

# GIFT PLANNING NEWSLETTER: LCMS Foundation

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## *Why Charitable, Christian Planning Reflects Our Faith*

The opportunity to include charitable giving in the estate planning of U.S. citizens is largely overlooked by the vast majority of people in our nation. When they pass property from one generation to another, those who take advantage of remembering charitable organizations not only give their families a firsthand example of generosity that makes the world a better place for succeeding heirs, they literally pass on a legacy that extends the Biblical calling to be a blessing.

Statistically, only 8 percent of U. S. estates that are documented include a charitable gift. The LCMS Foundation hopes to put the idea of charitable planning in the forefront of the minds of Christian people. It is expected that more people with baptismal faith should include charitable causes that align with their highest values if the idea was 'top of mind' or more prevalent when they completed their plans.

We hope that more people will continue to do in their death what they have done during their entire lives; namely share love with family members and support the work of the Lord. But such giving must be planned while one is able to plan. If a person waits until they are no longer able to make their own decisions or until they die, charitable planning is not likely to happen.

Among the benefits of charitable gift planning are conserving taxes, assuring principal and income for family members and providing the joy that comes with fulfilling the great commission and living outside of self, even in ones entry into eternal peace.

Charitable gift planning involves the spiritual stewardship process of looking at a person's economic situation with a trained guide who shares your faith and helps you discern relevant options, and then supports you and your advisors to identify the opportunities and planning options that work best. Contrary to popular myth, a person can witness their faith and support ministries without disinheriting their family.

Christians worship a God who justifies a place of first priority in their lives. The congregations and ministry organizations we support can be considered at the same priority level as our family/heirs. These entities will assure that the future of the Christian faith will be stronger for our children's children. In charitable gift planning, you will discover useful options that can bring blessings to your home; including beneficial options to avoid tax traps with qualified retirement account plans.

Learn more from the LCMS Foundation by visiting [www.LCMSFoundation.org](http://www.LCMSFoundation.org). We can walk you through the gift planning process confidentially.

**Contact the LCMS Foundation Today! 800-325-7912**  
**[LCMSFoundation.org](http://LCMSFoundation.org)**

