



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOUNDATION NEWS

Caring for the Ministry of Grace: "Ecclesia Perpetua"

March 2014

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*The Grace Lutheran
Church Foundation is
a professionally
managed corporate
nonprofit foundation
established by Grace
Lutheran Church,
Corvallis, Oregon.*

Why Write a Will?

The planning and writing of a will is both a family obligation and a personal privilege.

We live in a nation of laws. During all of our lifetime, different laws apply to us. When we are born, our birth is registered as required by law. During life, we comply with legal requirements in purchasing a home, in paying taxes, in securing a passport, and in many more of life's activities.

When we die, our life's passing is noted in securing a death certificate and in the probate process. In all of life's activities, the law is there.

One of the most important legal opportunities each of us faces pertains to the future ownership of our possessions. Before we die, we can make a will that determines who will receive our estates.

In the event we do not have a will, the court or others will decide for us, often ignoring our important preferences. Deciding not to write a will creates a lost opportunity to demonstrate our love to those whom we cherish. We can use a Christian Preamble at the beginning of our will to state our faith and leave a final message of love for our family.

Every person has the legal right to make a will. Details of your will include the naming of an executor, deciding who will serve as guardians of minor children, providing guidelines concerning how they will be raised, determining the use of accumulated wealth, and expressing gratitude for all of life's blessings by giving to the charity or charities of your choice. Life involves a string of choices, and the most important choices we make involve the use and disposition of what we have. This is called stewardship, the management of our resources.

Our acts during our lifetime become a statement of our faith. Our last act, our will, serves as a final testimony of our faith journey in life. We exercise a spiritual privilege when we plan and write a will.

For additional assistance, you may want to contact your attorney. The Pastors and Foundation Board members may also be able to answer some of your questions.

Who will write your will? The state of Oregon will, unless you do, and it will not include a bequest for the church nor care for any special needs of your family.

In Service to the Ministry of Christ's Church

**Grace Lutheran Church Foundation
Financial Report
January 1 – December 31, 2013**

Contributions	\$29,828.75
Foundation Total Assets *	\$671,201.85
Expenses (includes projects funded)	\$11,982.34

Projects Approved

MIF4KIDZ Baptism “donations” for children under age 16, \$50 each	\$500.00
Grace Center Endowment distribution	\$1,936.52
Harrington Family medical expenses <i>(Brian Smith Fund)</i>	\$1,500.00
Dooley Family medical expenses <i>(Brian Smith Fund)</i>	\$200.00
Discipling Ministries computer, iPad, projector	\$5,086.00
Hadlock Family medical expenses <i>(Brian Smith Fund)</i>	\$436.00
Planned Giving lunch	\$75.01
House of Zion Ministries	\$500.00

Memorial Funds

Replace / ADA compliant toilets	\$1,583.79
Altar rail kneeler pad replacements	\$1,023.00
Fireside kitchen faucets	\$146.50
Diamond Jubilee celebration	\$1,500.00
Chasuble <i>(Erickson)</i>	\$586.28
Landscaping <i>(Erickson)</i>	\$683.66
<i>Total Projects</i>	<i>\$15,756.76</i>

* The Foundation’s total assets on January 1, 2013, were \$565,179.64.

The Board of Directors acknowledges the generosity of the following people for donations:

October 2013

Henry and Vivien Chrostowski, Corvallis, OR

To the Schultz Family Youth Fund

Edna Schultz, Corvallis, OR

The ABCs of a Good Will

Most people agree that having a Last Will and Testament is important. But what makes a will good?

How does one know if his or her will is done right?

Here are three features that help answer these questions.

- ◆ Accurate. A good will conforms to the legal requirements of the state in which you reside. It is prepared and signed correctly, and it fully expresses your desires regarding the disposition of your estate. It also adequately cares for such things as guardianships, trusts and trustees, business succession, and other important matters your situation may require.

When your will is done and stored away for safekeeping, you want to have the confidence that it was done accurately.

- ◆ Benevolent. A good will does good. That is, it addresses the needs of your spouse, dependents, and others in your circle of responsibility. Further, it does good by providing support for the work that reflects your important values and concerns. Have you provided for those ministries and agencies of the church for whom you have a passion?
- ◆ Current. A good will is up-to-date. It incorporates the most recent changes in tax law and reflects changes in your own life. Actually, professional advisors recommend that you review your will at least every three years.

Members of the Board and the Pastors are available to answer questions and help you get started.

Our thanks to the Oregon Synod for providing the articles included in this newsletter.