

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

## ESTATE PLANNING NEWS

### *Called to More—Create a Legacy*

Hi –

Sagrid E. (Eleanor) Edman’s motto is “Don’t say no unless you absolutely have to.” In her life, her work, and her bequest to Bethel, she has put that motto into action. Eleanor, the founding director and chair of the Bethel University nursing program, recently finalized plans to leave a bequest to Bethel in her will, she’s giving her personal legacy the same care and attention she applied throughout her long career. Today, nursing is the top declared major for Bethel’s incoming class, and the program ranks in the top 10 percent among 1,000 U.S. nursing programs.



Her professional legacy is firmly established, but Eleanor has created a plan for continuing impact far beyond her lifetime. She hopes her bequest will offer a transformational experience to future nursing students—and that Jesus will always be at the center of nursing education at Bethel.

Maybe you, like Eleanor, are considering your long-term impact on the people and organizations you care deeply about. You can read more information about wills and bequests in this newsletter, or [contact one of our team members](#) anytime. We value your partnership and pray for God's blessings on you and your family. We're always happy to serve you!

Jim Bender

Vice President of University Advancement

## Leave An Enduring Impact

Many of us feel a compelling need to make a difference—to leave a lasting impact on the people and organizations that mean the most to us. A [bequest](#) is the easiest, most tangible, and flexible way to leave a legacy of enduring significance.

### **BENEFITS OF MAKING A BEQUEST**

- You leave a lasting legacy.
- You can lessen the burden of taxes on your estate, resulting in a larger inheritance for your heirs.
- You can choose to designate that a bequest be used for a general or specific purpose, so you have peace of mind knowing that your gift will be used as intended.
- You can continue to use property you will leave to charity during your life.
- A bequest is generally a revocable gift, meaning it can be changed or modified at any time.

### **AN EASY GIFT TO MAKE**

A [bequest](#) is one of the easiest ways to give. With the help of an adviser, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift be made to family, friends, or Bethel University as part of your estate plan. You can make a bequest in a number of ways:

**Specific Bequest.** Make a gift of a specific asset such as real estate, a car, other property, or a gift of a specific dollar amount.

**Percentage Bequest.** Leave a specific percentage of your overall estate to Bethel University.

**Residual Bequest.** Make a gift from the balance of an estate after the will or trust has given away each of the specific bequests. A common residual bequest involves leaving a percentage of the residue of the estate to charity.

For more information, please call [Adel Irwin](tel:651.635.8053) or contact the Planned Giving office at 651.635.8053 or [planned-giving@bethel.edu](mailto:planned-giving@bethel.edu).

Sagrid E. (Eleanor) Edman



Eleanor Edman

With her recent bequest to Bethel, Sagrid E. (Eleanor) Edman is giving her personal legacy the same care she applied to her long career as founding director and chair of the Bethel Nursing Department.

Starting in 1981, Eleanor and her exceptional faculty created a department that now ranks in the top 10 percent among 1,000 U.S. nursing programs. She also taught countless nursing students how to excel professionally while following the standard of Jesus.

“The kinds of things I’ve done, I never made tons of money,” she says, “but I want to do what I can to see things continue.”

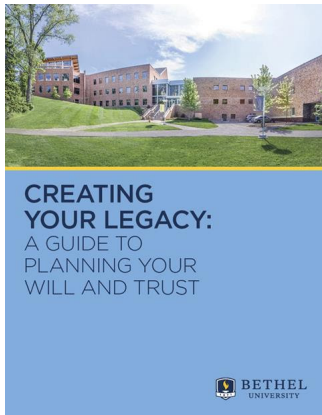
Now 88, Eleanor has arranged in her will for Bethel to receive a significant percentage of her estate. Her bequest will perpetuate her already boundless contribution as a leader, directed by the hand of God to serve Bethel. [Read more about her story.](#)

## 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](https://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](#).



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.

### Personal Planner

#### [Zero-Tax Cash and Trust](#)

About 15 years ago Linda's father passed away. As her inheritance, she received a commercial lot that was a mile outside of town. At the time she received the inherited property, it was worth about \$100,000. During those 15 years, the town has grown... [Read more](#)

### Savvy Living

#### [The Most and Least Popular Ages to Claim Social Security](#)

*How much does your claiming age affect your Social Security benefits, and what are the most popular ages people start taking their retirement benefits?*

You can sign up for Social Security at any time after age 62. However, your monthly payments will be larger for each month you delay claiming them up until age 70... [Read more](#)

## Bethel's Planned Giving Team



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