

In Addition:

The Hawley Lutheran Memorial Fund

This fund is used to honor a person who has died by giving a memorial gift to the church. These gifts are administered by the church council. Special gifts and projects for the congregation are undertaken with advisement from the council in view of the needs of the church and wishes of the family.

Let God Lead As You Gather and Give



You shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground...and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

-Deuteronomy 26:2

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

-2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER

A Joyful Response to God's Love and Grace



Financial Stewardship for All Disciples

Hawley Lutheran Church

Offering Prayers

Prayer for a gift to bless others:

Offertory Scripture sentence: “Make sure you don’t take things for granted and go slack in working for the common good; share what you have with others. God takes particular pleasure in acts of worship –a different kind of “sacrifice” - that takes place in kitchen and workplace and on the streets.”

-Hebrews 13:15-16; *The Message*, by Eugene Peterson

Prayers of dedication: Great God of love, from the abundance of gifts given us we take now and offer these gifts in gratitude. Take them; use them again to bring life and love. Money from our lives given back to you, enable caring hands, understanding smiles, and warm embraces of compassion. Amen

Eternal One, for the work of our hands and our minds we have been paid with money. We offer this money now to you. Bless it, and through the mission and ministry of this church make it into a blessing for others. Amen

God whose giving knows no ending, may our ending be while giving love to you and neighbor too. Amen

Lord and God, here is our offering. Teach us to distribute it wisely in your name, for your purposes, and with celebrating hearts. Amen

Step Three Long Range Giving

We at Hawley Lutheran have the opportunity to make gifts to the church that will continue to give for years to come. **Long Range Giving** is more commonly known as an Endowment Fund. Here your gift itself is preserved and only the interest is used until the fund reaches a certain amount.

The Hawley Lutheran Church Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund is managed by its committee which consists of five voting Disciples of the congregation and elected at the annual meeting to three year terms in such a way that one or two Disciples are elected each year. The constitution has set up strict guide lines as to how this Fund is to be operated. No money may be expended from the fund until the fund’s year end market value exceeds \$25,000.00. No funds shall be distributed without recommendation from the committee and ratification of that recommendation by a majority vote of the Vision Council.

The interest income from the Endowment Funds is dispersed by an elected Board of Directors of Hawley Lutheran Church disciples, guided by constitutional provisions and mission goals as set forth in church policies established by the Vision Council.

B. Hunger Program

We are committed to helping feed the hungry in our community and across the world. Opportunities exist to volunteer time and give money to the REACH Food Pantry and the REACH Backpack program which provide food for adults and children who live in or around Hawley and Feed My Starving Children which provides food to the hungry around the world.

C. Special Projects

A variety of special project opportunities are always available for your support. Annually we participate in Operation Christmas Child and the REACH Giving Tree to provide Christmas gifts to children internationally and locally who would not receive gifts without our help. On a monthly basis there is an opportunity to volunteer a couple of hours of your time and to provide financial support to the Churches United for the Homeless Birthday Bash so that people who are homeless can experience some fun and joy in a time of birthday celebration.

D. Fulfilling the Vision

As our ongoing building fund Fulfilling the Vision funds are used for approved projects to make major repairs, improvements, and purchases for our church facilities that are not included in the annual general fund budget. Examples of projects that have been paid for by Fulfilling the Vision in the past are the new metal roof on the church, a new sound system, major repair of the organ, and pew cushion replacement. As the structural, mechanical, and electrical systems of the church continue to age financial support of Fulfilling the Vision will need to continue and provides an opportunity for weekly, monthly, or annual giving.

Hawley Lutheran Church

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Dear Members and Friends of Hawley Lutheran Church,

“ The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

2 Corinthians 9:6

Christian stewardship begins with the awareness of God in relation to ourselves and life in general. When we put God first, and over everything else in this world of possessions, wealth, and temptations, we can then understand that life itself, is a gift! We are merely stewards or managers of the gifts God has given us.

Christian stewards are people who realize God blesses them in many ways. It starts with the attitude and understanding that everything we have has first been given to us from above. Generosity flows from such an attitude and sharing our time, talents, and financial resources becomes a lifelong commitment.

“Everyone should give according to what they have decided in their heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

Stewards can give thanks to God by how they use their gifts of life and by the gifts that they share. Those gifts may include your talents, your volunteer time, and your offering envelopes! We hope you will find the brochure useful in leading you to a joyful response to God’s love and grace here at Hawley Lutheran Church.

Sincerely,

HLC Stewardship Committee

A Joyful Response to God's Love and Grace

Hawley Lutheran Church mission is: As children of God, we invite all people to journey with us as we worship, grow in faith and serve in Jesus' name.

Financial Stewardship for all Disciples

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the father....” James 1:17

The Scriptures teach that every thing we have—all of life—comes from God. God is the first giver. God has given all that God has for the world. “*God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...*” God has entrusted each one of us with many blessings and resources for the living of life.

Our Joyful Response

Our response to God's great gift is the response of Christian stewardship. One definition states that a steward is a person who manages the affairs of a household or an estate for the owner. In the Christian sense, a steward is the manager of God's affairs on earth. God has made each of us a steward and has given abilities, talents and resources unique to each of us to use in the work of managing affairs.

In thankfulness to God for all that we are given, we share a portion of these gifts by giving our abilities, talents and resources back to the Lord.

4. **Tithing** Genesis 28:20-22; Deuteronomy 14:2; Malachi 3:10

With proportionate giving in mind and heart, challenge yourself to become a tither. Offer the first 10% to God's work through his church. This significant act of faith will be a blessing for you.

Step Two

Over and Above Giving (“Extra Mile”)

Over and Above Giving goes beyond our regular giving and provides an opportunity to do more for others out of our thankfulness to God. **Over and Above Giving** allows us to meet the special needs of people, programs and institutions of the church that are not a part of the regular church budget.

