

February 2007 Link Article

Endowment

"Before you go to your heavenly home, help your church home also live forever." Honoring the past and the future 100 years 1903 ~ 2003 Christ's Lutheran Church's Endowment Fund. An endowment fund is an important part of the financial structure for organizations that expect to exist for a long period of years. Certainly our church meets that definition — we've already had, and we hope to continue, a long, successful existence. The endowment fund is probably the least frequently addressed of the various sources of funds that support our church's operation and mission, and, therefore, it's likely the least understood. We're quite familiar with the other funds to which we contribute our resources, such as the weekly envelopes, the memorial funds, the capital campaign fund, and special project funds to support youth trips, social needs in our community, or world-wide catastrophes. With each of these funds, our gifts are expended for specific uses after they've been contributed to the church. In the case of the endowment fund, contributed gifts are not expended. Instead, they are invested and only the income earned from this investment is available for expenditure. That expenditure may be used in ways that will enhance the mission of the church — whether it serve our church directly, our community, or worldwide needs. The most recent example was using income earned from the investment of our endowment fund to supplement the generous donor gift for our church elevator. Because the gift principal of the endowment fund is itself not expended, income continues to be generated year after year after year. This is why, in today's society, most social service, educational, and other non-profit organizations have established endowment funds. Gifts remain invested and income is generated year after year. We each have an opportunity to create a personal legacy to the continued mission of Christ's Church now and beyond our lifetime. Only you and your family can determine what is proper for you and when!

Beginning in February 2007, members of our congregation will receive a new envelope included with your bi-monthly packet of church envelopes. The new envelope is labeled "Endowment Fund". You are welcome to use this envelope at any time that you or your family desire to contribute to our church's Endowment Fund. All gifts, however large or small, will add value to our Endowment Fund and provide income for the church's use year after year. Consider joining others in our congregation who are contributing to this fund, whenever it is appropriate for you. Thank You!!