



GENEREROUS LIVING

All of Me in Response to All of Him

Offering Appeals

4th Quarter 2024

Treasurer's Copy

Please store a copy in the pulpit.

October 5, 2024

Local Church Budget

I have prayed and walked for miles and miles in my tennis shoes. One semester, I walked around the campus of our university with students and prayed over the people in our campus community. We walked around the entire property, making sure to both share words, and some quiet time of personal prayer, as we lifted up our campus. We wanted to see the Holy Spirit move in a mighty way and transform lives, and we had the audacity to believe that He would do it. We held close to our hearts verses like, “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer” (Matthew 21:22, NIV). As I watched, I saw God transform my life and the lives of my students through prayer that year, and ever since then.

The beautiful thing about prayer is that we can do it at any time, anywhere, and it’s something that we are able to share with one another. Today’s offering is for our local church budget. Our church serves as a place we can come together and share in our joys and woes. We can listen and learn from one another, and grow together in Christ. We hope to keep this light on in the church for many years to come, and that is made possible by your generous gifts.

By Heather Thompson Day

October 12, 2024

Carolina Evangelism

Today's loose offering has been designated for our local Union Conference territory.

The bible says in Matthew 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world..."

Many times we think that preaching the gospel to all the world means taking it to faraway places in other continents where there are few Christians. But with the large immigration of people into North America, it seems that the world is coming to live here. We have a mission field to cover even in our own union territory. One of the good things about the structure of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is that our unions focus on regional issues such as taking the gospel to every people group that exists in our territory. They promote innovative and comprehensive evangelism so that no one is left out.

Please pray for your local union leaders and invite them to be part of special events in your congregation.

October 19, 2024

Local Church Budget

Isaiah 40:31 says, “but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint” (NIV). Have you ever been weary? Have you ever felt like throwing in the towel? You’re not alone. It’s normal to get tired. Some days I wake up and consider all of the different “hats” I wear – parent, teacher, friend, sister, daughter, speaker, author – and just thinking about all of them can make me tired. There may be a lot that is demanded of you, and that can be tough. In my mind, that’s why Sabbath is that much more beautiful; it gives us time to reset and focus on where our hope comes from. Hoping in the Lord gives us the strength we need to keep on going, even when we feel like we are drowning in responsibilities.

Today’s offering is being collected to support our local church budget. Our church serves under many different titles as well. To many, it is a house of prayer. To others, it is a place of learning in Sabbath School and during the divine worship service. Still, to others, it is a place of refuge. When you give to the local church budget, you give to support the mission and ministry of our local church, which touches many lives.

October 26, 2024

Carolina Youth

By this point in the year, if you are like most people, your new year's resolutions are long abandoned and forgotten. In fact, research shows us that, "55% of respondents kept their New Year's resolution for less than a year, with 11% lasting at least six months, 14% lasting at least three months, 19% lasting at least one month and just 11% lasting less than a month."¹ That means that almost one-third of people have given up on what they've committed within four weeks. According to that, if we are in October, it is quite possible that you don't even remember what you intended to do.

That's why it is such a beautiful thing that we serve a God of grace. Each new week, and even each new day, is another chance to reconnect with Him and start afresh. Think to yourself, what can you do today to impact your own life, as well as the lives of those around you? Our church has ministries that serve us all, and it may be time for you to prayerfully consider where your gifts and talents would be best used for the gospel. Today's offering is for the local conference advance. The beauty of our church is that it exists within a group of other churches in our region, known as our conference. By giving to the local conference advance today, you can help our mission and reach go even further.

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/health/mind/new-years-resolutions-statistics/#:~:text=The%20aforementioned%202020%20New%20Plate,lastling%20less%20than%20a%20month.>

November 2, 2024

Local Church Budget

As a teacher, my favorite lessons are the ones that my students take and apply in their real life. I teach communication, and it is so important that students understand the power of their words. Proverbs 18:21 tells us that, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue...” (NIV) and helping my college students understand that and use their words for positive things is always so encouraging to see.

I once had a student who struggled to express herself. As the semester went on, and she had more opportunities and knowledge as to how to share more of herself in a positive way, her confidence increased and she was able to share more of what she was thinking. She learned how to speak life to others, and even to herself.

Look around the church today. Who have you taken time to “speak life” into? That is, who have you paused to encourage, say a kind word to, or pray for? Today’s offering is for the local church budget. Please prayerfully consider giving to support the ministry and mission of our church, as we seek to be a place where life-giving words are shared regularly.

By Heather Thompson Day

November 9, 2024

Annual Sacrifice for Global Mission

Global Mission is the frontline mission arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Through the use of wholistic ministry, Global Mission pioneers are bringing light to cities of the world, with a special focus on the 10/40 Window. Since Global Mission began three decades ago, we've reached many new people groups and entered new countries. "I Will Go" is the strategic plan of the Adventist church for 2020-2025.

There are missionaries working right now in places like Sri Lanka, Malawi, Indonesia, Cambodia, and veiled countries where preaching the gospel is against the law. There are many mission challenges, because in some places where there is no Adventist presence, it takes about two years of sharing the love of Jesus with non-Christians who live in these areas before they open their hearts to Christ.

Please give sacrificially to support these missionaries and pray for these missionaries and their families. If you feel called to be a missionary there are many opportunities to work in unreached people groups. Visit vividfaith.com to explore missionary opportunities.

We invite you to GO!

Go through prayer!

Go through giving!

Go through service!

November 16, 2024

Local Church Budget

One time a friend of mine came over to my house, and I wanted to bake a dessert for him. He had an allergy to one of the ingredients, so I hastily used a substitute that I was unsure of. If you have ever baked, you know that even changing one ingredient can change the taste, texture, and really the entire baked good if you're not careful. I learned, on that day, that this ingredient should not have been swapped out! Needless to say, tasting this dessert was not a pleasant experience.

