

# Offerings



A Lutheran Planned Giving Newsletter

Fall 2002

## FOCUS ON:

# The Luther League Legacy Fund

***“O Christians leagued together” . . . calling all former Luther Leaguers!***

**A**t the recent Luther League reunion in Camrose, AB, the 640 participants donated a total of \$35,000 to the brand-new Legacy Fund. Established by the national church as an endowment, the Fund is dedicated to youth leadership development. The purpose is to create opportunities for ELCIC members under the

age of 25 to grow in their faith and personal capabilities — the same objectives served by Luther League up until the late 1960s.

Income from the fund will create bursaries for individual young people and project grants for groups. Applications for support will require the prior endorsement of the Synod Youth Minis-

try committee. Funding decisions will be made by the ELCIC’s Standing Committee for Youth.

This is an opportunity for former Luther Leaguers – and anyone else who cares about youth ministry – to give back, to ensure that today’s young people have similar opportunities for personal and spiritual development. [For a good example of Luther League’s influence on the development of church leaders, read about Pastor George Evenson elsewhere in this issue.] While the money donated



Gertrude & George Steciuk make a donation while Pastor Harry Kapeikis looks on

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## Focus On: The Luther League Legacy Fund

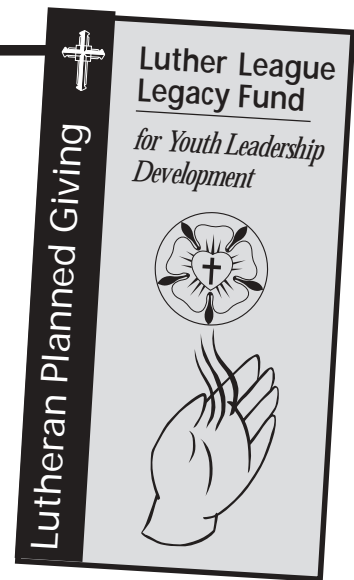
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at the Luther League reunion gets the fund off to a good start, the real growth will come from planned gifts.

If every former Luther Leaguer named the Luther League Legacy Fund as the beneficiary of even 5% of their estate, the total in the Fund could easily exceed \$1

million! Just think of the leadership development opportunities that could be generated with the income from investments of a million-dollars-plus fund.

For more information about the LLL Fund, or how you can make a planned gift to it, call Lutheran Planned Giving. 



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# The Gift That Gives Back

**I**s it better to give than receive? What if it were possible to give and receive at the same time?

The charitable gift annuity is the planned gift that is perhaps least understood, yet offers the greatest benefits to donors in certain specific circumstances. It also enables simultaneous giving and receiving.

If you:

- are age 60 or older,
- would like to make a gift to the church,
- have some money in a savings account or invested in a Canada Savings Bonds or Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC),
- would like a higher rate of return than you're getting now, and
- don't need to preserve the invested money for your heirs

then a gift annuity may be just right for you.

Here's how it works. You sign an annuity application with the church and donate a sum of money. On the application you name the expression of the church that will receive your gift, perhaps your congregation.



The agreement guarantees you an income (for life) that is determined by your age when the application is signed. The church then purchases an annuity from an insurance company.

The difference between your contribution and the cost of the annuity is your gift to your church. This will normally be 25-30% of the capital contributed.

An annuity agreement is irrevocable. This simply means that you can't change your mind after it is put into force. With a gift annuity you never get your initial contribution back — unlike a GIC.

The advantages of a gift annuity are many. First among them is the good that your gift will do when it is put into action by the church. The benefits that *you* will realize include the following:

- you get a **fixed, guaranteed income** for as long as you live (or a "joint and survivor" annuity can be arranged to provide income until the death of the second spouse);

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- there are **no more investment decisions** to make on the amount donated, and **no need to worry** about the effect that interest rates, oil embargoes or the collapse of international stock markets will have on the income;
- you'll get a **higher rate of income** on the annuity compared to what is available now on fixed-income investments such as a Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GIC);
- unlike GIC interest, gift annuity income is at least **partially tax-free**; above a certain age, **completely tax-free**;
- in some situations, you may get a one-time **charitable donation receipt**, which will reduce your income tax owing in the year the gift is made;
- while the annuity is administered by the ELCIC national office, you can **choose the beneficiary** of the remainder gift — and that can be your congregation or any ministry of the national or synodical church.

If we look at an example, then the benefits become clearer.

