

St. John's Lutheran Church Guidelines for use of money received through the Thrivent Choice program of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

1. These guidelines are adopted by St. John's council to help St. John's Lutheran Church exercise good stewardship of the money it receives from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans through the Thrivent Choice program. This program allows eligible members of the organization to direct a portion of its charitable dollars to the Lutheran institutions of their choice. Thrivent Financial refers to this money as Thrivent Choice Dollars.
2. One half of monies received through the Thrivent Choice program will be set aside in an account called the "Thrivent Choice Fund - Executive Committee" and will be used for funding special ministry needs as determined by the executive committee.
3. The remaining half of monies received through the Thrivent Choice program will be set aside in an account called the "Thrivent Choice Fund - Ministry Team" and will be used for ministry funding request initiated by the congregation (St. John's members, groups, committees, boards, teams, etc.) per the guidelines of this document.
4. These funds may be provided as grants to cover cost or as challenge money to stimulate fund raising efforts. The funds may also be used to cover the cost of materials and supplies used by groups of St. John's volunteers in carrying out ministry service projects. The funds are intended for ministry projects or needs that are not met through the church budget.
5. Applications for funding request may only be made by a member of St. John's or by a St. John's ministry group/team/committee/board.
6. Application forms will be available from the church office. Application requests will be reviewed and approval determined by a committee made up of all the chairpersons of the Ministry Groups (Worship, Outreach, Discipleship, Community, Fellowship, and Christian Formation) and council president (or designated council representative).
7. For the portion of funds directed by the congregation, it is recommended that funding for any one project be limited so that multiple projects and needs can be supported each year. It is also suggested these funds be awarded to encourage entrepreneurial ministries and support different needs and projects from year to year as there are many different ministry needs and interest within St. John's. (entrepreneurial – new, creative, start up ministries)
8. Grants from the St. John's Thrivent Choice Funds are to be reported to council and published in the St. John's newsletter and other means appropriate for keeping St. John's members informed as to the use of these funds. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is to be acknowledged as the source of this funding.
9. Thrivent Choice Dollars received by St. John's will not be used for college scholarships and will not be given to other Lutheran institutions.
10. The funds, "Thrivent Choice Fund - Executive Committee" and the "Thrivent Choice Fund - Ministry Team", should both be viewed as temporary holding accounts until funding request for worthwhile projects or needs are received and approved.