

DR Endowment Fund Frequently Asked Questions

What is an endowment fund?

Endowment funds are defined as investment funds established for the purpose of supporting a charitable foundation or non-profit organization. Typically funded through donations, they are normally structured in a way that ensures the fund's initial capital remains intact, meaning only an endowment fund's income can be withdrawn to fund the organization's objectives.

What is the Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church & School Ministry Endowment Fund?

The DR Ministry Endowment Fund is a permanent fund established to offer DR's members and friends the opportunity to leave a legacy of faith for future generations. It is intended to enhance the church and school ministry and witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ. Gifts to the Endowment Fund become a part of a perpetual fund with earnings used to expand and enrich the mission and ministry of Divine Redeemer Church and School. The Fund is built entirely upon the vision and generosity of DR's members and is totally separate from the church and school's annual operating budget and building funds. Available funds are distributed to support projects that are above and beyond normal budgeted items.

What is the mission/objective of the DR Ministry Endowment Fund?

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to receive and manage gifts and bequests that will advance Divine Redeemer's mission over an extended period of time. This is a separate fund that will support ministry activities beyond the congregation's general offering or capital campaigns and only within specific areas.

Does a gift to the Ministry Endowment Fund replace my regular stewardship giving?

A donation to the DR Ministry Endowment Fund is fundamentally different from other contributions to our church and its ministries. The weekly Stewardship donations help to fund DR's ongoing operations. Your donation to our Ministry Endowment Fund, however, is not immediately spent. It is left to grow to make possible annual distributions from the investment income. These annual distributions from Endowment Fund income will help to enhance and complement our core ministry for many years and serve as a source of stability in our funding sources.

Why should I consider giving to the Ministry Endowment Fund?

A gift to the Ministry Endowment Fund is one way you can help ensure the mission of the church and school will grow and be carried into the future and that those who follow you will be served for generations to come. Your gift creates a lasting legacy of your stewardship and a more stable financial environment for the church and school. Additionally, there may be meaningful tax and estate planning advantages available to donors to the Ministry Endowment Fund. You are encouraged to consult with your attorney and tax professional about these matters.

How can I give to the Endowment Fund?

All gifts are welcomed; there is no minimum gift. Every gift increases the earning power and cumulative impact of the Fund. Gifts generally fall into three categories: Gifts Now, Gifts that Pay Income, and Gifts Later.

Gifts Now	Gifts that Pay Income	Gifts Later
Direct Gifts of Cash, Stocks, Bonds	Charitable Gift Annuity	Bequest (Wills)
Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)	Charitable Pooled Income Funds	Retirement Plan Assets
Real Estate	Charitable Remainder Trust	Bank or Investment Account
Life Insurance	Charitable Lead Trust	

Is the Endowment Fund limited to only Divine Redeemer members or could others donate to the fund?

We will be honored and grateful to receive gifts from members and non-members.

What is the difference between a planned gift and a deferred gift?

A planned gift can be a current or a deferred gift.

A deferred gift essentially means that the Church and/or the Foundation will not receive the benefits of the gift until sometime in the future.

Planned Gifts are generally made from one's accumulated assets in a carefully considered manner and in an amount that expresses one's commitment, but does not impair the family's financial wellbeing. This means giving at the appropriate time, considering

personal and family requirements, the church's needs, and tax considerations. It also involves deciding on the best asset to give whether it is in the form of securities, bonds, mutual funds, real estate, or cash.

At a basic level, deferred giving means writing a will and including the church, and it may also include a gift of stocks, bonds or real estate made in a way that provides life income and/or immediate tax benefits.

How can I contribute an endowment gift as part of my estate planning?

There are a variety of estate and legacy planning options for those who have a charitable intent. There are many tools and vehicles for this purpose, but it doesn't have to be complicated. For instance, asking your insurance agent to adjust the beneficiary of your life insurance policy to include a modest percentage for Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will make an impact while still providing for family or the primary beneficiary. You could also place a portion of your IRA or 401K investments into a separate account and designate the endowment as primary beneficiary.

When and How Should I Write a Will?

As soon as you have something to leave to others. Whatever you leave becomes someone's inheritance. In time family, friends, your church or your favorite charity can be blessed by the thoughtful planning you have done. Professional help is available via any of the Christian attorneys listed on our web landing page or any other qualified estate attorney of your choosing. Wills and trusts can also be created via online services such as Trust and Will or LegalZoom.

When Should I Plan a Gift for the Church?

