

WHAT IS THE JERUSALEM ENDOWMENT & TRUST FUND?

The Jerusalem Endowment & Trust Fund (JETF) was established by the congregation in 2000 to aid in funding the future gospel ministry at Jerusalem. This fund gives members an opportunity to consider the abundant blessings they have received from the Lord's hand through Jerusalem's gospel ministry in years past and to invest in Jerusalem's future gospel ministry, an investment that will produce eternal dividends even after they have departed this world.

All assets of the JETF are managed by the Planned Giving Committee under the direction of the congregation. These assets are never commingled with any other assets of the congregation; they are managed separately. The interest accrued by this fund is used as a source of income to assist Jerusalem's ongoing ministry.

The congregation has established five specific sub-funds to which members are encouraged to designate a gift:

JERUSALEM ENDOWMENT FUND

to meet the general needs of Jerusalem

FUTURE CALLED WORKERS FUND

to sponsor called worker training scholarships

COMMUNITY OUTREACH FUND

to fund special mission and outreach work

JELS TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND

to provide tuition assistance to JELS families

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE FUND*

to help fund major capital projects

HOW CAN I GIVE TO THE JERUSALEM ENDOWMENT & TRUST FUND?

There are various ways you can contribute to the Jerusalem Endowment & Trust Fund (JETF).

- ✘ You might consider making a one-time donation of stocks, bonds or real estate.*
- ✘ You can designate the JETF as one of the beneficiaries of your retirement account, annuity or life insurance policy.
- ✘ Many people also choose to remember the JETF in their wills and/or trusts.
- ✘ You can always make a monetary donation to the JETF either as a personal gift or memorial. Please make the check payable directly to the "Jerusalem Endowment & Trust Fund" and include it in your regular offering envelopes. If you make a cash donation, please mention the amount you are contributing to the JETF on the envelope.

Any undesignated gifts to the JETF will be placed in the Jerusalem Endowment Fund.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would just like some additional information, please contact either the Pastor or any member of the Planned Giving Committee.

*You should ask a tax advisor about the tax benefits of making a donation of this type. The WELS Ministry of Christian Giving offers the free services of their Christian Giving Counselors to provide help and guidance to those who are interested in making a donation to the Jerusalem Endowment & Trust Fund.

JERUSALEM ENDOWMENT & TRUST FUND



Investing in Jerusalem's Future Gospel Ministry

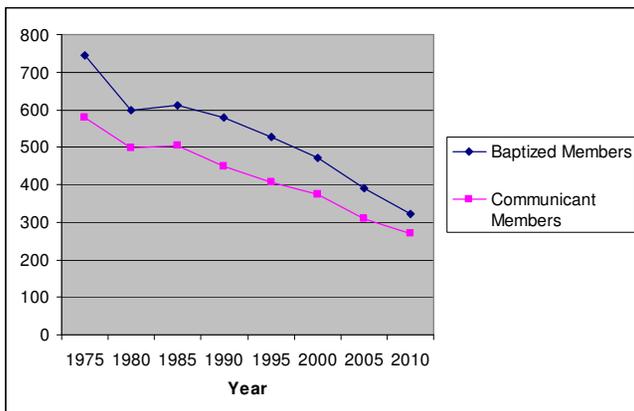
Serving a Diverse Community
With a Unique Message

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Morton Grove, Illinois

* Only the Property Maintenance Fund is a trust fund, of which the principal can be spent along with interest earnings.

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF JERUSALEM'S GOSPEL MINISTRY IN DAYS GONE BY?

Although we have seen a steady decline in membership in the past thirty years, Jerusalem's gospel ministry has continued to be richly blessed. Humanly speaking, the decline has been due in large part to younger members' inability to find affordable housing in Morton Grove. Others have retired to warmer climates. Long-time Jerusalem members have entered their eternal rest in Jesus after serving their Savior faithfully for many years in Morton Grove.



As a result of this decline, however, the support of Jerusalem's gospel ministry has fallen upon fewer members. We are thankful that the Holy Spirit has moved the hearts of our current membership to support generously the mission and ministry of Jerusalem with their prayers and offerings. Besides regular offerings, Jerusalem members have also supported many special mission, maintenance and renovation projects in recent years totaling nearly a million dollars. Even with fewer members, the Lord has continued to richly bless us and our gospel work in his Kingdom.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF JERUSALEM'S GOSPEL MINISTRY IN THE DAYS AHEAD?

It would be easy for a congregation founded more than 100 years ago to simply rest on her past blessings. Many adults and children have passed through the doors of Jerusalem Lutheran Church and School since 1902. Thousands of people have had the opportunity to hear about their Savior Jesus as a result of Jerusalem's gospel ministry. For so many years the members of Jerusalem have faithfully toiled in the Lord's harvest fields. The harvest has been bountiful!

NOW JERUSALEM FACES REAL CHALLENGES!

Morton Grove is no longer a sleepy, bedroom village nestled on the north side of Chicago; it is a bustling metropolitan city. It is no longer a predominantly white, German- and English-speaking area; people from around the world have decided to make Morton Grove their home. And we have a unique, life-giving message to share! **What a challenge, but what an opportunity!**

Jerusalem Lutheran School and Precious Child Preschool continue to grow in non-member enrollment. We are now enrolling students from around the world for a year at a time. The Lord is opening many doors to reaching out through the gospel. And we have a unique, life-giving message to share! **What a challenge, but what an opportunity!**

Jerusalem is no longer occupying new facilities. The "new" church is now almost 50 years old (built in 1963). The school is even older (built in 1929). Church-owned homes continue to need the same upgrades and repairs that members have made to their own homes. And we have a unique, life-giving message to share! **What a challenge, but what an opportunity!**

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP SECURE JERUSALEM'S FUTURE GOSPEL MINISTRY?

First, we must understand and trust that the future of Jerusalem's gospel ministry rests securely in the hands of our loving God. Apart from Jesus and his Word, we can do nothing (Jn 15:5), but with him nothing is impossible (Mt 19:26). We entrust our future and the future of Jerusalem to God alone.

But God has also given us the privilege of being workers in his vineyard. Yes, "we are God's fellow workers" (1 Co 3:9). He has blessed us with overwhelming gifts and has called us to be faithful stewards of those gifts. Jesus said, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked" (Lk 12:48). What wealth we have compared to our Jerusalem ancestors and most of today's world community! What a responsibility we have to use these gifts wisely and in a God-pleasing fashion.

Better still, what an opportunity we have at Jerusalem to invest our earthly riches in the life-giving work of God's eternal kingdom! Jesus wants us to seek first his eternal kingdom and righteousness and not to be concerned about the fleeting things of this world (Mt 6:31-33). He provides everything we need for this world and the next, freely given by him! Now he wants us to use our earthly gifts freely in service to others for their eternal good.

What you do today with the gifts God has entrusted to you can help secure Jerusalem's future gospel ministry tomorrow and for years to come!