



<b>Title: Sustenance Fund</b>
<b>Policy #: 52</b>
<b>EXPIRES: When Replaced</b>
<b>ISSUED BY:</b>
<b>SIGNED:</b>

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## 1 History

VERSION	DATE APPROVED	UPDATED BY	PURPOSE FOR CREATION/UPDATE
1.0	5/9/2020	PR TOM GUDMUNDSON	TO ADDRESS THE PRESSING AND IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC NEEDS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

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## 2 Scope

This policy is part of St. Paul Lutheran Church’s organizational policies. This policy applies to members of the church and individuals in the community. The Sustenance Fund is being created to address the pressing and immediate economic needs of members of St. Paul LC and their neighbors during the COVID-19 pandemic and to provide members of the church who are able the opportunity to donate money to help their brothers and sisters in Christ who are experiencing financial crisis.

In this document, the word “neighbors” refers to non-members of St. Paul who live in the neighborhoods where our members reside. The reason these neighbors are being included in this policy is because we want to encourage the members of our church to be communicating with their neighbors and extending the good will of our Triune God and of this congregation to those people with whom they already have a relationship and who have lost income through a reduction of hours or unemployed and are in need. This pandemic has provided us with a great opportunity to witness about our faith in God in a very positive way to our neighbors.

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## 3 Policy

Members of St. Paul who have the financial means to contribute to this fund are encouraged to donate financial gifts above and beyond their regular gifts to our church’s ministry, in order to help their church family and neighbors during this difficult time. The apostle John writes, *“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”* <sup>17</sup> *If anyone has*

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*material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 3:16-18)*

The Sustenance Fund will be administered by our pastors who will keep adequate records to account for the funds that will be dispersed. However, they will also protect the confidentiality of the members and neighbors who are being served.

The assistance that will be provided will be in the form of financial grants to cover basic necessities like food, gas, baby supplies etc. It will not cover large ticket items such as mortgage payments since the CARES Act Economic Relief Plan passed by congress provides the opportunity for homeowner to apply for a suspension of payments if they experience a significant loss of income at this time.

**Significant loss of income due to a reduction of hours worked or job loss and their expressed financial need will qualify applicants to receive a grant from this fund.** Grant requests shall be limited to no more than \$250 per application once per month.

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## 4 Procedure

Members of St. Paul who have the financial means to contribute to this fund may do so by sending special contributions through the mail or by giving electronically through our church's website at [www.stpaulfalls.com](http://www.stpaulfalls.com). Once you arrive at the Giving Opportunities page, click on the donation button for the Sustenance Fund.

Applications for grants can be made by calling the church office (467-6449) and leaving a voice mail for one of the pastors. A Pastor will call you back by the next weekday.

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## 5 Forms

None