

# Generational Generosity

## STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP

Help for pastors and laity planning for the future amid demographic changes and challenges



### The Elephant in the room

The facts are stark — Christians make up a smaller proportion of the American population every year. Every district of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has experienced numerical decline in the past decade. The counties where the Synod is strongest tend to be the counties where population is decreasing. The Synod is growing in membership in counties that are growing in population ... but more slowly than the overall population increase. What's going on? Will it get better? What does the future hold?

### Knowledge is power

LCMS Stewardship Ministry commissioned two lengthy reports from leading demographers to examine the LCMS' demographic trends, and the overall societal challenges to Christianity in the United States. The full reports were recently published in the *Journal of Lutheran Mission*. But these reports are long, detailed and can be hard to digest for parish leaders who are actually fighting the good fight

of faith on the ground. Our Generational Generosity workshop delivers the data in a down to earth way that provides insight and direction for parish leaders who want to see future generations blessed with the pure teaching of the Lutheran confession of the Faith.

### Knowing your area, planning for your future under the Lord's care

At the workshop in your area we will discuss not only general trends but the demographic history and outlook for your locality — **including detailed reports for each congregation present.**

#### > Target audience

The workshop is designed to bring together pastors and congregational lay leaders.

#### > Venue

We can serve group sizes of a circuit or two on up to a regional or district level gathering, providing that the local host congregation can accommodate the group.

#### > Time frame

Since one of the goals of the workshop is to bring together pastoral and lay leadership, an evening workshop that includes dinner is recommended and should include at least three hours of presentation time.

#### > Personnel

Rev. Heath Curtis, LCMS Stewardship Ministry coordinator, will lead the workshop.

#### > Calendar

As with most things, it is easier to schedule at least a few months in advance — but if you have a nearer date in mind, just ask.

#### > Cost

We do not charge for this workshop — but, like everyone, we have a limited budget for travel. If your district/circuit/congregation can help offset travel and lodging costs, that allows us to reach more congregations each year.

#### > Contact

To arrange a workshop in your area send an email to [stewardship@lcms.org](mailto:stewardship@lcms.org)