

A bequest is a gift of part of your estate made in your Will. By making a bequest, you will provide support for God's mission and ministry provided by the Lutheran Church of Australia, at Congregation, District or Churchwide level. Your generosity will make a difference to God's Kingdom.

If you would like to make a bequest, there are several ways to do so. For example: a gift of a specific amount of your choice; a gift of particular belongings such as jewellery; property that you own; a percentage of part of your estate; a gift of that part of your estate that remains after you have provided for any of your loved ones; a gift of your whole estate.

It is important to have a valid will in order to fulfill your bequest. A solicitor can assist you in drawing up or revising your will.

Wording for a bequest might include

*I give to the xx congregation/xx district/ xx department of the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand the sum of .....*

*for the purpose of .....(some examples below):*

- Mission of the congregation
- Ministry of the congregation
- Mission of the District (church planting, asylum seeker or refugee support **within Australia**, funding of an evangelist etc)
- Ministry of the District (youth ministry, camps, aged care, reconciliation ministry, SMP or lay worker training)
- Mission of the LCA NZ (church planting, asylum seeker or refugee support, funding of an evangelist etc)
- Ministry of the LCA NZ (youth ministry, camps, aged care, reconciliation ministry, SMP or lay worker training)

You can also choose to give a general gift. If you choose to include a general gift it can be directed towards the areas of greatest need. Above all, we want to fulfil your wishes, which could be difficult if we are no longer working on a specific project.

We understand that this is a very personal decision and one that will need to be carefully considered. We appreciate that your family and loved ones should always come first, and believe it is important to talk with them about your intentions and why leaving a gift to the church is important to you. This will give you the peace of mind that your wishes will be understood and respected after you are gone.

Whatever the purpose of the gift and whatever the amount, the Church treats every gift with the utmost diligence and respect. You can be assured that your bequest will be used to further the Kingdom of God. You can choose the areas that the bequest supports.

You are not obliged in any way to communicate your plans. However, knowing when someone has chosen to support an LCA Congregation, District or department in this particular way helps us to plan more confidently for the future. More importantly, we would be very pleased to have the opportunity to thank you personally for your generous support.

For bequests that benefit the Victorian District please contact district administrator Stephen Mildred or Council for Ministry Support Chairperson Sabine Hausler or District Church Council Chairperson David Bergmann to discuss how your gift might benefit District Mission or Ministry.