

What is Pledging?

Pledging is an important way to express a commitment of the total amount of money you plan to give to Esperanza over the next year.



Why Should I Pledge?

Although we are grateful for all gifts to Esperanza, asking members and friends of our church to estimate their giving for next year has both a spiritual and practical basis.



Can I designate how my pledge is used by Esperanza?

We prefer that your pledge represents a general gift to the church because we are trying to support the whole of Esperanza's ministry. However, we do have special designated gifts. The Church prefers those gifts be offered in addition to pledges.



What is the money I pledge used for? How does Esperanza support ministries outside its walls?

Contributions from our members and friends fund all that we do here at Esperanza. The budget created by our Finance Committee includes funding for all of the ministries, programs, operating expenses and upkeep of buildings and grounds of our beautiful campus. We also budget money to give to service groups.

Does Esperanza receive financial support from a national or regional church body?

No. In fact Esperanza pledges 2.3% of our annual offerings to the Grand Canyon Synod of the ELCA, which, in turn, gives 54% of its annual receipts to the ELCA National Church wide Office. These funds help to pay for foreign and domestic missions, direct aid programs, seminaries, Lutheran camps, as well as administration and oversight.

How much should I pledge?

We ask members and other supporters to be generous with their pledges, considering the value of your church to you and the importance of our mission together. There is no required amount or percentage of income. Consider this passage from 2 Corinthians 9:

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. *Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver...* You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

In the passage above, Paul encourages the believers at Corinth to make up their minds ahead of time about how much they should give. This is what pledging is all about.

I receive appeals for special ministries during the year. Why is that?

As a church we are proud to support our network of Lutheran responders when emergencies arise around the globe. Special appeals for support in these cases, like youth fundraisers, are separate from your pledge.

Generosity Coaching at Esperanza – If you would like to discuss Giving & Generosity prior to making a pledge, kindly reach out to Treasurer Michael Paradise or Stewardship Committee Member Craig Peck. We can advise you and refer you to one of our Specialized Generosity Coaches depending on your question or interest for example tax smart strategies. Michaelparadise.esperanza@gmail.com 703-595-8885 and Craigpeck@gmail.com 603-290-2090.



Who knows how much I pledge?

The only people who know how much you pledge are the Financial Secretary and the Pastor. However, we are seeking a change in the constitution to allow the Treasurer to know in order to thank and work with members on giving inquiries and long-term planning.

I would like to get into the specifics of Esperanza's finances.

Office Manager, Joni Thorpe, can answer many questions; for others, she will refer you to our Treasurer or our Finance Committee.



I pledged last year. Do I need to pledge again, or will you just assume that I will continue to donate the same amount as last year?

Your pledge does not automatically renew each year. Please renew and update your pledge by completing a pledge card this year.

How do I pay my pledge?

You can pledge weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually by *credit, debit, bank account, check, or cash*; we recommend **giving online using a bank account (less fees)**. Visit Esperanza's website & click the "GIVING" button (top right of website). For information on the various giving options: <https://myesperanza.org/giving/electronic-giving/how-to-set-up-electronic-giving/> If you give through a credit or debit card, consider giving a bit extra to offset the processing fee that the church must pay. **If you are not tech savvy and still want to set up electronic giving, we can help!** Joni Thorpe can set up your electronic giving plan using a bank account. Please call Joni at the Church at 480-759-1515 on Mon, Wed and Friday mornings. **And of course, you can give by check or cash.** You may also give by making a gift of stock or of bonds. You can speak with Joni Thorpe in the office or one of our Generosity Coaches Dan or Paul Beeks to learn how to transfer those assets. Finally, Required Minimum Distributions from an IRA or 401K can offer tax benefits as well as fulfilling your pledge.

What is tithing, and should I be doing this?

Tithing is the biblical concept of giving 10% of your income back to God. A tithe is a good goal and one worth working toward. Yet many or most of us find it hard to dedicate 10% of our income for this purpose. Some people start working on a smaller percentage (for example, 5%) and plan on working their way up one percent a year. Many people find that they are able to work their way up to 10% faster than they imagined!

2021 is a puzzle for me financially. Wouldn't it be better not to pledge at all than to pledge and disappoint?

You are not alone! This is a strange year, and God still calls on us to be faithful. A pledge is a plan to share some of what God has given us. Plans must sometimes change. God knows that, Esperanza knows that. What is important about making a pledge is that it helps us grow as good stewards and to put God first in our planning. On a practical level, pledges also enable the church to adequately project our next budget year so that we can equip our ministries to their fullest capacity.

How do I pledge?

You will receive a **pledge card by mail and emailed web form** on or around November 4th. We are asking that you complete one or the other to indicate your pledge for 2021. You can submit online or return the card to the church by mail before **Pledge Sunday November 15, 2020; OR alternatively drop off in person** on Sunday November 15, 2020 (during drive by – details to come). Pledge totals will be considered by the Church Council as they finalize the 2021 budget.

What if I fell behind in my pledge? Do I receive any reminders about my pledge?

A statement is mailed out quarterly that reminds you of your pledged amount and the actual amount you have given so far.



What if I am not a member?

Of course, you are welcome to pledge if you are not a member.

What if I find out mid-year that I can't continue giving the amount I have pledged?

If your financial circumstances change and you cannot meet your pledge, of course we will understand if you have to lower your giving amount. In such a case, it would be helpful to contact the Financial Secretary to revise your pledge so that we can plan accordingly. You can always revise your pledge (including raising it!) at any time during the year by contacting the Financial Secretary.

Can I donate property other than cash, such as stock?

Yes. Please speak with Joni Thorpe, our Financial Secretary, for more details.

Can I prepay my pledge - that is, donate money by December 31, 2020 for tax (or other reasons) but have it apply toward my 2021 pledge?

Yes. You may want to consult your accountant...or one of our Generosity Coaches Dan or Paul Beeks.

Consult one of our Generosity Coaches:

Dan Beeks: danbeeks@gmail.com
Paul Beeks: beekspaul@gmail.com