

## GOD'S WORDS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR GRASP ON GRACE GIVING

"You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth." DEUTERONOMY 8:17-18

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it." PSALM 24:1

"The land is Mine and you are but aliens and My tenants... the silver is Mine and the gold is Mine." LEVITICUS 25:23; HAGGAI 2:8

"Your plenty will supply what they need... You will be made rich in every way so you can be generous on every occasion." 2 CORINTHIANS 8:14; 9:11

"God loves a cheerful giver." 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

"Do not store up treasures on earth... Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven." MATTHEW 6:19-20

"Each of us will give an account of himself to God." ROMANS 14:12

"To whom much is given, of him will much be required" LUKE 12:48

"It is required of a steward that he be found faithful." 1 CORINTHIANS 4:2

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand." 1 CHRONICLES 29:14

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life." 1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19

## ANOTHER OBJECTION:

### 2. I'M HERE ONLY FOR A SHORT TIME IN MUNICH AND MICC

MICC has always existed in large measure because of the financial support of people who are here for only a short time. These people's gifts may have been small or large, but cheerful, faithful, proportional giving.

You are enjoying what is here now in MICC because of the faithfulness and sacrificial giving of others who were here only a year or two in the past.

My encouragement to you: cheerfully make it possible for others to benefit from your generosity after you have gone. Let's build together for the future of MICC in Munich.

### FINALLY, REMEMBER THIS:

The way to freedom and joy in Christ is not found in calculation but in meditation. Don't just sit down with your accounts and calculate your obedience. Rather, consider the Gospel: look at what Christ has done, not with a debtor mentality, but see him as the great and glorious example of giving with freedom, joy, abundance, grace, eternal perspective, and love. Meditate on what he has done, and on what he has promised. Allow him to transform your heart and mind so that joyful, free obedience flows from a renewed heart and spirit in Christ.

*We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.* 2 Cor 8:1-5,9

## MUNICH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CHURCH

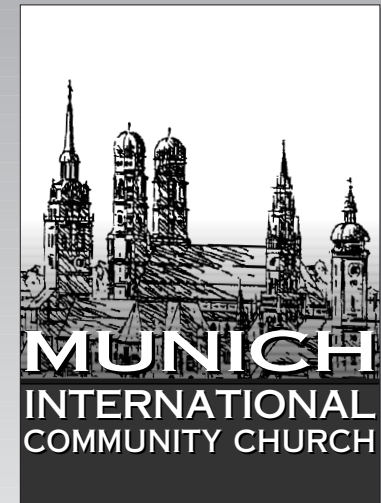
### SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 4:00 PM

MOZARTSTRASSE 12 · CENTRAL MUNICH  
IN THE FREIE EVANGELISCHE GEMEINDE  
U3/U6 GOETHEPLATZ

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 089/59 99 28 33  
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.MUNICHURCH.DE](http://WWW.MUNICHURCH.DE)

# HOW TO GIVE TO MICC

GLORIFYING CHRIST  
PLANNING TO WORSHIP  
GROWING IN JOYFUL OBEDIENCE



## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. WHAT EXACTLY IS MICC?

Munich International Community Church has been gathering for worship in Munich since 1985. We are an independent non-denominational evangelical church, registered as a charitable association with the German government, and therefore able to receive charitable contributions and give receipts for tax deductions.

### 2. HOW IS MICC SUPPORTED?

MICC has no external support through denominational or mission agencies. We are completely dependent on God to supply the needs of our annual budget through the support of our members and regular attendees and friends. Every 100,000 € per annual budget requires over 8300 € per month, or about 2100 € per week.

We do have a need for cash reserves in MICC. We have set an upper limit of 45,000 € on those reserves, and will use additional gifts received to extend God's fame in the world. We want you to know that your gifts will be *wisely used*, not *stored* or *hoarded*.

## SOME COMMON OBJECTIONS: 1. THE CHURCH WANTS MY MONEY

Let's answer this objection from two different perspectives: for the non-believer and for the believer.

**If you are not a Christian**, we're not putting any pressure on you to give—that's the privilege and responsibility of the Christians here. But we want you to seek to deal first with the larger issue: your devotion to empty pursuits, and your running from God (what the Bible calls sin) and Jesus' forgiveness of that sin by his death on the cross and resurrection from the grave.

If you don't know Christ yet as your Lord and Savior, then talk to us about that before you go any further. Then your giving will be an act of love and worship, not just a religious effort.

**But if you are a Christian**, and consider that MICC is your church home, let me say that as leaders we don't want something *from* you, we want something *for* you.

We want you to experience the joy of knowing Christ intimately and following him expectantly—receiving all that God has promised to be and to do for you in Jesus.

A rebellious, stubborn and stingy heart will keep you from having that experience of joy and freedom. We don't want that for you. We want you to experience all the benefits that come from being a covenant partner in the new covenant community in MICC. It's easy sometimes to be just a consumer in the local church—to enjoy having friends, Bible studies, activities, worship services—without fully engaging as a partner together with others.

That's why membership matters to us. Whether a member of MICC or not, your giving is one objective measure of your heart's spiritual condition. When Christ is prized in the heart then joyful, faithful, and fruitful obedience follows. Your fresh affection for Christ has amazing power to drive out old affections for smaller things.

This has significant benefits for you, for the body of Christ in MICC, for the city of Munich and the world as we display with greater clarity, beauty and brilliance the glorious character of our God.

## GIVING IN US DOLLARS

**Place a check in the offering basket** or mail a check to the church office. This option is effective for Americans who are paid in dollars and wish to receive a statement for your tax deductible gifts. Simply write a check payable to **ICC-Eurasia**. ICC is established as a 501(c)(3) organization in the US, and these gifts are used for our missions giving to US agencies and for other US based expenses.

To give to MICC this way, simply write a post-it note or separate letter if you mail the check. You may drop this check in the offering basket, mail to the office, or you may send the check directly to ICC at this address:

**ICC • PO Box 5407 • Rockville, MD 20848-5407 • USA**

You can also give through ICC online at [www.icc-ministries.org](http://www.icc-ministries.org).

ICC will record your gifts and mail you a receipt of your giving to ICC for MICC for use in filing your tax return with the IRS each year.

## WHAT ABOUT KIRCHENSTEUER?

As a foreigner, when you register in Germany, you are asked to identify your religious affiliation: Evangelisch (protestant), Katholisch (Roman Catholic) or Keine (none). If you check any box besides "none" you will pay Kirchensteuer (church tax) to the state church. *You are not required to pay this tax.* If you want to stop paying this church tax, you can go to the Kreisverwaltungsreferat and de-register from the state church, then you can redirect that money to the church or organization you desire. Sometimes for Christians, it's awkward or difficult to say "none" when asked about your religion. They aren't asking you to deny Christ, but simply whether you wish to pay the tax.

For native Germans, you are already aware of this situation, but the process of de-registering can be complicated by tradition or by family considerations. If you would like to talk about this either with the pastor or with other German citizens who have been through the process, please contact the church office.

## PLANNING TO GIVE

Giving is not primarily about money. It's about God. We make the choice in response to God's grace to give ourselves first to him. Paul described the people in the churches of Macedonia this way:

*...they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. 2 Cor. 8:5*

Each week we offer gifts in worship to God. The first gift is to respond to God's mercy by offering ourselves (Rom. 12:1). Giving ourselves to God prepares us to give our lives away to others for His glory.

So, the decision to give really shouldn't take place in church when the basket is passed. This decision should happen at home as you make a commitment to regular, systematic, proportional and cheerful giving. Giving is an expression of planned worship coming from a heart of gratitude and faith toward God.

By the way, only about 15% of our gifts are received on Sunday in the basket. The vast majority of our givers do it through regular bank transfers or a standing order/draft. That's a sign of planned worship.

## HOW CAN I GIVE AT MICC?

In MICC we aim to contribute cheerfully and regularly (2 Cor. 9:6-7) to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, assistance to the poor, and the spread of the gospel and God's fame to all nations of the world as we strive to honor the Lord with the "first fruits" (see Proverbs 3:9) of all our labor.

## GIVING IN EUROS

### By bank transfer (Überweisung) to MICC

In Germany, most financial transactions are handled directly with your bank. To give to MICC, simply enter the amount and MICC's bank information. On the Verwendungszweck field, you can write "giving" or "tithe" or "offering" or "Spende" to identify it as a gift to MICC. This can be done on an actual form, or online, or by telephone. If you are new to the German banking system, or have difficulties with German language, contact the church office and we would be glad to assist you.

*Here's the bank information you need.*

Our account number is: 100699003  
Our Bank is Kreissparkasse München Starnberg, and  
Our Bankleitzahl (BLZ) is: 70250150

### By standing order/bank draft (Dauerauftrag) to MICC

You may also set up a standing order (Dauerauftrag) with your bank to give a regular amount on the same day each month. Again, if you are hesitant to do this because of inexperience or because of your confidence level in German, please contact the church office.

If you give by transfer or standing order you will receive a receipt of giving (Spendedbescheinigung) each year in January (for the previous year). This will be useful to you when you make your tax declaration each year, as these gifts can be deducted from your taxes. If you are giving this way, please be sure that the office has your current address so we can mail it to you. This is especially important for people who move away from Munich during the year.

**Place cash in the offering basket** when it is passed during the service. This offering goes to the general budget for MICC. You may place cash in an envelope with your name on it if you wish that donation to be recorded and a Spendedbescheinigung (tax receipt) to be issued.

**Benevolence gifts** can be given in cash only, either to the fund to meet needs, or they can be directed to individual needs by placing cash in an envelope with the person's name on it. We receive a benevolence offering the first Sunday of each month. These gifts are managed at the deacons' discretion and are *not* tax deductible.

**Designated gifts** to missionaries can be given. These gifts are above your regular giving, just write the mission name in the Verwendungszweck. They *are* tax deductible.

**Special Fifth Sunday Offerings** are received in those months with five Sundays. These cash offerings are used for special mission projects or relief needs.