**February 2021 Bulletin Sentences**

**February 7, 2021**

Very few of us enjoy paying taxes. Yet Jesus, speaking to this topic once said, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” That takes deliberate thought and careful planning. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you begin to ask the right questions. Contact…

**February 14, 2021**

The Federal Estate Tax Exemption is currently $11.7 million for an individual and $23.4 million for a married couple. Under those rules, most of us will not pay a federal estate tax. However, there can be state estate taxes. Predictions are that federal estate exemptions will go down drastically soon. Do you know what impact that would have on the gifts you plan to give from your estate to family and ministry? Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact…

**February 21, 2021**

Certain assets we hold, things like 401(k)s, IRAs or even annuities can carry a tax burden not related to a federal estate tax. These special accounts have never been taxed, and so when money is withdrawn, either in life or through inheritance, there will not be an estate tax but an *income* tax event. If you have never discussed the taxation of your assets, you may be missing an opportunity to maximize your gifts to family and ministry. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact…

**February 28, 2021**

Surveys indicate that most people who give to support ministry are not highly motivated by tax issues. They are motivated by God’s grace. Yet those who support the Lord’s work want to be wise about the management of God’s gifts and this means paying attention to the impact of taxation on the use of those gifts. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you begin that consideration. Contact…

**February 2021 Newsletter Article**

Frank and Katherine were raised to be thrifty, hard-working, God-fearing, children of God. They raised their children in the faith as well and enjoyed sharing Bible stories with their grandchildren. Frank and Katherine were known to not waste a thing, washing, and reusing disposable items, ripping off the bottom half of a piece of mail that came, to use for scrap paper. They had been diligent savers, putting a portion of weekly income into an investment account. Years ago, their advisor had directed them to put investments in annuities. Since that time, all growth on their investments had grown tax deferred. They never planned on spending any of it. They planned on giving it all to their children as inheritance. Little did they know that a large portion of that inheritance would simply be paid in taxes. An LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor had presented at their church and raised the topic of wise tax planning. They brushed it off. They did not see the value. This couple that rejoiced about saving pennies at a time by reusing old things, threw away tens of thousands of dollars in taxes that could have enriched their children’s inheritance or created a nice bequest to their Church, enabling more people to hear about Jesus.

We often put off such work, because it intimidates us, as we venture into topics that we have never discussed before. Yet the story of Frank and Katherine illustrates for all of us, that a few hours of conversation and planning could potentially magnify the effect of a lifetime of careful stewardship of God’s gifts. Your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact…