

Estate Planning #4 - Will You?

Dear Fellow Servant
of our Living Savior,

Three questions down; one to go.

In previous letters we thought
about:

Why? “Why consider an estate plan?” (1)

What? “What do I want my estate plan to
impact?” (2)

How? “How can I accomplish this with my gifts? How can I achieve my desired goals?” (3)

Now it is time to pull everything together and ask one final question.

Will You?

First of all, will you take a minute to listen to my story?

Lynn and I have had an estate plan (will and beneficiary designations) since the early years of our marriage. Shortly after our second daughter was born, we sat down with a WELS Christian Giving Counselor who helped us think through and put on paper the ideas and goals we then took to an attorney.

But I didn't really think about talking to others about estate planning (or writing a letter like this) until my mom died. It was then that my mom and dad's estate plan was implemented. It was then that my siblings and I received the various pieces of our inheritance. It was then that I saw how ministries that were important to my parents were blessed through the estate plans they had made.

Church worker training was important to them; worker training benefited. Care of the soul was important to them; care of the soul benefited. Home and world missions were important to them; kingdom missions benefited.

I won't deny that receiving an inheritance was appreciated. It was nice. The new-to-us vehicle that Lynn drives was, indirectly, a gift from my parents. Even so, the inheritance wasn't something we needed at that stage in our lives. God and his people have always taken good care of us.

Here's the bottom line: All of this helped me better understand and more deeply appreciate how



powerful it can be when *family* and *gospel ministry* are at the heart of an estate plan.

That brings me back to the final question. **Will You?**

Will you take this step?

Will you establish an estate plan?

Will you review your plan if time has passed or circumstances have changed?

Will you make sure you have a plan that impacts lives now and eternally?

God bless you as you consider and develop an estate plan through which you can make a powerful impact whenever the Lord chooses to call you home. We at Great Plains Lutheran are ready to help you in any way we can.

To God be the glory,

David Maertz

Rev. David Maertz
GPLHS President



(1) *“Why consider/develop an estate plan?”* As children of God through faith in Jesus, Christians consider/develop an estate plan as part of their life of stewardship. Ideally, a Christian estate plan is established out of grateful love to Jesus who first loved you and for the benefit of loved ones and gospel ministry.

(2) *“What can your estate plan impact?”* The reality is that no matter how “little” or “much” you have received from the Lord, your estate plan has the ability to greatly impact your family, your congregation, GPLHS students and programs, and any area of ministry that holds a special place in your heart.

(3) *“How can I, with my estate plan, make an impact on the people and programs I dearly love?”* Depending on your impact goals and your assets, your estate plan can be very simple or complex. There are trained fellow Christians nearby who can assist you in making your goals come to life with the resources you have been given.

“Will You?”