

WILLS AND BEQUESTS PROGRAM A GUIDE FOR GIVING

If you have considered a bequest to St. Andrew Lutheran Church, we hope that you will find this brochure helpful as you strive to be a good steward of all God has given you. This information has been prepared as a result of frequent inquiries seeking suggestions on the important subject of wills and bequests.

This material discusses the making of an endowment or special gift through the form of a Will, which is a thoughtful Christian act. Endowments and special gifts hold a unique and well-established place in the life of congregational stewardship. Our mission and location were left to us by those who had the original vision for ministry at St. Andrew. Now you have the opportunity to continue this legacy by continuing your financial support beyond your lifetime.

A Will can give you the satisfaction of knowing that the ideals for which you live, the purposes for which you labor, and the causes in which you believe will be continued by your help beyond your span of years.

As a Christian you recognize God as the source of all good gifts and throughout your lifetime you have given generously to your church. You may have spoken to others about what you want done with your property when you don't need it any longer; you may have outlined in your mind ways in which you would like to have your money divided.

But...you may never have put your wishes in writing in the form of a legal Will, and these good intentions have no standing in the eyes of the law. Only a legal Will is your assurance that your wishes will be carried out.

This brochure does not propose to tell you what to do with the property you own. You alone can make that decision. You will make it prayerfully, for your Will is a final accounting of your stewardship.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

1. Why should I make a Will?

When an individual fails to make a Will, the courts step in. Laws differ in many states. An administrator may be appointed by the courts; perhaps a member of the family or the family attorney. Sometimes the estate is placed in the hands of strangers. The courts make that decision. As a result, the decisions made may not include all of the persons or charities that you wished to benefit. Moreover, by making a Will, probating costs may be reduced, thus leaving a greater estate to be given to those individuals and causes you desire to remember.

2. What is a Will?

Legally, it is the best method by which a person can determine the way his/her property is to be distributed after death. Spiritually, the Christian Will is the Crowning Glory of Christian Stewardship.

3. Does a Will save taxes?

Bequests to religious organizations are exempt from estate taxes.

4. Why do I need legal counsel?

An attorney will help prevent errors so that your property can be distributed according to your wishes.

5. Will witnesses know what is in my Will?

Not unless you tell them. All they need to know is that they (and you) have signed your Will.

6. Can I change my Will?

You can rewrite your Will at any time, or change it by adding a "codicil", which is a legal word for "Postscript" that makes a change or an addition in the original document. For example, if you have already prepared a Will, your attorney can easily add a codicil naming the church. It might be advisable to actually rewrite your will rather than opting to use a codicil, but this is a matter for you and your attorney to discuss.

7. When should a Will be written?

The best time is Now! Not one of us can foretell the future.

8. How can I leave a bequest to the St. Andrew Lutheran Church Foundation or to the Church directly?

You may leave a bequest in either a restricted or unrestricted form. A restricted bequest is one where you state how the gift is to be used (restricting its purpose). If the congregation or the Foundation is unable to comply with the restriction, the gift may not be accepted. It is best to speak to someone, the Pastor or a Foundation Board member, prior to placing restrictions on a bequest written into a Will. An unrestricted bequest is one where you place no conditions on how the gift will be used, relying on those who are authorized to administer such gifts to do so in accordance with the religious, charitable and educational purposes for which the church was

established. If you are writing or modifying a Will, you are encouraged to look at the website www.standrewlutheran.com for sample gift language for Wills.

9. How do I know that my gift will be used as I intend?

The authorized individuals at St. Andrew Lutheran Church or the Foundation Board members have a fiduciary responsibility to assure that your gift will be used only as directed by you, if you choose to leave a restricted bequest. The use or distribution of your bequest will be continuously and carefully monitored. You can be assured of the stability, security and good use of your gift.

10. In what form may a bequest be made?

You may make a bequest of cash, securities or property through your Will to the church or Foundation for a definite amount.

You may make a residuary bequest that provides for the church or the church's Foundation to receive the remainder of your estate after other bequests, or a fraction of such a remainder if you have other important purposes to consider.

You may direct that your bequest provide income for your dependents for life, and income for the church or Foundation thereafter.

You may make a contingent bequest to the church or Foundation so that the church or Foundation receives any part of your estate your other beneficiaries are unable to receive.

You may make the church or Foundation the beneficiary in a life insurance policy or retirement account.

11. Does St. Andrew Lutheran Church and/or its Foundation need my bequest?

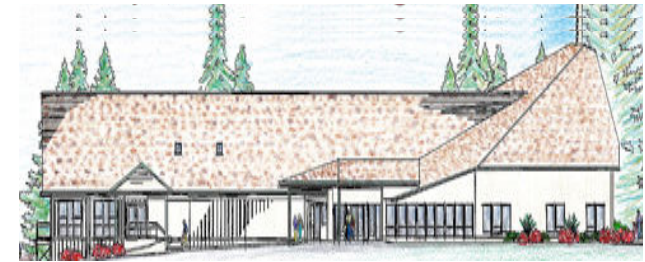
Your bequest is of vital importance to the continuing work of the church and Foundation. Designated gifts can enable the church to remain in good repair, to furnish the rooms, to maintain the staff, to provide scholarships, to continue the mission work being done. Unrestricted gifts enable the establishment of charitable outreach programs not otherwise funded and only dreamt of, or enable the expansion of mission and programs essential to St. Andrew. Bequests to the St. Andrew Foundation can be kept in perpetuity, continuing the good works you intended long after you are gone. More and more the world around us is looking to churches like St. Andrew to meet the growing needs of God's children. There are always many more needs to be met than there are funds available. So yes, St. Andrew can use your bequest and will use it wisely.

12. Who can I talk to about this matter?

If you wish to speak to someone about making a bequest to St. Andrew Lutheran Church and/or its Foundation you may contact a Pastor or you may contact one of the Foundation Board members. The St. Andrew telephone number is (503) 646-0629. If you would like a referral to an estate-planning attorney, you may call Bonny Groshong, Mission Gift Developer, at the Oregon Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in American (503) 226-3659.

A Guide For Giving

Wills & Bequests



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