Endowment is the foundation on which Luther sustains a transformative experience for future generations of students, faculty, and staff. Luther’s endowment has grown from $56 million in 2000 to $164 million in 2020. Our goal is to continue growing the endowment—for scholarships, applied learning opportunities, research fellowships, programs, professorships, and chairs—to enhance the resources necessary to support Luther’s mission and vision. Each year a spending allowance is determined by the Luther College Board of Regents. All funds exist in perpetuity.

How are endowment earnings used?
Endowment earnings fund scholarships, internships, teaching and learning resources, library materials, program enrichment, and student/faculty research projects. In short, they enable Luther to enrich academic programs and enhance student experiences.

What does a strong endowment communicate about Luther?
A strong endowment is a key indicator of the quality and financial strength of the college and is often the gauge for measuring institutional stability.

Your gift to the endowment helps Luther better position itself for the future by:

- **funding** scholarships to make it possible for the most deserving students to attend Luther
- **enabling** the college to attract and retain gifted teachers who strengthen student learning
- **increasing** opportunities for student research, applied learning, and faculty/student mentoring
- **providing** for continual improvement and maintenance of campus facilities
- **enhancing** Luther’s reputation as an innovative, dynamic institution
Luther’s academic program prepares students for complexity, diversity, and change. From the classroom to the lab to the real world, our learning spans disciplines and encourages students to engage with larger issues and to serve the common good. Through a whole-community approach to education, we help students prepare for a career, a purpose, and a lifetime of impact.

**Endowed Library Resource Funds:**
**$25,000 minimum commitment**
Provides support to enable Preus Library to maintain relevant educational resources on campus. No longer just about books, the library utilizes e-resources, periodicals, subscriptions, and other learning tools.

**Endowed Academic Program Funds:**
**$50,000 minimum commitment**
Provides general support for departmental and programmatic activities and may also support music ensembles, student organizations, and other college resources.

**Endowed Technology and Equipment Funds:**
**$100,000 minimum commitment**
Provides support for the ever-growing need for cutting-edge technology and equipment across campus. Examples include information technology resources, classroom and laboratory equipment, and support for musical instruments.

**Endowed Faculty Development Funds:**
**$100,000 minimum commitment**
Provides support for special projects, professional development, and other activities proposed by Luther faculty.

**Endowed Staff Development Funds:**
**$100,000 minimum commitment**
Provides support for special projects, professional development, and other activities proposed by Luther staff members.

**Endowed Faculty Fellowships:**
**$100,000 minimum commitment**
Provides support for scholarly activity and research opportunities for a Luther faculty member. Investing in faculty research enhances the academic program and the internal opportunities to support faculty at all levels.

**Endowed Professorship:**
**$750,000 minimum commitment**
An endowed professorship is usually held by a faculty member who has demonstrated exceptional teaching and achieved distinction in a chosen field. An endowed professorship provides funds for a portion of the annual salary of a professor. The endowment also provides additional funds for the professor to conduct a specific research project, travel for professional reasons, and/or engage in a similar activity to enhance their knowledge, ability to teach, and reputation in the discipline.

**Endowed Chair:**
**$1,500,000 minimum commitment**
An endowed chair is Luther’s most prestigious academic distinction, usually held by a faculty member who is an acclaimed teacher and recognized scholar in a chosen field. An endowed chair provides funds for a portion of the annual salary of a professor. The endowment also provides additional funds for the professor to conduct research projects, attend professional conferences, and/or engage in other educational activities with the goal of sharing newly acquired knowledge with students, fellow faculty, staff, and other members of the Luther community. Luther has endowed chairs in a range of disciplines such as biology, business, economics, music, philosophy, history, classics, and Nordic studies.
High-impact learning refers to teaching and learning practices that best engage and challenge students, increase retention, and contribute to cumulative learning.

**Endowed Study-Away Scholarships:**
$50,000 minimum commitment
Developing a global perspective is key to a Luther education. More than two-thirds of Luther students participate in study-away programs, broadening their worldview and gaining firsthand experience with global issues and ideas. A study-away scholarship endowment provides a scholarship of approximately $2,500 annually to students based on preferences of the donor. Donors may define awards on the basis of financial need or merit and may choose to give preference to students based on field of interest, major, location, etc.

**Endowed Applied Learning Opportunities:**
$25,000 minimum commitment
Supports applied learning and internship opportunities for students by providing funds to assist with transportation, meals, and housing. Since many applied learning opportunities are unpaid, investing in these experiences allows Luther students to consider calling and vocation in exploring their careers.

**Endowed Student Research Fellowships:**
$100,000 minimum commitment
Supports scholarly activity and collaborative research opportunities for students by providing summer stipends and funding necessary for supplies. Investing in student research allows us to further enhance our commitment to supporting independent and collaborative student-faculty research opportunities as part of the undergraduate experience.
Athletics is integral to our mission not only to discipline the mind but also to develop whole persons and prepare them to serve with distinction for the common good. Our intercollegiate athletic program helps fulfill this mission by developing strength of body, discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, character, integrity, leadership, and a sense of fair play.

**Endowed Athletic Program Funds:**
**$50,000 minimum commitment**
Provides support for Norse athletic team activities, including travel costs, small equipment purchases, and other needs determined to enhance the team’s success and experience.

**Endowed Athletic Recruitment Funds:**
**$100,000 minimum commitment**
Provides support for recruitment activity, including additional funds for travel, allowing our coaching staff to spend valuable time with future student-athletes.

**Endowed Coaching Position/Chair:**
**$1,000,000 minimum commitment**
An endowed coaching position is usually held by the head coach of the sport identified, providing funds for a portion of the annual salary. The endowment also provides additional funds for the coach to assist in recruitment, educational enhancements to the program, and professional development opportunities. Endowed coaching positions heighten visibility and prestige for Luther College and the program in NCAA Division III.

**FUNDING ENDOWMENTS**
Endowments may be funded with cash, gifts of stock, or other appreciated property, or through planned gifts. If funding an endowment through a planned gift, more than the minimum commitment may be required, and the amount will depend on the donor’s age. Endowment gifts are administered according to the endowment policies established by the Luther College Board of Regents. Additional contributions may be made to a fund at any time. If you wish to establish a named endowment fund but cannot give the full amount initially, the college will establish the fund on an inactive basis. You may continue to contribute to it, and the earnings on all gifts to the fund will be reinvested fully each year, adding to the fund. No amount will be awarded while the fund is inactive. Upon reaching the minimum commitment balance for the appropriate fund type, the fund will become active, with the first awards distributed in the fall of the following year. The college respectfully requests that endowed funds achieve the minimum commitment level within five years of establishment.

**WHAT IS THE LUTHER COLLEGE SPENDING POLICY?**
The Luther College Board of Regents has established an annual spending policy. The spending allowance of 5 percent is calculated on the endowment’s trailing 20-quarter average market value as of March 31 of each year. This method of calculation provides year-to-year consistency in the value of the spending allowance, and mitigates any investment market fluctuations.

**MAKING AN ENDOWMENT GIFT TO LUTHER**
For further information on ways to support the Luther College endowment, or Luther College in general, please call the Development Office at (800) 225-8664 to speak with a development officer.