

Financial Assistance Resources

Portico offers a number of resources to help plan members address immediate financial needs and support long-term well-being — at no added cost to them.

Portico Financial Planners

Portico's in-house Financial Planners understand the unique attributes of church benefit plans, have detailed knowledge of ELCA benefits, and provide personalized guidance to ELCA Retirement Plan members. Portico Financial Planners are focused on members' best interests; they sell no products and earn no commission. They can help members save for retirement, adjust asset allocation, shape a retirement income strategy, or address a pressing financial issue.

Contact a Planner

800.922.4896
mail@PorticoBenefits.org
8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Mon. – Th.
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fri. (Central)

Lutheran Social Services Financial Counseling

Portico provides access to LSS Financial Counseling, a non-profit, nationally recognized organization whose certified consumer credit counselors offer a range of financial services designed to help individuals gain control of their finances. LSS expertise encompasses:

- Debt repayment options, including creating a debt management plan
- Integrating faith, values, and stewardship into monetary decisions
- Student loan issues: borrowing, repayment, default, consolidation
- Understanding credit reports and improving credit scores
- Personal and family money management and budgeting
- Mortgage default, foreclosure prevention, predatory lending issues
- Consumer protection — preventing and resolving identity theft
- Home buying readiness, mortgage financing, reverse mortgages
- Consumer loans: borrowing, repayment, default, and repossession
- Bankruptcy consequences and alternatives

Contact an LSS Counselor

800.528.2926
lssmn.org/portico
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Monday – Friday (Central)

ELCA Federal Credit Union

Created by the ELCA to provide financial services to ELCA members, pastors, and synod, congregation, and other ELCA-related ministry employees. As a financial cooperative, the ELCA Federal Credit Union returns any earnings to its member-owners in the form of lower loan rates, higher savings rates, reduced fees, and enhanced services. Products and services include:

- Auto loans
- Credit cards
- Online banking/free bill pay
- Mobile app deposit capture
- Free checking account
- Savings and CDs
- Personal loans & lines of credit
- Access to 40,000+ surcharge-free ATMs nationwide

Call an ELCA FCU Representative

800.715.1111
elcafcu.org
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Central)
Closed Wednesdays

ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund

Co-administered by Portico and the ELCA, this fund provides monthly income to eligible retired pastors, rostered ministers, lay employees, and surviving spouses living on a low income. This fund also pays the health contribution for recipients who have ELCA health benefits.

Learn How to Apply

800.352.2876

PorticoBenefits.org/snrf

8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Mon. – Th.

8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fri. (Central)

Employee Assistance Program

Members with ELCA-Primary health benefits can access professional counselors who are available 24/7 to help with issues including:

- Personal and family finances
- Grief or depression
- Marriage and relationships
- Childcare and elder care
- Legal matters, including finding an attorney

Call an EAP Counselor

800.432.5155

Waiving ELCA Health Coverage

Plan members who wish to stop ELCA health coverage for financial reasons may qualify to waive, which allows continued participation in ELCA retirement, disability, and survivor plans through the waiver period. To waive, a member must have other valid health coverage, such as:

- Subsidized individual coverage purchased through a federal or state health insurance exchange
- A Medicare Advantage plan or Medicare Supplement with Part D creditable prescription drug coverage
- Group health insurance through a spouse's employer

Learn More About Waiving

800.352.2876

8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Mon. – Th.

8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fri. (Central)

Additional Resources Beyond Portico

- A local Social Security office can provide information about Medicaid eligibility and local assistance resources, such as Meals on Wheels or the Lion's Club
- Many nonprofit health organizations, like the American Cancer Society and the ALS Association, offer support for specific diseases.
- Interim work, if appropriate
- The ELCA's Resourceful Servants initiative offers financial wellness resources to rostered ministers