

ENGLISH DISTRICT

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

33100 Freedom Road † Farmington, Michigan 48336-4030 † (248) 476-0039



M E M O R A N D U M

Date: September 5, 2017

To: English District – LCMS Congregations
Pastors and Treasurers

Subject: Congregational Commitment for Fiscal Year 2018

Our work together in Christ's Church has been fruitful and blessed by the Lord. Thank you for your faithful commitment and sacrificial giving from last year. Because of your faithful stewardship, new congregations, ministries, and schools have been started and expanded. People who had been walking in darkness are now living with the joy of Easter resurrection in their lives.

The district uses its resources to support congregations, schools, and ministries to serve the Lord as they love their neighbors as themselves. In 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, the apostle Paul writes about the Macedonian churches. He acknowledges their generosity which resulted from the grace that God had given them. But in verse 5 he identifies what they did first, and it is key: *"They gave themselves first to the Lord, and then to us in keeping with God's will."* With overwhelming joy, we thank God for your work and the care you provide God's people in your local setting.

The English District encourages all of our congregations to give something, whatever amount it may be, to the work of the church through giving to the District. We know that in your local congregation, your congregants support your ministry with their tithes and offerings. We seek to lead by example with faithful stewardship and dedicated support for all congregations and ministries in the USA and Canada.

"Loving your neighbor as yourself" starts with an external focus seeking the wellbeing of others. That focus allows us to seek the wellbeing and care for our neighbors and those whom we love. Through your gifts, we at the District will remain committed to showing the Love of Jesus in our deeds. Our prayer is that your 2018 Congregational Commitment, whatever it may be, will come after you first give yourselves to the Lord and then seek to support your neighbors in their needs.

Please return a copy of the enclosed form to the district office, by December 15, 2017. Keep a copy for your records. ***By indicating the dates of your fiscal year, you will assist us to know better what to expect in the way of receipts for the district's budget year which runs from February 1 through January 31.***

Thank you for your commitment to "love your neighbor as yourself," and may God bless your efforts to carry out His will.

Declaration of Commitment

To: Board of Directors of the English District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod

From: _____
(Church Name)
of _____
(City) (State/Province)

In order to support the proclamation of the Gospel through ongoing ministries of **national and worldwide mission projects** of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, and

ongoing ministries and services of the **English District in Mission Development, Human Care, Christian Education, Youth Ministry, Family Life, and Stewardship;**

and, with a commitment to our common mission responsibilities, and after prayerful consideration, it is the intention of our congregation to commit the following:

\$ _____ or _____ % of our congregational income for the 2018 calendar year. (If pledging a percentage, please indicate what you expect your annual income to be: \$ _____.)

Our fiscal year runs from _____ to _____.
Month/Day/Year Month/Day/Year

Please check all boxes below in which your congregation will also prayerfully consider increasing your offerings for the Lord's work through the English District - LCMS:

- Build a dollar and percentage increase into your church's budget for next year.
- Utilize District materials such as the Servant to Servant, letters, bulletin inserts and appeals that tell the mission stories of the District.
- Develop a "spiritualized budget" that prioritizes "proclaiming the Gospel throughout the world" (missions) and make a first fruits commitment to a monthly mission contribution.
- Make use of LCEF's Consecrated Steward's stewardship material.

PASTOR

TREASURER

Tan: DISTRICT COPY

White: CONGREGATION'S COPY

**** FOR BUDGETARY PURPOSES ONLY ****

English District-LCMS ☩ 33100 Freedom Road ☩ Farmington, Michigan 48336-4030