positive?
4. What has been your most negative experience with money in the life of this congregation? What contributed to making this experience so negative?
5. How would you describe the financial status of your congregation?
6. How does your congregation recognize financial health as an expression of faith?
7. Where does teaching and the practice of tithing connect with your congregation?
8. What activities or events in your congregation shape the current relationship between money and ministry or mission in your congregation?
9. Is your congregation generous? If so, in what ways?
10. How is generosity reflected in your giving to Mission Support and other causes?

11. What has your congregation taught you about being a good steward in the last year?

12. How does your congregation encourage people to have open and honest conversations about money and giving?