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 meant to encourage members about good stewardship practices and inform them about ways to make planned gifts to benefit your church and the synod. Consider using them at your Web site, 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.*

*Note that the deferred charitable gift annuity illustration in the second article was specifically prepared for the month of April, 2015 but can be used anytime to give people a general example of how a deferred charitable gift annuity works. This is not approved for use in Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Hawaii, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, or West Virginia.*

Bearing the Cross

“That’s my cross to bear.” What is it that we identify as a cross? Is it poor health, a hard-to-get-along-with in-law, an unfeeling employer, or an unpleasant situation of some kind?

What was the cross of Christ? It was the instrument his enemies used to kill him. It symbolized the lowest degree of humiliation possible. Yet the writer to the Hebrews urges, “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame” (Hebrews 12:2).

Through his death in our place, Christ exalted the cross. We look to the cross, not with shame, but with humble joy, for there our Savior took the punishment that is ours. There he won eternal life for us. There he won the victory over sin, death, and Satan.

“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me,” Jesus declared (Matthew 16:24). The Christian steward taking up his cross is ridiculed by the world, just as his Savior was. The world hated Christ, and the world will hate his followers (John 15:18-19). Still, we stewards, filled with his Spirit, equipped with his gifts, and renewed in our minds, joyfully take up the cross he gives us.

The cross, rather than being an agent of death, frees us—frees us to serve, to give, to sacrifice willingly and freely. Like our Savior on whom we fix our eyes, we endure any hardship or discomfort for the joy that lies before us as we surrender our wills to the perfect will of our Father in heaven.

Illustrating the Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity

If you would like to make a gift towards the Lord’s work that provides income during retirement—and a charitable deduction now (while income is higher), consider a deferred gift annuity. A deferred gift annuity allows you to make a gift in exchange for fixed quarterly payments starting at a future date and continuing until you go to heaven. Here is how this would work for someone who is 55 with payments beginning in 10 years:

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



Transferring appreciated assets (e.g. stocks) may be an even more beneficial way to fund your deferred gift annuity since it may allow you to avoid capital gains taxes now and pay them in a more favorable way later.

For a personalized illustration contact Jim Holm, executive director of WELS Foundation, at 414-256-3206 or e-mail jim.holm@wels.net.

If interested in proceeding with a deferred gift annuity, call our congregation’s WELS Christian giving counselor, [Congregation Name], at [phone number] or e-mail him at [e-mail address].