

**2026-2027 BENSON FAMILY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION FORM with Guidelines - Please type.**



St. Luke
LUTHERAN CHURCH

APPLICATION DATE: _____, 2026 DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2026

1. I am applying for the 2026-2027 academic school year.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____

E-mail: _____

Current school: _____ **Most recent grade level:** _____

Most recent cumulative GPA: _____ **Last school you graduated from:** _____

Career/Major interests: _____

Extra-curricular activities/community service (use this space only):

2. QUALIFICATION FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP (select one):

Member of St Luke: <input type="checkbox"/>	Lineal descendant of Member of St. Luke: <input type="checkbox"/> St. Luke member(s) who qualifies you: _____
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Have you been confirmed? Yes No **Church where you were confirmed** _____

3. I am applying for: Academic Scholarship: Financial Aid Scholarship: Combined Academic and Financial Aid Scholarship:

College(s) where you will use the scholarship: _____

Will you be attending any other college or institution, such as a semester abroad for foreign study, or attendance at other colleges or universities? Yes No Please include if this study is sponsored by your college.

4. ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE THE ATTACHED FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A FINANCIAL AID SCHOLARSHIP, YOU MUST ALSO ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR FAFSA CONFIRMATION PAGE STATING THE EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION.

What is the amount of **annual tuition and required fees** at the college(s) you plan to attend (see attached scholarship description of what fees may be included) from the attached Financial Statement: \$ _____

Amount you are requesting (from attached Financial Statement – must be completed): \$ _____

5. APPLICATIONS MUST ALSO INCLUDE: Check all applicable boxes.

- A. ESSAY, guidelines provided on page 4.
- B. TRANSCRIPT
- C. 2 REFERENCE LETTERS, guidelines provided on page 4.
- D. If not a MEMBER, lineal descendant letter
- E. EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (for financial aid scholarships)

Return your application and attachments by e-mail to trustfund@stlukechurch.com. Attachments may be scanned. **Please make sure they are legible.** The Trust Fund Committee may conduct telephone interviews at its discretion.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT: ALL SECTIONS OF THIS STATEMENT MUST BE COMPLETED AND ATTACHED TO YOUR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION. All information is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of Benson Family Foundation Scholarship applications.

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2026-2027

INCOME available to meet expenses for the academic year:

BENSON FOUNDATION AMOUNT REQUESTED* (INSERT THIS AMOUNT ON APPLICATION)	\$ _____
Personal funds (cash, savings, etc.)	_____
Total summer earnings:	_____
Amount available for school	_____
Expected earnings for academic year	_____
Parental/family support	_____
Assistantships or work study	_____
Scholarships (itemize):	_____
University matching scholarship	_____
Grants (itemize):	_____
Loans (itemize):	_____
Other income (itemize):	_____
TOTAL INCOME (MUST BE ENTERED)	\$ _____

ESTIMATED EXPENSES for the academic year:

Tuition and fees	\$ _____
Books	_____
Housing	_____
Food	_____
Clothing and laundry	_____
Medical care	_____
Transportation (itemize):	_____
Other expenses (itemize)	_____

TOTAL EXPENSES (MUST BE ENTERED) \$ _____

Does the "total income" box match the "total expenses" box? If yes, check here:

Note: These two totals must match

If you are a self-supporting student, please list number of dependents:

Please note any unusually high expenses, specific circumstances that may affect your financial situation, scholarships for which you have applied but not yet accepted, or any additional detail on a separate sheet.

List unpaid educational loans for prior years:

Type of loan (Stafford, private, etc.)	Source	Amount
		\$ _____

2026 Guidelines for completing the Benson Family Foundation Scholarship



St. Luke
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Section 1. Complete the contact, grade point average, school selection and interests information.

Section 2. Select your qualification for this scholarship.

Section 3. Select the type of scholarship you are applying for, the college(s) you are applying to and if other programs or institutions will be part of your academic program for the upcoming school year.

Section 4. List the amount of tuition and fees and the amount you are requesting *based on information you provide in Section 6*.

