

What about our financial commitment to Christian Day Schools or other important charities?

Christian day schools and other charities are an important and God glorifying choice. However, the church is the body of Christ, and set apart by Christ. We are called by Christ to offer our gifts and first fruits to the church, and not out of guilt, but out of gratitude. Following what we have decided to generously give to the church, we are also called to share our offerings with other areas of need and justice.

Can I receive a tax receipt if I am not a professing member with envelopes?

Yes. As long as you indicate you would like one and provide contact information. If you would like a set of envelopes, please contact the church office.

What is our church budget?

Our church budget comprises the amount of donations required each year to cover our operating costs, salaries, ministry programs and ministry shares. The church budget is a necessary tool that is used from the organizational perspective. Our giving and offerings to the church should not be based on the budget, but on our response to what God has done for us through his son Jesus Christ.

What are ministry shares?

Ministry shares are included in our annual church budget at about \$6 per week for each active professing member 18 and older. Ministry shares provide us the opportunity to join with thousands of other Christian Reformed churches to give beyond our local church and into our region and world. Ministry shares is where we can “add” and God will “multiply.” The Christian Reformed Church ministry shares has low overhead and has about 85% of every dollar going directly into ministry. For more information check out:

<https://www.crcna.org/ministryshares/what-are-ministry-shares>

We are training to become a clear reflection of God’s glory; within ourselves, towards others, and in our communities.
(Exeter CRC Mission)

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

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Exeter Christian Reformed Church



FAQ's on Giving

Why do we give?

God does not “need” our money. He wants our hearts. Jesus taught that our money is an indicator of our hearts (Matt 6:21). Our giving is a reflection of our relationship with the Lord. Paul taught that since we are loved by God, and love him in return, we would give cheerfully, sacrificially and regularly (2 Cor 8-9). King Solomon states to honour the Lord with your wealth, with the first-fruits of all your crops (Prov 3:9). King David praised that the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it (Psalm 24:1). God says to bring him the tithe and to test him in this (Mal 3:10). “Tithing isn’t about God needing your money. It’s about Him needing first place in your life.” (John Piper)

What is a tithe? Is it applicable today?

A tithe is in the Old Testament referring to 10% of crops, animals and finances. In the New Testament, tithes are not referred to as much. It is difficult to tithe because we tend to put legalistic conditions to it, such as before tax, after tax, net, gross, etc. What we tithe becomes rather subjective. A tithe or 10% is a good benchmark. It is a good place to start or at least strive towards without being legalistic. God wants us to give cheerfully and generously from the heart as a response of gratitude and love toward him and others.

Giving is not age specific. Children should be encouraged at a young age to share their finances. One can request budget envelopes or coupons at any age.



What if I don’t have enough money to give?

Giving 10% of your income to your church can be a big and often frightening commitment. Scripture tells us to honour God with our first fruits and our blessings will be overflowing. We must learn to trust that God is faithful to provide. God wants us to trust him. Seek his guidance in how much we should give and he will honour our faithfulness and obedience.

What are ways I can give?

We have several methods of giving which can include: PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance from your designated bank account), offering bags on Sunday, coupons, budget envelopes.

Who should give electronically, and how?

Everyone is encouraged to give electronically. PAR is a simpler, more consistent way to give to the church budget and deacon’s benevolence fund. Contact the church administrator, who will take the required information and arrange your donation to be deducted automatically each month. Once set up, this regular amount can be changed with a simple phone call or email.

Why would I use coupons for the offerings?

When you purchase coupons, the amount is recorded through your receipted giving records and contributes towards your donation receipt for an income tax credit. You then can use these easily accessible coupons in any offerings to direct your prepaid funds toward this cause. Coupons are very beneficial by using tools that have been presented for our use through the tax rules. Your tax savings (above your first \$200 donated) on donations is generally 40%.

Is it worth getting a tax receipt?

Absolutely. It is not only “worth it,” but you can look at it as an act of stewardship. God provides us a benefit through the Federal government tax system that in a sense “assists” donors and charities. When one donates to a registered charity, anything over the amount of \$200 generally saves tax at a rate of 40%. Let’s say for example you have prayerfully considered to give \$3,000 for the year, and it might be tight, but your cash flow will still work out (remember trust God). When you file your tax return for the following year, you will receive a \$1,200 tax savings. This means the “true cost” of the donation to you is only \$1,800 (\$3,000-\$1,200). In a sense you could look at it that you are able to afford to give more to the church. It is a benefit to both the church and to the donor using a receipt, and taking into account the tax benefits.