

How We Can Give...

Why We Give

Giving to the church is part of the duty and delight of being part of something larger than ourselves. Together the church can do so many things that individuals cannot do. But underlying financial stewardship are at minimum three principles: We give because God has so freely and abundantly provided without our asking or knowing; We give as an act of worship—a gift of love, a gift of thanksgiving, a gift of our whole selves to God; We give as an expression of faith—acknowledging God as creator, redeemer, and sustainer of life, living into a spiritual discipline that forms the faithful in deeper abiding trust, and naming the privilege of living in relationship with God. In the end, each member will pray about how their financial stewardship reflects their relationship with God.

It is also true that the church and its ministry cost. The church has property to maintain, staff to employ and compensate, program material and resources to purchase, and an obligation to support the wider church in both the Nebraska Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. There is much more to say about this, but this resource is intended to be a brief introduction and invitation.

Income/year	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$70,000	\$80,000	\$90,000	\$100,000
Income/week	\$385	\$577	\$769	\$962	\$1,154	\$1,346	\$1,538	\$1,731	\$1,923
1% Yearly	\$200	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1,000
Weekly	\$4	\$6	\$8	\$10	\$12	\$13	\$15	\$17	\$19
2% Yearly	\$400	\$600	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$1,400	\$1,600	\$1,800	\$2,000
Weekly	\$8	\$12	\$15	\$19	\$23	\$27	\$31	\$35	\$38
3% Yearly	\$600	\$900	\$1,200	\$1,500	\$1,800	\$2,100	\$2,400	\$2,700	\$3,000
Weekly	\$12	\$17	\$23	\$29	\$35	\$40	\$46	\$52	\$58
4% Yearly	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,600	\$2,000	\$2,400	\$2,800	\$3,200	\$3,600	\$4,000
Weekly	\$15	\$23	\$31	\$38	\$46	\$54	\$62	\$69	\$77
5% Yearly	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$5,000
Weekly	\$19	\$29	\$38	\$48	\$58	\$67	\$77	\$87	\$96
6% Yearly	\$1,200	\$1,800	\$2,400	\$3,000	\$3,600	\$4,200	\$4,800	\$5,400	\$6,000
Weekly	\$23	\$35	\$46	\$58	\$69	\$81	\$92	\$104	\$115
7% Yearly	\$1,400	\$2,100	\$2,800	\$3,500	\$4,200	\$4,900	\$5,600	\$6,300	\$7,000
Weekly	\$27	\$40	\$54	\$67	\$81	\$94	\$108	\$121	\$135
8% Yearly	\$1,600	\$2,400	\$3,200	\$4,000	\$4,800	\$5,600	\$6,400	\$7,200	\$8,000
Weekly	\$31	\$46	\$62	\$77	\$92	\$108	\$123	\$138	\$154
9% Yearly	\$1,800	\$2,700	\$3,600	\$4,500	\$5,400	\$6,300	\$7,200	\$8,100	\$9,000
Weekly	\$35	\$52	\$69	\$87	\$104	\$121	\$138	\$156	\$173
10% Yearly	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$10,000
Weekly	\$38	\$58	\$77	\$96	\$115	\$135	\$154	\$173	\$192

How Much?

At Zion Lutheran Church, the budgeted cost of ministry averages \$1,259 per household. However, making offerings is not merely “giving to the budget”. One biblical principle is the tithe. It suggests that individuals intentionally give a percentage of their income as an offering. The goal may be a 10% tithe or more, though many may start with a smaller percentage and work toward higher percentage.

One stewardship professional says, "You cannot outgive God." Jesus says, "Where your treasure is, your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

Each member, by prayer and meditation, will develop their own stewardship plan. Above is a "Percentage Giving Chart" to assist with seeing how income and various offering commitments compare. By finding income across the top, one can follow the column down to the level of current giving to find current percentage giving. Or one can set a goal for percentage giving, and follow the row across to the annual or weekly income to find the offering that supports that goal.

One thing to note is that Zion members have the privilege of designating how much of their offering will go toward the current operating expense, toward building and property upkeep and toward Mission Share for the Nebraska Synod. Zion has made the commitment to forward \$39,372 to support Zion's Mission Share in the larger church. Please remember to indicate how each offering is to be distributed no matter what means of giving is used.

Ways to Give

Zion Lutheran Church offers at least five different ways to give.

Offering Envelopes: Each member household may receive a set of Offering Envelopes for each Sunday and holiday of the church year. By putting your check or cash in the envelope, the Financial Recording Secretary is able to keep track of giving and report it for tax purposes at the end of the year. When one is absent, offering can also be mailed.

Simply Giving: Sometimes remembering to bring an envelope, or write a check, is hard. Zion offers Simply Giving, which can automate your giving as a direct electronic withdrawal from checking or savings accounts. Stop by the office to fill out the form for this program. Changes can be made anytime by stopping by the office.

Electronic Giving: Zion Lutheran Church also offers electronic giving through Zion's website. Members can establish their own profile, including their banking information (Checking, Savings, Debit, or Credit card), and manage their own giving either as one time events or scheduled transactions on a weekly or monthly basis. This site can also be accessed through the QR code to the right using a smart phone.



Designated Crop: For those who farm, Zion Lutheran Church has an account with Cargill in Albion. When bringing in the crop, farmers can simply tell them the amount (bushels or dollar amount) to be credited to the church. Cargill will then send Zion a check for the total gifts received. This gift cannot be counted as charitable giving deduction for tax purposes, but it also reduces the farmer's income before taxes. Farmers will want to consult with their tax advisor about what is best for their tax situation.

Wills, Trusts and Estate Gifts – members of Zion have included Zion Lutheran and the Zion Lutheran Endowment Fund with gifts from their estates. If you also wish to support Zion from your estate, you can name the Zion Lutheran Endowment Fund as a beneficiary of a percentage or all of a life insurance policy, retirement account or with a specific percentage or remainder bequest in your Will or Trust. Ask your professional advisor how to make a gift or use our congregation's gift planning assistants: Lutheran Planned Giving Services ([click here](#)).

Thank You

Zion Lutheran Church is grateful for the many ways that members make offerings of their time, their talents and their treasure. Thank you for the ways you participate in Zion's shared ministry. There is so much ministry that happens because of contributions, small or large by members of Zion. Thank you so very much.