

*It's that time of year... time to submit requests
for money from our Touching Tomorrow Endowment Fund!*

What is the purpose of the “Touching Tomorrow” Endowment fund?

The Endowment Fund distributes money, in the form of grants, for mission and outreach beyond the normal church budget and usually, beyond the church walls. The aim of such grants is to “Touch Tomorrow,” allowing for present and future ministry.

Who oversees the Touching Tomorrow Fund?

A Touching Tomorrow Committee oversees the Fund. This committee meets annually to decide expenditures based on the financial performance of the account and the specific requests. These purchases are not approved by council, but council approves the members of the committee. The committee currently consists of Darryl Bush (Chair), Terry Ludwig, Jim Gill, Kris Hoffer and Ashley Schade.

Where does the money come from in the Touching Tomorrow Fund?

The original money came from a large bequest to the church. Currently the fund has roughly \$420,000 in principle investments, which includes the original gift, but also later gifts and interest added to principle. Each year grants come from the interest and dividends on the account. These have varied over time. The hope is that in the future, more people will consider giving money, either in honor of loved ones, or as part of their estate planning, to the Touching Tomorrow Fund.

How can I contribute to the Touching Tomorrow Fund?

Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated, and you may benefit from significant tax advantages. By using a combination of certain financial and insurance products, you can even leave a bigger inheritance to your loved ones while preserving your desired gift to the fund. For more information on this strategy, you may consult your estate attorney or talk with Jim Gill, Zion’s representative from Thrivent Financial.

What kind of things has the Touching Tomorrow Fund supported?

Between 2006 and 2017, the Fund distributed over \$100,000 to various projects, including:

- Seed money for Social Hall Renovations Project; also money for repayment of existing debt
- Payment of previous Renovation Debt
- Seed money for launching Zion’s Preschool; continued scholarships for preschool families in need
- Funding to make our internship program possible
- West Virginia and New York City Youth Mission Trips
- Seminary scholarship money to support a member of our congregation, Jason Northridge, who is now a pastor
- Support for a Lutheran Missionary in West Africa, Viking Dietrich
- Support for a handful of local charities, including helping to fund a forklift for Lebanon County Christian Ministries
- Seed money for Zion’s Lego Club
- Camperships to Camp Kirchenwald
- Subsidized the cost of Zion’s Day Camp, making it an affordable option for families in our community

What kind of money is available for grants this year?

While the fund’s investments are conservative, fluctuations in the stock market means we will not know the exact amount of the distribution until closer to December 1. Last year we were able to distribute close \$10,300; we hope this year for another generous distribution.

How can you make a request for a project?

Simple: Fill out the front of this paper by Dec 1, 2017! To do this, you will need to identify which category your request belongs to:

- Education
- Local Ministries
- Congregational Programs
- Extended Ministries (National/International church/charity work)

If you have any questions about applying for these monies, the purpose of our Touching Tomorrow Endowment Fund, or how to contribute to the endowment, please see any member of the Committee or Pastor Caitlin.