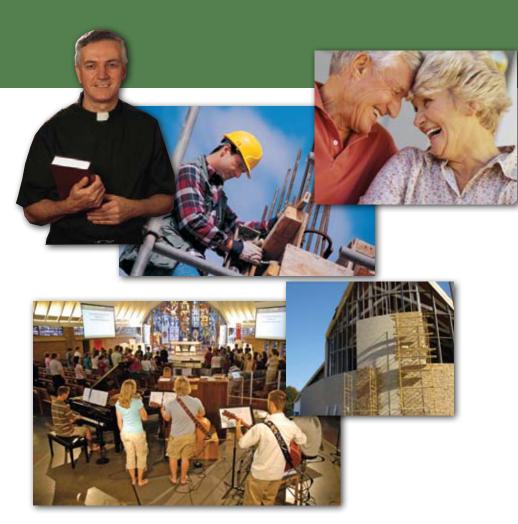
# Lutheran Church Extension Fund









"I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way..." 1 Corinthians 1:4–5a

# Together in Christ–Serving for Eternity

#### This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

The Lord opens doors to the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) family each and every day, providing opportunities for us to share our faith and support the Great Commission. We rejoice and are glad that we don't go through those doors alone: we are joined by many, including you. Thank you for sharing your financial blessings to provide space and place for ministry through LCEF.

As a member of Builders' Circle—a community of those who provide gifts in service to the LCEF ministry—we would like to share with you how you contribute to the ministry. We are honored and humbled by your thoughtful gifts and send you this annual summary of activity to illustrate just a few projects your dollars are supporting. You also will learn about the characteristics of Builders' Circle, read about the generosity of members like yourself, and discover how His Kingdom is being expanded.

This year LCEF observed 30 years of incorporation, a result of many people dedicating themselves to serving God's plan for more than 105 years through Church Extension. You are an integral part of the LCEF family, and we thank you for your prayerful support. We appreciate that you have donated to the general fund or one of our specific missions such as Laborers For Christ, the Arthur C. Haake World Ministry Fund, or our rostered church worker loan program. Together, we are making a difference!

In His Service

Merle Freitag President Lutheran Church Extension Fund

## The Unique Ministry of Lutheran Church Extension Fund

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund works as a partner to Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) organizations, reaching people through investments, loans, and services. The ministry of LCEF is supported by your gift, which makes it possible for us to keep costs low on loans and services, and continue the missions of Laborers For Christ and the Arthur C. Haake World Ministry. This is all done in support of the Great Commission.

Making a difference in people's lives is what is truly important. Your donation is doing just that, by helping LCEF:

- keep costs low on loans to congregations, schools, missions, and rostered church workers;
- provide services that help schools and congregations reach more of their mission field;
- assist churches and schools looking to rebuild, renovate, or repair;
- support pastors in their journey to lead their congregations;
- bring congregations new perspective on their stewardship goals;
- establish new investment products that help meet families' changing financial needs;
- build a legacy of sharing.

God presents us with a tremendous opportunity to extend His Kingdom, and your stewardship assists us in meeting this challenge. We are working "Together in Christ—Serving for Eternity."

### **LCEF Mission Statement**

To support the Church in fulfilling its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being a Christ-centered servant partner of the LCMS, ensuring that funds and services are available now and in the future.

# Building Up His Kingdom with Your Support

You have expressed your gratitude to God for all of His blessings by sharing the bounty of His gifts with LCEF. We share a special bond, a common goal of seeing the LCEF ministry continue to serve rostered church workers, congregations, missions, and schools. Together we are more than just a lender or investment firm—we are building up His Kingdom, building space and place for worship, and offering the unchurched chances to discover God's love.



### **Builders' Circle**

Builders' Circle is a recognition society that exists to express our heart-filled thanks for your support of LCEF. Our goal is to keep you informed of how your gift is helping to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Members of Builders' Circle share an exceptional interest in expanding God's Kingdom as well as a desire to become more closely associated with the LCEF mission and ministry.

Membership in Builders' Circle is open to individuals with a heart for ministry who make a financial gift to benefit the efforts of LCEF. Builders' Circle is our way of saying, "Thank you for your support!"

> "What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us."

> > 2 Timothy 1:13–14

### DIRECT GIVING: ALLELUIA GIVING GROUP

The Alleluia Giving Group recognizes donors who make a direct gift to LCEF. The following are the lifetime giving levels at which donors are recognized:

**JOYFUL CIRCLE** Lifetime giving up to \$1,000

JUBILANT CIRCLE Lifetime giving between \$1,000 and \$25,000 **CELEBRATION CIRCLE** Lifetime giving of more than \$25,000

### DEFERRED GIVING: AMEN GIVING GROUP

The Amen Giving Group recognizes donors who make a deferred gift to LCEF. The following are levels at which donors are recognized:

