

Why a fish?

The fish is an often used symbol for sharing the Gospel; as Jesus called his disciples he said, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." Mark 1:17.

It is also a symbol of abundance rather than scarcity. Jesus fed the 5,000 after the disciples said, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish" Matthew 14:17.

In the story of the great catch after a night of less than desirable fishing, Jesus directs the disciples to "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and then they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. John 21:6.

Through your generosity the tradition of the fish continues. When you join the Legacy Circle, a fish with your name on it will be added to the Legacy Circle display. Or, if you prefer, we can keep your name private and simply write "Follow me." You will also receive a fish for a keepsake for your home.



Legacy Circle
at Holy Cross Lutheran Church
is about continuing ministry
beyond our lifetime.



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A Plan For Giving



By becoming part of the Legacy Circle,
your gift will keep giving to the ministries of
Holy Cross Lutheran Church beyond your years.

Our Mission

Our mission is to create a culture within the congregation of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, whereby every member has the opportunity to consider planned giving through their wills, trusts or other financial instruments. We recognize that an important part of Christian stewardship is considering how to share one's current income and assets and how to make future gifts.

What is Legacy Circle?

Legacy Circle is composed of people who have made a designated gift to Holy Cross Lutheran Church in their estate planning. It also includes people who have given specialized ministry gifts during their lifetime for ministries beyond our budget.



Congregation of Holy Cross Lutheran Church 1952

Holy Cross Lutheran Church first gathered in late September 1951 in the Menomonee Falls American Legion Hall. Holy Cross was formally organized and constituted on Palm Sunday, April 6, 1952. Planned gifts will help to grow and maintain Holy Cross's future and all who follow us in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.



How is God calling me to respond to my many blessings?

Stewardship of assets refers to the portion of our accumulated resources we return to God. Upon passing, these gifts are utilized to further ministry for the future generations of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Your estate refers to the sum of your assets, including property/real estate, insurance policies, retirement accounts and cash on hand.

- A planned gift could include:
- Bequest in a will or trust
 - Charitable Gift Annuities
 - Life Insurance policies
 - Charitable Remainder trust
 - Securities - stocks, bonds, or mutual funds
 - Retirement accounts, IRA or savings accounts

Be sure to consult with a qualified tax advisor before making any final decisions.

Giving to Our Ministry Three Different Ways Which One Suits You?

When you include Holy Cross Lutheran Church in your estate planning, you have the ability to decide how your gift will be used by choosing one of the following:

- Mission Endowment Fund
This fund receives, holds and invests assets with a view to the long term. Principal is maintained. Income earned on principal can be distributed annually. This income will be used within and beyond Holy Cross as designated by the Endowment Fund Bylaws.
- Ministry Gift
For special projects and ministry enhancements beyond our operating budget. These gifts can address immediate and short term needs.
- Mortgage Debt Reduction/Building Principal

Holy Cross has a 2.3 million dollar mortgage, down from the original 4.5 million borrowed for the 2002 addition (gym, classrooms and offices).

Percentage Giving

Percentage giving allows individuals and couples to provide for family as well as for their church family and other non-profits. Since we cannot always envision our financial resources at the time of death, a percentage is a helpful way to think of leaving one's legacy as it is not tied to a specific dollar amount.

A note from the Pastor:
Holy Cross Lutheran Church has been called to share the good news of Jesus Christ and to share our resources in order to make a difference in our world, nation and local community. The Holy Cross Legacy Circle allows us to intentionally plan how our financial blessing can make a difference in the life of the ministry and mission of Holy Cross Lutheran Church beyond our lifetime.

Grateful people are generous people. Generous people are happy people.

There are times in people's lives when it becomes possible to give beyond their regular yearly giving to this congregation they love called Holy Cross Lutheran Church. For some, financial circumstances may allow them to give a large financial gift during their lifetime. For others, that kind of faith-filled generosity comes when we make a financial plan for our gifts to make a difference after our death. One way to thank the Lord and give generously beyond our lifetime is to join the Legacy Circle of Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

When my time comes to rest in the Lord, I will be able to share of what God has first given me to those closest to me, and to the colleges, seminary and congregations that have shaped my faith and have giving me an opportunity to serve as their pastor. Please join Paul and me in joining the Legacy Circle of Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

I've heard it said "you make a living by what you earn: you make a life by what you give away."

God has blessed me,
Pastor Meredith

Statement of Intent:
• After prayerful consideration, I/we have decided to leave a legacy to Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

• Please contact me with more information. My name and phone number follow:

OR
• I/we will share our legacy plans by completing the form below. After the church receives this information, I will expect the following:
• 1. A follow up phone call from a member of the Mission Endowment Board.
• 2. A letter of receipt with further information.

• Name(s): _____
• Address: _____
• City, State, Zip: _____
• I/we wish to join the Legacy Circle by the following:
• * _____ % of my assets
• * _____ fixed dollar amount
• * _____ A life insurance policy has been established with Holy Cross Lutheran Church as beneficiary.

• I/we wish to designate a gift as follows:
• * _____ The Holy Cross Mission Endowment Fund
• * _____ Ministry Gift
• * _____ Mortgage Reduction
• (Undesignated Gifts default to the Mission Endowment Fund)
• * After conversation with the Pastor(s), the gift should be used as follows: _____

