

The Resurrection Lutheran Church Endowment Committee will host a **lunch** and ***Peace Through Planning*** seminar on **Sunday, August 22**, after the second service.

It is easy for all of us to postpone planning for our death, funeral and estate distribution. To help us prepare for our future needs the ***Peace Through Planning*** workshop will include presentations from:

- an estate planning attorney
- an ELCA gift planner
- a funeral home representative
- and Pastor Corey

The emphasis will be education of the topics, **not** on selling of services. The following story is to get us thinking about our own plans...

### **Probate is a Fancy Word for Government**

“We had a man in our congregation that moved around a lot, so in his Will he included, ‘I leave \$10,000 to the congregation I am a member of at the time of my death.’ Except when he died, all three of his children told the court that he wasn’t a member of any congregation.” This put the congregation in an awful and expensive position of deciding whether to contest the Will for \$10,000. Either way, the wishes of the man were not honored.

Ronald was thinking about this story and the signed piece of paper in his sock drawer as the presenter shared, “Will is a fancy word for Probate. Probate is a fancy word for government. If you don’t decide where your assets are going after you die, the government will be happy to decide for you, and they will be happy to take a huge percentage of it when they do.”

Probate is a given in most states if you own property, whether you have a Will or not. In today’s world, a simple note with your signature is subject to all sorts of scrutiny by family long removed from your life. If you don’t have a clear Will, you are basically allowing the government to decide for you. It sounds harsh, but sadly it is true.

Your Will is a critical part of your comprehensive charitable estate plan. For years, updating a Will has felt expensive and burdensome. “I don’t have time to meet with a lawyer.” The reason the man in this story wrote his Will the way he did was to eliminate the need to change his Will each time he moved.

Online resources are also available from companies like [Gentreo](#), [Trust & Will](#), [U.S. Legal Wills](#), [Do Your Own Will](#) and [freewill.com](#) that offer the ability to update your Will without time commitment and expense of meeting with a lawyer. You may also be able to find discounts online (for example: *Sign up and save \$20 on [Gentreo](#) with code “[ThinkSaveRetire](#)”*) for some of these services.

Should you decide to use an [online service](#) be sure to research the features each provides and select an option that will work in your personal case. The [MoneyDoneRight](#) web site can help you compare products with overviews of several online services.

The ***Peace Through Planning*** workshop on August 22<sup>nd</sup> will provide the information you need to connect with a local estate planning attorney who can provide a personal touch to those same services and more.

For more information on how to include Resurrection Lutheran Church in your estate [click here to submit your request electronically via web browser](#)

or  
return the information below to the church office.

I/We are interested in including Resurrection Lutheran Church (Lebanon, OH) in my/our estate plan and would like more information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_