

What is an Endowment Fund?

An endowment fund is a perpetual fund in which only the income is used.

Donations are pooled together and invested to generate income. The original donation, known as the principle, remains invested year after year. The income, such as interest, is used annually in accordance with the Fund bylaws.

How does this differ from the Memorial Fund?

A donation to the Memorial Fund is normally spent right away for its intended purpose.

Donations where an immediate benefit is desired are more suitable for the Memorial Fund. Donations where a longer-term benefit is desired are often more suitable for the Endowment Fund.

What kinds of donations can be made to the Endowment Fund?

Some common types of gifts include:

- Will bequests
- Cash donations
- Stocks or bonds
- Life insurance
- Certificates of Deposit
- Real Estate

Many donations also have tax benefits. Small gifts as well as larger gifts may be donated to the Endowment Fund.



2000 National Youth Gathering. Courtesy ELCA

How may the Endowment Fund income be used?

Some items the income might be used for, in accordance with Fund bylaws, include:

- Youth attending national gatherings
- Grants to students attending ELCA seminaries
- Outreach and mission programs locally and globally
- Capital improvement or building programs at Trinity



Malawi church dedication.

Courtesy Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

"...it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance."
2 Cor 8:13-14

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