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## Fwd: "Creating a Legacy" August 2019—A Living Trust and Estate Planning

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From: **Bethel University** <[development@bethel.edu](mailto:development@bethel.edu)>

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Subject: "Creating a Legacy" August 2019—A Living Trust and Estate Planning

Creative estate planning can benefit you, your family, and Bethel.

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# Create a Legacy

## ESTATE PLANNING NEWS

Hi –

Students return to campus this month and we're getting ready for the start of another academic year. We hope you have an opportunity to join us on campus at some point this next year. We would love to connect with you.



In this month's newsletter we introduce you to Rod and Gwen Larson—Bethel alumni, Bethel donors, Bethel volunteers—a couple I consider being "all in" for Bethel. They give of their time, talent, and touch by serving on the alumni board, President's Prayer Council, Friends of the History Center, and more. Please take the time to [read and learn more](#) about this remarkable couple.

The Larsons have given annually to various scholarships as well as to Bethel Fund for Bethel Seminary and the university. They have also supported capital campaigns, established an endowed scholarship, and a

legacy gift through their living trust with Bethel. If you would like to learn more about a living trust or any other giving opportunities, [please contact me](#). We can discuss ways you can give to Bethel and create a legacy to benefit many generations to come.

Dan Wiersum

*Associate Vice President for Planned Giving*

Should We Have a Will or a Living Trust?

### Why Create a Will?

A will is a signed and witnessed document that describes where you want your property to go. Many people first create a will in order to appoint a guardian to care for minor children in their absence. A will is also the place where you appoint an executor to manage the administration of your estate. The benefit of a will is that it is revocable, which means that you can make changes at any time. However, there are many reasons why you might choose to instead create a living trust.

### 6 Reasons Why You Might Want a Living Trust

1. **Preserve Privacy** – As a public document, everyone can read a will, whereas a trust is private.
2. **Avoid Probate** – Unlike a trust, a will is subject to probate, which can be time-consuming and costly.
3. **Property Management** – Unlike a will, a living trust provides for a trustee to manage your property.
4. **Asset Protection** – A trust can be created with provisions to protect your assets from creditors.
5. **Capacity Planning** – A trust enables you to plan in the event you can no longer care for yourself.
6. **Dependents** – A trust allows you to distribute income to children and care for special needs.

**Do I need a Will, Living Trust or Both?** This is one of our many [wills videos](#) available to you at [bethel.edu/planned-giving](http://bethel.edu/planned-giving) to aid in your estate planning decisions.



## Create Your Own Legacy

Whether you choose to create a will or living trust plan, there are a number of ways to include Bethel and create a legacy to benefit students for years to come. One of the easiest ways to fulfill your charitable goals and help to continue our mission is through a [bequest](#). Your attorney can draft language making a gift to Bethel of a specific asset, percentage of your estate, or the residue (what's left after specific bequests are made to your family).

Like Rod and Gwen Larson, many alumni and friends of Bethel support students and the university through [endowed scholarships](#) — through scholarships funded as part of your estate plan, through your will, trust or other gift vehicle. This is an ideal way to add to an existing endowed scholarship or fund a new endowed scholarship in honor or memory of a loved one or to support a Bethel program that is meaningful to you.

For additional information on planning options or a personalized illustration, please contact [Dan Wiersum](#) or the Planned Giving office at [651.635.8053](tel:651.635.8053), or [planned-giving@bethel.edu](mailto:planned-giving@bethel.edu).

### Rod and Gwen Larson



Rod & Gwen Larson

From youth, both Rod '70, S'74 and Gwen '72 Larson wanted to attend Bethel. And that was only the beginning of a lifetime of Bethel connection, support, and generous involvement that will benefit Bethel students for years into the future.

“Generosity is not optional for people of faith,” says Rod. “Scripture demands generosity.”

