



What Is Socially Responsible Investing and Why Does It Matter?

The Investment in Ministry Fund (IMF) is invested in the ELCA's Ministry Growth Fund, a fund that is guided by socially responsible investment strategies. Socially responsible investing aims to generate both social change and financial returns for its investors. These investments can include companies making a positive sustainable or social impact, such as a solar energy company, and exclude those companies making a negative impact.

The Corporate Social Responsibility Program of the ELCA seeks to enter into dialogue with business representatives on the social implications of company practices and to affect ELCA investment policy in socially responsible ways. The ELCA calls its people and institutions to encourage corporations to act in socially responsible ways and to invest in alignment with ELCA priorities.

Social purpose funds are able to screen out companies whose business practices conflict with these ELCA social criteria. The ELCA Ministry Growth Fund screens out companies associated with alcohol, tobacco, gambling, military weapons, pornography, private prisons, environment, and political and civil human rights.

We have chosen the ELCA Ministry Growth Fund to invest the funds donated to the IMF because of its focus to support the ideals of our Lutheran theology.

For more information, please contact any member of the IMF Team at 585-223-0634: Mark Gaul, Roger Kolker, Paulette Costanza, John Costanza, or John Panko, or our ELCA Regional Gift Planner, Ryan Ebner, ryan.ebner@elca.org, 800-638-3522.

Benefits of Giving

There are as many reasons to give as there are people who donate to BLC's Investment in Ministries Fund (IMF):

- Your gift perpetuates your values and priorities.
- Your gift pays benefits year after year.
- You are making a significant investment in the future.
- You are supporting organizations that share your values.
- You are helping to make sure the organizations you care about will live on.
- Your gift is never spent. Only a portion of the earnings are distributed each year.
- Everything we have is a gift from God.
- Your gift will benefit individuals and organizations locally and internationally.
- Making a gift to the IMF creates a sense of immortality.
- Your gift reflects your values of generosity and compassion.
- You are leaving a legacy of generosity that will live on for years to come.
- You are impacting the NET 100 years, and beyond.
- Add your own reasons here:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- And it's a scientific fact that generous people live longer!!

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew: 25:40