



■ Financial Accounts

Most financial accounts (including LCEF investments) can be made payable on death to a friend, relative, or charitable organization.

■ Retirement Savings

Individual retirement accounts (IRAs), pensions, 401(k) plans, tax-sheltered annuities and other retirement savings arrangements provide for beneficiaries, which can include charitable organizations. If the account owner is married, a spouse's consent may be necessary. This type of gift can save your heirs or your estate from having to pay estate and income taxes that would have been owed upon your death.

■ Revocable Living Trusts

Another instrument through which a person can give a gift to a charitable organization is a revocable living trust. Simply name a ministry of your choice as one of the beneficiaries of the trust.

It is good counsel to affirm what is stated in your beneficiary designations is also referenced in your will or trust.

A Gift to LCEF May Save Your Family Money

As you review your estate plans, you may come across assets that will generate heavy tax burdens for your family. Income and estate taxes may leave your heirs with only a fraction of their inheritance.

Examples include:

- U.S. savings bonds
- Accounts receivable of a doctor or proprietor
- Renewal commissions of insurance agents
- Payments due you under installment sale arrangements
- Royalties under a patent license
- IRA benefits and deferred compensation

As a tax-exempt organization, LCEF would keep every dollar of such "taxed property" and be able to use it repeatedly to help LCMS ministries through low-cost loans and related services. Furthermore, leaving these items to LCEF will create estate tax charitable deductions that save even more taxes for your heirs.

Gifts to LCEF

When you bequest a part of your estate to LCEF, your gift is used over and over again to further the Lord's work by providing low-cost loans to churches and schools within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Gifts allow LCMS ministries to share the Good News of Jesus with others, expanding His Kingdom and supporting the Great Commission.

If you wish to make the ministry of Church Extension a part of your will, contact LCEF's Gift Planning Services. A gift planning counselor will help you create a special gift that benefits LCEF and the entire LCMS.



Contact LCEF with your gift planning questions:

1-800-843-5233

www.lcef.org

Information in this brochure is of a general nature and reflects our understanding of current federal tax laws as they apply to wills and living trusts. These laws are subject to different interpretations and subject to change. The information provided is not intended to be legal, accounting, or tax advice.

Neither the Lutheran Church Extension Fund nor its representatives give legal, accounting, or tax advice. We suggest that you consult with your attorney and/or tax advisor as to the applicability of this information to your own situation.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

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LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not SIPC- or FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This does not constitute an offer to sell or a request to buy. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular.

Your Will To Help



- *Why You Need a Will*
- *How to Get a Will*
- *Adding a Christian Preamble to Your Will*
- *Planning a Will that is Practical and Deeply Satisfying*

Gift Planning is a free service provided by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund in conjunction with the LCMS Foundation.
www.lcef.org



Why Have a Will?

A will is one of the most important documents you will ever sign. Think about the many benefits a will provides:

- A will lets you direct who will receive all the property you have accumulated over your lifetime. Remember, if you die “intestate” (without a will or trust), the state you lived in will decide how your property is passed to heirs—or the state may even acquire all of your assets.
- Your will can contain a trust that provides financial security and money management for family members who need assistance.
- Your will permits you to select the people who will handle your estate or serve as guardians of your children.
- Your will enables you to assist friends, ministries, worthwhile causes, institutions, and other organizations that the law omits.
- A skillfully drafted will can allow your family to minimize estate taxes and other costs that may deplete your estate of vital assets.
- Your will can be an expression of your personal values. You may wish to memorialize a special person or charity in your life, aid a mission or church, or distribute cherished heirlooms to special people.

Executing a will is neither difficult nor expensive. The rewards are great indeed—both in peace of mind and in personal satisfaction.



Including a Christian Preamble

Passing on values to loved ones is one of the basic principles involved with implementing your will. In addition to distributing physical blessings and assets, one can also provide a spiritual word of testimony and comfort.

A Christian Preamble is now being included in many Christian wills, allowing Christians to leave a lasting testimony of their faith. Your Christian Preamble will provide comfort to you and to those who survive you. For samples of Christian Preambles, contact the Gift Planning Services Department of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

Planning a Practical Will that Is Deeply Satisfying

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund, as well as many other ministries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, receive gifts from people who consider it only fitting to provide an LCMS ministry with something from their personal estates. For these gifts, all LCMS ministries are profoundly grateful.

Your gift can be a percentage of your estate, a stated dollar amount, or you can leave a ministry specific property. You can also give a charity your will’s “residue” (the amount remaining after paying all debts, costs and inheritances). Your thoughtful bequest can provide financial benefits to your family and later be used in the ministries you choose.



How to Create a Will

Obtaining a will is much simpler than you might think. Follow the three steps below and find yourself feeling secure that you’ve designed a will that fits your needs and desires.

1. **CONTACT LCEF’S GIFT PLANNING SERVICES** at 1-800-843-5233 to arrange for a gift planning counselor to visit you. During this visit, you will develop your estate goals that you want accomplished through your will. This visit is free.
2. **CALL YOUR ATTORNEY.** Make an appointment to plan your will. If you do not have an attorney, ask a friend or a relative to recommend someone, or call your local bar association.
3. **FOLLOW YOUR WILL PLANNING THROUGH TO COMPLETION.** Store your will in a safe place and examine it periodically to assure that it is current with your needs, your family’s needs, and your personal desires for those people and organizations you value most.



If You Already Have a Will

If you have a will, keep it up-to-date. When the time comes to make a change, a simple “codicil” (an amendment) is often all that is needed. If you might be considering a change to your will, let us suggest including a gift to an LCMS ministry.

Remembering Ministries . . . Outside a Will

You do not necessarily have to make or change your will to benefit worthwhile organizations upon your death. Virtually any financial arrangement that allows you to designate a beneficiary can be adapted as a

wonderful bequest to benefit future generations.

For example:

■ Life Insurance

You can name LCEF or any ministry close to your heart as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy. You may also choose to name an organization as a co-beneficiary or a contingent beneficiary. A better idea may be to transfer ownership of the policy to the ministry or buy a new policy in that ministry’s name. Such a gift entitles you to an income tax deduction, and future premium payments are tax-deductible.

Consider including a gift to an LCMS ministry in your will.



Call LCEF at 1-800-843-5233 for more information.