



**Making the dream of a Christian education
a reality for families through scholarships!**

What is the Lutheran SGO?

The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization (LSGO) is a program that allows individuals and businesses to reduce or eliminate their state taxes by funding scholarships for families wanting a quality, Christian education. Donors receive a 50% state tax CREDIT up to their total state tax liability. For example, a person who donates \$10,000 to the LSGO would receive a \$5,000 state tax credit! Additionally, donors who can itemize their federal deductions also can claim an LSGO donation as a charitable contribution. Donors can also designate the school that should receive the benefits of their donation. Since 2012, over \$24,000,000 has been raised in LSGO contributions designated for over 17,000 students who attend schools connected to our LSGO! Thanks be to God! These gifts are truly making an eternal impact, allowing children who attend our schools to hear about Jesus every day.

Creative Ways to Maximize Giving

Every family needs to determine the amount that they are capable and willing to give to the LSGO. Here are a few simple ways to maximize giving opportunities through the LSGO.

Give to the LSGO in Lieu of Offerings

Why not give a portion of your regular church offerings directly to the LSGO? Every dollar raised through the LSGO and designated for your school is one less dollar that the church would need to spend to provide financial support for the school. And don't forget about the 50% tax credit! If the tax credit is donated back to the church through regular offerings, then you could truly maximize your financial contributions to the overall ministry, without having any additional net out-of-pocket expenses! For example... If you typically give \$8,000 to your church through offerings, consider giving \$4,000 to your church and \$4,000 to the LSGO. If you give your \$2,000 50% tax credit from your LSGO gift back to your church, you will increase your total contribution to the overall ministry from \$8,000 to \$10,000!

Give from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA)

In most cases, personal distributions from an IRA are taxable. **Why not give from your IRA directly to the LSGO?** This would eliminate owing taxes on the distribution, while at the same time, provide you with a 50% tax credit! Talk about a win-win! A person who is 70.5 years old can begin receiving IRA distributions without penalty. Once someone turns 73, that person must begin taking a minimum IRA distribution. This is called the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD.) Giving your RMD directly to the SGO is a great way to truly maximize your SGO giving potential, without paying state taxes!

Give from a Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

Did you know that you may be able to direct money from your Donor Advised Fund to the LSGO? A

relatively new addition to the Indiana State Tax Code allows for gifts in some circumstances to be directed from a Donor Advised Fund to the LSGO, while still permitting the 50% tax credit to be given to the individual directing the donation! The 50% tax credit, along with the Federal Charitable Contribution that can be claimed, provides another outstanding way to maximize donations. Please talk to your financial advisor for more information on how to maximize LSGO giving opportunities through a Donor Advised Fund. A recent Indiana Department of Revenue Tax Bulletin is available that explains this new opportunity.

How do I make a donation?

To make a donation, check out our website at www.LutheranSGO.org, and follow the prompts.

For more information, contact:

Scott Schumacher – Executive Director

Phone: (812) 344-4724 | Email: scott@lutheransgo.org

OUR MISSION

The Lutheran SGO exists to partner with schools in raising funds from individuals and businesses and distributing scholarship funds to all eligible students attending Lutheran and other Christian schools in states served by the Lutheran SGO.