Generosity & Endowment Committee
July 2026

How about donating that 27-room mansion to your church?

OK, most of us don't have 27-room mansions, but we might have a house here or a farm someplace else that could become a wonderful charitable gift to support Resurrection Lutheran Church or other causes we care about.

How does this work? Short layman's version: A gift of real estate can avoid the hassle and stress of a sale while at the same time providing some beneficial outcomes…

- A gift of real estate may allow one to make a significant gift to Resurrection or other beloved cause.
- A gift may qualify for an income tax deduction.
- A gift can eliminate capital gains taxes.
- A gift can avoid gift taxes on the transfer.
- A gift can reduce estate complications and administrative expenses.

There are multiple ways to make a gift of real estate…

- Direct gift
- Gift through a will or living trust
- Gift a home and continue to live there, or make a "bargain sale," or fund a charitable remainder trust, or…

Friends, this is not legal advice, just a layman's take on wonderful ways to make charitable gifts through real estate, based on information borrowed from our friends at the ELCA Foundation. The ELCA Foundation is a terrific resource for questions about planned giving with real estate. They know the legal stuff. Our Regional Gift Planner, Lisa Higginbotham, can give you more information. Lisa can be reached at lisa.higginbotham@elca.org or cell 805-910-5048.