

January 3, 2026

Our Local Church Budget

There is something special about the beginning of a new year. It's the energy and the excitement. It provides the chance to forget the past and its challenges, while we embrace the possibility to start over. The New Year offers the opportunity for us to look at the future with optimism and gratefulness. For this reason, I like new, don't you?

So may our goals this year include spending consistent time in *worship* and developing a closer relationship with God. May we take care of our *wellbeing (physically and psychologically)* and *witness* about His love by using our talents and gifts. May we faithfully return to God the designated portion of our *wealth* and take care of our *world* and the environment.

I invite you to make 2026 an exceptional year of sacrificial generosity, both in our local church and worldwide. Today's offering is for the local church budget. Thank you for making the commitment this year to help your church family continue to be a light for Jesus in our community.

January 10, 2026

Religious Liberty Sabbath

Seventh-day Adventists have stood firmly for religious liberty—for everyone—for more than 150 years. But do you know the reason why?

Part of the reason is that, when our church was founded, almost every American state had Sunday-keeping laws on the books. Adventist pastors, farmers, laborers, and others were arrested, jailed, or fined for doing “secular work” on Sunday. Even Wille White, son of James and Ellen, was arrested in Oakland, California, in 1882 for keeping the Pacific Press Publishing presses operating on a Sunday! But that’s not the full story. The deeper reason why we continue to stand for religious liberty—in the courts, before legislatures, and through the pages of *Liberty* magazine—is because we want to reflect the character of the God we serve. He’s a God who created us in His image and who has given each one of us the freedom to choose whom we will worship. He’s a God who, in the words of Ellen White, “desires only the service of love,” which “cannot be won by force or authority” (*The Desire of Ages*, 22).

Today, please help support this vital ministry of religious liberty. It’s a ministry that defends not only the rights of individual conscience, but also the ability of our church to continue to do its mission. As we face uncertain days ahead, your prayers and support are needed now, more than ever.

January 17, 2026

Local Church Budget

This week our tithe and offerings will support our local church budget. Like every family, the local church family has financial obligations to meet. Some are easy to see like power and heat, Pathfinders and Church School. However, many are not so obvious: children's magazines, Sabbath school Bible study guides, teaching supplies, staff salaries, cleaning services, property insurance, community outreach, family emergency fund and the list goes on.

These are just a few of the costs that must be met month after month as the local church seeks to be a light in the community and take care of each other's needs. Because these expenses are constant, My Personal Giving Plan (www.nadstewardship.org) recommends that 3-5 percent of one's income be set aside for the local church budget. This systematic giving ensures that all members share both in the blessings and the responsibilities of the local congregation.

Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting your local church, your local family. Let's pray...

January 24, 2026

Wisconsin Conference Budget

The Conference leadership is tasked with guiding the churches in proclaiming the gospel in their areas. They do this in at least four ways. First, they provide pastors and specialized personnel, like Family Ministries. Second, they encourage conference-sponsored evangelism activities done through pastors and members. Third, the conference supports and supervises Adventist schools. Fourth, they collaborate with the local congregations to build churches, schools, and other facilities.

For much of this work, the Conference depends on the local church and its members for their financial contributions, as the tithe only covers the salaries of the pastors and other specialized conference ministries and personnel. To finance the remainder of these projects, most conferences collect an offering once per month. In our conference the name for this offering is the Wisconsin Conference Budget.

Thank you for your committed support to the conference initiatives through your giving and for not becoming “weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up” (Gal. 6:2, 9, ESV).

May you receive the bountiful blessings of God today.

January 31, 2026

Local Church Budget

Like every family, the local church family has financial obligations to meet. Some are easy to see like power and heat, but many are not as obvious: children's magazines, Sabbath School Bible study guides, teaching supplies, staff salaries, cleaning services, church school operating expenses, property insurance, worthy student fund, family emergency fund and community outreach. These are but a few of the costs that must be met month after month as the local church seeks to be a light in the community.

Because these expenses are constant, the North American Division Stewardship Ministries has instituted the My Personal Giving Plan that recommends 3 to 5 percent of one's income be set aside for the local church budget. This systematic giving ensures that all share both in the blessings and the responsibilities of the local congregation.

As we return our tithes and offerings to support our local church may we each experience the blessings of working together to support the needs of our church family.