

Legacy giving



LUTHER MEMORIAL

foundation







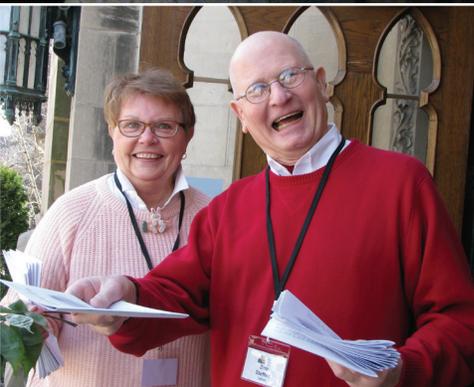
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The congregation of Luther Memorial Church was founded by UW-Madison students in 1907 so that they could worship in English. Our beautiful gothic cathedral-like church building was built in the middle of the university campus in 1923 with funds raised by the parishioners, students and the support of the national Lutheran Church. In 1966 the congregation was blessed with a legacy gift from the Oscar Rennebohm estate that was given to help carry out the long-term mission and ministry of Luther Memorial. This gift was the beginning of the Luther Memorial Foundation.

Over the years, the foundation has seen significant growth thanks to the gifts of those who are interested in continuing Christ's mission in the heart of Madison on the university campus. Through its investment dividends, the foundation continues to provide annual support for congregational programs and funds to maintain and enhance the church building. In addition, the foundation gives dollars to help support mission outreach programs such as Lutheran Campus Ministry, The Keep Food Pantry, Oakwood Village senior community, Triangle Community Ministry and many others.

The foundation provides a giving avenue for persons to support the long-term vision of Luther Memorial through gifts in honor of someone they care about, in memory of a loved one or in appreciation of a program that has touched their lives. Often gifts are given to the foundation at the time of significant life events such as baptisms, weddings, funerals or other times of personal or family gratitude. Members are encouraged to include the foundation as a final bequest in their wills as a remembrance of their connection to this congregation.

The following stories are from persons who have chosen to recognize Luther Memorial through a living donation or who have included the church or the foundation in their will. It is hoped that these stories will inspire you to also want to support the long-term mission and ministry of Luther Memorial.





We want to see Luther Memorial thrive

L-R: Robert Steffen, Marcia Wilson, Janet Streiff, James Behrens

JANET STREIFF

My connection with LM came through my husband John, who died in 2010. I was raised Catholic in Queens, New York. Earlier in our marriage, John was not interested in attending church. His parents were members of LM. In fact, his mother had been in the second confirmation class at LM.

I had been to LM occasionally for holidays with John's parents and was impressed by the church building. It reminded me of my home Catholic church in Queens.

We became more engaged with LM when John's mother was reaching the end of her life. The LM pastors provided needed pastoral care and John was very impressed and thankful for the church's ministry. It was John who decided he wanted to become more engaged in a church and in LM specifically.

I agreed, and felt at home in the building and with the traditional liturgy, which was close to my Catholic roots. I quickly fell in

love with the church and found people welcoming. As I learned more, I started to realize how much LM did for the community. Both John and I became active in a number of ministries.

When asked why we decided to become legacy givers, our first thought was, "We love the church and want to see it go on as an important part of the community." Of all the charities in our wills, Luther Memorial is number one.

A family commitment to giving

MARTHA TAYLOR



My grandparents joined LM in 1929. They had been members of another church in Madison that offered confirmation in Norwegian, but they wanted their daughter Esther to be confirmed in English, and to meet people of different backgrounds. It was really my great grandmother, who had immigrated to Stoughton at age 19 from Norway, who insisted on broadening my mother's world by joining LM.

My grandparents Olaf and Olga Hougen loved the beauty of the

new cathedral in Madison and became active members. The son of a pioneer Lutheran pastor, Olaf was one of the lay leaders in the growth of campus ministry. He had been active in campus ministry when he came to grad school at UW-Madison in 1916 and he continued that interest throughout his life. Olaf was a professor in Chemical Engineering and Olga was active in a woman's circle. My grandfather left a legacy gift to LM in memory of my grandmother.

In the early 1970s, I started worshiping at LM with my grandparents while attending UW-Madison. I also participated in campus ministry activities. After graduation, I transferred membership from my home congregation in Los Angeles and became a member of LM. Then several years ago, my mother Esther moved back to Madison and rejoined LM. What a joy to have her here and attend LM with me. Our Sunday tradition is an important part of our lives.

My legacy to LM is part of who I am. It is important to give in three ways: annual gifts for operating, major gifts for campaigns and special projects usually spread over a few years, and legacy gifts. The amount of money is not as important as having an active giving life as part of my faith.

My legacy gift to LM is simple and no attorney or papers were needed, except to fill out a beneficiary form that I got online. Many years ago, I moved money from one IRA to a second IRA that I consider my charitable IRA. No, it doesn't say charitable on the account name, but I consider it that. All that means is that when I die, the balance will go the charitable organizations I care about.

