Planned Giving Reprintables

*WELS Ministry of Christian Giving has edited and approved the following resources for your church to customize (when necessary) and use as needed. They are intended to encourage members about good stewardship practices and to inform them about ways to make planned gifts to benefit your church and other WELS ministry. Consider using them at your website, in bulletins or newsletters, etc. To use, modify as you’d like. Then highlight the text and copy and paste it (Ctrl-C, Ctrl-V) where you want it to go.*

*The first article is from Stewardship Advisors. To learn more, visit* [*www.stewardshipadvisors.org*](http://www.stewardshipadvisors.org) *or call Ron Chewning at 888-783-2790. WELS Ministry of Christian Giving obtained permission to share this.*

New Every Morning

It’s a new year. Not only do we turn over a page on the calendar, we begin a whole new calendar. For many, a new year brings promise of a new start, but many others don’t have such an optimistic view. The bills from over-spending at Christmas are starting to come in, and there’s no more money now than there was a month ago. Your boss is still the same old hard-to-get-along-with guy he was before. Then there’s the problem of the extra ten pounds you put on due to all the goodies you consumed. None of this is new. The calendar may say a new year, but only the date is new. Even the preacher of Ecclesiastes moaned that there’s nothing new. “What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun”(Ecclesiastes 1:9).

Jeremiah, the “weeping prophet,” had his troubles too. He wrote, “I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me” (Lamentations 3:19-20). But Jeremiah had another perspective, one that we should adopt as well. He follows those words with, “Yet this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (verses 21-23).

Instead of looking around us at our circumstances or inside ourselves where there is no hope or inspiration, let us look at God’s unfailing compassion and his blessings that he pours out on us daily. Let us spend our prayer time in thanks for all he has done for us and provided for us rather than in lamenting our sorry state. Let us look to his wisdom to manage his gifts to us in a wiser manner so that we might please him and be of service in his kingdom. Especially let us thank him for the gift of forgiveness and the new start he gives us minute by minute.

Congress Permanently Extends Provision for Tax-Free Gifts to Charity from IRA

For those aged 70½ or older, it is once again possible to make a tax free gift directly from your IRA to any WELS ministry.

On December 18, 2015 Congress passed legislation to extend the IRA charitable rollover permanently. Up to $100,000 per year can be transferred directly from an IRA to one or more qualified charities free from federal and potentially state income tax.

A WELS member can take advantage of this tax benefit by directing their annual required IRA minimum distribution directly to WELS Foundation. WELS Foundation will then distribute their gift per the donor’s instruction to any WELS ministry including their local congregation, WELS missions, or schools. (For a complete listing refer to the WELS Yearbook.) Donors are encouraged to speak with their tax and financial professionals before requesting a qualified charitable distribution from their IRA.

For more information on how you can make this tax wise gift to any WELS ministry contact WELS Christian giving counselor [Counselor Name – to find your congregation’s giving counselors go to wels.net/givingcounselors] by calling [phone number] or e-mailing [e-mail address], or call WELS Foundation at 800-752-8940.