

The Legacy Fund of Trinity Lutheran Darmstadt

Storing Up Treasures in the Kingdom of Heaven



Legacy Fund Mission Statement

In the furtherance of God's Kingdom at Trinity Lutheran Darmstadt, the mission of the Legacy Fund is to provide a means for congregation members and friends to make estate gifts and donations to missions, ministries, and projects that are beyond the scope of the annual budget for regular disbursement as proposed by the Legacy Fund Committee and approved by the Voters Assembly.

You Are God's Treasure



*Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."
(Matthew 13:44)*

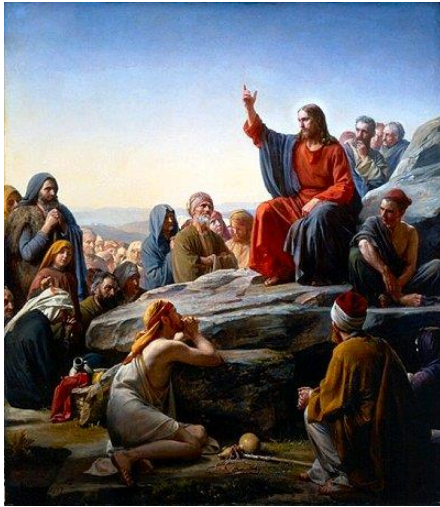
The "man" in this Parable is God who found you, his great "treasure." God gave all that he had to buy this treasure. God the Father so loved you that he gave his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
(John 3:16)



God bought you, not with gold or silver, but with the precious blood of Christ who willingly gave up his life for you upon the cross. (1 Peter 1:18-19) You and all that God gives you now belong to him.

What Are Your Treasures?

Jesus said, “Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)



Your true treasures are not the money, goods, and possessions which God gives you in this earthly life. These temporary treasures will pass away when you pass away from this earth, and they will not be there in heaven. Your true treasures are God's grace and faith in Jesus Christ through whom your sins are forgiven so that you may enter heaven. And just like for God, your true treasures are other people because only loving relationships in Christ will last eternally in heaven.



How May I Use Earthly Wealth to Store Up Treasures in Heaven?

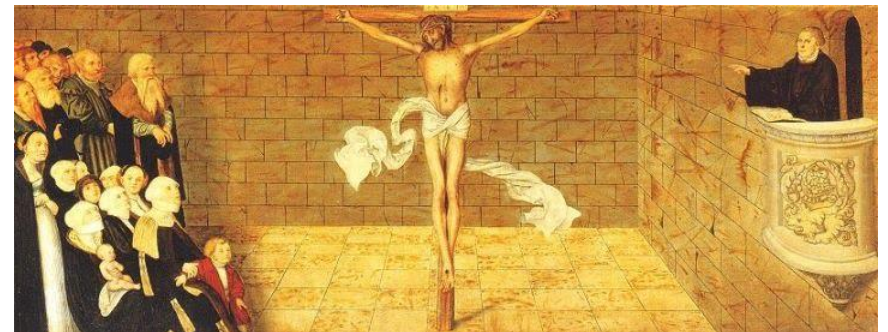


Jesus said, “Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.” (Luke 16:9)

*When I enter that beautiful city,
and the saints all around me appear,
I hope that someone will tell me,
“Hey, it was you who invited me here!”*

Corrie Ten Boom

In other words, use your earthly wealth to bring others into God's kingdom of grace here on earth so that they may join you in God's kingdom of glory in heaven. God works through the means of his people and their gifts to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and his salvation. Through the Word of the Gospel and the Sacraments, the Holy Spirit “calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.”



How Can I Give Earthly Wealth to Store Up Treasures in Heaven?

Trinity Lutheran Church in Darmstadt has established the **Legacy Fund** for the exact purpose of using earthly wealth for the furtherance of the kingdom of heaven. You may designate your contributions for the work of God's kingdom in the categories of . . .

Mission

Ministry

Master Plan

Maintenance

Music – Education – Formation (M.E.F.)

Undesignated gifts to the Legacy Fund will be allocated by the Legacy Fund Committee toward the categories with current needs. Ten percent of undesignated gifts will automatically go to the category of **Mission**.

The Legacy Fund does not replace your tithe offered in worship for the normal operation of the church and its regular ministries.

