

Direct Charitable IRA Transfers

Congress has made permanent legislation where you can give directly from your IRA to a charity if you are **70.5 or older**.

Benefits:

- Your gift counts towards your **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)** for the year.
- It **does not count as income** to you (there is no gift tax deduction since you don't declare it as income).

Leave a Legacy of Faith

By including the Bethany Endowment in your final wishes, you ensure that the ministries, mission, and message of Bethany Lutheran Church continue to thrive for generations to come.



Let Us Help You Plan

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Elkhorn, NE 68022
402-289-4440

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For Confidential Assistance,
please contact:
Endowment Fund Board

Note: We encourage you to speak with a legal or financial professional to ensure your charitable giving aligns with your overall estate plan.



Bethany Endowment Giving Brochure



A Guide to Giving and Planning
for the Ministry of
Bethany Lutheran Church



Do You Have a Will?

It is a basic question, but one that many people prefer not to answer. We don't like to think about our will because we don't like to think about life after we are gone.

The sad reality is that as many as **60% of Americans don't have a valid will**, and as many as **70% of estates don't pay the way people intend**. A will is an important final way to tell family and charities what is most important to you.

A Will as a Statement: A will simply directs those we leave behind how to divide up what is left. When instructions aren't given, chaos can ensue. A will can also be a statement of what was important to you—a final way to teach your children that they were important to you, but so were the ministries making a difference in the world.

Giving Through Your Will

A will can be an act of worship and a clear path to stewardship.

- **Consider "Tithing" Your Estate:** Perhaps you can consider tithing through your estate or even adopting the congregation as an additional child.
- **Percentage vs. Specific Amount:** Some people give a specific amount to charity. It is often recommended that people consider giving a **percentage of their estate** to charity, as that way the amount goes up or down based on a person's total assets.

Action Steps:

Contact your attorney, or visit www.freewill.com to make a will or to add a *codicil* to your will to include Bethany Lutheran Church.

If you don't have an attorney, we can help you find one. Legacy gifts need to be designated to the "Bethany Endowment Fund."



Simple Giving Options

Life Insurance

One of the easiest ways to make a gift to Bethany Lutheran Church is through life insurance.

How it Works: Simply make the church a full or partial beneficiary of a life insurance policy that you own or intend to take out. If your children still need 100% of your assets, you could consider making Bethany Lutheran Church a **"contingent beneficiary."**

Traditional IRA

Individual Retirement Accounts are often the best gift you can leave to the church through your estate.

The Tax Advantage: Traditional IRAs have tax consequences for your children or other individual heirs. The church, however, avoids these taxes and can place the **entire amount of the IRA** into use for ministry.

Action Step: Giving through an IRA is very simple! You don't need an attorney. Simply call your IRA administrator and tell them what you want to do. They will get you the form right away.