

52 WEEKS OF GIVING

WHERE DOES YOUR OFFERING GO?
WHY GIVE TO THE CHURCH?
DOES IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



One way to help people understand the impact of their offering is to share small stories during worship. It doesn't have to be much, a one or two sentence description in the bulletin, a short announcement as the offering is being taken. This small explanation each week will help our folks understand the purpose and amazing impact of the offerings we share. Even if people give online or participate by automatic withdrawal, the stories we share about the ministry that happens in and around the congregation, the community, the region, and the world draw people into relationship and encourage generosity.

Consider developing a schedule of stories to share in worship about the impact of the offering given and dedicated that day. Below is a sample schedule that you can use, edit, adapt, and engage for your congregation, keeping in mind that lifting up stories that match your context and particular events in the life of your congregation will be very meaningful. For example, telling the story and impact of Campus Ministry as students head back to school or the congregation sends care packages. Consider lifting up the story of ELCA chaplaincy near Veterans Day, or World Hunger Relief near the date of an annual congregational dinner.

Here is a sample phrase:

"As we move to the time in our worship service where we offer our financial gifts to God's church, a portion of your offering given to [CONGREGATION] supports [THIS] ministry that [DESCRIPTION & IMPACT] For more information: [QR code; website address; display, flyer in bulletin, etc.]

EXAMPLE:

As we move to the time in our worship where we offer our gifts to God's church, a portion of your offering supports campus ministries in Southwestern Pennsylvania. These ministries help young adults deepen their relationships with God and with one another as they attend college and prepare to engage the world in new ways. For more information please see <https://lucpgh.com/>

	1st Sunday: Churchwide	2nd Sunday: Congregational	3rd Sunday: Synod	4th Sunday: Community	5th Sunday
JAN	Global Mission Personnel	Visits to Homebound and hospitalized members	Lutheran Campus Ministry in Oakland and Downtown Pgh	Food Pantry/Distribution	Women of the ELCA
FEB	Young Adults in Global Ministry - YAGM	Sanctuary and Altar Care	Providing Constitutional and Legal support as needed for congregations and synod ministries	Addiction Support Groups	Companion Synod - Madagascar
MAR	New Ministry and Mission Development	Christian Education - Sunday School/ VBS	United Lutheran Seminary	Backpack food programs	Lutheran Men in Mission
APR	World Hunger Appeal	Larger Church engagement - Synod Assembly, other?	Rostered Leadership Formation - Preparing Pastors and Deacons through Candidacy and then First Call Theological Education	Afterschool programs or Preschool	Trustworthy Financial Management with the Mission Investment & Mission Endowment Fund
MAY	Lutheran Disaster Response	Christian Education - Adult Bible Study	Coordinating Worship Supply and training Lay worship leaders	Clothing Closets	
JUN	Youth Ministry - National Youth Gathering and Youth Summit	Wedding and Funeral Ministry	Ecumenical Ministry in SWPA - Christian Associations of Southwestern PA	Pastor's Discretionary Fund helping congregation and community members in need	

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JUL	Strategic Ministries	Youth Group and Young Adult Programming	Justice Ministries - Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA, Authentic Diversity and Justice Working Group, Anti-racism, and Boundary Trainings	Collaborative Outreach Programs - Ministerium programs	
AUG	Women in International Leadership	Fellowship- coffee, luncheons, dinners	Care for Congregations in Call Process - Coordinating Interim pastoral care, call committee training, engaging, and introducing candidates for call	Community programs - yoga, exercise, mom's groups	
SEP	Lutheran World Federation	Music Ministry- choirs, organists, pianists, special music	Ministry to the Generations- Lutheran Senior Life, Glade Run, Bethesda, Agape, Lutherlyn	Community choirs, arts programs	
OCT	ELCA Fund for Leaders	Pastoral Care and Counseling	Equipping Congregation Leaders - Stewardship Events, Council trainings, Grants, Resource Center	Grief support groups, counseling centers, cards, or meals to families	
NOV	ELCA Resources - Worship, Education, Administration, Constitutional care	Ad-Ministry - communicating, connecting, printing, recordkeeping	Congregational Vitality - mission planning, preparing for the future, collaboration, merging, holy closure	Ecumenical Ministry - community worship services, hosting congregations	
DEC	Leadership Development: ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries	Hospitality - welcoming, greeting, bulletins, hymnals, a clean and inviting space	Leadership Formation - Continuing Education for Pastors and Deacons: Ember Days, Monthly Ministerium, Fall Convocation	Christmas Gifting with Local Non-profits	

For questions and additional stewardship resources, contact:

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