The Legacy Fund serves as a depository for special offerings given for special ministries and projects which are beyond the yearly church budget.

When Can I Give to the Legacy Fund?

Contributions to the Legacy Fund may be made at any time. The apostle Paul describes how God's grace led the Macedonia churches to give in their poverty and abundance of joy, according to their means and beyond their means, for the special needs of the saints. (2 Corinthians 8:1-7)

You may give **now** in response to God's grace in your life, in your joy in the Lord, according to your means or beyond your means, for the furtherance of the kingdom of heaven.

Or you may also make plans for a future **estate gift**. The patriarch Job would often make sacrifices of atonement on behalf of his children (Job 1:5). You too may choose to tithe a portion of your estate as a sacrifice of praise on behalf of your heirs.

How Will the Legacy Fund Be Used?

As needs arise, both principal and interest in the Legacy Fund will be regularly distributed for use in the five categories of . . .

Mission

Ministry

Master Plan

Maintenance

Music – Education – Formation (M.E.F.)

. . . as described in the following pages.

Mission



“With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.” (Acts 4:33-35)

As the saints of the New Testament Church brought their offerings for the needy, so we also bring our offerings for those in need. Our focus is to **reach** the lost and hurting in our local community by giving for their needs and testifying to the salvation of Jesus Christ through local **Mission**.

Mission to our community includes giving offerings for the needs of children and teachers in the public schools, for the needs of families suffering from sickness or devastation, and for other philanthropic projects which would benefit our local area around Darmstadt. Mission differs from Ministry, defined next, in that we give money to other institutions and people to assist them in *their* ministry or vocation, wherever that may be.

Ministry

“Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. . . The people held them in high esteem. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord. . . The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.” (Acts 5:12-16)



Besides testifying of Jesus with the witness of their voices, the early Church also testified of Jesus with the work of their hands. Through **Ministry** to our local community we seek to **reach** those who do not know Christ with acts of mercy and the voice of the Gospel so that more believers may be added to the Lord.

New and expanded Ministry include such things as early childhood care, an after school program, the collection of food and clothing for distribution to the needy, or other social ministry and education programs which would help our community. Ministry differs from Mission, defined previous, in that we give money to assist *our* congregation’s ministries to the community.

Master Plan

When the tent of meeting called the Tabernacle was worn out after 400 years of use, King David had the desire in his heart to build a new house of worship for the Lord. He began setting aside resources from the kingdom, even from his own possessions, to build a new Temple. The people and their leaders also gave freewill offerings for the Lord's house. Even though the Temple would not be built until the future reign of Solomon, David and the people rejoiced that they had given willingly and freely to the Lord. (1 Chronicles 29:1-9, 14)

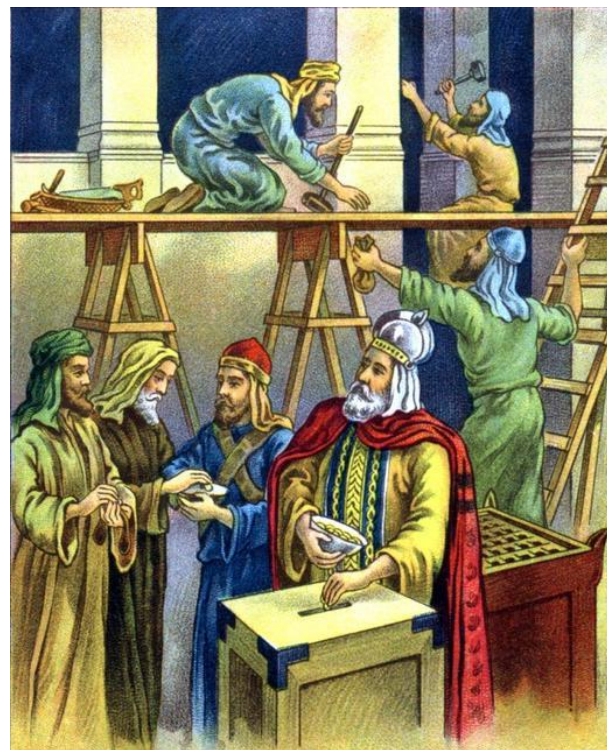


In the same way, we have the desire in our heart to **renew** our church campus after many years of use. We set aside our resources and possessions for future building programs according to our **Master Plan**.

