



# BUILDING ON FAITH

## ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO GIVE

Bethesda Lutheran Church is in the midst of a special stewardship campaign titled *Building on Faith*. Through this program we will raise funds to accomplish a series of much needed improvements to our facility and property, secure funds to cover operating shortfalls in 2023 and 2024, and allow us to bless partners in ministry, Table of Mercy and Crossroads Campus Ministry at MSUM, with a tithe from our campaign gifts. Members may be asking "How can I give more for this important work?" Most members will give to *Building on Faith* out of their regular income. However, it is possible to increase what you can give by also making gifts from accumulated assets and other often over-looked options. Giving from alternative assets can make it possible to give a major gift that will help us reach and even surpass our goal over the course of the next three years.

Here are some options for giving you may want to consider:

### 1. Gift of Life Insurance

You may have a paid-up or partially paid-up policy that you no longer need to protect your family. Giving this policy to the church could provide you with a tax advantage.

### 2. Gifts of Stocks and Bonds

Stocks and bonds, whether purchased or inherited, can be given and could help you avoid capital gains taxes on the increased value of the product. If you wish to consider this option, consult a financial planner. It is important to give the asset itself directly to the church to maximize the tax advantage rather than selling the asset and contributing the money received from the sale.

### 3. Gifts from Savings or an IRA

You may wish to give a gift from a retirement account. If you roll a portion of these resources to the church as a gift you may again receive tax advantages. Always consult with a financial planner before you do this.

### 4. Gifts of Real Estate

Real estate, including mineral and other rights, can be given through a "split sale" which deeds an undivided percentage interest to the church prior to the sale, avoiding capital gains taxes on that portion.

### 5. Gifts of Personal Property

Antiques, art work, jewelry, livestock, automobiles, RVs, or boats are a few examples. Again, there could be tax advantages.

Persons considering giving real estate or personal property should consult with the congregation first to verify the congregation will be able to accept the gift. Congregations can receive free, helpful advice from your ELCA Regional Gift Planner, **800-638-3522** or **[www.elca.org/Give/ELCA-Foundation](http://www.elca.org/Give/ELCA-Foundation)**. It is very important that you consult a tax attorney or financial advisor before making gifts from accumulated assets.