



Lutheran Church of the
GOOD SHEPHERD
KNOWN · SEEN · LOVED

Partners in Ministry,

Grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN

I want to start by saying “thank you.” Whether you’re new to giving to Good Shepherd, or you’ve been giving to Good Shepherd since the doors opened in 1965, we are grateful for you. It is truly a joy to hear folks who have been here since the beginning talk about what that first service was like with Dr. Hegge, and the hope that you have of returning to those glory days. It also gives me great joy to talk with folks that are a bit newer to the congregation and hear how it is that they feel at home here at Good Shepherd. All of those stories, those hopes, dreams, and desires, show a passion for your church.

2021 seemed to many of us like one of the more trying years that any of us can remember. We were grateful to be able to get back to in-person worship in May, and it has been wonderful seeing faces slowly returning to worship over the last half year, and we thank you for your patience with the evolving protocols for worshipping in the safest way possible. And, we are grateful to be able to bring worship to those of you who remain at home.

One thing that has not gone away, no matter what life as church in the world can throw at it, is finances. Though our financial picture is not too different from what it has been in recent years there seems to be a heightened sense of angst this year. In previous years our approach has been that the mission of the church would be enough to gain support of the budget. Year in and year out we have had to do a special appeal to come close to making that happen.

This year we are taking a new approach. And it is going to be a challenge. We’ve rarely talked about what it will *actually* take to do what it is that God is up to here at Good Shepherd. That stops this year. This year we are going to talk about Stewardship. We ARE going to talk about where it is that each of your dollars goes.

Our plan for 2022 is the “Raise Up – Sustain – Reach Out” appeal. For every \$5 dollars you give:

- \$1 dollar goes to raising up people of faith – Faith formation for all ages and certain aspects of worship
- \$3 goes to sustaining those things that need to be sustained – heating the building, keeping the lights on, and paying the people that work here
- \$1 goes to reaching out into the community – Good Shepherd is a part of many different outreach efforts and the building is used by numerous outside groups.

Here’s some quick math for you. If each of our 144 giving units gave \$5 additional per week, we would have \$37,400 *more* by years end than in years past. That would close the revenue/expense gap.

OR, what if we got 10 households committed to each of these giving categories beyond current giving. \$10/month (\$2.30/wk) up to \$80/ month (\$18.50/wk). 10 households for each of \$10, \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50, \$60, \$70, \$80 per month increase would equal \$43,200.

You start to see how quickly that giving/expense gap can disappear.

We believe this is doable, and we certainly not impossible. But, we know that we cannot do this without you, our people. We hope that you will prayerfully consider an increase in your giving for 2022.

So, where do you find yourself? Divide your 2021 giving amount / 52 weeks. Now, what would it take for you to move up a column on the chart? We encourage you to prayerfully consider taking on this challenge!

Thank you for your generosity,



Pastor Josh Toufar