#### **GENESIS CIRCLE**

Deferred gift benefiting ministry but invested in LCEF

**FRAMING CIRCLE** Managed planned gifts (e.g. charitable trusts current/future, gift annuities that include LCEF)

#### CORNERSTONE CIRCLE

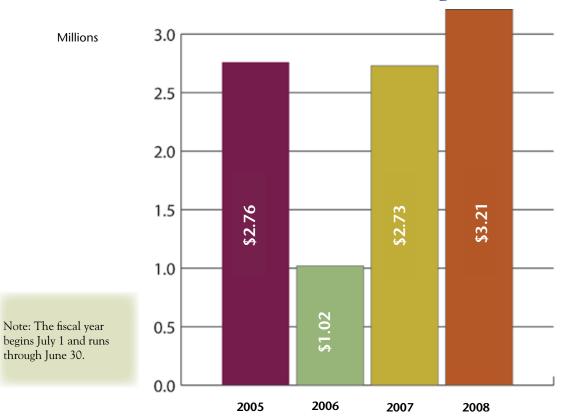
Revocable gifts (e.g., bequests or beneficiary designations to LCEF)

**GREAT COMMISSION CIRCLE** Transformational gifts (50% of one's estate or

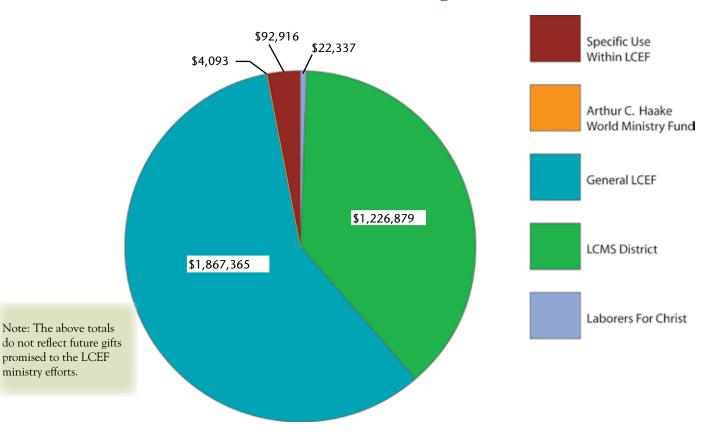
\$200,000 minimum planned gift to LCEF)

"I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the teachings..." 1 Corinthians 11:2

Fiscal Year-End Giving Totals



### Fiscal Year-End Giving Totals



# Your Gift Is Helping . . .

Projects that are currently in progress or have been completed this year include the following. All of these projects and the supporting loans and services (including Laborers For Christ) used to complete them are possible through the support of people like you!



In Fairport, N.Y., Risen Christ Lutheran has dedicated the basement of the new addition to its sanctuary to youth ministry. This photo shows the beautiful artwork painted on the walls and one of the special areas created for children attending Sunday school, vacation Bible school, and other special youth events. The congregation used LCEF's demographics and mailing list services, as well as loan services.



Mary Rose Biltz, left, a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Haven, Kan., works with Laborers For Christ member Rosemary Thingvall on the new family life center that will serve both the congregation and the community. The 6,500-square-foot addition opened this fall and will help the congregation expand programs that meet the needs of the growing population of Haven and spread the Good Word.



Laborers For Christ members, from left, Ron McKeever, Richard Uitto, Jeffrey Schendel, and Ron Fortmeyer worked for Trinity Lutheran Church, Sauk Rapids, Minn., this summer adding two new wings to the church. "We're not doing this for those of us already in the building, but to help us

get more new people to come inside," said Ron Eickhoff, president of the fast-growing Trinity congregation, which adds about 75 members a year.

#### T T T

The recently completed Grace Center at Trinity Lutheran Church, Bellingham, Wash., was built thanks in part to your gifted dollars. Gifts help us keep costs low (Trinity used LCEF's Capital Funding Services for their stewardship campaign, as well as our loan services). This helps us serve churches like Trinity, who will use Grace Center for youth ministry and to expand its outreach to the community.





The Building Families Boutique at Good Shepherd, Fremont, Neb., offers free infant-care items, as seen above, to families that practice healthy behaviors. Congregation volunteers help with parenting classes as well as staffing the shop, all in an effort to reach the young families in their community. LCEF assisted the congregation with a Vision Affirmation Workshop, capital campaign, and loan to buy the property on which this building sits and expand the existing church to include a new Community Life Center.

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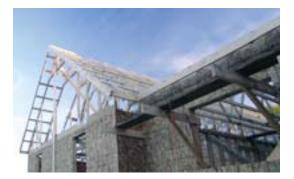
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"... Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the Gospel in the regions beyond you..."

2 Corinthians 10:15b-16a

#### **Investment Products**

StewardAccounts® Term Notes (Fixed and Floating Rates) Demand Certificates Family Emergency StewardAccounts® FlexPlus Health Savings Accounts Individual Retirement Accounts K.I.D.S. Stamp Program Congregation Endowments (Fixed and Floating Rates) Congregation Cemetery Perpetual Care StewardAccounts®

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