

# ***Gethsemane Lutheran Church World Vision Fund***



## **A Guide To Planning Your Lasting Gifts For Extending The Kingdom Of Grace... Into *All* The World**

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## **The Clear Call**

As Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave His Church the most important mandate.

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; and teaching them everything I have commanded you. And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Matthew 28:19-20

These words make one thing unmistakably clear. Christians are to do all they can to carry the Gospel throughout all the world until Jesus comes again.

## **The Urgent Need**

The need to share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ has never been greater than now. Consider the following:

- Never before has the percent of Christians in America been at current levels;
- Never before has there been such a large influx of immigrants from non-Christian countries;
- Never before have mission fields locally, regionally and internationally been blessed with people “ripe” to hear the Gospel.

## **Planned Giving: A Remarkable Opportunity**

Planned giving for the Lord’s Church is one of the most important—and lasting—ways to witness your passion for the Gospel.

Gethsemane invites you to consider the remarkable opportunity provided by planned giving to the Christian Church through Gethsemane Lutheran Church. Many Christian organizations—including the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, our Seminaries and Colleges, and many other Lutheran organizations—receive much of their funding from charitable gifts.

Without these gifts, these and other ministries would be greatly curtailed...or closed. With charitable gifts, these and other ministries can thrive, grow and reach out to others with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## **A Biblical Reason**

There are many good reasons to consider planned giving. The most important reason is, it is a response to God’s grace in Jesus Christ. St. Paul wrote of this in II Corinthians 8:5 as he commended the Macedonians’ faith.

“They gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God’s will.” II Corinthians 8:5 (NIV)

As individuals give themselves “to the Lord” in every other area of their lives, planned giving is one of the most important responses to Christ’s love for us.

Unfortunately, many Christians forget, ignore or discount planned giving. Because they fail to investigate the possibilities, they miss out on the many opportunities to help themselves, their families and their churches.

Gethsemane’s *World Vision Fund* offers every member of this congregation the opportunity to consider planned giving.

## YOU Can Participate!

Christians often practice joyful, faithful and sacrificial giving with their regular giving to their church. Whatever the amount of their gift, their regular gifts support the mission of the church each time they give. Whether their gift is a widow's mite or a larger gift, the opportunity to give ourselves "first to the Lord" is available to all.

Rich or poor, young or old, everyone is invited to consider a gift to Gethsemane's *World Vision Fund*. Often people are surprised at the remarkable benefits and opportunities which planned giving gives.

So many people turn away from the opportunity to make an eternal difference by planned giving. Each time someone says, "I can't do that," the Kingdom suffers. The ministry of the Gospel is curtailed.

There are so many opportunities for individuals—like you—to make charitable gifts for the Lord's Church. Gethsemane's *World Vision Fund* can help you discover the possibilities for your planned giving by...

- Raising awareness of the various opportunities for supporting Christian ministry;
- Directing you to people who can assist you make wise investments to benefit you and the church;
- Informing people of all income levels of how they can make "smart" faith gifts for the Lord's Church.



*"How can they hear unless someone is sent to preach."  
Romans 10:14 (NIV)*

## Introducing Gethsemane's World Vision Fund



### Gethsemane's World Vision Fund Supports

- \* Local Missions
- \* Regional Missions
- \* National/International Missions

### Purpose:

Gethsemane's *World Vision Fund (WVF)* is established to initiate, support and help sustain activities and organizations to enable the fulfillment of the Great Commission: To go forth into all nations with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Gethsemane's *World Vision Fund* does this by...

- 1) Reminding Christians of the joy we celebrate as Christians living in God's grace;
- 2) Urging Christians of the importance of charitable giving;
- 3) To increase awareness of the opportunities and benefits of charitable giving;
- 4) To educate Christians of all income levels how they can support the church with long-term giving; and
- 5) To encourage Christians to seek Christian professionals to assist them with their charitable giving decisions;

### A Worldwide Scope For Ministry

Gethsemane's *World Vision* encourages charitable giving to three major targets:

- 1) **Local Ministries:** Gethsemane Lutheran Church is *right in the heart* of an ever-changing and dynamic mission field. Trinity Lutheran Church, Utica, founded Gethsemane as a mission church. Their passion for ministry is the legacy which this church continues to build on since it first started worshipping in the mid-1940's. Present and future opportunities for ministry exist...but can be greatly energized through charitable giving targeted for Gethsemane's and other local ministries.
- 2) **Regional Ministries:** The ministry of Christ at Gethsemane extends beyond Gethsemane. Gethsemane supports other area ministries through its regular giving. *LATINO* Mission Society, a LCMS ministry based in Detroit (Mexican town) and *St. Paul Lutheran Mission*, Pontiac are two examples. Other Christian ministries also have received our support. These range from the Bible distribution of the *Gideons*, support of pro-life organizations such as *Crossroads Pregnancy Center* and others. The vision of this fund is to be able to increase



and extend Gethsemane's support of these and other Christian organizations with funds resulting from generous gifts such as yours.

