

ENGLISH DISTRICT

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

33100 Freedom Road † Farmington, Michigan 48336-4030 † (248) 476-0039



Date: September 6, 2023

To: English District – LCMS Congregations, Pastors, and Treasurers

Subject: Congregational Commitment for Fiscal Year 2024

Our work together in Christ's Church has been fruitful and blessed by the Lord. Thank you for your faithful commitment and sacrificial giving in 2023. Because of your faithful stewardship, congregations, ministries, and schools have expanded their outreach as they continue to reach people with the Gospel. People who had been walking in darkness are now living with the joy of Easter resurrection in their lives.

The district uses its resources to support congregations, church workers, schools, and ministries. In 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, the apostle Paul writes about the Macedonian churches. He acknowledges their generosity which resulted from the grace that God had given them. But in verse 5 he identifies what they did first, and it is key: *"They gave themselves first to the Lord, and then to us in keeping with God's will."* With overwhelming joy, we thank God for your work and the care you provide God's people in your local setting.

The English District encourages all our congregations to give something, whatever amount it may be, to the work of the church through giving to the district. We know that in your local congregation, your congregants support your ministry with their tithes and offerings. We seek to lead by example with faithful stewardship and dedicated support for all congregations and ministries in the USA and Canada.

The triennium theme of *"God in All Things – Without Borders"* from 2 Corinthians 9:8 continues the very same principles utilized for the previous triennium, but re-emphasizing that God is in all things (nothing and no one is left out), and we are a non-geographic district (without borders) focusing on the importance of remaining deeply rooted in the Word of God that we might share in His great work. *"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."* Through your gifts, we at the district will remain committed to respond in kind to the work of the Savior and His Father in Heaven. Our prayer is that your 2024 Congregational Commitment, whatever it may be, will come after you first give yourselves to the Lord and then seek to support your neighbors in their needs.

Please return a copy of the enclosed form to the district office, by December 15, 2023. Keep a copy for your records. ***By indicating the dates of your fiscal year, you will assist us to know better what to expect in the way of receipts for the district's budget year which runs from February 1 through January 31.***

Thank you for your commitment, and may God bless your efforts to carry out His will.

Declaration of Commitment

To: Board of Directors of the English District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod

From: _____
(Church Name)

of _____
(City) (State/Province)

In order to support the proclamation of the Gospel through ongoing ministries of **national and worldwide mission projects** of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, and

ongoing ministries and services of the **English District in Mission Development, Human Care, Christian Education, Youth Ministry, Family Life, and Stewardship;**

and, with a commitment to our common mission responsibilities, and after prayerful consideration, it is the intention of our congregation to commit the following:

\$_____ or _____% of our congregational income for the 2024 calendar year. (If pledging a percentage, please indicate what you expect your annual income to be: \$_____.)

Our fiscal year runs from _____ to _____.
Month/Day Month/Day

Please check all boxes below in which your congregation will also prayerfully consider increasing your offerings for the Lord's work through the English District - LCMS:

- Participate in a Dollar for Mission 1-1-1.
- Build a dollar and percentage increase into your church's budget for next year.
- Utilize District materials such as the Servant to Servant, letters, bulletin inserts and appeals that tell the mission stories of the district.
- Develop a "spiritualized budget" that prioritizes "proclaiming the Gospel throughout the world" (missions) and make a first fruits commitment to a monthly mission contribution.
- Make use of LCEF Ministry Solutions - Stewardship material.
- Host an LCMS Foundation: Lifetime Plan for Giving Presentation.

PASTOR

TREASURER

Grey: DISTRICT COPY

White: CONGREGATION'S COPY

**** FOR BUDGETARY PURPOSES ONLY ****

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