Similarly, God's word gives us words of wisdom for us to follow, and Proverbs 1:5 says, "let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance" (NIV).

What wise, Biblical knowledge have you learned lately? Have you taken the time to share it with someone? If you have not, take some time today or this next week to pass it along. Today's offering is for the local church budget. Let's continue to turn our church into a place where we can come together and grow in wisdom and knowledge of God. The more we study and learn together, the better equipped we can be to meet the needs of those who are around us.

By Heather Thompson Day

November 23, 2024

Carolina Youth

Isaiah 66:13 says, “As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem” (NIV). As a mother, I truly appreciate this verse, describing God’s attitude toward us. When one of my children is hurt or in need of comfort for some other reason, I am the person they typically run to. When I was younger, I learned to run to my mother as well, and I enjoyed going into her warm embrace when I was in distress. As I grew older, I learned to lean on God in the same way. And I learned that, because I was blessed to have people in my life who taught me to call out to God in my distress.

Romans 10:14-15 states, “But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, ‘How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!’” (NLT). Today’s offering is for our local conference advance. Our churches have the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus and His soon return with the world, and you are invited to partner with us in that mission. Please prayerfully consider giving a generous offering to this cause.

November 30, 2024

Mt. Pisgah Academy

“The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34:17-18, NIV).

What are you crying out to God about today? Is there something you came in today with on your heart that only God can help you with? If so, you are certainly in the right place. When it says that God hears and delivers us from all of our troubles, He means **all**. I have sat by students in my office who have lost loved ones and grieved with them. I have comforted close friends who have faced difficult, disappointing circumstances. I myself have been in deep disappointment from time to time when I looked at how much more I needed to do to accomplish my goals.

Still, God has said that when we cry out to Him, He will deliver us. It is so good to know that God is close to the brokenhearted. That gives me encouragement to know that I do not have to have it all together in order to come to Him; I can just come as I already am. Today’s offering is for our union conference. We have people working all over our union to bring that same message of hope to the world around us. Please give a generous offering to support this cause.

December 7, 2024

Local Church Budget

Recently a friend of mine had major surgery on her jaw, which would prevent her from eating normal food. She lived far away from me, so I encouraged her in her recovery with texts and my prayers. When she recovered enough to be able to talk, she shared with me how well her local church had cared for her. From the moment she went into surgery, to the days that followed, they provided her with rides and round-the-clock care. She lived alone at the time, and she had been quite concerned about the logistics, but her local church family had acted as her own family would have, making sure she had everything she needed. They even went as far as providing her with a gift card to purchase smoothie drinks for the weeks that followed, until she could go back to eating solid food.

When I think of what it means to be a church family, my friend's recovery from surgery comes to mind. Not everyone is blessed to live in a loving family with others in their household. When the church steps in to provide that necessary comfort and care, our faith takes on a whole new meaning! Today's offering is for our local church budget. As you give today, give with an open heart, and consider all the ways our own church is touching lives.

By Heather Thompson Day

December 14, 2024

Adventist Community Services

People come in all shapes and sizes, and so do their needs. For over 50 years ACS (Adventist Community Services) has offered diverse services tailored to fit the needs of the community. Often this is in the form of tangible goods and services (food, clothing, shelter, and showers) and sometimes emotional support is needed.

Portland ACS Director, Laura, was in a meeting when she heard a woman wailing outside her door. She excused herself to check on the situation, but found another staff member already sitting quietly with the grieving woman. The center's chaplain was called, who was able to spend more time listening and offering comfort. Most encouraging to Laura was a remark the woman made later, "I was overwhelmed and knew this would be a safe place to come."

Whether giving food and cooking gear, dental care, clothing, after school tutoring, or English language skills, hope and encouragement is the most valuable item found in ACS ministries.

Ellen White shared, "The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me"" (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

Adventist Community Service's ministries mingle in our communities, bringing Jesus' goodwill to the people. Join us and become the practical hands and feet of God in our world.

December 21, 2024

Local Church Budget

This time can be a busy time for many! If you have children in school as I do, it is a blur of Christmas programs, family traditions, and various gatherings of the people I love. It can be a time of great joy or a time of great sorrow, depending on many factors. Once all the busyness of the holiday is done, things actually slow down and reset.

One beautiful thing I have noticed is that where I live, there tends to be a stillness and a quietness in this season. The days are shorter, the weather is colder, and all of that combined slows me and my family down, and we simply adjust our pace to enjoy the rhythm of winter. I recently ran across the term “wintering,” referring to easing into the softer pace of the winter season.

As we look back on this year, let’s take time to reflect on how God has shown up for us this year. Was there a difficult thing your family went through? Is there a way you can see how prayer helped you navigate that time? Our offering today is for the local church budget. Let us give today from hearts grateful for all that we recognize God has done for us.

December 28, 2024

Carolina Youth

You may be familiar with the saying “out with the old, in with the new.” This is the time of year when that sentiment tends to ring the truest. Many of us may be looking back on our past year of life, reflecting on what has worked for us and what hasn’t. Perhaps there are some new habits you would like to pick up in 2025, and some habits you would rather leave behind as this year comes to a close. Thinking beyond your own life, are there things that you would like to see happen differently in our church? How can you be part of those changes and help us to continue to grow as we work for the Lord? What if we, as a church, and our conference, committed to serving one another even more in the upcoming year? What do you think that would look like? What if you committed to praying for another person in your Sabbath School class?

Today’s offering is for the local conference advance. Our church is part of a larger organization that serves our region. Our conference advance goes to support the many ministries across the conference.