THE BRIDGE BUILDER

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The sullen stream held no fears for him,
But he turned, when he reached the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting strength in building here.
Your journey will end with the ending day.
You never again must pass this way.
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build you the bridge at the eventide?"

The builder tilted his old gray head.
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."

Author Unknown

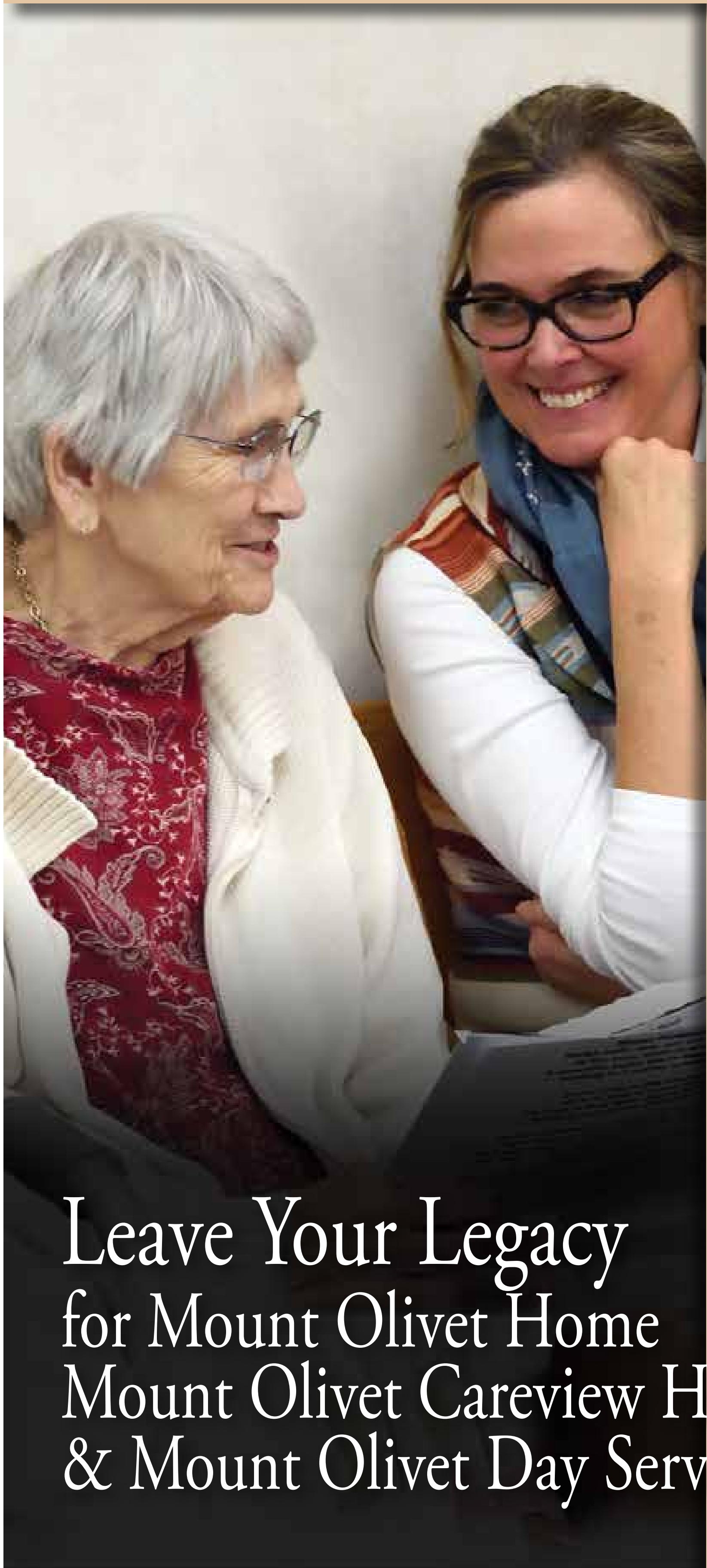
Mount Olivet members Georgia Frankus (left) and Joan Keps (right) were among the first to become Mount Olivet Vision Partners. They both died in 2018.

