



**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Michigan District**
*How to participate in **The Future is Now***

Your congregation has decided to participate in *The Future is Now* and has set its goal. TERRIFIC!! Now it's time for the congregation to choose how it will participate to reach – or exceed – its goal.

The most important thing is to remember that you want your appeal to be **intentional**. You will want to **educate** your congregation members and **invite** their **participation**, as personally as possible, in this historic mission effort. Here are four proven fundraising plans to achieve your goal.

1. Adopt an education and stewardship plan with:
 - a. an appeal with several personal visits with key congregation members
 - b. “cottage meetings” that ask for multi-year pledges; and/or
 - c. a “Commitment Sunday” in-pew appeal for *The Future is Now*

2. Make a congregation pledge and raise new dollars over five years in the following ways:
 - a. 5th Sunday offerings
 - b. Loose change offerings
 - c. Approach the various groups (Mens, LWML, Youth, Choir, Small Groups, Bible Study Groups) in your congregation
 - d. Mite Boxes
 - e. Fundraising dinners (Fish Fry, Pig Roast, Sauerkraut Supper)
 - f. Designating Lenten and/or Advent offerings
 - g. Annual congregational rummage sale
 - h. VBS Offerings
 - i. Chapel Offerings (if you have a school)
 - j. Utilizing Thrivent Matching Funds
 - k. Holding an auction
 - l. Be creative by using special talents of a congregational member
 - m. Hold creative events, i.e. walk-a-thon, bowl-a-thon
 - n. Other events that have worked for you in the past

3. Designate a portion (we ask you to consider between 10% and 15%) of an upcoming local campaign

4. Agree to add new funds to your budget for each of the next five years and make special contributions to *The Future is Now*