

Benevolence Fund

This fund is a budgeted expense fund to support specific organizations. (Tanzania, ELCA, Tecate Orphanage etc.) Our gifts to General Giving will not affect what is supported, and our support could possibly increase by using gifts that are not designated specifically to other funds.

Capital Fund

This fund was created to raise money for furnace replacements and other projects for our building that were necessary. We currently have over \$96,000 in our Capital Fund, which is plenty to finish the furnace project and other smaller projects. Large projects like a new roof or parking lot are too big to save for. When we are ready to do these projects we will take out equity loans to pay for them and manage the payments through General Giving. Rent from Neighbors Helping Neighbors, which is \$8,400 a year, will continue to go into the Capital Fund.

Cash Reserve Fund

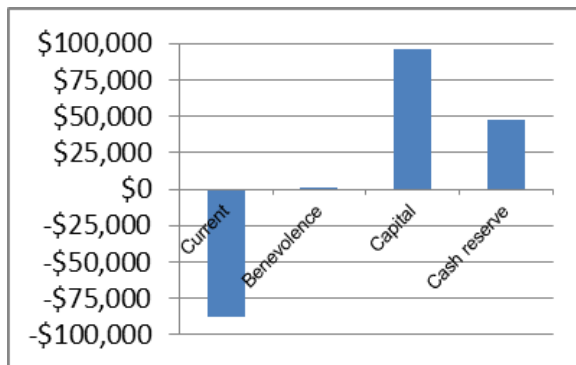
This fund was created to be a buffer when the Current (Operating) Fund was negative. It was set up by a 3-year fundraising campaign at a time when the economy was robust. After 4 ½ years the fund has realized only half of what we had hoped to raise. We will keep this fund as a buffer but in the present economy we need to suspend the growth of this fund and use giving money elsewhere. When we are back on track we will fund this reserve account through General Giving.

Single Pledge To General Giving

Why do we ask for a single statement of intent to support General Giving? Why a “single bucket” when we still have separate funds to support? The answer is that it frees us to support funds as needed and to spend based on priority. The priority will be:

Current (Operating) Fund

This is the fund for bills that must be paid regularly and includes salaries, utilities, insurance, etc. This fund has always fallen into deficit most of the year because giving to the fund was less than expenses. With the Current Fund in a deficit, our bills were paid by “borrowing” temporarily from the surpluses of our capital and cash reserve funds. As an example, our 3rd quarter 2023 finances were:



We had enough “cash” to pay Current Fund bills, but only because capital and cash reserve funds were depleted to cover the deficit.

General Giving

Thus, General Giving allows us to support four funds without reporting deficits, providing our gifts in 2024 provide enough cash to pay all expenses.



Special Designated Funds

These funds will remain unchanged and will not fall under General Giving.



Grow In Generosity

To make this new approach to stewardship gifting work, we ask that your intended gift to 2024 ministries be equal to or greater than the sum of your gifts to four separate funds last year. However, even with this new approach, we need for our congregation's overall generosity to grow.

Please give prayerful consideration to increasing your financial gift to our ministries in 2024. We ask that you "step up" your giving. The following graphic may help your decision.

Will you take one step up in 2024?

Find where you are on the chart and consider what a single step up would be. Example: if you currently are giving at the 5th step with a gift of \$ 30 per week, then a step to the next level would be a gift to General Giving of \$40 per week. This growth in generosity would make a great difference to our 2024 mission. And if all our members were to take single steps upward, we would witness a profound growth in the generosity of our Christian family and in St. Stephen ministries.

Thank you for being good stewards of St. Stephen ministries.

A REVEALING BREAKDOWN OF OUR CONGREGATION'S GIVING PATTERNS

FIND WHERE YOU ARE ON THIS CHART (your weekly giving)



ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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White Bear Lake, MN 55110 651-777-1107



Welcome To Stewardship 2024

Your Intent Card for your pledge to support St Stephen ministries in 2024 accompanies this brochure, which explains its use.

Our 2024 stewardship campaign has three goals.

- ◆ One is to ask members to join in our newfound Culture of Generosity by raising their gift to St. Stephen ministries in 2024.
- ◆ Two, we wish for all our members to use this Intent Card, not as a promise but as a statement of their intent to give to the success of our ministries.
- ◆ And, three, we want our members to understand and accept how their gift is to be used. That their statement of intent is a single amount to General Giving, and not to four separate funds as was done in the past. We call this "a single bucket" approach to giving. This brochure explains how it will work and what we're asking you to do to support it.