

## A PARABLE ABOUT HOSPITALITY

Imagine being invited to someone's home for the first time. You have never been there before and you are not familiar with the area. The first thing that might be helpful is a map and/or directions, for how will you know how to get there if you don't have directions?

As you arrive at the destination, you know that other people will also be coming (people that you don't know), so where should you park?

After the car is parked and you get out of your car, you notice that there are several entrances to the house, how do you know which door is the main entrance to the house?

As you approach one of the doors, no one is there to greet you. Are you at the right house? Is this the right entrance to the house?

Your hosts welcome you into their home. They take your coats and hats and begin to introduce you to some of the other guests. Why is it important to be introduced to other guests?

As you sit down for a meal, the hosts explain what is being served—whether or not it is spicy, or if there are any potential food allergies that you might have from some of the ingredients. Suppose the hosts did not realize that you had food allergies and offered a meal that would cause an allergic reaction in you, what would you say to them?

The host also offers beverage options. If all of the beverages contained sugar and you are diabetic, how would you respond?

After the evening is over and you are getting ready to leave, you notice that none of the other guests has spoken to you. Your hosts return your coats and hats, but do not bother to say "Thank You" for coming. What kind of thoughts might be running through your mind?

Three to four weeks later, your hosts call you up to invite you back to another dinner party. How likely are you to return?

This is why hospitality matters! This is how it is for some people who come to a congregation for the first time:

- They are not sure where they are going (they need directions).
- They might not know where to park (north lot or south lot).
- They might not know which door to enter.
- They may not know anybody else, so how can we introduce them to others?
- How will they know what to do at worship if we don't tell them?
- Who is welcome to partake of communion and how is communion distributed?
- What can we do to become more inviting/more hospitable to our guests?

You are invited to attend a four-week class entitled "The Art of Radical Hospitality", on four consecutive Sundays, February 6-27. In-person classes will be offered in the church sanctuary, beginning at 11:15 a.m. and ZOOM classes will be offered on Sundays, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Each class will last approximately 45 minutes. This class will focus on what you can do to help extend radical hospitality to those who come to First Lutheran. Please call the church office at (785) 272-5302 to register for the class and so that a book may be ordered for you. Pastor Bob Dealey will be teaching both in-person and ZOOM classes. I hope you will be able to attend.

*God's peace and blessings,  
Pastor Bob Dealey  
Coordinator of Stewardship & Outreach*

## A WORD ABOUT WILLS

There are many myths and misconceptions about wills. This article seeks to provide accurate information in order that you may make an informed decision as to whether or not you need a will. Please consult with your legal and financial representatives as you draw up your will.

### **What is a will?**

In the event of your death, a will is your written directions for the disposition of all owned property and guardianship responsibilities. During your lifetime it does not transfer property or guardian rights to other persons.

### **Who should have a will?**

If you are an adult of sound mind, you should seek a lawyer to draw your will. It is not a do-it-yourself job. Ask that a lawyer supervise the execution and witnessing of your will. If the proper state or provincial formalities are not followed, your will may be invalid. A lawyer can prevent errors that may occur from omissions related to lack of tax law information, guardianship responsibilities for minor children, property appreciation, and a host of other details.

If you are married, your spouse should have a will even though no property may be held in his/her name. A common disaster could claim both your lives. Who would care for your children in such an event? With whom would they live? Who would manage their share of your property until they reach legal age?

### **Why should I have a will?**

The laws of the state or province will distribute your property and name the guardian(s) for minor children and dependent persons if you die without a will. By your will:

- You can name the person, executor, who will manage and settle your estate according to your instructions;
- You can nominate the guardian(s) of dependent persons;
- You can create trusts and name the managers so that the proper persons and organizations will receive the greatest benefits. You can name the church and its institutions in your will.
- You may reduce estate taxes, thereby increasing benefits to loved persons and causes;
- You can make an anatomic gift (such as eyes, kidney, other parts) or will your body for medical advancement. Separate documents stating your desires in this area may be preferred.

### **Can I change my will?**

Yes, at any time. Review is important. Passing time will change interests and desires, asset holdings, guardianships, change of location, divorce, and remarriage. You can rewrite your will or amend it. Consult your lawyer when such changes are made.

### **What shall I do with my will?**

It should be kept in a safe place where it can easily be found by your executor: in your lawyer's safe, in a safe deposit box (check local laws concerning entry).

(The preceding information was taken from "Christians Doing Financial Planning: A Handbook for Individuals and Families", published by the Commission on Stewardship, National Council of Churches).