



The Christian Estate Plan

God owns everything, and this includes everything titled in our name. The Bible calls us stewards (managers) of the assets the Lord has given us. He calls us to oversee those assets for and on His behalf. Stewardship can be defined as "using God-given abilities, to manage God-owned properties, to accomplish God-ordained results." Therefore, the preparation of an estate plan by a competent attorney serves as the distribution clause for the assets He has entrusted to us and demonstrates your desire to "honor the Lord with your substance" ([Proverbs 3:9](#)).

A Christian Preamble to Your Will

Your will is read not only by those closest to you following your death; it also becomes a public document. This creates an excellent opportunity to make a public statement about your Faith. The following is an example of a Christian Preamble to be included in your legal Will.

"I, _____, of the City of _____, and State of _____, being of sound and disposing mind and memory and being under no restraint, do make, declare and publish this my last Will and Testament, hereby revoking all Wills and codicils heretofore made by me.

First, I commit myself to God's care, secure in His love for me and trusting in the salvation purchased for me through Christ's suffering and death. I leave those who survive me the comfort of knowing that I have died in this faith and have now joined my Lord in eternal glory.

Second, I ask my children, whom I have loved so dearly, to share God's word and to always remember how much you were loved. I commend you to the precious arms of God, knowing He will provide for you despite my absence; I encourage you to place your faith and trust in him alone. I look forward to seeing you all again in our life hereafter, where we will all live with our Lord and Savior."

(Then follows the body of the Will.)

Making a Bequest to the Cornerstone Lutheran Church Foundation

A bequest (or devise) is a provision in your will or trust document that designates a specific gift or percentage of the residual to an individual or charity. Suggested bequest language to share with your attorney:

"I give, devise, and bequeath the (sum of/percentage of/residue of my estate) to the Cornerstone Lutheran Church (formerly Carmel Lutheran Church) Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation with principal offices located in Carmel, Indiana for the benefit of the Cornerstone Lutheran Church."

*This document is not intended to be legal advice, but rather a guide for conversation with your estate planning attorney so that you may be sure that your Will reflects not only the desired distribution of your material possessions, but also continues to demonstrate the legacy of Christian Faith that you established during your life.