The couple has funded the Rod and Gwen Larson Scholarship, an endowed scholarship supporting Bethel students of need, and they've provided a bequest for Bethel in their revocable living trust. Ever the pastor and teacher, they explain the concept simply and clearly: "Our estate goes to Bethel, and Bethel in turn pays our kids interest for 10 years," says Rod. "At the end of that time, our estate belongs to Bethel. This effectively doubles the size of our estate."

[Read their Bethel story.](#)

### Isaiah "Zeke" Carver-Bagley '21



Isaiah Carver-Bagley

For the upcoming academic year, Isaiah "Zeke" Carver-Bagley, a junior communications major with a double emphasis in relational studies and health communication, will receive a [scholarship from the Class of 1970](#), thanks in part to Rod Larson '70, who helped to organize the fund.

For Zeke, the support could not have come at a better time. "My parents help me out a little bit, what they can, but they were questioning if they could keep providing that support," he says. "So when I found out I got that scholarship, it was a huge weight lifted off my shoulders, that God is providing a way for me to continue going to Bethel."

[Read more](#) about how Zeke has found support and grown in his faith at Bethel.

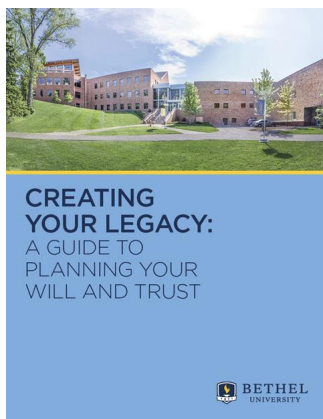
### Estate Planning Resources

## Creating A Will is Easier Than You Think

Creating your will is your opportunity to carefully articulate your wishes, your values, and your legacy. This planning is important to help you *Provide* for and *Protect* your loved ones and the charitable organizations you care about after you're gone.

If you are thinking about creating or updating a will or trust, we can help. Bethel's website at [bethel.edu/planned-giving](http://bethel.edu/planned-giving) includes a number of valuable resources about [wills and bequests](#), including wills videos, and a free personal and secure [online Wills Planner Account](#).

### SPECIAL OFFER—Get Your FREE Wills Guide Legacy Pack



We would like to send a [FREE Wills Guide](#), *Creating Your Legacy: A Guide to Planning Your Will and Trust*, to our friends and alumni. This guide is an easy-to-use, fill-in-the-blank booklet that can help you organize all of the information an estate planning attorney will need to create your will or trust plan.

[Bethel's estate planning experts](#) are also available to answer questions and help customize your estate plans to **Provide** for and **Protect** you and your family while creating an enduring legacy.

### Planned Giving Events

#### Upcoming Fall Events:

- [Royal Nation: Denver](#) | September 28
- [Homecoming 2019](#) | October 4–6 featuring
- [Platinum Alumni Brunch](#) | Classes of 1944, '49, '54, '59, and '64 on October 5
- [Royal Nation: Des Moines](#) | October 14

- [Scholarship Appreciation Dinner 2019–20](#) | November 6
- [Festival of Christmas](#) | December 5–7

## Personal Planner

### Living Wills and Advance Directives

As you approach end-of-life decisions, there are several steps that should be taken to make sure you receive the right type and level of care. To assist you in these decisions, most states now permit... [Read More](#)

## Finances

Stocks—[Read Latest News—](#)  
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Bonds—[Read Latest News—](#)  
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CDs and Mortgages—[Read Latest](#)  
[News—Interest](#)

## Savvy Living

### Osteoporosis Risk Factors and Prevention for Men

Can men get osteoporosis or is it primarily a problem for women? When I fell and broke my wrist last winter the doctor who treated me told me I might have osteoporosis, but I never got it checked.... [Read More](#)

## Washington News

[Read Latest News—Washington](#)

Bethel's Planned Giving Team



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This material is for educational purposes only and is not intended as financial, legal, or tax advice. Please seek a professional advisor for personal estate planning services.

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