



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Purpose of the Investment in Ministries Fund?

The Investment in Ministries Fund was established: 1) to create a perpetual fund that will grow over time and support ministries beyond our walls, 2) to receive immediate gifts, as well as legacy gifts that donors want to be used in perpetuity to accomplish God's work in the world, and 3) to distribute up to 4% each year to ministries beyond our walls that are over and above BLC's annual budget.

What is the Investment in Ministries Fund and how does it work?

The Investment in Ministries Fund is an Endowment Fund of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Endowed funds differ from others in that the total amount of the gift is invested. Each year, only a portion of the income earned is spent while the remainder is added to the principal for growth. In this respect, an endowment is a perpetual gift.

What are the Objectives of the Investment in Ministries Fund?

The Investment in Ministries Fund will be invested to achieve both growth of principal and income that exceeds the rate of distribution over time. With a generous donation in 2022 from the BLC Memorial Fund of \$25,000 and additional donations from members and friends of BLC, we look forward to distributing up to 4% of the fund's year-end value each year to support missions and ministries that are beyond the scope of our annual budget.

How Do I Benefit from a Donation to the Investment in Ministries Fund?

The most important benefit is that you will be funding in perpetuity the mission of BLC to WORSHIP, GROW, LIVE, CARE, and SERVE. In addition, for immediate gifts, you may take a current tax deduction, to the extent allowable by law. Gifts from an estate, life insurance policy, Trust or Payable on Death account may also have significant tax advantages.

How Are Awards Made from the Investment in Ministries Fund?

The Fund will distribute up to 4% of the Fund's market value to approved ministries in our community and our world. Each year, grant requests will be reviewed by the Missions and Social Concerns Committee (M&SC) and one or more will be proposed to Council for approval. Anyone can propose a ministry for consideration by contacting M&SC. Every approved grant will be listed in the STAR, and will include the name, date, purpose and amount of the gift. In addition, a report will be published each year on our website.

Why Establish an Endowment Fund?

Endowments breathe life into a congregation. They make new ministries possible, spark creative outreach projects, and spread Christ's love in the world. From the donor's perspective, a well-ordered endowment provides a trustworthy means of making a legacy gift. The goal of forming an endowment is not to reduce the need for annual stewardship but rather to increase our ability to respond to ever-growing needs. With a larger endowment providing additional investment income, we will be able to address new mission opportunities, or expand existing ones. Who knows what exciting ministries await -- next year, or 10, or 100 years from now? The endowment provides the means to be innovative and responsive to the needs of the time.

What Types of Gifts Can I Give to the Investment in Ministries Fund?

Cash Gifts. All cash gifts, large or small, are welcomed and appreciated.

Gifts of Appreciated Securities. Making gifts of appreciated stock or other securities offers substantial tax advantages. The giver pays no capital gains tax on the gift and may be able to claim a charitable deduction of the full market value of the securities at the date of the gift. Consult your broker or tax advisor for more information.

Bequests in your Will. The easiest and the most common way of making a planned gift is through a bequest in your will. Or, consider creating a Living Trust to reduce assets subject to probate. Gifts may be designated as a percentage (%) of your estate or a specific amount of money.

Life Insurance Policy. Make a change to the beneficiary designation of an existing life insurance policy or name the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Investment in Ministries Fund as the beneficiary of a percentage (%) of the insurance policy, for example 20%, 75%. Or any percentage you choose. Alternately, you can purchase a new policy and make the BLC Investment in Ministries Fund the owner and beneficiary of the policy.

Retirement Fund Gifts. Do you have a company pension plan, a 401(k), an IRA or 403(b)? It is possible to remember the BLC Investment in Ministries Fund by a simple designation on your beneficiary form.

Am I Recognized for Giving?

Absolutely! The Committee will maintain a “*BLC Investment in Ministries Fund Book of Appreciation*”. It will list those who have made current donations as well as those who have pledged to include the Investment in Ministries Fund as part of their estate plan. If requested, a donor may remain anonymous.

What information do I need to make a bequest?

Please direct your gift to:
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Investment in Ministries Fund
48 Perrin Street
Fairport NY 14450

