**Southwest California Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** God’s work. Our hands.

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Fall 2015

To the Congregations of the Southwest California Synod

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

Grace and peace in Jesus Christ!

The heart of the Christian life is love of neighbor, which we express through generosity of spirit toward others for the sake of God. In the church, we offer ourselves, our time, and our possessions to God, for we know that we hold these all in trust from God. But our offerings are not empty sacrifices, but active participation in something larger than ourselves: our church’s efforts to alleviate human suffering, build caring and peaceful communities, and to spread the Good News of God’s love for humankind.

Many people in our synod have assisted with the preparation of these Generous Life stewardship materials, and now we offer them to you, our congregations and leaders, so that you might use them as you wish to steer your own efforts to promote a sense of generosity of spirit and resources in your own communities. These videos and Bible studies take real stories of generosity in the congregations of our church and turn them into inspiring lessons we can apply to our own situations. I am personally very grateful to all those who helped—their work is another manifestation of generosity—and to all those who will use these materials in the months ahead.

The fruit of our love of God is our generosity toward others. May blessings abound for you and your community as you work together to grow in grace and generosity!

In Christ,

Bishop Guy Erwin

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