

STEWARDSHIP Q&A



What is stewardship?

Stewardship means wisely caring for something that belongs to someone else. The Bible calls us stewards of God's creation. That means everything in creation belongs to God, not us, and we are called to take care of those things for God and to wisely use those gifts. In Christ, we are all shaped to be stewards.

What is Annual Stewardship?

Each fall, we have a season of stewardship to invite members and friends of First Lutheran to make a financial pledge for the next year's annual operating budget.

When do I start giving?

First Lutheran is asking you to make a pledge or commitment for 2025. In other words, by pledging, you are letting the church know what you plan to give during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025.

What is a pledge?

An annual pledge is a commitment in faith to give to the church's annual operating budget in the coming year (in this case for 2025). Your pledge helps us know what to expect in our budget and plan our ministry year.

Who should pledge?

EVERYONE! Whether you're new to the congregation or a longtime member, whether you worship online or in-person, you are called to pledge!

If you have never pledged before, now is the time to start!

Every gift matters at First Lutheran and makes an impact on our mission and ministry. So, yes, even a pledge of \$1 a week matters and helps us meet our goal of seeing new pledgers this year. *Every* gift impacts our ministry and mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

If this will be your first time pledging, consider starting with a percentage of your total household income, whether that's 5%, 3% or 1%.

How much should I give?

First Lutheran encourages our members to use the biblical standard of the tithe (10% of annual income). Most Christians don't start at 10% but choose a starting percentage point, such as 0.5% or 2% of their annual income, and then work to increase that percentage year by year. Of course, this is

a decision for each household to reach prayerfully. Our goal is to see each member giving in faith, in gratitude, and in love.

If you are a return pledger, now is the time to consider increasing your pledge.

We encourage you to consider starting with the percentage of your income you currently pledge and then consider increasing that by one percentage point. Reflect on the level you currently give at (e.g. 5% of your total household income) and consider increasing that by 1%.

Use this chart to help determine where your current giving lands as a percentage of your income and how you might increase that giving in 2025:

Annual Giving

Annual Income	1%	3%	5%	7%	10%
\$10,000	\$100	\$300	\$500	\$700	\$1,000
\$20,000	\$150	\$450	\$750	\$1,050	\$1,500
\$30,000	\$300	\$900	\$1,500	\$2,100	\$3,000
\$40,000	\$400	\$1,200	\$2,000	\$2,800	\$4,000
\$50,000	\$500	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,000
\$60,000	\$600	\$1,800	\$3,000	\$4,200	\$6,000
\$70,000	\$700	\$2,100	\$3,500	\$4,900	\$7,000
\$80,000	\$800	\$2,400	\$4,000	\$5,600	\$8,000
\$90,000	\$900	\$2,700	\$4,500	\$6,300	\$9,000
\$100,000	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$10,000
\$150,000	\$1,500	\$4,500	\$7,500	\$10,500	\$15,000
\$200,000	\$2,000	\$6,000	\$10,000	\$14,000	\$20,000
\$250,000	\$2,500	\$7,500	\$12,500	\$17,500	\$25,000

When I make a pledge, what will the money be used for?

These gifts go toward the church's operating budget. This includes all the expenses of day-to-day ministry at First Lutheran including worship expenses, local and global outreach (local, synod, and global benevolence), youth and family ministry, utilities, maintenance of our building and grounds and salaries for clergy and staff who make our ministries happen.

Why are we talking about money?

We address Stewardship in a focused way for four weeks each year. For Christians, money is not secret or off-limits. It belongs to God. Jesus talked about it a lot. We don't do high-pressure talks but we want to be always willing to talk about it.

How can I submit my pledge?

Online at flclincoln.org/stewardship (our preferred way to receive your pledge), by scanning the QR code below with your smartphone camera or via the physical pledge card you will find included in your stewardship packet. Pledge cards may be returned in the offering plate, via mail or at the church office.



How do I make my gifts?

There are several ways:

1. Give securely online. Go to <https://flclincoln.org/give> or scan the QR code with your smartphone camera.
2. Set up a recurring gift using your bank's online bill pay service.
3. Set up Simply Giving automatic withdrawal from your bank account by contacting Wyatt Swanson at wyatt@flclincoln.org for the authorization form.
4. Mail or drop off a check to the church office.
5. Place a check or cash (use a Giving envelope) in the offering plate at any of our services.
6. Prepay for the entire year by contacting our accountant Wyatt Swanson at wyatt@flclincoln.org.

