

The Beckers' Gift of Love

By Pat Bilow,
LWML Gift Planning Counselor

Fred and Shirley Becker would be the first to tell you: *The Lord richly blessed us!* Three children, seven grandchildren, 51 years of marriage, their careers (Fred was an engineer with Ford Motor Company and Shirley was principal of Atonement Lutheran School), and their church friends at Atonement Lutheran in Dearborn, Michigan, all center around their deep faith in Christ.

So it was no surprise when Fred and Shirley told me of their desire to establish a charitable estate plan.

While working with the Beckers as their gift planning counselor, I learned more about their church involvement: Shirley was an active member of the LWML; Fred was a licensed LCMS Michigan District deacon and led many of Atonement's worship services during a pastoral vacancy.



Several months ago, LWML past president Linda Reiser and I met with the Beckers to thank them for their charitable commitments and explain the short window of opportunity for gifting IRA moneys without paying the income tax. The Beckers listened intently and promised to consider this possibility through Fred's IRA.

Before President Linda and I had had the opportunity to arrive home, Shirley called my cell phone to let us know that she and Fred had agreed to commit a portion of Fred's required IRA minimum distribution to LWML's Gifts of Love planned giving initiative. What a record quick decision!

We believe strongly in the mission of the LWML, Shirley told me. If our money can help facilitate more gifts for LWML and other LCMS ministries, we're delighted to help.



At this writing, only a short amount of time is left to take advantage of the IRA charitable rollover. If you are over age 70½, the Federal government now permits you to roll over tax-free gifts (in any amount up to \$100,000) from your IRA to LWML without claiming any increased income or paying any additional tax through 2007 only. If you would like more information about this gifting option, call Pat Bilow at LWML Gift Planning Services, 888-482-8425, or e-mail bilowp@oh.lcms.org.