God's Gift of Money: Stewarding Money Wisely

A five session series offered by Women of the ELCA

This online series will prompt participants to think deeply about their use of money and how they can align financial practices with their faith and values. Participants will learn the basics of finance and the range of charitable gift options so they can be inspired and empowered to move forward with confidence in their financial decision-making.

Hosting and presenting is Jenny Norris Peterson. Joining her are presenters Cynthia Halverson, the Rev. Ana Lugo, Brenda Moore, and Kathleen Rehl. Others will pop in to share their own faith and finance stories. Each session will be recorded and made available for subsequent viewing.

Part 1: Living out our faith through our use of money

October 7, 1 p.m. Central
Main presenter: Jenny Norris Peterson

What does the Bible teach us about giving, saving, and spending? How are your practices aligned with biblical teaching recognizing that the Bible presents various approaches regarding giving especially? What did you learn about financial practices from your family?

Part 2: Finance 101: A primer for gaining confidence with money

October 14, 1 p.m. Central
Main presenters: Cynthia Halverson and the Rev. Ana Lugo

Determining your own net worth (you may be surprised) helps inform your use of money. Understanding basic finance vocabulary builds confidence and comprehension. Become empowered to make informed and inspired financial decisions that reflect your faith and values.

Part 3: Getting Ready for and enjoying retirement

October 21, 1 p.m. Central
Main presenter: Kathleen Rehl

Join this session to delve into crucial considerations for planning and enjoying retirement with wisdom, intention, and insight. Learn to shape your retirement years—with a partner or on your own—to reflect your lifestyle goals and values.

Part 4: Philanthropic possibilities: Giving through your estate plan

October 24, 1 p.m. Central
Main presenter: Brenda Moore

Planned gifts allow women to live out their faith and values as part of their legacy. This session will be filled with stories of women who've done just that. Learn about bequests in wills, life insurance gifts, IRA bequests, charitable gift annuities, and charitable trusts.

Part 5: Philanthropic possibilities: giving right now

November 4, 1 p.m. Central
Main presenter: Jenny Norris Peterson

We end the series with more stories of women who live out their faith and values through giving generously of their financial assets. You'll learn more about 2122: Growing Katie's Fund for the next 100 years and how you can make a gift to the $1 million campaign for Katie's Fund.

Jenny Norris Peterson is a women's philanthropy speaker, writer, and consultant working with not-for-profits and families through her business, Norris Peterson Consulting. She speaks nationally, empowering women in their use of money and inspiring women to change the world through their giving.

She currently is writing a book featuring stories of more than 30 astoundingly generous women.

Jenny formerly was a Philanthropic Advisor for Lutheran World Relief and for Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. Prior to that, while serving Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, she co-created the Dare to Dream conference and statewide educational focus on women's philanthropy.

A graduate of St. Olaf College, Jenny recently served on the national steering committee for the ELCA's successful $200 million comprehensive campaign.

Cynthia J. Halverson

Cynthia (Cindy) is the ELCA Foundation's regional gift planner for Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, a position she has held since 2019. In this capacity, Cindy works with ELCA congregations, synods, and organizations with endowment ministry, and she assists individuals and families who want to remember the ministries of the ELCA in their charitable planning.

For the past 40 years, Cindy has worked in fund development for nonprofit organizations in a variety of fields and leadership positions. Prior to her work with the Foundation, Cindy served as President of the LSS Foundation, a supporting organization of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin (2014 – 2019). Her previous professional experiences include serving as the executive director for mission advancement for the Evangelical Covenant Church (2011 – 2014); director for development services for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and as president of the ELCA Foundation (2007 - 2011); director of the ELCA Fund for Leaders in Mission (1999 – 2007); vice president for resource development for Lutheran Social Service of Illinois (1989 – 1997); and director of development for Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois (1982 - 1989).

The Rev. Ana Loyda Lugo Berrios

The Rev. Ana Loyda Lugo Berrios (Pr. Ana, Pr. Lugo or simply Ana) is a Regional Gift Planner with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Foundation for the Florida-Bahamas and Southeastern Synods, a position she has held since 2013. In this capacity, Ana works with ELCA congregations, synods, and ELCA-related organizations with endowment planning, implementation, and growth, and assists individuals and families who wish to remember ELCA ministries in their charitable gifts.

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, she received her Bachelor in Science (B.S. 1981) from the University of Puerto Rico in Mayagüez and her Master of Divinity (M.Div. 1985) from San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, California.

Ordained by the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1986, Ana has been "doing the work of financial stewardship" all her professional life. She served as Co-Pastor and Pastor of two congregations in Denver, CO (1986-91); as a Capital Campaign Consultant for Church Financial Campaign Service of the PC(USA) (1993-2013) and since 2013 as a Regional Gift Planner with the ELCA Foundation covering the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Brenda Moore

Brenda Moore's vocation has evolved around mission, ministry, and money for more than 35 years. As a resource development professional for church-related organizations, she's honed her skills at the intersection of faith and philanthropy.

During the past 10 years - somewhere between the gift of her two daughters and the death of her father - Brenda became more acutely attuned to legacy. Passing on the faith to the next generation became Job #1. Using her leadership and fundraising expertise to build the capacity of ministry organizations became her focus.

Brenda is a results expert. The organizations she has led and served have collectively raised hundreds of millions of dollars for their life-changing work.

She is also a research expert - a continuous learner in her profession, always accumulating and synthesizing best practices and resources, and educating others.

As a role model, Brenda mentors people into philanthropy and ministry roles, coaches them through their learning curves, and inspires them to be faithfully courageous as leaders and fundraisers.

Kathleen Rehl

Kathleen owned Rehl Financial Advisors for 18 years before retiring to an active six-year encore career empowering widows through her speaking, writing, and research. As a financial planner, she specialized in working with widows and philanthropic planning. After her husband died, Kathleen wrote Moving Forward on Your Own: A Financial Guidebook for Widows. Now in her 77th year, she's happily "reFired." That's not traditional retirement, as she pens legacy stories and poems plus assists selected nonprofits in growing their endowments.

Recently returning to her love of teaching, she's adjunct faculty at The American College of Financial Services, in their Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy® program.

Years ago, Kathleen served as a gift planning officer and, before that, a university professor.

Her work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Next Avenue*, *Kiplinger's*, CNBC, Humble Dollar, *Sixty & Me*, *AgeBuzz*, and others.