



Mission Endowment Trust

Faith's Legacy Ministry:
Enhancing the Mission of the
Congregation Forever

At Faith Lutheran Church, we have celebrated our Mission Statement for many years. The Mission Endowment Trust enables us to perpetually celebrate our Legacy Ministry until Christ comes again. Together, we can share God's blessings forever.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
1000 Tates Creek Road
Lexington, KY 40502
(859) 266-7621

Mission Endowment Trust Mission Statement: to provide structure to enhance Faith's mission by furnishing a perpetual source of income to fund Christian ministries and church activities through planned and legacy giving.

In 1998, the congregation of Faith Lutheran Church launched the **Mission Endowment Trust (MET)** to enhance the ministry of the congregation by building a lasting legacy of giving over time. From a meager financial beginning, the Trust's financial blessings continue to grow. The Endowment is funded by donations from members of our congregation and others—either as a gift while living or within their estate plan. Trust earnings may be used for a variety of ministries and programs at the congregational, synodical, national and worldwide levels. As members of Faith, the **MET** enables us to continuously celebrate the good news of Christ's gospel and love with others, until he comes again.

This is an enormously important vision for the ministry of the congregation we all love. Described as asset stewardship, it is a vision of financial stewardship that is beyond the annual stewardship drive. By embracing this legacy gifting strategy together, we open possibilities for mission and ministry that heretofore have never been dreamed by this congregation. Our gifts ensure the fulfillment of present and future ministries of the Church, maintaining today's quality programs and extending new ministry opportunities. Our legacy financial support is a key part of faithful discipleship and enables Faith Lutheran Church to fulfill more completely the mission for which our Lord has called us.

You are invited to think and pray about the part you wish to play in Faith's future ministries. The **MET** enables members to participate, not only locally, but also to support ministry in a variety of ways. When members give money or other assets, they are giving part of themselves, by sharing God's blessings. Naming the **MET** as a beneficiary in your estate plan or making an endowment gift ensures your continuing support of these ministries far into the future. Planned legacy giving to the **MET** is the extension of our stewardship responsibilities beyond this life.

PLANNED GIVING PARTNERSHIP

The goals of planned giving are to honor and glorify God and empower people in their role as responsible stewards of God's gifts. As members of Faith Lutheran Church, we can choose to participate and give to the work of the church through a variety of alternatives. Not limited to these examples: through bequests in wills, assignment of life insurance, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainders, and other trusts, assignment of certificates of deposit, and transfer of property such as cash, stocks, bonds and real estate. Individuals of a specific age as determined by the IRS, may donate all or a portion of, their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) or traditional IRAs directly to **MET** via a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). Federal tax laws encourage generosity by allowing donors to benefit from substantial tax savings through careful planning.

PLANNED GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

The **MET** is blessed with resources within our membership to assist in estate planning, by helping members customize their individual legacy stewardship goals. Please do not hesitate to contact a **MET** board member, or the church office, to schedule a confidential discussion. There are many options that members can customize to accommodate virtually any unique family situation.

Gifts of Capital Assets

Often significant advantages can be realized through a gift of land, securities, or other assets which have been held for at least a year and have appreciated in value. The donor pays no tax on such gifts and may deduct the current market value up to the full amount of the deduction allowed by the laws during the tax year. Note: in some cases, the appreciation is subject to an Alternative Minimum Tax.

If such capital assets have not appreciated in value, tax savings may still be realized. The assets may be sold and the cash given to the **MET**, which may make the donor eligible for a tax loss deduction as well as a charitable donation.

Gifts That Secure Income for the Donor

Gifts in the form of charitable trusts allow the donor to make a substantial contribution of cash or property and still receive (and in some cases increase) the income from the cash or property during the lifetime of the donor and his or her spouse.

Additional Ways to Give

Bequests, life insurance and gifts of personal property are additional ways to realize a higher gift level for the **MET** and a greater tax savings. There are also many other opportunities for investment gifting beyond those mentioned above. For information on other plans, please contact a **MET** board member, or the church office, a CPA, financial advisor or an estate planning lawyer.

Trust Income Distribution

The purpose of the **MET** is to enhance the mission and witness of our congregation by supporting various Christian ministries through distributions of the dividends and interest earned from the investment of trust assets. Grant requests for these distributions can be made at any time to the **MET** committee. Grant awards are distributed in accordance with the **METs** grant distribution policy. Contact the church office for a copy of a **MET** grant application.

Examples:

Community Outreach Grants

- ELCA seminaries and colleges
- Scholarships to students attending such schools
- Social service agencies
- Institutions and agencies to which this congregation relates
- Special programs designed for persons in our parish area who need spiritual and/or economic need

ELCA Mission Grants

- New congregation development worldwide
- Professional leadership assistance
- Educational ministries
- Global mission personnel and projects
- Ecumenism, Evangelism and Social ministries