

## Is the Lord in your will?

*You are in His!*

Your ELS giving counselor and the Synod Foundation enlists your support for gifts of love to your church as well as the various ministries of the ELS that we might continue to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you are contemplating a gift of any size, revising your will, or making estate plans for tax benefits, please help us make a difference for eternity through our ELS churches and missions.

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation and its giving counselor stand ready to serve you. Gifts can be invested and proceeds directed to the ELS ministry of your choice or they can go directly to their support.

**We urgently appeal to you: Make a will and make your will a "Christian Will" as you declare your faith and put that faith into action by generously remembering our Lord's church.**

- I've already written my will, but I want to give a deferred gift outside of my will so I can remember my family and Jesus. Please call me to explain how to do this (Phone number below).
- I have decided to write or revise my will. Please send me a free  
1. \_\_\_ Will Planning Guide (Basic) 2. \_\_\_ Complete Estate Planner
- I am interested in a 4% to 8.6% lifelong-income plan that will also help my church, church school, missions or ministry of the ELS.
- Pastor, be assured, we have a plan in place. We plan to remember the Lord's work with a gift or bequest for \_\_\_ our church, \_\_\_ our synod's missions, \_\_\_ our seminary, and/or \_\_\_ Bethany College, \_\_\_ other WELS/ELS Ministry.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Street, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Estate Planning Office  
6 Browns Court  
Mankato MN 56001  
Phone 507-344-7311**

Cell Phone 507-469-9656 Edited 6-23 email: [danbasel@blc.edu](mailto:danbasel@blc.edu)

# Estate Planning



**Tell of Jesus and His Love**

**Estate Planning Office  
6 Browns Court  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001**

**Supporting the Missions and Ministries of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod**

*by*

**Keeping the Lord's will in our wills...**



[els.org](http://els.org)

## Consider A Gift for These Ministries

- 1. Your Church and its Preaching and Teaching ministries**  
We need every congregation to be a mission congregation. Remember your church. Remember your schools and their outreach ministry.
- 2. Home Mission Work –Evangelism Assistance**  
It is the goal of the ELS to open new missions, help train missionaries, and to join in cross-cultural opportunities. Your gifts to home missions also helps us provide outreach resources and counseling to our existing congregations as well.
- 3. Foreign Mission Work – Including Thoughts of Faith**  
The Lord's directive to go into all the world has prompted our synod to send and support missionaries as well as national pastors in mission fields found in Peru, Chile, Korea, India, Ukraine, Latvia and in the Czech Republic.
- 4. Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary & Student Support**  
The purpose of our seminary is to find zealous, Christian men, and to train them for the public ministry for our churches and missions. Help us recruit and prepare servants for the Church.
- 5. Bethany Lutheran College**  
BLC is the largest, single ministry of the ELS with 750 students. Bethany enables the youth of our synod and others from around the world (20 countries) to prepare for many earthly careers in a Christian environment.
- 6. The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation**  
Gifts to the Foundation can go to the general synod fund or be endowed and invested and the interest used each year for some phase of the Lord's work. The Foundation serves **the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and its congregations**. As a firm voice contending for the inerrancy of Scripture and salvation through Jesus Christ, your gifts enable us to do great things together.
- 7. Church Extension Fund and other Endowments**  
CEF is a restricted fund used as a revolving loan, at reasonable rates, helping churches to purchase land and to build churches or schools. Your gift to CEF will never stop working for the Lord.
- 8. Lutheran Schools of the ELS**  
Our goal is to establish Christ-centered, Gospel-predominated schools focused on excellence in education in all subjects.

## Popular Methods of Helping Your Church and Synod

- 1. Gifts/Bequests Through a Will and/or Living Trust**  
Bequests are a great way for you to remember the work of the Lord. Your will/trust can be a testament to your faith. Make yours a God-pleasing plan by giving a percentage to the Lord's work.
- 2. Life Income: Gift Annuities and/or Charitable Trusts**  
A life income plan through a gift annuity or a trust can meet both objectives and reduce taxes. Commercial annuities often give remainder to the insurance company. Why not give your charitable remainder to the Lord through a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA). It can provide guaranteed life income with deductions, tax-free income and locks in a gift for Jesus.
- 3. A Gift of Property, Stock or Mutual Funds**  
There are definite advantages when giving appreciated assets directly to a charity. Such gifts normally provide greater tax benefits than equivalent gifts of cash. Do call for more details.
- 4. IRA Gifts – A great tool made better than ever!**  
For those 70 ½ years old: Tax laws make it beneficial to use your IRA for giving. Start giving today. Remember, at 73 you will be required to take RMD's and pay more in taxes. Give all or a portion of your RMD as a gift - reduce your taxable income dollar for dollar! **You can also fund a CGA (one time only up to 50K).**
- 5. Life Insurance - Premium payments** on a new or existing policy becomes tax deductible when your favorite charity becomes the owner and beneficiary of the policy. L.I. is also a tool for wealth replacement or when used in combination with other gifting instruments. It can provide heirs with a tax-free inheritance and may also be a gifting tool to help spread the Gospel.
- 6. Direct your IRA, Tax-Deferred Annuities, Profit-sharing plans to the Lord:** Experts say that these are **the best** possible assets to use for helping a charity. Making your church and/or the ELS a beneficiary avoids potential double taxation of your heirs.
- 7. Donor Advised Fund – Bunch your gifts by using this tool.**  
Receive a deduction today and even see that amount grow and make your contribution to your favorite ministry in a timely way.
- 8. Retained Life Estates - (e.g. Donate your home or other property)**  
Give a significant asset but retain its use for the rest of your life and utilize a nice tax deduction while you live.