- 3) **National/International Ministries:** The National/international scope of the *World Vision Fund* presents opportunities to support Christian ministries in our own country and beyond. Certainly Gethsemane cannot support every Christian mission throughout the world. However, the *World Vision Fund* presents an unprecedented opportunity to support world-wide ministries, mission organizations which share the Gospel, and assist Christian relief efforts to those in need throughout the World (e.g. *Lutheran World Relief*).

*"This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."*

*I Timothy 2:3-4 (NIV)*

## A Growing Family Of Funds

Gethsemane's *World Vision Fund* is really a growing *family* of several individual funds.

United in the mission of sharing Jesus Christ to the entire world, each individual fund has a unique scope and ministry to support the overall mission and scope of the *World Vision Fund*: To support Christian ministry everywhere...for all time...to every people...until Jesus comes again.



## Gethsemane's Current Family Of Funds

Gethsemane's *World Vision Fund* currently includes the following individual funds:

### **Living Memorial Fund**

Gethsemane's *Living Memorial Fund* has been used to support Gethsemane ministry and local outreach. Each year nearly \$500-\$1000 is disbursed to various Christian ministries from the principal in this fund (est. \$10,000 ).

### **Herr Memorial Scholarship Fund**

The purpose of the *Herr Memorial Scholarship Fund* is to support students preparing for careers in professional church work. As this fund continues to grow, future pastors, teachers and other Synodically-trained professional students will receive financial assistance. You are invited to share the passion of the *Herr Memorial Scholarship Fund's* founders to support new church workers.

### **Additional Funds**

As God's Spirit gives Christians a passion for many diverse areas of ministry, *Gethsemane's World Vision Fund* welcomes gifts to existing or new funds. Those with large gifts (over \$10,000) may choose to establish a fund for the benefit of the Lord's Church locally, regionally and throughout the world. All funds require congregational approval. Please talk with the Pastor or Council Chairperson for more information.

*"Just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving."*

*II Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)*

## An Invitation To Partnership: *Gethsemane's World Vision Fund*

### You Can Leave A Legacy

Many Christians like the idea of planned giving for the ministry of the Church. Unfortunately, many don't think they qualify.

Gethsemane has partnered with *Thrivent Financial* to help people consider the options and possibilities for planned giving. A Christian organization with an 100 year legacy of helping Lutherans throughout the world, the people of *Thrivent* have an unshakeable commitment to help Christians use their God-given gifts in the greatest way possible.

Other investment advisors may not have a Christian faith. They may not understand your passion to support the Church. They may not be aware of the many unique tools available to make—and maximize—a lasting gift for the Lord's Church.



### Our Partnership With Thrivent

The local representatives of *Thrivent*, many who are active members of their own churches—and some former church professionals—will help provide you with options and possibilities for your potential gift.

### So Many Giving Options!

There are many Charitable Giving Options for making gifts to *Gethsemane's World Vision Fund*. Here are some of the options.

- **Outright Gifts:** Write a check or give cash to a charity and take an itemized tax deduction. You will need a receipt from the charity for gifts of \$250 or more.
- **Will or Trust Bequests:** Create a bequest by including a charitable gift provision in your will or trust document. Your estate could receive a charitable deduction for the value of the bequest.
- **Beneficiary Designation Gifts:** Name a charity as the beneficiary of your life insurance, annuity, trust, or IRA. Your estate could receive a charitable deduction for the value of your assets transferred to the charities.
- **Life Insurance Gifts:** Purchase and gift a new contract to a charity, or gift an existing contract. The contract's value and premiums might qualify you for an income tax deduction. Upon your death, the insurance proceeds go to the charity.
- **Investment Gifts:** Transfer your ownership of an investment (for example, land, a mutual fund, or a stock) to a charity. If you itemize tax deductions, you could receive a deduction for the gift you've made. You may be able to reduce or eliminate capital gains and estate taxation through this type of gift as well.
- **Gift Annuity:** Transfer money or property to a charity in exchange for a fixed income for your and/or a survivor's lifetime. Generally, you can receive an income tax deduction for the difference between the market value of the gift and the value of the retained annuity.
- **Traditional IRA Gifts:** Funds in a traditional IRA can be given to a charity through your IRA beneficiary designation. The IRA funds pass to your designated charity after death, escaping the income taxes due on the remaining funds. Your estate may receive an estate tax deduction as well.

