

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows ... it becomes a tree ...

Matthew 13



The Endowment Fund is separate from the weekly contributions which support the budgetary needs of the church. The Endowment Fund is not intended to interfere with stewardship or other programs of the church.

*All of us are indebted to the past,
to those who precede us.
We drink from wells we have not dug.
We receive fruit from trees
we have not planted.
We share faith whose foundations
we have not laid.*

We are seeds of the future for those who succeed us. We dream and envision and set things in motion. The fruition of our decisions will be known to those we will not meet.

The tradition of giving and caring does not require great wealth to make a great gift. One hundred gifts of \$100 to the Fund goes just as far as one gift of \$10,000. Several gifts of \$1,000 can grow to \$10,000.

Peace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund

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The purpose of this publication is to provide general gift giving information. Peace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund is not engaged in rendering legal or tax advisory service. For advice and assistance in specific cases, the services of an attorney or other professional advisor should be obtained.

Peace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund

What is an Endowment Fund?



ENDOWMENT

- **What is the purpose of the Endowment Fund?** The purpose of the Fund is to enhance God's work in the community and congregation. The Endowment Fund is our lasting legacy for those who succeed us. Gifts from the Fund extend the mission of the church by supporting opportunities for ministry.
- **What is the Endowment Fund Income Used For?** There are four categories of ministry where gifts may be used: 10-30 % for world-wide, national or regional missions or charities promoted by the ELCA; 10-30% for local mission or outreach projects; 5-30% to support leadership training and Christian learning opportunities within our congregation; and 20-40% to be used by our congregation for capital improvement, debt reduction, general maintenance or the general fund. While the Endowment Team recommends allocations, the congregation must vote on the yearly distribution.
- **Who Manages the Fund?** The Endowment Team, a board of five team members elected by the congregation, manage the fund.
- **Are Gifts Tax Deductible?** Yes. Gifts to the Fund qualify as charitable donations.
- **What Happens to the Money I Donate?** After the Endowment Fund reaches \$100,000, the Endowment Team will recommend bestowing gifts following the Endowment Fund guidelines.

LEGACY GIFTS

MAKING A LEGACY GIFT

A gift of any size is significant. The best gift is one that is appropriate for the donor. A Legacy Gift can be structured to benefit the donor during the donor's lifetime or to benefit the Endowment Fund at the death of the donor. Legacy Gifts can be given in honor or memory of a loved one. Some examples are:

- **Wills or Bequests:** The bequest through a will enables the donor to retain the asset during the donor's life and provides significant support to the Endowment Fund when the donor no longer requires the asset.
- **Insurance:** An existing or a new policy may be donated, or the Endowment Fund may be named a beneficiary.
- **Retirement Plan Assets:** In some cases, retirement plans can be the heaviest taxed assets in an estate. When bequeathed to the Endowment Fund, the gifted assets may be transferred tax-free.
- **Cash, stocks, bonds, real estate and property:** Gifting property that has appreciated may allow the donor a tax deduction for the current market value.

Big things often have small beginnings.

