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.*

# The Greatest Gift

Once again we come to the beginning of the church year—a time of great anticipation, a time of simultaneous repentance and rejoicing, a time of preparing for the birth of the King Jesus, and a time to proclaim his coming again.

What a glorious gift the Lord Jesus is to us! The Apostle Paul called our Savior God’s “indescribable gift”(2 Corinthians 9:15), and that he is. Who can comprehend the depth of love the Father has for us to give up his only begotten Son? Who can fathom the love of that Son who willingly laid down his life for us (John 10:15) in order that we might pass from death into life eternal with him?

If eternity in heaven were all God gave us, it would be more than we deserve, but, besides heaven, he gives us good gifts on earth. In his explanation to the Fourth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer, Martin Luther lists some of those great gifts: “food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.” As Luther urges, we would do well to realize that these are God’s gifts and to “receive [them] with thanksgiving.”

Of course, we cannot repay God. We have nothing to give him that he did not first give us. David, in Psalm 51 comes before God with deep repentance and then expresses complete dependence on his Lord. “O Lord, open my lips,”he pleads in verse 15, “and my mouth will declare your praise.” And our Savior is quick to respond to our prayer, enabling us to glorify and praise him just as the shepherds did (Luke 2:20) and inspiring us to proclaim with the angels, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests”(Luke 2:14).

A Gift That Pays Income to You or Your Loved Ones

A charitable gift annuity (CGA) is a unique way to support the ministry of [Congregation Name]. Make a tax-deductible gift and receive an income stream for life (or have the payments go to loved ones). Here’s how a CGA would work for someone who is 75 years old with payments beginning immediately. (Note that rates vary based on age. Payments can also be deferred to a future date.)

**Single-life Annuity Illustration (Two-life annuities are also available.)**



Some WELS members enjoy giving in this way so much that they have multiple gift annuities. One donor exclaimed to his WELS Christian giving counselor, “Charitable gift annuities are like potato chips; you can’t have just one!”

You can receive your own personalized CGA illustration using WELS Foundation’s Gift Guide located at giftguide.wels.net.

If interested in more information and assistance by a WELS Christian giving counselor, call WELS Ministry of Christian Giving at 800-827-5482.