

REG is being relaunched!



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Dear Treasurer

Regular Electronic Giving (REG) has been faithfully serving the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) for many years. It is the way through which members can make their offerings to your congregation and the wider Lutheran Church by using the LLL direct debit system. The LLL administers REG free of charge as a service to the LCA.

REG offers a number of benefits to your congregation.

- It provides a regular income, improving your cash flow.
- It assists in budget planning and management.
- It saves administrative time.
- It is safe because there's less cash to handle and bank each week.

REG offerings can be transferred from a bank, credit union or an LLL account into the congregation's REG account set up with the LLL. Transfers can be made weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly or half-yearly.

You are able to track and monitor your congregation's giving. Personal contributor details are kept confidential, however. No personal details, including the person's name, or the amount or regularity of their giving, are available to you or anyone else.

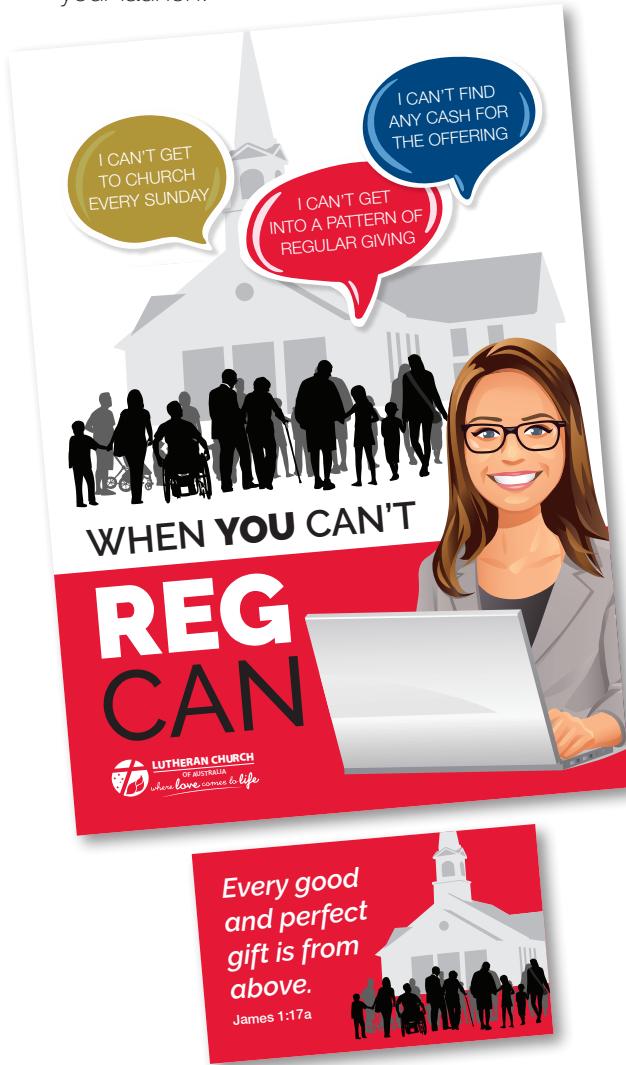
REG offering cards can be given to people registered with REG if they still want to put something on the offering plate on Sundays. The cards are recycled by the ushers for ongoing use. You can request batches of REG offering cards, free of charge, from your District office or the LLL.

Introducing REG in your congregation

This is a suggested approach for introducing or reintroducing REG in your congregation.

Prior to the REG launch

1. Ensure your congregation has an open and active LLL REG account. The LLL must be advised that the account is to be used for REG transfers. If you're not sure, contact the LLL at 1800 556 457 or via their contact form at www.lll.org.au
2. Request sufficient quantities of the REG brochure and REG offering cards from your District Office or the LLL, to arrive in time for your launch.



3. Ensure that your pastor and key office-bearers understand the benefits of REG and ask them to support its launch or relaunch in the congregation.
4. Set a date for the launch of REG.
5. You, or your pastor or chairperson, could promote the launch in after-worship announcements, and use the bulletin inserts available at www.lca.org.au/bulletin-inserts in your bulletins for a few weeks before the launch. Also print in your bulletin your congregation's the REG account number (obtainable from the LLL if you don't know it), so that it's easy for your members to complete the online registration form.
6. Ask your pastor if he would consider preaching about giving or stewardship on that Sunday.
7. If you personally give your offerings via REG, consider speaking to your congregation about the benefits – or if you know someone who uses REG, ask them if they might consider doing this. There is nothing more effective than a personal testimony.
8. Copy sufficient REG launch letters (template available at www.lca.org.au/REG) for each member or family and attach them or insert them in the REG brochures.
9. If possible, make available a computer or laptop so that people can sign up online immediately after the service.

On REG launch day

- Your ushers will hand out the REG brochures and letters to people as they arrive for worship, or they could be placed in pigeon holes.
- Your pastor might preach on giving or on stewardship.
- During announcement time, you or another office-bearer will make a short presentation about REG and refer to the brochure and letter. You might want to include a personal testimony about the benefits of REG. Outline the process of signing up for REG and explain the purpose of the REG offering cards. Highlight your congregation's REG account number printed in the bulletin.
- You and other office-bearers will make themselves available after the service to assist with any enquiries regarding REG, including helping people to sign up immediately on the laptop you've supplied. (Ensure their privacy is preserved while you assist them.)

After the REG launch

- For the next few weeks you or another office-bearer should reinforce the REG message and encourage members to register. Make yourself available to hand out brochures, offering cards and letters to anyone who missed out on the launch day, and to answer any questions.
- Place reminders in the bulletin, encouraging members to consider registering with REG. You could use the bulletin inserts from www.lca.org.au/bulletin-inserts
- You can monitor your congregation's LLL REG account online to assess the level of take-up from your members (although you won't be able to see any identifying details) and if this is encouraging, you should share this good news with your congregation.
- It is important that you and your fellow office-bearers keep reminding members about the benefits of REG, using personal testimonials (formal and informal) where appropriate.



Ongoing promotion of REG

- Put a regular budget/giving report in your bulletin, where you can add a reminder about REG.
- It is important to at least annually remind members to review their REG giving level. The congregation AGM can be an ideal time for this reminder, or you might have an annual Stewardship Sunday.
- As members transfer in from another congregation, you or another office-bearer could introduce REG to them and encourage them to sign up.
- Members who are retirees (grey nomads) and travel away for months at a time could be individually encouraged to use REG.
- Always keep a few REG brochures and offering cards in an accessible location.
- Place a link from your congregation's website to the LCA's REG page www.lca.org.au/REG



It's that
easy!

For more information about REG, to download the REG brochure or to register with REG, visit www.lca.org.au/REG
For stocks of REG brochures and offering cards, contact your local LCA District Office or the LLL.



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Finance
with a
mission

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