- **Zero Estate Tax Gifts:** Your will or trust can be designed to pass along the maximum amount of estate assets to your children after death, estate tax free, through a family testamentary bequest. The remaining assets then are transferred to a charity through a bequest, also estate tax free. This plan may result in a zero estate tax due on your estate.
- **Charitable Remainder Trusts:** Give money or property to an irrevocable charitable remainder trust in exchange for an income during your life and/or the life of your survivor. After death, any remainder value in the trust passes to the charity or charities you've selected.
- **Tax Strategies:** You could defer, reduce or eliminate capital gains tax otherwise due on sale of the assets. You also may receive an immediate charitable income tax deduction on the remainder interest of the property that passes to charity. Finally, the assets in the charitable remainder trust may escape some estate tax after your death as well.
- **Wealth Replacement:** Life insurance can be used to replace the value of the gift to charity. You purchase life insurance on your life equal to the value of property you plan to gift. At death, the insurance proceeds pass to your heirs' income tax free. If a family member or an irrevocable life insurance trust purchases the insurance, then the proceeds may be estate tax free as well.
- **Wealth Replacement Trust:** Also called an irrevocable life insurance trust (ILIT). This living trust is created outside the donor's estate and is set up to own life insurance on the donor. The amount of life insurance the trust owns usually is less than or equal to the amount of property you plan to give to a charitable cause. Upon your death, your heirs, who usually are the trust beneficiaries, can receive the insurance proceeds from the trust both income and estate tax free.
- **Donor Advised Fund:** Administered by a community foundation, a donor-advised fund allows you to play an active role in the grant-making process, while foundation staff takes care of administrative chores. You (or a person you designate) recommend grants from the fund to the charities of your choice—at any time.

For more information visit Thrivent's Website at  
<https://www.thrivent.com/planning/financial/charitable/options.html>

## So Many Opportunities—Which One's Best For You?

This is only a partial list of the many ways for you to make charitable gifts. Though you may not understand some of these options, *don't be confused*. *Thrivent Financial* representative, together with your attorney and tax adviser, can help you understand the variety of charitable giving options that are available.

Most importantly, they can help determine which are best for your unique situation.



**Plant The Seed For An  
Eternal Legacy  
Of Faith**

# Christian Financial Planning: A Strategic Approach

Christian Planned Giving best occurs as a result of careful and prudent Christian financial planning with a qualified Christian professional.

Gethsemane, in its partnership with *Thrivent*, encourages individuals and families to follow prudent financial planning strategies. The *Financial Needs Pyramid* describes a trusted strategic approach to carry out Christian financial planning in four simple steps.

## I. Strengthening Your Financial Position

During this step individuals will...

- \* Evaluate assets and liabilities
- \* Evaluate any savings or investments one may have

## II. Protecting Your Future

During this step individuals will...

- \* Evaluate—or develop—a retirement plan
- \* Consider the effectiveness of their planning-to-date

Investigate various tools to maximize their retir

## III. Saving For Your Goals

During this step individuals will...

- \* Begin formulating financial and life goals
- \* Assess the effectiveness of current savings strategies
- \* Formulate a retirement plan
- \* Consider creative ways to maximize future savings

## IV. Living In Retirement

This step helps individuals...

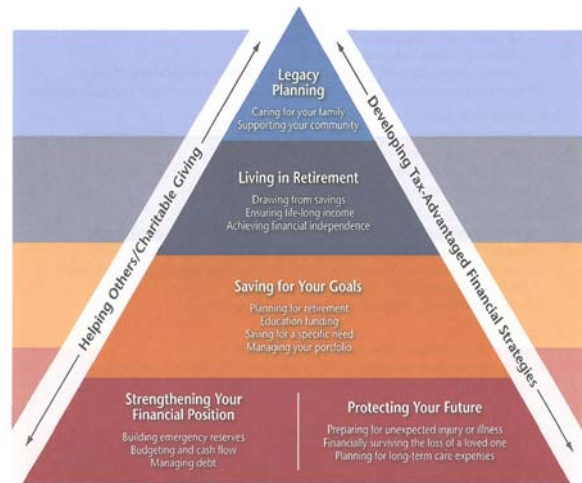
- \* Develop retirement income
- \* Ensure life-long income
- \* Develop ways to achieve lifelong financial independence

## V. Legacy Planning

This most important step helps individuals to...

