

Care in Congregations®

Through this program, Thrivent Financial members receive financial support and other resources for volunteer projects and/or fund-raising activities that benefit Lutheran congregations and related Lutheran organizations, including schools.

Program Highlights

- ☑ Care in Congregations® is an annual program (January-December). In early January of each year, the congregational coordinators receive notification about the amount of Care in Congregations® program dollars made available to Thrivent Financial members in each Lutheran congregation for that year. (To receive funding, the three congregational coordinator positions must be filled and on record with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.)
- ☑ The dollars are used to supplement money raised by a congregational service team at a fund-raiser, or to pay for the materials needed by the service team to perform a hands-on service activity.
- ☑ Annual funds available are based on the number of baptized congregational members in addition to a base amount.
- ☑ The congregational coordinators provide leadership to volunteer efforts in the congregation, initiate the request for funds, report activity information, assure that funding is used as intended at the congregation and engage other Thrivent Financial for Lutheran members.
- ☑ A Congregational Service Team Director is an elected leader serving on the chapter leadership board. This person will support and train congregational coordinators.

5 Simple Steps For a Successful Activity

- 1. Identify a need:** Work with the church leadership and the Thrivent Financial members in the congregation to help identify needs that can be addressed using Care in Congregations funds. **Note:** *Some congregations have specific fund-raising policies, which should be considered when planning activities hosted by Thrivent Financial members.*
- 2. Organize a congregational service team:** A congregational service team consists of all Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members who want to come together to help a particular congregation or its related Lutheran institution(s). To qualify for funding, the team must consist of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members (benefit, associate, and/or youth members) from at least six different households who come together to conduct a chapter fundraising activity or hands-on service activity. (After the six-member-household requirement is met, non-members also are encouraged to participate.) Congregational coordinators may be included in the required six member households.
- 3. Request Care in Congregations funds prior to the activity:** A congregational coordinator enters the service team's request online. Information needed includes: type of need, activity type and date, name and brief description of activity, estimated costs or estimated funds that will be raised, total Care in Congregations funds requested from Thrivent Financial (at least \$100), estimated number of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans households actively involved, and contact name, phone number and e-mail address.
- 4. Publicize the activity:** To help ensure a successful activity, it's important to "get the word out," encouraging people to attend and/or help. It also helps highlight how Thrivent Financial and its members multiply the good we do together to support congregations through Care in Congregations activities and funding. Three great tools to help make members aware of the activity and the program are the Care in Congregations bulletin insert, poster and news release templates (before and after activity). The bulletin insert and news release templates can be accessed online from the Forms page in the Volunteer Resources section of the Members/ Chapters area. In addition, congregational coordinators can order them.
- 5. Report activity results:** After the activity, a congregational coordinator enters the following results online: volunteer hours, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans member attendance and total attendance, net funds raised and/or total expenses incurred, and total Thrivent Financial for Lutherans member households actively involved. Reporting the activity results will release the supplemental funding to the congregation. Local funds raised should be turned directly over to the congregation. The congregational service team submits the expense receipts to a congregational coordinator, who then provides these to the chapter leadership board.


Care in Congregations At-a-Glance—Activity Requirements

Eligible recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congregations and their related Lutheran institutions (e.g., Lutheran schools, early childhood center, seminary, etc.).
Ineligible activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities conducted in foreign countries. • Activities supporting Thrivent Builds.
Service team requirements to receive funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must consist of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members (benefit, associate, and/or youth members) from at least six different households. (After the six-member-household requirement is met, nonmembers also are encouraged to participate in the activity.) • Must be actively involved in the activity (i.e., provide the labor). • Participants do not have to be members of the recipient congregation.
Important dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec. 18—Last day that new 2008 activity/funding requests can be made; that previously approved funding amounts can be changed; and that additional funding can be added to an existing activity. No exceptions can be made. • Dec. 31—All activities should be reported to be included in 2008 results.
Funding requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive funding, requests must be entered online before an activity occurs. • Care in Congregations program funds for the year are not carried over to the next year. • Care in Congregations program funds for an activity cannot exceed the remaining funds available for the year. • Care in Congregations program funds are sent to the congregation in the form of a paper check unless other arrangements are made with Thrivent Financial to have funds electronically deposited into the congregation’s account.

Fund-Raising

Hands-On Service

Funding levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$100 minimum per service team per activity. • No maximum provided the remaining funds available are not exceeded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$100 minimum per service team per activity. • \$1,600 maximum per service team per activity. Not to exceed remaining funds available. • Up to 50 percent up-front funding may be provided before the activity to purchase needed supplies. <p><i>Note: Activities are reimbursed up to the amount of expenses incurred for the purchase of required materials.</i></p>
Ineligible uses of funding		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational, recognition or social events. • Supplies for fund-raising activities. • Payment of professional or contracted services by vendors. • As a direct grant.



Publicity is a very important piece of conducting volunteer activities. For ideas on publicizing your activities, go to www.thrivent.com, Members/Chapters, Volunteer Resources, Ask CHIP - and search on 'publicity'.

If you have questions about the **Care in Congregations**® program, please contact the Fraternal Service Center at (800) 236-3736 or by e-mail at fraternal@thrivent.com.