

Why do we speak of tithes and offerings, what is the difference?

Scripture teaches that tithing is a means of teaching us to put God first in our lives, trusting that He will take care of all of our needs (Deuteronomy 14:23). A tithe (which literally means ‘tenth’ or ‘ten percent’) is the first ten percent of a person or family’s income. An offering is financial giving above the tithe.

How are tithes and offerings received at Longview EPC?

Because we do not pass an offering plate, it is common for people to wonder how financial gifts are received at Longview EPC. Financial gifts may be given in the offering boxes at entries into the sanctuary or they may be sent to: Longview EPC, 3800 Judson Road, Longview, TX 75605. We added electronic giving in May 2014. We added the credit/debit card feature May 2016.

Why do we use offering boxes rather than passing a plate during worship?

In Mark 12 :41 Jesus and his disciples watch as a widow places her offering in one of the 13 wooden boxes placed in the Temple colonnade for collecting money. This act of worship was available throughout the week for any who visited the Temple. It reminded them, and reminds us today, that worship is a conscious choice that occurs every day of the week and through a variety of means. We impress upon ourselves and our children the intentionality of giving to the Lord as we help them seek out these boxes throughout the year.

Furthermore, refraining from passing an offering plate reminds us that the gospel of Christ is free. Righteous relationship with God is an act of grace received through accepting Jesus Christ’s payment for our sin; rather than a status earned through personal payments of money or good works. Likewise it decreases visitors feeling pressured to give or feel excluded from the rest of the gathering because they didn’t give.