

Fund Raising Policy at King of kings Lutheran Church

An important part of our response to God's grace is the giving of our time, talents, and money. King of Kings presents members with many opportunities to serve the Lord. As committed Christians, we are called to make personal stewardship decisions which respond to God's grace, demonstrate our faith, and meet the needs of the church. Thus, the giving of the individual Christian to God's Church, testifies to the mission of the church and is an indispensable part of it.

Our congregation's policy on fund raising activities has been designed to teach and encourage biblical stewardship principles on the part of the members of King of Kings Lutheran Church. We are here to give money **to** the Lord not to make money **for** Him. If we can not support our ministry through giving, we need to examine our faith and giving, not turn to fund raising.

Commercialism, the selling of goods or services in the name of the church, with the purpose of raising funds for the operation and mission of the church is expressly prohibited by our Lord in Mark 11. It distorts the clear relationship between the giving of the Christian and the mission of the church. It fails to bear testimony to the mission of the church. Commercialism opens the door to misunderstanding and hurt feelings, weakens the life of the church and a biblical understanding of stewardship for the following reasons:

- It involves the church in other than its true business: that of giving the Gospel to all people
 - It is used instead of giving. The church languishes from a lack of support due to an improper understanding of giving and poor commitment to giving by its members.
 - Buying from the church often suggests supporting the church. This leads to a false sense of security which satisfies the consciences of people not vitally related to the church.
 - It exploits church members by causing them to feel obligated to support fund raising projects
- As the relinquishing of commercialism offers new and deeper opportunities for service, participation and fellowship in the life of the church; we prohibit all fund raising activities at this church.

We understand that some activities must necessarily involve payment of funds for the congregation's ministries to cover the cost of materials & supplies for an activity or to cover payments to third party for tickets or other costs.

- whenever an activity carries a charge to cover costs, the charge shall be set so as to minimize the excess profit over costs. Any excess should be designated in advance to a benevolent cause.
- when possible, an activity should be carried out by the giving of the service or merchandise, not the selling of it.
- there shall be no fund raising activities for the purpose of supporting the regular operating budget of the congregation or any specific ministry area.
- whenever possible, we will encourage support of the specific cause through the regular congregational budget or through freewill giving.

We prohibit all games of chance; all regular meals sold to the congregation or the general public on an ongoing basis; all sale of merchandise manufactured, produced, or furnished by a fund raising organization which would benefit from fund raising within the congregation in the name of the church; all activity which places us in competition with private business by providing goods or services which are produced for sale in the private sector; and all fund raising for investment purposes to earn interest.