

CONGREGATIONAL GIFT POLICY
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
NAMPA, IDAHO
Approved July 16, 2020
Approved July 19, 2022
Approved June 18, 2024

Purpose: To give a written process to all constituents of our congregation that outlines what types of property are acceptable as gifts, above and beyond pledges or plate offerings, and how decisions are made for their use.

This policy answers two core questions:

1. How can people provide gifts to the congregation?
2. How will the congregation use those gifts?

Elements of the Gift Policy

1. Gift Acceptance
 - a. Defines *who* will decide if gifts are *accepted*
 - b. Defines *what* gifts will be *considered*
2. Gift Use
 - a. Defines *who* will decide how gifts are used
 - b. Outlines process and guidelines to determine *how* gifts are used
3. Policy Review

*****This policy will be applied solely to unrestricted gifts above and beyond regular pledges or plate offerings, and to all said gifts above \$3,000.*****

1. Gift Acceptance

a. When an asset is **offered** to Trinity Lutheran through an estate, or from a living individual, family, or other legal entity, and that asset of over \$3,000, and is above and beyond a regular pledge/plate offering, the Church Council will determine if the gift is **accepted**. Council may delegate the Executive Committee to do initial evaluation and make recommendations to Council, which then will discuss and vote.

b. Trinity Lutheran is willing to **consider** the following types of assets:

- 1) Cash
- 2) Publicly traded securities
 - i. Stocks
 - ii. Bonds
 - iii. Mutual funds
 - iv. Other marketable securities traded on public exchanges
- 3) Life insurance (assignment of ownership) – permanent type with cash value
- 4) Real property
 - i. Residential
 - ii. Commercial

- iii. Life estate
- 5) Tangible personal property
 - i. Vehicles
 - ii. Jewelry
 - iii. Books
 - iv. Art
 - v. Collections
- 6) Other property
 - i. Mineral rights
 - ii. Royalties
 - iii. Notes/mortgages
 - iv. Copyrights
 - v. Patents
 - vi. Trademarks
 - vii. Oil and gas interests

c. All donors (individuals, families, estates, legal entities, etc.) will be thanked in writing via US Mail, indicating whether our congregation is able to accept or decline the gifts.

2) Gift Use

a. If Trinity Lutheran accepts an unrestricted gift, which is defined as an asset that a donor has given to our congregation without any limitation of its use, the Executive Committee will consider and then give recommendation to full Council, including whether this asset should be converted to cash. If not converted to cash, then Council will formulate a plan on management of that asset.

b. If the gift is unrestricted, Trinity Lutheran will make an automatic 10% tithe from the proceeds, before any other allocations are made, to an affiliated non-profit.

c. If the gift is unrestricted, the overall use of the remaining 100% of the gift *[after the tithe – see 2) b. above]* is limited to:

- 50% to the general operating budget of Trinity Lutheran
- 50% to the congregation's endowment fund

d. If the gift is restricted, the funds will be used as indicated, if possible. But if the funds are unable to be allocated due to the lack of program or need, as determined by Church Council, the gift will become unrestricted after three (3) months. The gift will then begin the unrestricted gifts process, as outlined in this document, to determine the use. *[see 2) a. b. c. above]*

3) Policy Review

This Congregational Gift Policy will be reviewed by Church Council every two (2) years. Upcoming policy review dates include July 2022; July 2024; July 2026; July 2028; July 2030.

Ways to Make a Gift

1. Cash, check, or money order
2. Beneficiary designations – primary or secondary/contingent
 - a. Retirement accounts
 - i. IRA
 - ii. 401(k)
 - iii. 403(b)
 - iv. Annuity
 - b. Individual or joint bank/brokerage accounts
 - i. Transfer on death
 - ii. Payable on death
 - c. Life insurance
 - d. Distribution from donor advised fund or named endowment
 - e. Living trust
 - f. Will
 - g. Real estate/transfer of deed on death
3. Asset transfer
 - a. Transfer securities from your brokerage account (*please check with our Treasurer for current process*)
 - b. Transfer a title or deed to Trinity Lutheran.
 - c. Assign ownership of life insurance to Trinity Lutheran, or ELCA Foundation, FBO (for benefit of) Trinity Lutheran.
4. Deferred gifts
 - a. Charitable gift annuity
 - b. Charitable remainder trust
 - c. Donor advised fund
 - d. Named endowment
 - e. Life estate

Are you considering a special gift or an estate gift to Trinity Lutheran Church, Nampa, Idaho? If so, we have resources available through the services of the ELCA Foundation. These gift planning services are available at no charge to members of ELCA congregations. The Charitable Gift Planner assists with establishing a comprehensive estate plan that provides for your family and the ministries you care about. In addition, the Gift Planner assists with current gifts to this congregation as described in this policy.