

## Glossary

**A-R-M-S:** mnemonic – Acquire, Regard, Manage, Spend; God cares about how we *acquire* money, how we *regard* money, how we *manage* money and how we *spend* money.

**Baptism (Holy Baptism):** One of two sacraments for Lutherans. The other sacrament is Holy Communion. Baptism is the entry rite into Christian faith. It is an act instituted by God, performed using water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, whereby the baptized is united with Christ.<sup>1</sup> This is the sacrament of water and the Holy Spirit, in which we are joined to Christ's death and resurrection and initiated into the church.<sup>2</sup>

**Benevolence:** An act or general inclination toward charity that is intended to benefit identifiable persons.

**Biblical stewardship:** Directed by scripture, care for and about all that has been created by God and accountable for what is and is not done.

**Budget:** A structured way to direct anticipated income and expenses to achieve predetermined goals.

**Commandment:** A direct instruction concerning actions; for Christians these are declared by God including the divine presence in Jesus.

**Charity:** Giving which typically includes personal interaction that results in relief.<sup>2</sup>

**Debt:** An obligation owed to another which includes financial obligations and personal acts of accountability.

**Disciplines:** Structured ways that give shape and focus to actions. Spiritual disciplines give shape and focus to one's actions directed toward a closer relationship with God.

**Entitlement:** A sense that one should receive a thing of value.

**Expenses:** Costs associated with value for items or services.

**Fair Share:** An allocation for costs based upon proportional benefits for all deriving its benefits.

**Faith:** A belief that what is held to be true will become true in future actions.

**Faith practices:** Activities consistent with belief in what is held as being true that assist one in strengthening that belief.

**Finances:** Pertains to activities related to handling and tracking money matters.

**Financial Stewardship:** Actions taken with money matters to make available resources that are held in trust for the true owner (God).

**First-fruits:** Comes from the agricultural practice of harvesting the best, most productive and highest valued crop first. Thus, first-fruits is to give the best, most productive, and highest valued of what is currently possessed.

**Forgiveness:** Is to pardon an act for which one is owed.

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<sup>1</sup> Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Glossary of Terms, [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

<sup>2</sup> Lutheran Handbook II, Augsburg Fortress, © 2007.

**Free gift:** To receive, without obligation or expectation of reciprocal exchange, something that is valued.

**Fund-raising:** Methods to encourage others to provide resources for something valuable to others.

**Giving:** To provide something valuable to benefit others without receiving, anticipating or expecting to receive anything in return.

**Grace:** The dictionary defines grace as "unmerited divine assistance given humans for their regeneration or sanctification; a virtue coming from God." Martin Luther's emphasis on grace, not our own works, was the keystone of the 16th century Reformation, based on a related key Bible verse: Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."<sup>1</sup>

**Gratitude:** Unmerited thankfulness directed toward another for what has been received.

**Greed:** Desire to have more than enough than is necessary without regard for others.

**Hell:** Either a physical place sometimes identified as below the earth or relational separation from God's presence and God's desire for goodness in our daily lives.

**Hypocrites:** Persons whose words and actions stand in opposition.

**Investing:** Placing assets in another's care with the expectation that the assets value plus an additional amount will be returned at a future date.

**Justified (justification):** Being in a right and proper relationship. For Christians this means God's action in Jesus to restore us to a right and proper relationship, a relationship that was broken by our bondage to sin. This is a gracious gift from God that we do not deserve but receive by God's grace.

**Long-term:** In the financial arena long-term is greater than 12 months. In other planning the term refers to a multi-year period.

**Love:** A complex term. In regard to stewardship, love holds that actions are directed toward others solely for the others benefit without consideration, anticipation or expectation that something of value will be returned.

**Membership (church):** The standing one has within a congregation and its denominational organization which construes certain rights and responsibilities. In the ELCA, the congregation constitution specifies four membership classes: baptized, confirmed, voting and associate; each with specific rights and responsibilities.

**Obedient:** Pertains to following accurately the direction given by another.

**Obligation:** This is what one owes another who anticipates this being repaid.

**Penitence:** An act indicating one's desire for forgiveness and intention to amend his or her future actions.

**Privilege:** A right to do something apart from other requirements.

**Promise:** A future valuable item which one holds today in anticipation of receipt.

**Prosperity gospel:** A falsely held understanding that by believing and/or acting in certain ways obligates God to provide benefits to the believer (usually financial benefits – wealth, power, position or prosperity).

**Reconciliation:** The process through which one is restored to another.

**Redeemed:** To exchange something for something else especially as it relates to an item held as debt with an obligation for payment prior to release.

**Responsibility:** An expectation that one will do something with proficiency in a timely manner.

**Reward:** Receiving something of value due to having provided something else of value.

**Sacrifice:** To give up a valuable possession to benefit another without receiving, anticipating or expecting anything of value.

**Sacrificial giving:** To give financial resources (money or other items with monetary value) to benefit others without expecting valuable consideration in return.

**Salvation:** God's gift, received through Jesus' action (his life, death and resurrection) and made known by the ever present Holy Spirit which restores us to a right and proper relationship in his unending kingdom to life eternal.

**Saved (sanctified):** To be assured that the gift received from God, that one has been restored to a right and proper relationship from which no power can separate, is a present reality for eternity.

**Short-term:** In financial matters, less than 12 months. For planning purposes the term indicates that immediate or near immediate actions are desirable.

**Sin (bondage to sin):** The human will is bound to sin. Given a choice humans will choose sin over faith in Jesus Christ, even as they desire to live in faith toward God and humankind.

**Spiritual Devotion:** Activities which direct one to focus on matters pertaining to God's active presence in daily living.

**Spirituality:** Being attentive to God's active presence in daily living.

**Steward:** One who cares for and is responsible for items that belong to another.

**Stewardship:** Activities related to caring for and being responsible for items that belong to another.

**Talent:** Something that one does with proficiency which is valued.

**Time:** A specific period demarked by a beginning and ending. As it relates to stewardship: time is the activity of making available a specific period to care for and be responsible for what belongs to others with intent to benefit the other.

**Tithes and offerings (tithing):** A tithe (10<sup>th</sup>) is simply 10 percent of one's income given directly to fund God's work.<sup>2</sup> Giving beyond a tithe is considered an offering, again given to God's work.

**Thanksgiving:** To return thanks for what has been received without merit.

**Treasure:** That which is considered valuable. In stewardship this can mean money and other valuable items including time, talent and financial resources.

**Vocation (Christian):** A holy calling: any job or career is holy when a Christian performs that job or career as part of his or her baptismal call from God to serve others.