



Q: Does my giving to the regular Sunday Offering differ from a gift to the “BLC Investment in Ministries Fund”?

A: Yes. The mission is the same, to
WORSHIP the Living God,
GROW in Faith and Discipleship,
LIVE our Faith in Daily Life,
CARE for One Another, and
SERVE our Neighbor.

What differs is the timeframe. The “BLC Investment in Ministries Fund” offers a way to support missions and ministries *beyond* those contained in our annual budget. As the Fund assets grow and are distributed, the “BLC Investment in Ministries Fund” can make *additional* investments in missions and ministries that reach out to our local community and our global neighbors for generations to come. Your annual giving supports the expenses of the Church and funds the annual spending plan.

Q: Is the Investment in Ministries Fund an endowment fund?

A: Yes. Each year, the Fund will disburse no more than 4% of the year-end balance to outreach ministries locally as well as world-wide. This ensures that your gift will have an impact for generations to come, since the fund will exist in perpetuity.

Q: Does BLC manage the investment funds?

A: No. Once you have made a gift, the funds will be managed by the ELCA Foundation. The Investment in Ministries Committee chooses from available investment options, monitors fund performance, and provides the Church Council periodic updates on funds available for disbursement. After the close of each calendar year, the IMF Committee will provide an annual report showing:

- 1) The beginning balance,
- 2) New contributions,
- 3) Distributions to support ministries.
- 4) Fees and expenses paid out,
- 4) The performance for the previous year, and
- 5) The year end value of the fund.

Q: I already named BLC as a beneficiary in my estate plan. Do I need to do anything else?

A: Yes, we ask that all those who currently have provisions for BLC in their estate plan, consider designating it to “BLC Investment in Ministries Fund”. If you would like assistance, please contact us at (585) 223-0623.

Q: Is there a minimum gift amount?

A: No, there is no minimum giving amount. All gifts are welcome!
“Some seeds fell on good soil, and when they grew, they produced a hundredfold.” ~Luke 8:8

Q: Can I make a gift to “BLC Investment in Ministries Fund” if I am not a BLC member?

A: Yes, all are welcome to make a gift to have an eternal impact.

Q: Can I leave a gift to charity without taking away from what I leave my immediate heirs?

A: Yes. There are many ways to fulfill your charitable goals while still providing for your family and other loved ones. Options for planned giving include life insurance or retirement assets. This allows you to leave gifts to both charity and family members, while providing tax benefits to you. BLC can connect you with an ELCA Gift Planner to discuss your personal situation. Call us at (585) 223-0634. You may also consult your financial advisor to explore options beneficial to your personal goals and circumstances.

Q: Will the campaign for this Fund impact our normal contribution drives during Thanksgiving, Advent, and Lent (world hunger)?

A: No. We want to make it clear to donors that the “BLC Investment in Ministries Fund” *does not* replace annual giving or support for traditional annual giving initiatives of BLC. Instead, it is a way for us to look to the future of BLC, make gifts that will grow over time, and produce a lasting legacy. It is an excellent way to remember a loved one who has passed, celebrate a birth or anniversary, or simply thank God for the blessings in your life.

We envision outright gifts to the IMF this year to be gifts or pledges made in conjunction with BLC’s 100th anniversary.

Q: Will BLC manage the distribution of the funds?

A: Yes. Each year, the IMF team, working with the ELCA Foundation, will prepare a statement showing the Invested Funds beginning balance, contributions, withdrawals, management fees, and gain or loss on the funds. The statement will also show the year-end value. Up to 4% of the year-end account value will be transferred to a holding account for BLC. Then the Missions and Social Concerns Committee will be notified of the amount available for distribution. They will make recommendations to Council who will approve, decline, or modify their recommendations. Then the M&SC will execute the distribution through the Treasurer.

Q: Who will have rights to write checks from the fund?

A: Only the BLC's Treasurer can write checks, with Council approval.

Q: Will my entire contribution go to the "Investment in Ministries Fund"?

A: Yes and no.

YES, if your gift is *specifically designated* to the IMF, then the entire contribution will go to the "BLC Investment in Ministries Fund."

NO, if your gift is designated to BLC, but does not indicate the "Investment in Ministries Fund", then the monies received will be distributed according to the BLC Gift Policy, and a percentage of your gift will go to the ELCA.

Q: Will this fund encourage members to grow through mission?

A: Yes. The IMF will provide additional financial resources for mission outreach. Church Council, Missions & Social Concerns Committee, and the congregation are responsible for identifying specific mission opportunities and engaging individuals in them. If a member has a passion for a particular ministry, they can make a request to M&SC for funds to be allocated for that purpose.

Q: If I have other questions, where can I go for answers?

A: If you have questions about the IMF, call the church office at (585) 223-0634 and they will put you in touch with a member of the IMF Team.

If you have questions about which investment option would be most appropriate for your family, we can put you in touch with the ELCA Regional Gift Planner, or you can contact your financial advisor or estate attorney.