The current phase of our Master Plan is the addition of a new building which will have a fellowship hall, restrooms, kitchen, office space, and meeting rooms. In conjunction with this phase is the renewal of the inside of our church by creating a larger narthex in the rear of the sanctuary, renovating the choir room to provide a working sacristy for altar guild and music, and adding provisions for an elevator to the music loft. The future phase of our Master Plan is the addition of an Educational or Recreational building.

Maintenance

When the Temple had fallen into disrepair, King Jehoshaphat commanded that repairs be made. The priest Jehoiada placed a chest at the entrance to the house of the Lord for a special offering. As the people willingly contributed to the chest, the priests gave the money to the workmen to restore the Temple. (2 Kings 12:4-16)

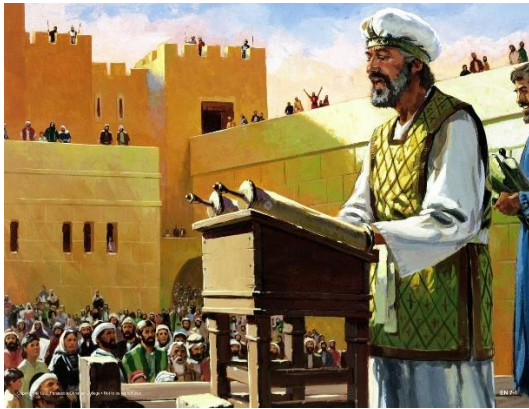


In the same way, our facilities also need repair. As good stewards, we desire to **restore** our campus with a special offering for the purpose of **Maintenance**.

Our current Maintenance Plan includes restoration and maintenance of the existing church, school, parking lot, and grounds that are needed for continued ministry.

M.E.F. – Music – Education – Formation

After renewing the Temple and restoring the wall around Jerusalem, Nehemiah also exhorted the Israelites to renew and restore their tithes for the support of the singers and musicians, priests and Levites, and all those who ministered at the Temple. These offerings ensured that preaching, teaching, and music would continue in the worship service for the faith formation of God's people. (Nehemiah 12:44-47)



In order for our church to **restore**, **renew**, and **reach** for the kingdom of heaven, we must ensure that our staff and members are properly strengthened and motivated for giving and serving through the divine worship service, education opportunities, and faith formation programs. **Music** in the church, **Education** of staff (paid and volunteer), and the faith **Formation** of our members will edify, educate, and form our congregation for service in God's kingdom of grace.

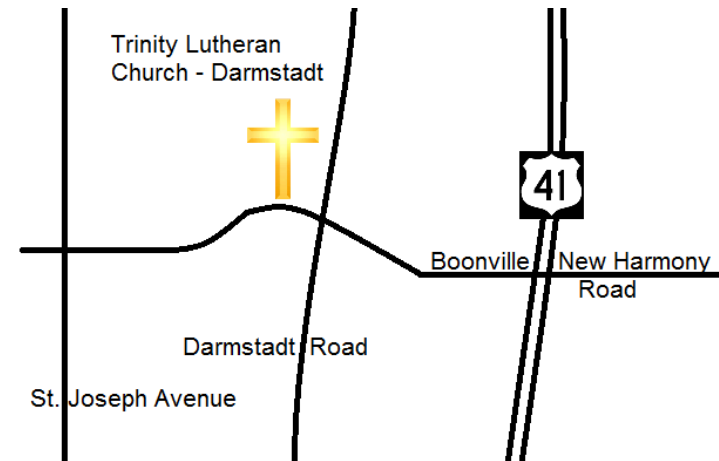
Music – Education – Formation (M.E.F) includes offerings for special music programs and instruments, continuing education of staff and lay leaders, and seminars, workshops, and retreats for the faith formation of our members.

More Information

If you would like more information about how you can store up treasures in heaven through the Legacy Fund, you may ask one of the members of our church **Legacy Fund Committee** or request a copy of the **Bylaws** of the Legacy Fund.



Concerning questions about planning estate gifts to the Legacy Fund, you may also contact **Rev. Philip Krupski**, Gift Planning Counselor for the LCMS Foundation and Indiana District, at 317-840-3202 or philip.krupski@lfnd.org.



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