

WITTENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH

HISTORY

In 1870, the Reverend Samuel Bouknight conducted the first worship service of Luther Chapel, later to be named Wittenberg, on property that would eventually become the business district of Leesville. Gathering spring foliage from the surrounding forest, several Leesville families constructed a brush arbor to function as an outdoor sanctuary. Come rain or shine, at least for a few months, Leesville Lutherans worshipped in an open-air manner. Later, Wittenberg Lutheran Church would settle on a permanent site on a parcel of land located on Lee Street, Leesville.

Today, Wittenberg Lutheran Church is a thriving congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. From food pantry to pre-school ministries, Wittenberg continues to serve as the hands and feet of Christ among God's people living in the Midlands of South Carolina.

MISSION STATEMENT

Wittenberg Lutheran Church is united by Christ in baptism; fed through worship, learning, and fellowship; and sent out to care for the needs of our members, community, and the world.

VISION STATEMENT

Gathered in Baptism. Fed by Worship. Sent out as Servants.

ABOUT THE FUND

The Endowment Fund of Wittenberg Lutheran Church was established in 2011 with the sole purpose of enhancing the mission outreach of the church apart from the general operation of the congregation.

Initially funded by an estate gift, this fund is held in perpetuity, invested to maximize returns, and is expected to generate income sufficient to provide a stable, additional funding source for outreach and ministries to our community and beyond.

The intent of the fund is to maintain the principal and use the income from the principal to fund additional ministries of Wittenberg Lutheran Church.

It is the desire of Wittenberg Lutheran Church to encourage, receive, and administer gifts to the Endowment in a manner consistent with the loyalty and devotion to our Lord expressed by the donors and in accord with the policies of this congregation.

This brochure is not intended to give investment, estate, or tax planning advice. We suggest consulting a professional in these areas before making specific plans.



Wittenberg
Lutheran Church

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Visit our web site: wittenbergleesville.org

The Endowment Fund of Wittenberg Lutheran Church



*Providing additional resources to support and
enhance outreach and ministries of
Wittenberg Lutheran Church*

The Endowment Fund of Wittenberg Lutheran Church is one of many ways to contribute to the ministry of Wittenberg. Information in this brochure is an introduction to the Endowment Fund. If you would like more information or if you would like to speak to a member of the Endowment Committee, please contact the office at (803) 532-4636 or e-mail: wittenberg@pbtcomm.net.

WE OFFER WITH JOY AND THANKSGIVING WHAT GOD HAS FIRST GIVEN US — OUR SELVES, OUR TIME, AND OUR POSSESSIONS, SIGNS OF HIS GRACIOUS LOVE.

ENDOWMENT MISSION STATEMENT

To provide additional resources to support and enhance ministries of Wittenberg Lutheran Church.

WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT?

An endowment fund is historically described as a fund where the principal is held in perpetuity. These assets are expected to generate income to provide an additional funding source for the church. These permanently restricted funds are generally established by bequests or gifts from individuals or estates.

HOW IS AN ENDOWMENT BENEFICIAL TO WITTENBERG?

The Endowment benefits Wittenberg Lutheran Church by providing additional funds for a specified purpose (e.g., a special ministry) without utilizing regular offerings. Normally, these funds would not be available without the endowment mechanism.

WHO MANAGES THE WLC ENDOWMENT FUND?

The Endowment is managed by the Wittenberg Endowment Committee. This committee is composed of members of Wittenberg Lutheran Church and includes members of the Stewardship & Finance Committee as well as members of the Congregation Council.

HOW IS AN ENDOWMENT FUNDED?

The Endowment operates separately from the general offering and building fund since it is funded by special gifts as well as designated gifts.

The Endowment is not intended to compete with regular offerings. Gifts to the Endowment come primarily from wills and estates. However, some members may wish to contribute to the Endowment at regular intervals in addition to their regular offerings.

HOW ARE ENDOWMENT FUNDS INVESTED?

The committee will seek advice and direction from investment professionals in order to achieve the greatest growth possible from the Wittenberg Endowment Funds. These funds will be conservatively invested to achieve the greatest growth potential.

HOW ARE FUNDS DISTRIBUTED?

At the discretion of the Endowment Committee, funds may be distributed on an annual basis to support the mission of Wittenberg Lutheran Church in accordance with the bylaws of the Endowment Fund. Funds will be distributed via an application process which shall be reviewed and recommended by the Endowment Committee to Congregation Council for final approval.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT THE WITTENBERG ENDOWMENT?

You can support the Endowment by specifying that a portion of your estate be given to the Endowment Fund of Wittenberg Lutheran Church when your estate is settled. You can also contribute to the Endowment at any time by giving cash, securities, or property to Wittenberg and designating the gift for the Endowment.

SUMMARY OF PLANNED GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

(SUBJECT TO PREVAILING LAWS AND IRS REGULATIONS)

WILL

- Assets can be left to ministry through a will
- Can be a specific asset, fixed amount, or a percentage of the estate
- Can name the Endowment Fund of Wittenberg Lutheran Church as beneficiary

RETIREMENT FUNDS

- Can be left to ministry as a primary beneficiary, secondary beneficiary, or remainder beneficiary
- Can donate required minimum distribution from IRA directly to ministry
- Donation may have tax advantages

LIFE INSURANCE

- Paid up policy – ministry can be named as owner and beneficiary, and donor may receive an income tax deduction for premiums paid
- New policy or policy that donor is still making payments on – ministry can be named owner and beneficiary, and donor may receive an income tax deduction for premiums they have already made and future premiums

STOCKS, BONDS, MUTUAL FUNDS, CDs, CHECKING ACCOUNTS

- Ministry can be named joint owner, payable on death or transfer on death beneficiary

LIFE INCOME AGREEMENTS

- Trusts and annuities that pay donor an income for life and/or number of years and the balance is given to ministry