It helps to be in the philanthropy profession and know this simple way of giving a legacy gift. I am happy to share this strategy with you. It is wonderful to know that our family commitment to LM will continue through my legacy gift.



Our hearts follow our treasure

MARCIA & FRANKLIN WILSON (LM SENIOR PASTOR 2008–2015)

Our inspiration to make a legacy gift came about through a Sunday Forum. Larry Westfield came to LM on several different occasions. Once, Larry came to our house for dinner. He talked to us about how he and his wife set up his legacy by adopting another daughter—charity.

We have three children and decided that charity was a child in our legacy. We talked this idea over with our children and they were happy that we decided to have four charities. And LM is an important part of that.

Our advice to others would be, yes, do it! Legacy gifts can't guarantee but can certainly undergird the

possibility of continuing to provide a valuable ministry in many facets of the city community's life, in the midst of the university.

It also strengthens one's relationship to the church, and nurtures a sense of devotion. It is really a manifestation of Mark Allen Powell's growing analysis of Jesus' statement:

“Store up your treasure in heaven, for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Our treasure doesn't follow our heart, our heart follows our treasure. Put your treasure in the

church and your heart follows that. Act generously and you are shaped by that—you, in a sense, are made generous when you aren't. You gain a sense of generosity by pretending to be generous. By pretending to be benevolent, one actually does become shaped by that.

There is so much right about LM. There has been a lot of wise thought, prayer and attention in how it has grown in its life.

After Franklin's first Sunday at LM, All Saints Day, he called Marcia and said that if he could be a Lutheran pastor for just one day, this would be the place and it would be enough. It was absolutely thrilling and it remains so.

Traditions

LEE & MARY POWELL



Mary is a third-generation member of LM. Our children were raised in the church and some of our grandchildren are also here. “It is just a part of us.” Lee didn’t have a church-going family and wasn’t baptized until he was preparing to marry Mary. It took time for him to appreciate the liturgy.

Several years ago we attended a presentation by Larry Westfall from the ELCA on ways to give. Lee had some stock that he needed to distribute in order to avoid capital gains tax. We set it up as an annuity. It is a painless way to give. Now we feel we have a partnership in the future of the church.

It is the people and the traditions of Luther Memorial that keep us here. It is a grand space and it serves the needs of the community.

A church home

JOYCE BISBEE



When I moved to Madison after I retired, I had to make many changes in my life. One of the major changes was finding a new church. After worshipping a few times at Luther Memorial, I knew I had found my new church home. The liturgy and music were just what I was looking for. After becoming a member, I quickly became involved in many different committees and got to know several members of the congregation. I soon felt very much at home.

One of the committees on which I served was the Second Century Initiative. During one of the discussions about planned giving it was mentioned that when making out your will, the church should be considered as an additional child or dependent. I thought this was a great idea.

I am pleased to know that Luther Memorial will benefit from my legacy gift. Although the long-term program and mission of the congregation are important to me, the long-term care of the church building is especially important as I plan to have my ashes inured in the columbarium where they can rest eternally in God’s presence.



JESSIE NELSON

I hope that there will always be a real witness to Christianity in this setting. We have a real opportunity here to serve and minister and as Christians that should be where our emphasis is. We should be proud to be ministers. In our baptism, we become ministers. Luther said we are all ministers.



BRUCE BENGTON

When I think of legacy giving, it is of course through my connection to Luther Memorial, but the legacy is really more a gift to the church of Jesus Christ and the universal church.

Blessed in so many ways

SUZANNE BANGERT



Luther Memorial members are welcoming and friendly, and I was warmly greeted by the head usher the first Sunday I attended services 30 years ago. It wasn't long after I joined, that same usher invited me to join her, greeting members and visitors alike. It is a

ministry I continue to be involved with, along with many other ministries that enrich our community in Christ at Luther Memorial—sacristan, Habitat for Humanity builds, assisting minister, congregation council, building committee, to name a few.

When my husband Mike and I first created our wills over 20 years ago, I felt obligated to include a gift to Luther Memorial—it was part of my up-bringing.

The Luther Memorial Columbarium will be our final resting place. By the grace of God, I have been blessed in so many ways through my life within and supported by the family of Luther Memorial.

I am honored to leave a gift for the support and growth of Christ's community here. While there are many worthy organizations to which one can leave a legacy gift, none of them have embraced me, sinner though I am, for who I am—no questions. Luther Memorial, led by God, brings the love, peace and compassion that lives in and through Christ to the world, and I hope to support that continued life through this gift.



What you do today
makes this possible
tomorrow.





Through legacy giving, people like you have nurtured the faith of young and old, and cared for neighbors in need.

For over a century.

If you are thinking about your legacy, please consider making a gift to Luther Memorial.

If you have any questions, or would like to share your legacy plans, please contact one of the Luther Memorial pastors at:

Luther Memorial Church
1021 University Ave
Madison WI 53715
(608) 258-3160

www.luthermem.org/legacy



