

Continuing Resolution 4

Undesignated Bequests

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, in an effort to be good stewards of the gifts that are entrusted to our care, further the ministry of the church, and honor the giver of undesignated bequests, will therefore adhere to the following guidelines when processing undesignated bequests.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church will practice Biblical stewardship and tithe 10% all undesignated bequests to ecclesial bodies, ministries and / or secular institutions outside of this congregation.

The council shall have the sole authority to designate the recipient(s) of tithes totaling no more than \$5,000 (i.e. 10 % tithes of undesignated bequests in the amount of \$50,000 or less). Congregation council may, at council's discretion, seek the advice and counsel of family members and friends of the giver of the undesignated bequest in an effort to determine an appropriate designee of the tithe. The tithe will be distributed within three months of the receipt of the undesignated gift.

The congregation shall have the authority to designate the recipient(s) of tithes totaling more than \$5,000 (i.e. 10 % tithes of undesignated bequests in excess of the amount of \$50,000). The congregation council will establish an ad hoc subcommittee. Within two months of the receipt of the undesignated bequest, the subcommittee is charged with recommending a recipient or recipients of tithes totaling more than \$5,000 for the congregation council's consideration. The ad hoc subcommittee may, at their discretion, seek the advice and counsel of family members and friends of the giver of the undesignated bequest in an effort to determine an appropriate designee of the tithe. The ad hoc committee will be composed of three or more members of the congregation. The ad hoc subcommittee will receive explicit instructions regarding their assigned duties from the congregation council, and will proffer a recommendation to council no later than three months after its formation. The congregation council will then be charged with considering the recommendation. The congregation council shall then vote to present the ad hoc subcommittee's recommendation to the congregation with one of the following three recommendations: *recommendation to approve, recommendation to disapprove or no recommendation*. Upon congregation council's consideration of the proffered recommendation, the ad hoc subcommittee will be officially dissolved. The recommendation will then be acted upon by the congregation at a legally called meeting of the congregation. If the congregation approves the recommended recipient(s) of the tithe, then the tithe will be distributed to the approved recipient(s) within one month of the congregation's approval. If the congregation does not approve the recommended recipient(s), then the congregation council will, within two months following the congregational meeting, create a new ad hoc subcommittee charged with the task of recommending a recipient or recipients of the tithe to council. The process for congregational approval will continue until the congregation approves a recipient or recipients of the tithe.

Approved: XX/XX/XXXX

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church will designate 10% of all undesignated bequests to property maintenance upon receipt.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church will actively seek ways to use undesignated bequests to strengthen the life and ministry of this congregation. Therefore, 80% of undesignated bequests in the amount of \$50,000 or less will be designated to current expenses upon receipt. Similarly, 80% of undesignated bequests in excess of the amount of \$50,000 will be transferred to an interest bearing account until they are utilized in a manner consistent with the constitution and bylaws of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church.

While the undesignated bequest is being processed, it will be placed in an interest bearing account of the Stewardship and Finance Committee's choosing.

Approved: XX/XX/XXXX