

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT E-GIVING (electronic giving)

Q. What is e-giving?

A. E-giving (electronic giving) is an automatic transfer program which allows you to make periodic financial contributions to First Lutheran Church without writing checks. Many people are utilizing web banking and automatic bill paying for their mortgages, donations to other charities and organizations, utilities, etc. We think it's important that such an option is available for financial contributions to our congregation's ministries as well.

Q. What are the advantages of e-giving?

A. E-giving eliminates the need to write weekly or monthly checks to the church, saving you time and effort. It also allows you to make regular contributions even while you are away (on vacation, for example), which helps stabilize the church's cash flow (since we have regular expenses throughout the year).

Q. How does e-giving work?

A. It's simple. Just pick up an Authorization Form from the church office or narthex or print one off our website (under the Members tab at www.firstlutherancarlisle.org). The form will ask you:

- when you wish the first donation to start
- the frequency of your donation (Because of fees incurred by the church for each transfer, monthly rather than weekly transfers are encouraged.)
- into which fund(s) you choose to donate; and
- the amount(s) you wish to donate.

The form will also ask you for the routing number and account number of the account from which donations will be transferred (if a checking account, we'll need a voided check as well). First Lutheran staff will enter information from the Authorization Form into the secure on-line service center of our e-giving vendor. Forms, voided checks, etc. are maintained securely in the church office.

Q. What if I want to change the amount of my automatic financial contribution?

A. Simply fill out another Authorization Form with the new amount and the effective date of the change. Then sign and date the form and give it to the church office.

Q. What if I decide I no longer wish to donate electronically?

A. Simply notify the church office, and we will cancel your automatic transfers.

Q. Won't it be awkward for me not to put anything in the offering plate each week?

A. In this day and age, there is a great variety in how and when people make their financial contributions to our congregation. While the "passing of the offering plate" is a part of our liturgy at the 10:30 a.m. service on Sundays, it is certainly okay to pass the plate along without putting anything in it. At other services at First Lutheran, such as our 8 a.m. Sunday and evening prayer services, the collection of offering is not part of the liturgy. If you e-give and wish to continue placing something in the offering plate each week, there are two options: people who continue to receive a box of envelopes annually (some e-givers use the seasonal and special envelopes for additional offerings) may request "I'm an e-giver" stickers to place on your envelopes; people who choose not to receive envelopes may request "I'm an e-giver" cards.

Q. What record will I have of my financial contributions?

A. You will continue to receive quarterly statements from First Lutheran, reflecting all financial contributions made via e-giving and otherwise.

Q. What if I have questions that are not covered by these FAQs?

A. You are welcome to call or e-mail Robin Orner, our office manager, at (717) 249-3310 or secretary@firstlutherancarlisle.org.