

Donating Stock to Christ Lutheran Church

Some CLC folks have asked about donating stock shares to the church before the end of the year to take full advantage of tax benefits on the appreciated value. This can be done, but it is vital that you **NOT** sell the stock yourself.

Here is how it works.

Gifts of marketable securities — such as appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual funds *that have been held for more than one year* — can support the church and may help mitigate capital gains taxes while earning a tax deduction based on the full value of your gift.

For you to enjoy the tax advantages of this gift type, the securities must be transferred directly to the church through the ELCA Foundation **prior** to being sold. You or your broker should contact the Rev. Ana L. Lugo, Regional Gift Planner for the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA Foundation at either the office number (773) 380-2997 or her mobile number (904) 219-2769.

She will then initiate the stock transfer and you will work with her to document the intended use of your stock gift. The transfer of securities can then be initiated, and the gift will be processed. The deduction of your gift will be used by taking the average, or mean, stock price of the security on the trading date when the gift is received

Other securities, such as closely-held stock, S subchapter corporate stock, limited liability company interests, and partnerships can sometimes be used to make a charitable gift. Any proposed gift of such assets must be reviewed with the ELCA Foundation and the donor's tax advisers in advance. An S corporation, limited liability company or partnership may also donate specific assets, the deduction to be divided among the shareholders or members. Contact Pastor Ana to learn more about making gifts of this type.

Giving through Retirement Account RMD (Required Minimum Distribution)

If you are 70 ½, you are eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA, which can provide a tax benefit to you and, of course, also benefit God's ministry at Christ Lutheran Church.

Some simple rules:

1. You must be 70 ½.
2. It must be paid directly from a traditional IRA or Roth IRA.
3. It must be paid directly from IRA custodian to Christ Lutheran Church.
4. It must be paid to a qualifying charity - Christ Lutheran Church qualifies.

If making a Qualified Charitable Distribution sounds like an interesting option to you, please talk to your tax advisor first, to see if a QCD is appropriate for your unique situation