

Lutheran Planned Giving of Central and Northeastern Pennsylvania

Lutheran Planned Giving is a cooperative ministry of the ELCA, ELCA Synods, and ELCA related ministries providing planned giving education, donor assistance, and assistance to congregations in establishing a Mission Endowment Fund. Lutheran Planned Giving is here to serve you and your church without cost or obligation. For more information or to schedule a Legacy seminar please contact the Lutheran Planned Giving Office.

570-374-2044

Pr. Gregory Kramer

kramerga@ptd.net

Winter 2010

Lutheran Planned Giving Member Ministries:

*Allegheny Lutheran
Social Ministries*

Allegheny Synod

Bear Creek Camp

*Camping Corporation of
Central Pennsylvania*

Camp Mount Luther

*Diakon Lutheran Social
Ministries*

ELCA

Gettysburg College

*Lower Susquehanna
Synod*

*Lutheran Social Services
of South Central
Pennsylvania*

*Lutheran Campus
Ministry at Penn State*

*Lutheran Congregation
Services, Inc.*

*Lutheran Theological
Seminary Gettysburg*

*Lutheran Theological
Seminary Philadelphia*

LUTHERCARE

*Northeastern
Pennsylvania Synod*

*Sequanota Lutheran
Conference Center and
Camp*

Susquehanna University

*Upper Susquehanna
Synod*

What to Do With "Obsolete" Insurance

Do you have a life insurance policy you purchased years ago to provide financial protection for your spouse and/or children – and no longer need it? If so, it may be a great asset to give to your church or favorite church charity. Consider the benefits when you irrevocably name your favorite church charity as both the owner and beneficiary of the policy:

1. You receive an income tax deduction.

When you fill out your itemized tax return, you can claim a charitable deduction for the cost basis of the policy or an amount approximately equal to the cash surrender value. For deduction purposes, the gift is treated as though it were cash. This means you can deduct the gift up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income. And if you can't use the full deduction in the first year, you can carry forward the unused portion up to five additional years.

2. You reduce the size of your estate.

At death, the face value of most life insurance policies is includable in the taxable estate of the deceased. (Note: The Federal Estate Tax has been suspended for 2010-so far. In Pennsylvania, Inheritance Taxes may apply.) For some estates, this can mean a significant increase in estate taxes. However, transferring the policy during life will remove this "hidden" asset and reduce the size of your estate and any applicable taxes.

3. You leave your current income undisturbed.

Many people desire to give more to their congregation or one or more of the many church charities, but are concerned about their own cash flow and any unforeseen emergencies. They are reluctant to reduce investment assets. By giving life insurance or simply changing the beneficiary statement to give some or all of the proceeds of a life insurance policy does not affect your current income stream.

4. Easy to Do.

Making a gift of life insurance is easier than you might think. Your life insurance professional can help you obtain a transfer form or change of beneficiary form from the insurance company or you can contact the company directly.

For more information about using insurance for charitable giving or other ways to make gifts to your congregation and other ELCA ministries, please call Pr. Greg Kramer at the Lutheran Planned Giving Office 570-374-2044 or contact the ELCA Foundation at 800-638-3522 ext 2970.