

**St. Luke Lutheran Church  
Social Concerns Committee  
Funding Guidelines**

1. The Committee will seek to use all giving as an occasion for the celebration of God's transformative love. All giving will be spiritually guided, and the participating members will communicate to the recipients through words and deeds that gifts are shared as an expression of faith and love.
2. The Committee will ensure that one St. Luke member assumes primary responsibility for each recipient, whether a new or existing organization, to assure proper communication and oversight.
3. Consistent with the Serve Initiative of the 2011-12 St. Luke Ministry Plan, the committee will seek ways to engage more intentionally and personally with those we serve, in part by insuring that annual benevolence pledges for local agencies and/or projects enlist volunteer support from ten or more members of the congregation during the calendar of the benevolence distribution.

In an effort to guide volunteer support as appropriate to meet the needs of those served, committee members, in consultation with the St. Luke Volunteer Coordinator and the agency/project director, will seek volunteers. Such service will be documented with the Volunteer Coordinator by the committee chair/co-chair(s) or designate for the agency/project.

4. The Committee will actively pursue inclusion of social justice issues either directly or through the financial support of ad hoc or formal groups at St. Luke as part of regular worship services, to educate the congregation and to promote the congregation's involvement towards solutions.
5. The Committee will consider issues of local, national and international scope. However, the majority of volunteer time and benevolence dollars will be given locally to address issues of poverty, hunger, shelter, clothing, health, and advocacy/education, broadly defined.
6. Projects may involve direct assistance, education or advocacy originated by members of the congregation, in cooperation with helping agencies, and/or in partnership with other congregations (Lutheran and non-Lutheran).
7. Benevolence dollars may be allocated each year without a requirement for volunteer participation for:
  - Unique needs among congregation members;
  - Emergency requests from individuals outside the congregation that cannot be met by local social service agencies;
  - Local, national, or international disasters.

**8. Benson Trust gifts**

**Unless otherwise directed by the members of the Benson Trust Committee, should undesignated Benson Trust monies be available at the end of each calendar year, these monies will be entrusted to the Social Concerns Committee for distribution in a timely manner. These grants will not be subject to the volunteer guidelines related to agencies and smaller projects as required for other St. Luke Lutheran Church benevolence distributions made on behalf of the congregation through the Social Concerns Committee.**