

Remembering the Lord's Work in your will or trust through the Final Tithe

Did you know.....that the transfer of wealth from the Baby Boomers to the next generation is expected to be more than \$50 Trillion (that's trillion with a "T"!)? It is estimated that half that wealth (\$25 Trillion) will be held by people who identify as Christian. But, it is estimated that only 6% of Christians will leave anything to religious organizations in their wills, and most times it isn't a final tithe. But just think what would happen if all those Christian baby boomers left a final tithe (10% = \$2.5 trillion!!) what that would do to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ!! Now imagine that money at 4% - 5% interest every year forever!! And this would be above and beyond the weekly giving of the Christians left on earth! Think about it!

Did you know.....that there are 2172 references to possessions or giving in the Bible? There are only 272 references to believing or believers, 371 references to prayer, and 714 references to love or loving. We have been blessed beyond measure in America – even the poorest of poor here are still among the one percent wealthiest in the world! And yet it's estimated that only 2% of our per capita income goes to religious organizations (we spend twice that amount on tobacco and alcohol!) It is not surprising that most Christians don't think of their church and other religious organizations when doing their estate planning. Think about it!

Did you know....that only 32% of Americans have any kind of estate plan? Having a written will or trust is a vital part of being a Christian steward and managing the resources that God has entrusted to you, during your life, in a God pleasing way. EVERYTHING you have is a gift from God for you to use while you are alive for it says in 1 Corinthians 10:26 - "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it". So, it only makes sense that you should be a good steward when it comes to estate planning. Estate planning is a good thing. Wealth can be transferred in an orderly fashion rather than letting your children "fight over what's

left". Taxes can be avoided. Families, especially young families, are protected. Gifting intentions will be respected. AND you are given the opportunity to do the work of the Lord even after you are gone! What a great joy during your life to know that you can help to expand the Lord's kingdom even after you're gone just by making a simple provision in your will. Think about it!

So, what is a "final tithe"? A "final tithe" means that you designate at least 10% of your estate to the work of Christ through your local church or other Christian ministries. In this way, your investment in the eternity of people that Jesus died and lives for continues on even after you leave this earth. A tremendous opportunity is given to you by using a "faith statement" in your will to designate your "final tithe". In a faith statement, you can reassure your loved ones of your faith in a loving God who has taken you to be with Him and encourage them in their faith walk. You can help your heirs to understand the value you place on your giving to the Lord – how you are merely giving back to God a portion of all He has blessed you with during your lifetime to enjoy. What a lesson to leave your loved ones! Jesus gave us our marching orders - "preach the good news" (Mark 16:15). That is why the church exists. Unfortunately, it takes money to carry out this command. It did during the Bible times and it does now. Just think of what could happen if everyone left a final tithe to the Lord's work! Think of how the ministry of Immanuel could flourish! Think about it!

On **Saturday morning, November 23 at 11:00**, Kurt Fuhr, a representative from the **LCMS Foundation**, will be here to talk to us about all the different ways you can remember your church in your estate plans. **Please plan to come.** If you already have your wills/trusts in place, it is easy to make changes to include that final tithe. Pray about it. Learn about it.