- \* Develop a financial plan to care for their surviving family
- \* Discover ways to help the church and community via planned giving

For more information about this Financial Planning process visit [www.Thrivent.com](http://www.Thrivent.com)



**The Financial  
Needs Pyramid**

# Take The Time To Consider Gethsemane's *World Vision Fund*

## **A Unique Opportunity:**

Christians, regardless of their assets, have some outstanding opportunities to support the Church locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Unfortunately, many Christians simply ignore or dismiss the opportunities which may exist. But the opportunities are numerous. All one needs to do is to take some simple steps.

### **Step 1: Pray For God's Guidance**

Any great work of God begins with prayer. Whatever the outcome of your inquiry into supporting the World Vision Fund, pray that God gives *you* a passion for His work.

### **Step 2: Act On Your Passion**

The challenges and opportunities for ministry are urgent. The need for church workers, new churches, missionaries and other ministries has never been greater. Whatever your passion—pastoral education, local, regional or national/international missions, Christian social ministries—you can take the first step TODAY to consider planned charitable giving.

### **Step 3: Talk With Your Pastor**

Your pastor can help you and befriend you in this process. He will help you discern what ministries you have the greatest passion for. He will also encourage you to involve your family so that they can discover the remarkable opportunities provided by this faith experience.

### **Step 4: Call A Christian Investment Advisor**

It is essential that individuals utilize *Christian* investment advisors who share your passion for ministry are essential in this process. Those without this passion...

- May steer you away from the opportunity to support ministry.
- May not know some of the powerful charitable giving tools and strategies.
- May not have the experience to know how charitable giving benefits both the giver and the Church;
- Most importantly, they may not share your passion to leave a lasting legacy for the Lord's Church.

## **Start Today!**

Call your investment advisor today or talk with one of our local *Thrivent* Investment professionals to help guide you in this process.



## **Gethsemane's World Vision Fund Supports**

- \* **Local Missions**
- \* **Regional Missions**
- \* **National/International  
Missions**

# Gethsemane's World Vision Fund

## FAQ's

**1. Why should I consider a gift to Gethsemane's World Vision Fund?**

As grace-saved individuals, it is a remarkable opportunity to support the Lord's ministry for perpetuity.

**2. Why not just keep giving my regular offering?**

Gifts to the *World Vision Fund* are not intended to replace regular offerings. This church needs your regular, sacrificial offering of joy. Your gift for the World Vision Fund gives our congregation more options to respond to Christ's call to make disciples of all nations.



**3. I have put the church in my will. Why do I still need a Christian financial planner?**

A Christian financial planner can discuss precisely what areas of ministry you would like to support through your will. He or she can also present other creative possibilities to maximize your gift...and do more than you imagined!

**4. Why do I need a Christian Financial Planner?**

Those who do not know Christ as their Savior don't understand your Christian values and passion to support the church. Christian financial planners who are active in their faith, seek opportunities for your charitable giving...and share your joy as you support the Lord's ministry.

**5. Do I need to change my financial planner in order to make a charitable gift?**

Not necessarily. But it can be extremely helpful to speak with one of Thrivent's Financial planners to assess your ministry passion and review your planned giving goals.

**6. Do I really need a personal financial plan? I'm not ready for planned giving.**

Yes, you need a financial plan. Though you may not be ready for planned giving now, part of the process of making a personal financial plan will be to consider how to maximize your God-given assets for self, family and Church.

**7. Why should I talk with the pastor?**

The pastor can help present opportunities for ministry at Gethsemane and beyond. As you share your plans, your pastor can help share your joy. Of course, your inquiry will be confidential unless you indicate otherwise.

**8. Where will the charitable gifts be invested?**

As part of our partnership with Thrivent, Gethsemane will normally invest charitable funds in the Lutheran Community Foundation. Investments may also be placed in Michigan District-LCMS Church Extension Fund or other suitable funds.

**9. What input will I have once I make a charitable gift?**

Charitable gifts will be spent according to the guidelines established by each fund in Gethsemane's World Vision Fund family. Please talk with the Pastor and congregation chairperson for more information.

**10. I don't really have very much money. I also don't have many assets. Can I still participate in Gethsemane's World Vision Fund?**

Yes! All we ask is for each member to take the time to discover the amazing—and sometimes surprising—opportunities charitable giving offers.

**11. How can I find out more?**

Talk with the Pastor, Congregational Chair or contact the local Thrivent Financial office.