



Memorial Gift Policy
updated 9/30/24

Purpose:

This policy outlines the guidelines for the acceptance and use of memorial gifts given to St. Paul's Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center (herein referred to as "the Church") in memory of a deceased individual. The Church values the generosity of families and individuals who choose to honor their loved ones through these memorial donations.

1. Designated Memorial Gifts:

If the family of the deceased specifies a particular purpose or ministry for the use of the memorial gift, the Church will honor that designation. The funds will be allocated for the stated purpose, ensuring that the wishes of the family are fulfilled. The family will receive confirmation of the intended use within a reasonable timeframe after the memorial gift is received.

Occasionally, St. Paul's may receive more in contributions for a particular purpose than can be wisely applied to it in the foreseeable future or the purpose may cease to be feasible. In those situations, St. Paul's will make reasonable attempts to contact the family to apply their contributions toward another aspect of ministry that aligns closely with the family's goals and values.

2. Undesignated Memorial Gifts:

In the case where the family does not designate a specific use for the memorial gift, the Church will hold the funds in a designated memorial account for up to one year from the date the gift is received. During this period, the family may communicate any desired purpose for the funds.

3. General Fund Use:

If no designation is provided by the family within one year of the memorial gift being received, the Church reserves the right to allocate the funds to the Church's general fund. These funds will then be used at the Church's discretion to support its ongoing ministries and operational needs.

4. Communication with the Family:

The Church will make reasonable efforts to communicate this policy to the family at the time the memorial gift is received and during the one-year holding period for undesignated gifts.

5. Transparency and Reporting:

The Church will provide transparency in the use of all memorial gifts, including detailed reporting of how designated funds are spent, ensuring alignment with the family's wishes whenever applicable.