

Endowment Fund Seeks Donations and Grant Applications

We've all heard of the gift that keeps on giving. Gifts to the Lord of Life Endowment Fund do just that. Whether it's \$50 or \$500 or \$5,000, such gifts help the fund keep growing and growing, each year generating income that can be used to further the mission of Lord of Life.

Gifts of \$5,000 or more can be of particular benefit not only to the congregation but to the giver as well, thanks to a North Dakota law that allows for a tax credit of 40 percent for gifts to qualified North Dakota endowment funds. Depending on the giver's tax bracket, a \$5,000 gift could cost the giver as little as \$2,000 once the tax credit and normal charitable contribution deductions are taken.

To qualify for tax benefits for 2023, qualified gifts can be made payable to the Lord of Life Endowment Fund before the end of the year and left at or delivered to the church office. Endowment Fund board members suggest always checking with your tax advisor to determine exactly how the tax benefits will apply to you.

Grants from the fund will be awarded each year. Applications for grants for fiscal 2023 are now being accepted. Funds will be available for 2024 grants to support ministries of the congregation or its members. Application forms are available at the church office in paper or pdf form. Applications are also available on the Lord of Life web site - <https://www.lordoflifebismarck.org/> under the Serve tab. Grants applications will be accepted at the church office through November 10.

The Lord of Life Lutheran Church Endowment fund was incorporated to make funding available to the support ministries, but activities or projects that are part of the normal congregational operating budget are not eligible for the grants. The Endowment Fund Board suggests a \$1000 maximum for each grant application.

Grants are available in three general categories:

- The Congregational Program Fund supports the expansion of ministries in such areas as education, worship, music, the arts, parish life, and staff development.
- The Benevolence Fund supports the special needs of members of the congregation, the community at large, and the mission of the Western North Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- The Capital Projects fund supports planned capital improvement to Lord of Life facilities.

Grants do not have to be used at Lord of Life, but applications must be sponsored by Lord of Life members. Successful applicants will be notified before the annual congregational meeting in January.

The Endowment fund was incorporated in 2013. In past years grants have been awarded for such projects as refugee resettlement, helping to furnish the new chapel at Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center, assisting the Heaven's Helpers program, the Banquet family meal program in Bismarck, and a refrigerator for Camp of the Cross. Helping the Piecemakers and Young at Hearts groups here at Lord of Life.

Members of the Endowment Fund Board are President Jim Boyd, Vice President Randy Binigar, Secretary Dan Wrolstad, and directors Judy Froseth and Pastor John Streccius. Bob McConnell is the council liaison.