

More opportunities to consider...

Priority Budgeting—Most families will choose to rearrange their priorities and give up something in their budget in order to give to a capital fund appeal. Priority budgeting may lead to postponing a planned expenditure such as a new car, vacation, home remodeling, etc. Thus, the majority of those giving to the capital fund appeal will give through sacrificial commitments, made in faith and coupled with priority budgeting.

One couple delayed the purchase of a new sports utility vehicle and applied the same monthly payments toward the capital fund appeal, enabling them to give over \$40,000. This is far beyond what they had ever imagined they could give to their church.

Re-Channeling a Present Expenditure—Many families have incurred short-term heavy expenditures for special needs. For instance, some families have financial challenges while their children attend college. They learn during those years to budget their money so they can cover those expenditures. The same philosophy applies when budgeting money to support congregational campaigns.

Gifts from Extra Work—One man was in the process of retiring when the church entered a building program and capital fund appeal. He and his wife secured new jobs and gave the first three years of their retirement income to the church. Another woman worked an extra year beyond retirement and gave the full amount to the building project.

Sacrificial Gifts—A couple had been praying for weeks about their church building program. Much to their surprise, they received an inheritance of several thousand dollars. In addition to a three-year commitment from their regular income, they gave the entire inheritance to their church as part of their commitment. Another couple had saved \$40,000 to build a lake cabin. When their church entered the capital fund appeal, they made the decision to give the money to their church instead. A man in yet another appeal gave money he had saved for a new truck.

Creative Giving Options A to Z

- A. Automobiles, Acreage, Antiques, Airplanes
- B. Bonds, Boats, Bequests, Beach Houses
- C. Condos, Collections, Coins, Cars
- D. Dividends, Diamonds
- E. Estates, Endowments
- F. Furniture
- G. Gems, Gold, Gifts in Kind
- H. Houses, Heirlooms
- I. Interest, Insurance Policies, Inheritance, Investments, Income Tax Refund, IRAs
- J. Jewelry
- K. Keough Plans, 401Ks
- L. Land, Landscaping, Lumber
- M. Mutual Funds, Matching Gifts, Motor Homes, Motorcycles
- N. Notes (Treasury), Necklaces
- O. Oil Rights/Royalties, Options
- P. Percentage of Estate, Property
- Q. Quartz, Quick Assets
- R. Real Estate, Refunds, Royalties, Rings, Rolex Watches
- S. Stock, Savings Bonds, Silver, Sculpture
- T. Tax Refunds, Trusts, Townhouses, Tithes
- U. Underwriting
- V. Vacation Homes
- W. Works of Art, Watches, Water Vehicles
- X. X-tra Income
- Y. Yachts, Yearly Bonuses
- Z. Zero Coupon Bonds

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“Those who trust in the Lord for help
will find their strength renewed.
They will rise on wings like eagles.”

Isaiah 40:31

Creative Giving Options

Our “**Building on Grace ~ The Next 50**” campaign welcomes gifts in several forms. Many of us have assets that we have not thought of using for the work and ministry of the church. Yet, because our blessings all come from God, we have the opportunity to consider how we can contribute to our congregation from accumulated assets.

These are a few ideas for all of us to consider. Remember to remain open to the Spirit and to pray for the mission and ministry of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church every day! This building program will provide the foundation for our congregation’s vision for our future. Here are examples of special ways to give.

Cash Reserves

Most of us give a portion of our income for our regular offerings, even beyond tithing in some cases. In this campaign we give serious consideration to giving out of cash reserves or other savings.

People often give CDs, money market funds or other “rainy day” savings. They sense that this is truly a special time, perhaps one of the few such special times in their lives, when they are spiritually ready and financially able to give a special gift from accumulated cash reserves.

Appreciated Assets

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church can accept gifts of land or other real estate, stocks, mutual funds, securities, collections, works of art or other types of personal property. For example:

A. Bequests

Giving through a will as a revocable trust is another expression of stewardship. This allows a person to make a significant contribution that may not have been possible during life. Designating a tithe of 10 percent of your estate is a good base to consider. Such an estate gift will have a lasting impact on the congregation’s life and ministry, and your gift will be a living memorial to your spiritual life at Salem.

B. Appreciated Stock

Stock (or a mutual fund) that was purchased in 1980 for \$10,000 could have a present value of \$40,000. Rather than selling the stock and paying income tax on the \$30,000 capital gain, you could give the stock to the church and take a tax deduction based on the total value of the stock. In this way, you would maximize your gift, maximize your tax deduction, and at the same time, minimize your taxable liability.

C. Depreciated Stock

Stock that was purchased in 1999 for \$5,000 could have a present value of \$3,000. In this case it would be best to sell the stock, take the loss as a tax deduction and give the

cash to the church. You may want to “clean up” a portion of your portfolio, and in doing so, sell several stocks at a loss. By “writing off” the loss and by donating the cash, you gain at least some financial benefit from the transaction while also helping Salem.

D. Delaying a Stock Gift

You may choose to pledge 100 shares of XYZ stock to **“Building on Grace ~ The Next 50.”** At the time of your commitment XYZ stocks may be below their highest value.

You write on your commitment card that you plan to give the stocks but that you reserve the right to make the gift any time over the next three to five years. This way the church knows that you intend to make the gift and you keep control of the stocks until you believe it is a good time to transfer them to Salem.

E. Deferred Gifts

There are a variety of ways to give through trust funds, which have advantages for short and long-term giving, as well as tax planning. A financial advisor can detail the plans available for giving to the church through a trust fund.

Insurance may also be used as a deferred gift. Paid-up policies may be given, or the church may be named the beneficiary of either a new or existing policy.

Lord God, by your Spirit you have opened our eyes to a renewed vision and allowed us to dream new dreams. Empower us now to move forward with the mission to which you have called us. Help each of us to see our parts in the mission. Give us generous hearts. Continue to blow your creative winds through us, and allow us the security of your love to replace our fears of seeking new paths of giving and service in your name. Embrace us when we resist the unknown. Assure us with your grace, and assist us to trust you as our guiding light and hope, through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

F. Charitable Gift Annuity

In exchange for a gift of cash or property the donor(s) receives for life a fixed income based on age. For example: persons in a single life annuity at ages 65 and 80 will receive 6.0 and 8.0 percent respectively. (Percentages may change – please check with you tax accountant.) Part of the amount transferred to the annuity, usually between 40 and 60 percent, is deductible from income tax as a charitable contribution. A portion of the annuity income is tax-free.

One couple, after giving a gift of stock (valued at \$100,000) during the campaign, received such pleasure from giving that they both set up a charitable gift annuity with the church as the beneficiary. “John” gave \$125,000 and received over eight percent interest as income for the rest of his life and “Helen” did the same. When “Helen” died, the church received the \$125,000 and when “John” died a few years later the church received another \$125,000. The money was administered through the ELCA and the local congregation had minimum paper work in the whole process. What great Christian stewardship!

G. Equity in a Home

You could secure a home equity loan or second mortgage, give a gift to the church from what you borrow and receive income tax benefits while assisting your congregation. Many of us have a great deal of money in home equity and this may be a very effective way to give more than we thought we could. If you plan to sell your home in the next three to five years you may choose to give some of your equity to **“Building on Grace ~ The Next 50.”** Your accountant may be able to help you with these or other tax-saving ideas.

Tax Benefits

Many of the options in this booklet may have favorable tax implications for you. Please consult with your personal tax advisor, financial planner or estate planner on how best to maximize both income tax and inheritance tax benefits of any such gifts.