



**Minnesota North District**  
THE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Missouri Synod

## Addressing Financial Stability: Offerings during the COVID-19 response

A significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic may be a decrease in giving to congregations. Congregation members may be struggling financially due to business closures. Others may prefer putting their offering in the plate on Sunday—an option that isn't available if worship gatherings are suspended. The following information may help you offer more flexibility to your members so that those who are able can continue to share their financial support to ongoing ministry.

**OFFERING PLATES** - Consider placing the offering plate at the sanctuary doors for worshippers rather than passing the plate during the service.

### **PRE-ADDRESSED ENVELOPES FOR MAILING**

**OFFERINGS** - For members who usually prefer to bring their offering to worship each week, provide a supply of pre-addressed envelopes so they can easily mail their gifts to the church.

### **ONLINE GIVING THROUGH LUTHERAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

- We have a new Online Giving software called GiveCloud. This will save Churches and ministries money and has all the features for everyone including a website. The product is managed by Prolific (3rd party processor) and can be set up in as little as 24 hours! Contact Brian to get started:

[bcooper@myprolific.com](mailto:bcooper@myprolific.com)

All in One Software includes:

- Text to Give
- Website with Giving Page
- Donor Management
- Donor Login
- Unlimited Funds
- Ecommerce Online Store
- Kiosk for Churches or Events
- Social Media Campaigns
- Optional for Donor to add fees onto payment
- Recurring Payments

### **LEARN MORE:**

Church Ad: <https://vimeo.com/369877932/c0a64d1854>

(New) Demo of GiveCloud: <https://vimeo.com/370912962/87553db7f4>

### **ONLINE GIVING THROUGH “JOYFUL RESPONSE”**

- If you do not already have an online giving option in place, you can easily implement this tool through Joyful Response, a service that is provided by Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) through Vanco Services (the 3rd party processor). Payments are set up by ACH (Automated Clearing House) or by debit card, with payment processing fees covered by LCEF (not passed on to the church or the member).

To implement Joyful Response, follow these steps:

1. If your congregation does not currently have a StewardAccount® through LCEF, you can open one using the application provided at <https://lcef.org/joyful-response/>. A minimum \$100 balance is required. Offerings received through Joyful Response will be deposited in this account and can be easily accessed.
2. Contact Vanco Services at 1-800-774-9355 to begin the process of establishing the online payment portal, which they will create and host for your church website. There is a nominal monthly fee for their service.
3. Once the payment portal is set up, your webmaster can add a link to your church website (such as a “Give Now” button).

**NOTE:** While the transactions are processed through secure sites used by the 3rd party providers, an additional layer of security called an SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) certificate is strongly suggested. This can be purchased through GoDaddy for as little as \$65 annually.