Photos by Peter Stratmoen.

LEAVING A LEGACY

Mount Olivet Church and Its Affiliated Organizations

GIVING LIFE INSURANCE



Leave Your Legacy for Mount Olivet Home Mount Olivet Careview Home & Mount Olivet Day Services

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church

Mount Olivet Day Services

Mount Olivet Rolling Acres

Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center

Mount Olivet Careview Home

Cathedral of the Pines

Mount Olivet Home

Leaving a Legacy with Life Insurance

Life insurance is a valuable and necessary asset for many people. Both group and individual life insurance provide for estate liquidity (including the payment of estate taxes, if applicable), pass increased wealth to family members, and are ideal assets with which to make a charitable gift.

Not everyone understands that life insurance owned by an insured is considered part of the insured's estate and the proceeds are subject to estate tax at death if the total estate exceeds certain exempt amounts. For example, if you own an insurance policy on your life with a face amount of $100,000, that $100,000 amount (not the lesser cash value before death) is part of your estate and subject to estate tax, if applicable.

Life insurance provides an attractive way to make a gift to charity instead of giving cash or securities.

One way to avoid inclusion in your estate is to transfer ownership of your insurance to a family member – for example, to a spouse or child. In this event, the $100,000 of insurance in the above example would not be subject to estate tax when you die (providing you live three years after transferring ownership of the policy). However, the insurance proceeds would still be includable in the estate of the spouse or child.

Another way to avoid estate taxes on life insurance is to establish an irrevocable trust and transfer ownership of the insurance policy to the trust. This type of trust avoids inclusion of the insurance in your estate at your death and the proceeds may be kept out of your spouse's estate as well. In addition, the problems sometimes present with children owning insurance policies are also avoided.

However, irrevocable trusts are complex arrangements with serious tax and legal implications that must be considered. They should be entered into only after review and consideration of your overall estate plan and should be prepared by lawyers who are specialists in estate and tax planning.

Life insurance provides an attractive way to make a gift to a favorite charitable organization instead of giving cash or securities. You can leverage annual premium payments tailored to fit your financial circumstances into a sizeable gift to the charitable organization at your death. You receive a current income tax deduction for each premium paid. The charitable organization receives a cash lump sum at your death free of income tax and estate tax.

This publication is for information for friends and donors and illustrates concepts in tax and estate planning. The information is not intended as legal services or advice. You should consult with competent tax and legal professionals as to the applicability of any items to your personal situation.

How will a gift of life insurance work?

- Transfer ownership of an existing insurance policy to Mount Olivet Lutheran Church and/or an affiliated ministry.
- With an existing policy, you would receive an income tax deduction in the year of the gift equal to the cash value of the policy.
- Purchase a new insurance policy naming the church and/or affiliated ministry as owner and beneficiary.
- With either approach, you may deduct the premium you pay for income tax purposes as a charitable contribution.
- Keep ownership of an existing policy and simply change the beneficiary. Premiums are not deductible as contributions.
- At death, life insurance proceeds pass free of income tax to whichever charities you choose.
- The payment of premiums may be reduced or stopped completely at any time by you if your financial situation should change. As owner of the policy, the church and/or affiliated ministry may elect one of a number of options, such as surrendering the policy for cash, continuing to pay premiums, or converting the policy into a smaller paid up policy.

"Second-to-die" or "Survivorship insurance" is an insurance product that can also be used for a charitable gift. This type of insurance insures both husband and wife, and the proceeds are payable only at the second death. The cost of a "second-to-die" policy is substantially less than policies which separately insure each spouse.

If you have questions or if you have already made a bequest to our church or its affiliates, please contact us so we can thank you. You may send the enclosed form to Mari Carlson, Director of Development, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, 5025 Knox Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55419; you may also call Mari at 612.821.3150 or send an email to mcarlson@mtolivethomes.org. You will become a member of the Mount Olivet Vision Partners.

❏ I have made a bequest to Mount Olivet or its affiliates.

❏ Please send me information about leaving a legacy.

Name(s) ____

Address ____

City ______________________ State _____ Zip __________

Phone ___________________ Email ___________________