

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Endowment Fund

Newsletter

Spirits of Titus

Why Pledge to an Endowment Fund?

Testimony: Gail Regginello member of Good Shepherd since the Spring of 1991:

In August of 2002, during a meeting with our Thrivent Financial Representative, Steve and I discussed how we could financially support the future of Good Shepherd. We looked at several options, such as designating a percentage of our insurance policies, or purchasing a policy designating Good Shepherd Endowment Fund as the beneficiary. On September 11, 2002, we chose the second option in that it would provide a "tax break" since the premiums would be tax deductible.



At the time I was age 47 and healthy. We knew that Good Shepherd wouldn't benefit from the insurance policy anytime soon. But the purpose of the endowment fund was for the future. I even remember kidding about how the Spirits of Titus wasn't getting the money from my policy for a long time. Then the unexpected happened on October 3, 2002. I had been to the hospital emergency room only 2 days before with a kidney stone attack. On the 3rd, I ended up back in the ER with a high fever and rapid heart rate. The stone was too big to pass and it blocked the tube to the kidney, causing an infection.

To make a long story short, I had to have a nephrostomy tube inserted to bypass the kidney. After the procedure, something went horribly wrong and I went into anaphylactic shock. Because I aspirated when I passed out, I not only had a blood infection, I also had a lung infection. My white cell count was over three times normal. I was a very ill individual. I spent 5 days in the Critical Care Unit of the hospital at which time I was given heavy doses of intravenous antibiotics. I then spent another 5 days in the hospital recovering before being released to go home.

My point with this is to tell you that it is important to make plans for the future now. Please don't put off making a commitment to support Good Shepherd's Endowment Fund because you think you have time. Good Shepherd's Endowment Fund needs "Full Spirits" to help sustain the mission outreach of the church. Everything we enjoy is to be treated as a trust that God has placed in our hands. In Luke Chapter 12 verse 48, Jesus said "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

Committee Members

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Special points of interest:

- Gail's Testimony
- Ways to Give
- Are you Organized
- Getting the Best Bang for Your Buck
- Financial Peace University

What is the first step to becoming a "Full Spirit"?

By pledging a portion of your life insurance policy, a portion of your will or living trust, gifts of stocks, mutual funds, or real estate, you will provide a lasting legacy for the missions and ministry of our church body. Please contact your attorney or one of the Endowment team members at 801-255-8181 to become a "Full Spirit" and join the others who have graciously pledged a charitable expectancy. See examples on the next page...

Ways to Give to an Endowment Fund...

Below are a **FEW** examples as to how you may pledge to the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Endowment Fund with minimal cost to you. Please feel free to contact a committee member or a financial planner for **MANY** more options.

	What is it?	What are the Tax Benefits?	What are some other benefits?
Outright Gift	A donation of cash, securities, real estate or personal property	Charitable deduction for value of the gift, plus no capital gains tax due on appreciated property	Gift can be tailored to immediate or future needs of your church or other charity
Bequest through Living Trust	A gift made through your Living Trust	No charitable deduction, but may reduce estate taxes	Gift transfers when you no longer need it
Bequest through Will	A gift made through your Will	No charitable deduction, but may reduce estate taxes	Gift transfers to charity when you no longer need it
Life Insurance Gift	Donate the policy or name the church as beneficiary	Fair market value when donor transfers policy to the charity	Gift may be made with little cost to the donor
Retirement Plan Gift	401-K or IRA can be designated to church	Leaving these to your family may be costly because it is pre-tax	
Life Estate Gift	A gift, usually of real estate, in which the donor retains the use of the property for life or for a period of time	Income tax deduction for the charitable portion of the gift	Donor uses the property until they no longer need it

Taken from Multiplying Resources for Ministry within God's family.

The following are examples to use when you change your will to bequest a gift to GSLC:

- *I hereby give, devise and bequeath to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, 8575 South 700 East, Sandy, Utah 84070, the sum of \$_____ for its most urgent priorities.*
- *I hereby give, devise and bequeath to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, 8575 South 700 East, Sandy, Utah 84070, (insert percentage)% residue and remainder of my estate for its most urgent priorities.*



Are you Organized?

The best gift you could ever give your family is to be organized and prepared for your final days on this earth. It may be tomorrow or in 100 years, who knows? Well, of course, God knows but we don't have a clue. When this happens our family will be left behind to handle the details. As they are mourning, wouldn't it be a blessing to them to know that you cared enough to make all the decisions? The details include: favorite verses & hymns; place of burial; location of the following items: safety deposit box, will, veteran's discharge papers, life insurance policies, deeds, bank accounts, which charities you want to donate to...whew! The list goes on and on. Note: if you do not have a will, your estate will go into probate and your family may never see a dime. There are many resources available to help you get ORGANIZED! First of all, there is a free booklet available in the GSLC office called, "Personal Christian Funeral Planning Booklet." Another book in the office is called, "ANSWERS" which is a very detailed place to keep all important documents and information, the cost is \$25. Many people in our congregation specialize in Wills and Trusts and/or financial planning, call Denise in the office for their names. See below for other great resources, hope to see you there:

Bible Study

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm

"Financial Peace University"

Class led by Pastor Jeff and Debbie Turner.

This is an amazing DVD series by Dave Ramsey that is proven to help get people out of debt.

Member Care Workshop

October 20, 2009, 6 pm

"Getting the Best Bang for Your Buck!"

One evening seminar offering professional advice to help you get your financial life in order.