

Giving Options for Congregational Financial Support

“We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints—and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. (2 Corinthians 8:1-6, NRSV)

We live in times of great anxiety surrounding the health and economic ramifications of the coronavirus pandemic. We are called to seek help in the refuge of our faith in the Lord. We are also called to use our best thinking.

Below are some thoughts about encouraging ongoing financial support for our ministries. Since people are likely not going to be physically present to give their offerings in a worship service, we need to think about other ways to receive financial gifts. Many of our churches already have electronic giving options in place. If you don't, now is the time to think about this.

First, communicate with your people that the work of the church continues and will continue beyond the extreme measures we are currently living through. Let the people know that as a leader you are continuing to discern ways to serve the congregation and our neighborhoods.

Consider mailing a letter to every member who is not already giving by ACH direct deposit or electronic giving. In that letter, include basic info on how people might consider contacting their local financial institution to set up a recurring monthly draft that would be sent to your church. You might even consider including a couple self-addressed envelopes that people could use to enclose an offering check—at least for the next couple of months.

Also, take this time to add a DONATE button to your church website. The ELCA has special arrangements with Vanco and Tithe.ly. See the flyers on the following pages for details. VANCO is currently waving all processing fees for April up to \$50,000 per congregation. They are processing setups within 2 business days and are swamped but are committed to getting groups set up as soon as possible.

Now is the time for us to think creatively and well. People are anxious, but they still want to be generous. Don't underestimate people's love for their church! Each of you know your local context best, so your approach to this will be your own. You are doing amazing and important work at this time. People are looking to their leaders for cues of faith and hope.

Contact Pastor Jim (jduehring@nglsynod.org) or Bishop Katherine (kfinegan@nglsynod.org) with any questions or concerns.

Be well and thanks for your amazing partnership in ministry at this time!

“Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:7-9, NRSV)



TITHE.LY



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Online Giving and Mobile App Giving

with a 25% discount for ELCA congregations.

Tithe.ly offers new online giving option for congregations. The ELCA has reached a preferred-vendor agreement with Tithe.ly, a company that offers online tools, including a mobile app, to enhance financial giving to ELCA congregations and ministries. Through Tithe.ly, donation forms are integrated into the congregation's website and a mobile app instead of sending donors to third-party sites. Donors have the option to make one-time or recurring gifts to provide more consistent giving. Tithe.ly can work with every ELCA congregation. Learn more at: <https://get.tithe.ly/elca>



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Vanco offers new online giving option for ELCA congregations

CHICAGO (Feb. 19, 2019) – The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has formed a preferred vendor agreement with Vanco, an eGiving software developer and payment processor serving more than 20,000 churches across the country. The agreement offers Vanco’s GivePlus suite of eGiving solutions to ELCA congregations.

The ELCA churchwide organization has sought new working relationships with companies that serve ELCA congregations. Vanco has proven its commitment to the ELCA over the last 20 years by processing payments for nearly 4,000 ELCA congregations.

Preferred vendor agreements with a few select companies are being pursued to enhance operating efficiency, leadership effectiveness, congregational vitality and financial sustainability. Special pricing, communications and promotions will accompany each agreement.

Vanco’s GivePlus suite provides churches with a full range of eGiving solutions, allowing congregations to accept gifts and payments through credit and debit cards, websites, card readers, text messages and a mobile app.

As part of the agreement, ELCA congregations will receive special discounted rates from Vanco on new or additional GivePlus eGiving services.

Vanco makes handling donations easy for church administrative staff and offers churches new ways to increase donations by making it convenient for members to donate. GivePlus also integrates with the most popular names in church management software to reduce the amount of time spent on reconciling offerings.

[Learn](#) more about GivePlus and the benefits of this preferred vendor agreement.

Go to: www.giveplus.com/elca