Mrs. Anderson, age 78, with other income of \$25,000, invests \$10,000 in a 5-year GIC at 4.7%. Income tax payable on the interest income reduces it from \$470 to approximately \$360 per year. (If Mrs. Anderson were in a higher income tax bracket, her after-tax income would be even less.)

If she gives the same \$10,000 to the church for a charitable gift annuity, the rate is 8.2%. Because at her age the total income is tax-free, she keeps the entire amount — \$820. In addition, she gets a one-time donation receipt for \$242. The income is equivalent to a GIC paying 10.91%, and the rate is locked in for life!

Mrs. Anderson's congregation receives approximately \$2,500 as soon as the arrangements are complete. They can spend that money on an immediate ministry need, or invest it for the future. Either way, Mrs. Anderson has created a gift that benefits her church and increases her income at the same time.

If you would like to know more about ELCIC charitable gift annuities, call Lutheran Planned Giving today. 

## The Lighter Side

"How was your golf game today, dear?" asked Jack's wife Tracy.

"Oh, I was hitting pretty well, but my eyesight's gotten so bad I couldn't see where the ball went", replied Jack.

"Well you're 75-years old, Jack!" admonished his wife. "Why don't you take your brother Scott along to help you?"

"But he's 83 and doesn't even play golf anymore," protested Jack. "That's true, but he's got perfect eyesight and he could watch the ball", Tracy pointed out.

The next day Jack teed off with Scott looking on. Jack swung and the ball disappeared down the fairway. "Did you see it?", asked Jack.

"Yup", Scott answered.

"Well, where is it?" yelled Jack, peering off into the distance.

"I don't remember." 



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# A Remarkable Life



**T**he first thing you notice about The Rev. Dr. George Evenson is that he sure doesn't act his age. The upright posture, firm handshake and strong voice should belong to a man of sixty, not ninety-plus years. But there are more surprises in store for anyone who meets this remarkable pastor, teacher and administrator.

As he leads a visitor around his neat apartment in Camrose, AB, he points out the bedroom "where I keep my computer". The tidy desk and well-organized filing system are a reflection of a mind that is as active and acute today as it was when George taught the students who later became "two bishops, a seminary president and a whole generation of pastors" at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon. In a two-hour visit he manages to quote the New Testament, the Augsburg Confession and the Joint (Lutheran- Roman Catholic) Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification.

In spite of his modesty ("just call me George"), Pastor Evenson has always been a natural leader. As a young man he was president of the Luther League in his district.


Decades ago, shortly after moving to Canada, he was put in charge of the revival of Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute in Outlook, SK. He served as dean of the school at the same time that he was pastor of a five-point rural parish. Later on his work alternated between teaching — at Camrose Lutheran College, the seminary and Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute — and parish ministry in Edmonton and Sherwood Park, AB. One is not surprised to learn that today he chairs the residence council of the seniors' building he calls home.

George is also a leader in personal stewardship. He and his late wife Marguerite agreed to tithe when they were first married. They had been challenged by the example of a farmer they knew who gave fully a third of his income to the church. In the past few years he has been able to emulate that farmer, explaining with a laugh, "It hasn't hurt me one bit, it's so much fun!"

Some years ago he read some literature on charitable gift annuities [see "The Gift That Gives Back" elsewhere in this issue]. When the proceeds from the sale

of his former home became available, George decided he didn't need the entire amount to pass on to his heirs. He decided to give away part of the money. Now he has two gift annuities which provide him with income and will also create gifts to several Lutheran ministries.

Pastor Evenson is a big fan of gift annuities. "I encourage people to do this, from the point of view of personal gain and also the satisfaction of knowing that part of your money goes just where you want it to go. You're able to designate what part of God's work to support."

Passing the piano in the building's lounge where he plays a medley of hymns at 8:00 a.m. every day, George Evenson explains his personal motto: "Live dependent on God; live simply; live to serve." With that, all the pieces of this remarkable church leader's life seem to fall into place. 

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## Let Us Know

### If you:

- have a comment, question or quibble;
- need more information;
- want to share a story or tell us about your gift

### You can reach us at:

**Lutheran Planned Giving**  
**1-888-308-9461**  
**[lpg@worldchat.com](mailto:lpg@worldchat.com)**

*If you received more than one copy of this newsletter, please pass a copy on to someone who might appreciate the opportunity to learn more about planned giving.*