"Each of you must give as you have made up your own mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

– II Corinthians 9:7

As faithful stewards, we are to offer our time, talents and treasures for God's service in response to the grace he is extending to us through Jesus Christ. Sharing of our treasures includes three dimensions that should be considered and prayed about on a continual basis:

- Today Giving, where we give regularly to support the operations of the Church,
- Tomorrow Giving, which focuses on special needs to expand facilities or programs that need extraordinary support to meet growing and changing ministry needs,
- and Eternity Giving, where we give to support the ministry for multiple generations, including when we are enjoying eternity with God.

The Endowment Fund is the vehicle for Eternity Giving.

Can gifts to the Endowment Fund be given in honor or memory of someone or to mark a special occasion?

Yes. A gift to the Ministry Endowment Fund in the name of a family member or friend is a meaningful way to memorialize or honor someone you love. Any occasion (birthday, anniversary, birth of a child, etc.) can be remembered and celebrated by a gift to the Ministry Endowment Fund.

Are endowment contributions to the DR Ministry Endowment Fund tax deductible?

Yes.

Is there a minimum gift amount required to contribute to the DR Ministry Endowment Fund?

No. Gifts of all sizes and most types are welcomed and important.

Can I designate how my gift can be used?

Designations can be made for contributions of \$50,000 or more. These funds will be included and tracked separately as restricted funds.

For designated gifts, does the initial gift have to be held with only the income available to support the designated purpose or can the entire amount be used for that purpose?

You have the flexibility to specify either, or other conditions as you deem appropriate.

How do I make a gift to the Endowment Fund?

Write a check to Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church, and write "Endowment Fund" on the "For" line of the check. Or, you may contact Pastor Seth, or a member of the Endowment Fund Committee to discuss the best way to for you to give. Committee members are listed at the bottom of our website landing page.

What is The Legacy Circle

The Legacy Circle was established in late 2018 to encourage and recognize those who have graciously included Divine Redeemer in their will, estate plan, or other planned giving program ("Legacy Gift"). A Legacy Tree display in the church narthex includes the names

of individuals/families and anonymous enrollees in the Legacy Circle. The enrollment process involves a simple one page form and no other documentation or description of the intended Legacy Gift is required. There is no minimum size requirement for the future gift. The enrollment form includes a checkbox to indicate that the enrollee does not wish to have their name displayed and will instead appear on the Legacy Tree as anonymous. Enrollment Forms are available and [as a downloadable PDF on this web landing page.](#)

Am I required to tell the church the current value of the intended gift, and do I retain the right to withdraw my bequest at any time as circumstances warrant?

We ask you to complete the Legacy Circle Enrollment form and submit it to the church office. The form does NOT ask you to specify a future gift amount or type. In addition and assuming you have not already taken the tax deduction for a “Lifetime Gift” (a “gift now” or “gift that pays income”) but rather made a bequest (for a gift upon death), you have the right to withdraw your intended gift and Legacy Circle membership at any time for any reason prior to the effectuation of your bequest.

Will my gift remain confidential?

All gifts or donations to the Ministry Endowment Fund are treated with strict confidentiality. No information about your gift will be divulged without your expressed permission. If you are considering a memorial or honorary gift, the family or individual will be notified of the gift if you so desire. A thank you letter will be sent to you from the church expressing gratitude for your generosity and can be used as proof of charitable giving for tax deduction purposes. The Ministry Endowment Fund Committee will recognize new Legacy Circle members on the plaque in the narthex, through church publications or at events; however, if you wish to remain anonymous, your wishes will be honored.

Who manages the DR Ministry Endowment Fund, and how do I know that my donation is being properly used?

The Endowment Fund Committee, consisting of board appointed members of this congregation, are responsible for the management of and investment of the funds donated to DR's Ministry Endowment Fund. The Ministry Endowment Fund is invested through the LCMS Foundation. The Endowment Fund Committee meets regularly to review fund performance, and to conduct other business associated with the Ministry Endowment Fund. Endowment Fund Committee members are appointed to the Endowment Fund Committee for three year terms. The ultimate use of unrestricted funds is approved by the board of directors, with the DR staff and Endowment Committee providing recommendations consistent with fund guidelines and contributor intentions.

How do I find out more information about the Endowment Fund?

Information is available at DRLC.org/Ministry Endowment Fund, or you may contact the church office at 262-367-8400 and they will connect you with Pastor Seth or a member of

the Endowment Committee. *May God guide you as you seek to serve Him with all that He has given you!*