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## SUPPORTING MY HOME CONGREGATION IN DIFFICULT TIMES - REVISED

April 9, 2020

*“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” - Galatians 6:10*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Due to circumstances well beyond our control, we find ourselves in a situation where we, as God’s people, cannot gather in our normal places of worship to receive God’s gifts. While Lutheran Church–Canada and many congregations have taken steps to provide devotional resources, sermons, bible studies, and even complete Divine services online, we are all faced with the challenge of how to continue giving our regular tithes and offerings to support the local ongoing Word and Sacrament ministry of our congregations, especially if we are not allowed to leave our homes.

An increasing number of jurisdictions have issued shelter-in-place orders, discouraging even those who may want to visit the church to drop off their offerings. Even placing post-dated cheques in the mail may prove somewhat difficult if they cannot be picked up at the church. Although we recognize that we may not be able to give as much at this time, we know that without our giving, we may put a great stress on our congregation’s finances and its ability to do its work.

If your congregation has already taken steps to receive your gifts online or through pre-authorized debit, that is a joy to hear, and they will be greatly blessed. However, if your congregation does not have this ability, please consider the following option:

Lutheran Church–Canada has enhanced its website to include the option of giving directly *to your home congregation*. When you visit [www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca](http://www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca) and click on the “Support My Home Congregation” link on the home page, you will be directed to a secure, online giving portal. You may also go directly to the page <https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pageId=donation-edit&categoryId=10972>

Once you are on the donation page, enter the amount of your gift in the box and then select your congregation from the dropdown list. Enter the required information on the subsequent forms including your credit card information and complete your gift. You have the option of creating a login to save your information using the Register link. This is not necessary but will save you some time if you plan on making more than one donation. Once you complete your donation, you will receive an immediate charitable tax receipt from LCC (not your congregation). LCC will send a cumulative total of all donations received in a given time period to your congregation twice a month. For more information, please review the FAQ document under Congregational Resources on the LCC home page.

If you have any questions, please contact David Friesen via email at [dfriesen@lutheranfoundation.ca](mailto:dfriesen@lutheranfoundation.ca) or call 204-791-9949 (cell phone). May our gracious God continue to guide us through these difficult times and grant His peace and healing.