This type of giving also allows us choice and flexibility in our giving. We need not support everything nor give to all. But we are provided the opportunity to help with important causes so that we may share the additional blessings we have with others.

These Opportunities Include:

A. Special Offerings

Throughout the year the congregation responds to a special need with an offering. We have raised money for families facing financial hardship because of a severe illness, for those in our community who are hungry, for youth mission trips, for support of the LCMC churches in Nicaragua, and to provide scholarships to children wanting to attend summer Bible camp.

As disciples of the congregation, we order our whole lives under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, a part of which includes making a financial commitment to support the ministry of the congregation. We do this by following the biblical pattern of giving to the Lord through the church.

The Biblical Pattern of Giving

1. **First Fruits** 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Proverbs 3:9-10;
Genesis 4:3-4

The Bible teaches us that we need to make a commitment and plan to grow by giving to God “off-the-top” of our weekly or monthly income. This is the most important part of the biblical pattern.

2. **Proportionate** 1 Corinthians 16:2

Once you give of your “first-fruits”, begin to think in terms of a percentage of your income, not a dollar amount. Use the “Growth Giving Worksheet” on the accompanying insert to discover what proportion of your income you have been giving as your offering in the past year, and then challenge yourself to get started in proportionate giving in an intentional and meaningful way.

3. **Growing** 1 Corinthians 8:7; 9:6-7; Luke 21:1-4

After you become a proportionate giver; you will want to see that you are growing in your thanks to God. Begin to grow by one or two percentage points of your total giving each year and move up towards a greater percentage. A good place to begin is at 5% and to move up 1% each year in your giving to the Lord. Yes, it takes discipline and sacrifice, but it will be a joy in your Christian life.

A challenge goal for all disciples is to increase your giving through the congregation by 1% of your weekly income and move toward the tithe of 10%. The accompanying insert sheet will help you in thinking about these proportions.

In this pamphlet we want to tell about the sharing of our financial resources with the Lord through our congregation here at Hawley Lutheran. Giving money to the church is a symbolic act—the offering of ourselves in service and dedication to God. In addition, it provides the resources by which the church carries out its mission and ministry.

The story is amazing—how the members of the congregation have financially supported its ministry over 120 year history of Hawley Lutheran. Here are some of the interesting things that happened:

June 1898- Hawley Lutheran Church Organized.

Fall 1898-Hawley Lutheran becomes part of a three point parish with Gran and Rollag Lutheran Churches.

Fall 1898- Plans for first church building completed, bids awarded and construction started.

1898-1900- Two ingathering's campaigns bring in enough contributions to finance church construction.

19 August 1900- Newly called Rev S.G. Hauge conducts his first church service and the first church service in the new Hawley Lutheran Church Building.

1901- Hawley Lutheran church Sunday School organized.

1903- Formal dedication of Hawley Lutheran Church is held.

1909- First church parsonage purchased.

1916-Church basement remodeled into useable space at a cost of \$2,000.00.

1922-Original church parsonage torn down.
New parsonage built.

1941-Church Sanctuary Redecorated.

1947- Hawley Lutheran Ladies Aid donates a Hammond Electric Cathedral Tone Organ.

1949- Original church pews replaced. Donation made by the Ladies Aid.

1954-Old church parsonage sold.

1955 New Church parsonage completed.
 1956-Hauge Educational Building completed.
 1963-Planning for new church sanctuary and office started.
 1964-Hawley Lutheran becomes a single point parish.
 1965-Lots and two houses are purchased for current church building site.
 1966-Publication ceases of members individual pledges and giving.
 1968-Construction starts on current sanctuary and offices.
 1969-Construction completed and new sanctuary and offices dedicated.
 1979-New pipe organ dedicated.
 1985-Hawley Lutheran Library started.
 1988-ELCA formed.
 1989-Congregation authorizes position of Youth Director.
 1993-Mortgage paid off on current Sanctuary and church office.
 1996-Planning starts for fellowship hall and office remodel.
 1997-Church Parsonage sold to Senior Pastor.
 1999-Construction starts of addition.
 2001-Construction completed and new fellowship hall addition dedicated.
 2008-Major repair of pipe organ completed.
 2010-Hawley Lutheran joins the LCMC.
 2010-New insulation and roof on Sanctuary completed.
 2012-Hawley Lutheran mission with the LCMC Churches of Nicaragua is started.
 2014-Roof and organ note payed off.
 2015- Women of Hawley Lutheran donate stained glass art mural for front of Church Sanctuary.
 2016-Women of Hawley Lutheran donate new stained glass altar for Church Sanctuary.

These are just a few of the stories from the past years about how the ministry of our congregation was financially supported. They tell of faithful and committed people who loved the Lord and their church and were willing to see that their church had the financial resources to carry on its ministry.

The one thing those stories don't tell, however, is how these faithful people, week after week and month after month, supported the ministry of this congregation with their offerings to the Lord. This is the heart of the church's support and it must continue as we look to Hawley Lutheran's future.

At Hawley Lutheran Church, our giving is done in **three steps or levels.**

Step One Financial Support of Ministry by all our Disciples

Just as it took faithful and dedicated people in the past to fund the ministry of our congregation, it will also take faithful and dedicated financial support by all the disciples of the congregation to provide the resources for our ministry to continue on into our future. Every disciple is encouraged and expected to support their congregation at the **Step One Giving Level.**

Step One Giving is the heart of financial support at Hawley Lutheran Church. It allows ministry at home, in our community and around the world. Your annual financial commitment, church offering envelopes, and the "Simply Giving" electronic transfer are the means by which **Step One Giving** is accomplished.