Section 5: Check all boxes that apply to your application for this scholarship.

Please ensure that the **applicant essay** indicates specific goals for the academic program being considered and information about career interests and life experiences which have influenced your choice of studies.

Letters of recommendation for all applicants are expected to be from non-family members. One letter must be an academic recommendation. Recommendation letters should explain the length and nature of relationship to applicant and characteristics of the applicant that are commendable and should be brought to the attention of the review committee.

Plan for all recommendation letters to arrive on or before March 31, 2026.

Lineal descendant letters are for those applicants who are not members. This letter will be from a family member. This letter provides information for the review committee to understand who qualifies you for the Benson scholarship.

Section 6: Complete the financial statement. If information needs to be included for different colleges, please indicate the information for all institutions by completing additional sheets for different colleges. Reminder: **Total Income must equal Total Expenses on the Financial Statement.**

Other scholarships, loans and/or grants should be identified, as well as any unusually high expenses or special circumstances. Use a separate sheet to show this information.

The information shown below is copied from the St. Luke website for your convenience:

Benson Family Foundation scholarships are for members and lineal descendants of members of the St. Luke Lutheran Church congregation who attend a Lutheran college or university for their undergraduate work and who attend a Lutheran seminary. The scholarship was created by Dale and Jolita Benson, long-time members of St. Luke, through a foundation their family established. Scholarships are awarded annually and students may apply for scholarships each year they attend a Lutheran school. All scholarship awards are at the discretion of the St. Luke Trust Fund Committee, as directed by the terms of the Foundation.

Benson Family Foundation scholarship funds may be used *only* for *tuition, student fees* generally imposed on all students by the school, and student fees imposed for *specific classes* taken at the Lutheran school. The Benson scholarship is paid against tuition and fees remaining after applicable University scholarships and grants have been applied and is limited to that net number. Benson Foundation Scholarship funds *cannot* be used for expenses such as transportation costs, school supplies (including major school supplies such as computers, computer equipment and peripherals), child care expenses, or costs of room and board.

Benson Family Foundation Scholarships for undergraduates are available for a maximum of four school years (two semesters plus a one-month interim period per school year) during any consecutive five-year period. The award of financial assistance may be used only for expenses incurred as an undergraduate level student in substantially undergraduate level studies.

Lutheran seminary applicants may apply for and receive an award for financial assistance for expenses at a Lutheran seminary on an annual basis. The scholarship does not include financial assistance for the year the seminary student is interning and cannot exceed three seminary school years during any consecutive five school-year period, excluding any

internship year.

All scholarships are awarded for one academic school year. Students who have been awarded scholarships may re-apply each scholastic year as determined by the St. Luke Trust Fund Committee. Students are expected to provide legible scanned tuition invoices to the Trust Committee by email for payment each term. Scholarship payments are made directly to the student's college.

All applications must be on the Application Form, typed and include the following attachments.

1) Essay

What are your plans for college/seminary *and* after you graduate? Include specific goals for the academic program being considered and information about career interests and life experiences which have influenced your choice of studies. (Maximum 2 pages. Include any personal information you would like us to know.)

2) Transcript

- High School senior: All high schools attended
- Current Undergraduate: All colleges you have attended
- Seminary: All colleges you have attended

3) Reference Letters (Electronic documents accepted with electronic signatures - formal letters required.)

- St. Luke Member: Two letters - Non-family members and one must be an academic recommendation.
- Lineal descendant of St. Luke Member (students who are not members): Three letters; _____
the two letters required of all applicants, plus one letter from a family member who connects you with St. Luke.
Applications for Financial Aid scholarships must also include the FAFSA confirmation page stating the Expected Family Contribution.

Please Note: We highly recommend you consider applying for a combined Academic/Financial Aid or Financial Aid scholarship.

- **APPLICATION DEADLINE: Applications must be received no later than March 31, 2026.**

Return your application and attachments by email to: trustfund@stlukechurch.com (with required attachments)
Attachments may be scanned. ***Please make sure they are legible.***

The Trust Fund Committee may conduct telephone interviews at its discretion.