



Central Lutheran Church

1000 Easton Rd. Dallas, Texas 75218
214-327-2222 | www.centrallutheran.org
central.lutheran.dallas@gmail.com

Important Guidelines on Handling Requests for Financial Assistance

As a community dedicated to supporting one another in times of need, we understand that you may encounter individuals seeking financial assistance. While we encourage compassion and empathy towards those facing financial challenges, it's essential that we maintain proper boundaries to protect both the church and its members.

Here are some guidelines on how to respond when someone asks you for money and how to direct them to proper organizations for personal financial assistance:

1. **Listen with Empathy:** When someone approaches you seeking financial help, listen to their story with an open heart. Show genuine concern for their situation and acknowledge their struggles. Pray with them and pray for them!
2. **Refer to Church Leadership:** Encourage individuals seeking financial assistance to reach out to the church leadership: the Church Council or the Pastor.
3. **Inform about Local Assistance Programs:** Advise those in need to explore local government or community-based financial assistance programs that are designed to help people facing financial hardship. These programs often provide more comprehensive and long-term support.
4. **Suggest Non-Profit Organizations:** Recommend reputable non-profit organizations that specialize in providing financial aid and resources for specific needs, such as housing, food, or medical expenses.
5. **Maintain Personal Boundaries:** It's essential to set and maintain boundaries while assisting others. If you are unable to provide financial help or feel uncomfortable doing so, be kind but firm in your response.
6. **Avoid Handouts without Accountability:** While providing immediate relief is admirable, try to ensure that any assistance given is connected to a plan for long-term stability. Avoid giving money directly, if possible, as this may not address the root cause of the person's financial difficulties.
7. **Protect Your Personal Information:** Be cautious about sharing personal financial details with individuals seeking help, as this could lead to potential misuse or exploitation.

Remember that we are a community that cares for one another, but we must do so responsibly. By directing those in need to proper resources and maintaining appropriate boundaries, we can ensure that our support has a positive and lasting impact.

Thank you for your understanding and commitment to helping others in a thoughtful and caring manner.

Blessings,

Rev. Veronika Czutor