

***The Zion Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund is a fund in which the gifts received (fund principal) are permanently preserved and the earnings are used to support specific purposes.***

### **Why does Zion have a Mission Endowment Fund?**

- ❖ To enable members to continue to support the Lord's work after they have died.
- ❖ To provide a means to accept larger gifts such as: life insurance policies, charitable gift annuities, charitable trusts, and transfers of property such as cash, stocks and bonds.
- ❖ To provide a means to accept large gifts without negatively impacting congregational giving.
- ❖ To impact special (non-budgeted) ministries within and outside of the walls of Zion.

### **Why would a member of Zion consider making a gift to the Mission Endowment Fund?**

- ❖ To support the wider mission work of the congregation.
- ❖ To be a faithful manager of your regular income and your larger financial assets.
- ❖ To leave a legacy that honors God, supports the mission of the church and blesses future generations.

### **How might these gifts be used?**

Zion's Mission Endowment Fund Committee has the following guidelines for determining how returns of the investment are to be used:

- A. 10-35% for outreach into the community and synod, including, but not limited to, grants to ELCA seminaries, colleges or students attending such institutions, social service agencies, institutions and agencies to which this Congregation relates, and to special programs designed for those persons in our parish area who are in spiritual and/or economic need.
- B. 10-35% for missions of the ELCA, nationally and worldwide, including, but not limited to, grants to the ELCA for new congregation development, professional leadership, educational ministries, global mission, ecumenism, evangelism, social ministries, disaster response and capital financing.
- C. Up to 35% for capital improvements, debt reduction for a building program, or for the development of any special ministry of the Congregation.

- D. Up to 25% for any one or all of the above designated areas in any proportion as determined by the Mission Endowment Fund Committee, or for causes and programs which, at the discretion of the Committee, are deemed consistent with the purpose of the Fund in enhancing the missional outreach of the Congregation.

These returns will be distributed annually, after approval from Zion's Congregation Council.

### **Is there a minimum gift size to the Mission Endowment Fund?**

Yes. In general, a gift of \$1,000 or more is appropriate.



### **How does one apply to receive grants from the Mission Endowment Fund?**

An application form can be obtained from Zion's office. Non-members applying for a grant should obtain a member "sponsor." Applications need to be submitted by June 1 and distributions will usually be made following the August meeting of the Congregation Council.

### **How do I make a cash gift to the Mission Endowment Fund?**

- ❖ Use a "Special Offerings" envelope found in your offering envelopes or in the pew, and make your check payable to Zion Lutheran Church.
- ❖ Use the on-line giving option on Zion's website. Look for the button marked "Donate."

### **What assistance is available for making gifts to the Mission Endowment Fund?**

- ❖ For cash gifts, contact Zion's Financial Secretary.
- ❖ For other gifts, contact Zion's Mission Endowment Fund Committee for guidance.
- ❖ You should also discuss your intentions with a trusted tax adviser or a lawyer.

Please note: Donors who wish to support a particular area of ministry, where the entire gift will be used for the intended project, are encouraged to utilize one of Zion's ministry funds:

*Memorial Fund  
Zion's Member Campership Fund  
Scholarship Fund  
Intern Fund  
Helping Hand Fund  
Capital Improvement Fund  
Kitchen Fund  
Zion Youth Fellowship*

Gifts given to these restricted funds are used as needed for the purposes for which they were given.

Zion Lutheran Church  
2714 James Street  
Marinette, WI 54143  
Phone: 715-735-7898  
Fax: 715-735-7954  
Email: [zion@newbc.rr.com](mailto:zion@newbc.rr.com)  
Web: [zionlutheran-marinette.org](http://zionlutheran-marinette.org)

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