



Oregon Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's Work. Our Hands

Legacy Donations from Congregations

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Jerimiah 29:11

Dear partners in ministry,

Bless you as you engage in the difficult and important work of discerning next steps for your church in these challenging times. Creating congregational legacy gifts can ensure the continuation of your congregation's ministry and God's unique work through you in the world for years to come.

The Oregon Synod would like to work with you to help you determine the best way to continue your legacy in Christ. Please call the Office of the Bishop to talk more, and work with your congregational council and transition consultant to discern the most appropriate way your ministry can continue.

Here is my guidance if your faith community discerns the most faithful steps are Holy Closure and selling the building:

Consider giving 35% to local organizations you've partnered with in the past who will continue your mission, witness and legacy in your town or city. Prayerfully consider giving at least 10% to the local indigenous community who once stewarded the land under and around your facility, whether through the Oregon Synod Relationship and Repair Fund or some other organization working for Land Back movement. Offer 1% to the Region 1 Archives to archive your church's history and life together. A gift of the remaining 54% to the Oregon Synod supports the vital work of Oregon congregations and helps create new, creative congregations which can be there for faith and community in Christ for our children and grandchildren and our neighbors' children and grandchildren.

Thank you for the faith-filled ways you and your congregation have lived out Christ's love for decades. As you prayerfully discern faithful stewardship of your resources, you hold in

your hands powerful seeds to continue to grow Christ's resurrecting love for the world. Your generosity will enable your faith to live on, grow tall and bear fruit for generations.

In Christ, 

Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar, Oregon Synod, ELCA

Funds to Support within the Oregon Synod

- 1. Mission Support:** the most powerful fund fueling the work of the synod, as together we support the ongoing gospel work of congregations, vital campus ministries and generous social institutions in the synod. Gifts to this fund enable the staff and volunteers of the Bishop's Office to walk with congregations and the churchwide organization into increased faithfulness, courage and capacity for grace-filled ministry in communities across the state.
- 2. Courageous Love Fund:** invests and nurtures innovation and vitality within the synod - in existing congregations, mission starts, and others. This fund is aimed at strengthening overall health in Oregon and Oregon Lutheran communities, nurturing vitality and capacity, increasing neighborhood engagement, and joy in living out the Gospel of Jesus with boldness and grace.
- 3. Biblical and Theological Engagement:** activates faithful inquiry into Christian discipleship through continuing education programs for all people, lay or ordained, interested in developing their knowledge of their own faith, Holy Scripture, religious history, spiritual practices, interfaith relation and more.
- 4. Racial Equity and Repair Fund:** acknowledges that the congregational land we've been inhabiting here in Oregon was once occupied by thriving indigenous communities and sometimes other marginalized populations as well. The fund will work to build capacity for the necessary work of reconciliation and repair with our neighbors who are Black, Indigenous or Persons of Color. Funds will be dispersed through recommendation from the Bishop, in consultation with related teams and synod tables, and through the confirmation of the Synod Council.
- 5. Oregon Synod Endowment Fund:** a small, but impactful fund whose interest and dividends feed three key, life-giving grant categories: seminary students, creative ministry in congregations and programs for children in need in the neighborhood.