



LIFE LINK CHURCH - BENEVOLENCE REQUEST FORM

Thank you for considering the Life Link Church family in your Benevolence Request. Life Link Church is committed to help strengthen people through a variety of means, one of which is through extending financial benevolence to those who are within the guidelines and scope that our Benevolence Ministry is designed to assist (i.e. active members of the Life Link Church Family). We want you to know that we prayerfully consider each request individually and look forward to being a part of God's plan for you in some way. If we are unable to assist you with this request, we are happy to provide information on additional resources that may be able to help.

Please review the Life Link Church Benevolence Guidelines to verify your eligibility before completing and submitting this request form.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Person requesting the funds: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
Zip Code: _____ **Your best Phone number:** (____) _____

Place of Employment: _____
Address: _____
Business Phone: (____) _____ Contact Person: _____

MEMBERSHIP, ATTENDANCE & ACTIVE PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

Life Link Church Member: **(circle one) YES NO**
Membership Class and Signed Membership Commitment:
(approximate month/year) ____ / ____

Worship services attended within the last 12 weeks? _____
Where do you serve at Life Link Church? _____
Which Life Group are you currently in? _____
Name of current Life Group Leader: _____

BENEVOLENCE INFORMATION

Previously had assistance: (circle one) YES NO For what: _____
Last Date of Assistance: _____ How much \$ _____
Description of Need: _____
Bill you are requesting assistance with: _____
Bill is payable to: _____
Address: _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____
Account Number: _____ Amount: \$ _____
Description of Bill: _____

> (Departmental Use – DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE) <

Check Mailed/Credit Card Payment Made: _____
(date/amount)

Approved by: _____
(Financial Team) (Pastoral Signature)

LIFE LINK CHURCH BENEVOLENCE GUIDELINES

Purpose

The purpose of benevolent financial assistance is to aid and assist the work of God in an individual's or family's life. Benevolence is funded from a portion of the tithes and offerings received from the Life Link Church family and are set aside to assist an individual or a family in a time of crisis. It is designed to offer temporary relief rather than to support an individual or family ongoing. God works through many willing vessels. Life Link Church is only one of those vessels.

Position

It is our position, based upon the Scriptures, that personal and family resources are used by God to prepare and test God's servants as stewards and managers for Him. Therefore when a financial crisis arises in an individual or family, we must dutifully investigate the situation. It may not serve the best interest of the individual to rush to their assistance with financial aid.

It may be possible that the financial situation is a way that God is trying to redirect the course of their life. If the church provides an easy way out, with a check, for example, it may disrupt what God is trying to accomplish and will only be a temporary fix. Experience has shown that God uses time and pressure to change the course of our lives. This sometimes is through financial pressure.

However, some financial problems are different. They are usually the result of death, illness, injury, or other crisis, which we refer to as a "crisis case". Each situation must be carefully and prayerfully considered to determine the root cause of the situation, whether our benevolent assistance is warranted, and whether we are responding to the Holy Spirit's leading.

Life Link Church desires to "teach people to fish" (and sometimes help them see how they could buy the pond), but does not continually give fish (benevolence funds) away without solving the root cause. The participant must be willing to take necessary steps to change their situation and be willing to participate in appropriate programs offered by or recommended by the church.

Categories of Financial Benevolence Requests

All benevolence at Life Link Church is divided into two categories, people outside the church and active members within the church family. We believe we have a special responsibility to minister to our members' needs and be dedicated to addressing them.

Members of other churches should seek guidance and counsel from the fellowship they attend as an extension of God's provision. If their church is not in a position to provide assistance, there may be outside agencies available.

Non-Members are defined as any persons or families who have not completed Life Link's Membership Class and are not plugged into one of Life Link's ministries or Life Groups.

Non-member financial requests will receive prayerful response which will be used to help requesters look at the spiritual side of their lives and introduce them to Jesus. After

asking to pray with them, attempts will be made to give referrals to outside agencies or other available resources within the community.

Active Members are defined, for the purpose of benevolent assistance, as persons or families who have completed the Membership Class, actively worship with the LLC family on weekends, serve in volunteer ministries at LLC and participate in Life Groups each semester.

Financial Counseling

This ministry is a service to individuals and families to help them become better managers of the resources with which God has entrusted them. The principle teaching tool is family budgeting assistance using principles taught through Financial Peace University.

Financial Counseling, whether in a class or one-on-one setting, will be suggested to everyone upon their first request for assistance and is a requirement for anyone requesting assistance more than once.

Upon their second request for assistance, the person requesting funds must agree to participate in financial coaching. If they are not willing to participate in financial coaching and counseling, Life Link Church is not able to offer financial assistance. When they agree to participate, we will provide details of the next class. Life Link's vision is for people to become debt free. We're committed to do all we can to truly help people achieve this freedom.

Priority response

The primary types of financial assistance provided are: housing, food, essential bills (gas, electrical, car insurance, and water), and medical crisis. Non-essentials (car payments, car repairs, phone bills, etc.) will be viewed on a case-by-case request. Debt service payments (credit cards and loans) are generally not included in financial assistance. Special consideration will be given to widows and single parent households.

The Benevolence Ministry will also determine whether the Life Group or family of the individual should be made aware of the need so that they have the opportunity to offer prayer, encouragement, and assistance. Once determined, if appropriate, permission will be asked to contact a family member and/or other agencies. We use this to gain direction and determine how others may assist. Additionally, we may check with debtors to see whether applicants are habitually late or if this is an isolated situation. The extent of the church's financial assistance will be determined by evaluating the circumstances and being led by the Holy Spirit.

Life Link Church is committed to help move people from *getting* to *gaining* to *giving*, so we always keep the responsibility for the solution on the person requesting assistance. When they do commit to help themselves, Life Link Church will respond. This prevents dependency and moves people towards personal responsibility without the church having to say "no".

Our goal is to use Life Link's resources to build relationships, keep the responsibility with the person and offer rewards as beneficiaries take steps to change their situation. This

will lead to long-term results. Throughout the journey, our prayer is that they will experience Jesus' love.

Application / Review Process

Each request for benevolence begins with the Benevolence Request Form, which must be completely filled out before it can be reviewed by Life Link's Benevolence Committee.

Once the form has been completed, it may be submitted through the following options:

1. Mail the completed Benevolence Request Form to the mailing address listed below
2. Scan and email the completed Benevolence Request Form to:
benevolence@lifelinkchurch.com
3. Enclose the completed Benevolence Request Form in an envelope and drop it off at the LLC Information Center before or after a weekend worship service.

Once received, the Benevolence Committee will prayerfully review the request and determine whether or not the church can offer assistance. The committee will inform you of their decision as soon as possible.

If your request is approved, checks will **not** be issued directly to applicants. Checks will only be issued to authorized payees (utility company, landlord, etc.).

Benevolence Range & Limits

Although Life Link wants to help as many people as possible, the church's benevolence resources are limited. **Therefore we will consider a maximum of two requests per family per calendar year for an annual total of up to \$500.00.**

Tact, Sensitivity and Stewardship Responsibility

- Everyone who requests assistance will be treated with respect and kindness, and our responses will include prayer and the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Each request will be considered according to biblically-based guidelines.
- An individual's lack of planning, neglect, or procrastination does not create an emergency or crisis that Life Link Church is obligated to meet.
- We realize and accept that we cannot be all things to all people.
- We have limited resources monthly and are required to be good stewards to those we are led by the Holy Spirit to assist.

Life Link Church Mailing address:

725 West Warner Road, Gilbert, AZ 85233

Church Phone: 602-885-1946

Website: www.lifelinkchurch.com