



GENEROSITY MATTERS

STEWARDSHIP & GENEROSITY UPDATE

DECEMBER 2020

www.goodshepherd-naperville.org

DEAR GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH FAMILY,
Jesus is at work through Good Shepherd Church - He is impacting lives, and I'm so thankful for your faithful partnership in ministry! This year has presented us with many reasons to turn our hearts toward God. We've had to pivot and deliver our ministries through digital platforms, but our passion to BE a Church has only gotten stronger during this time when we haven't been able to GO to church as before.

As we approach Christmas, a time for us to remember God's greatest gift to us, I'm inviting you today to make your most generous year-end gift to help continue to bring the hope of Jesus to the spiritually distracted. We want to say THANK YOU for giving. Without your gifts, we couldn't keep providing transformational ministry and spiritual leadership to our community.

I am sincerely grateful for your partnership in the work of the Gospel.

In Christ,
Mark Carlsson, Sr. Pastor

GOOD SHEPHERD FINANCIAL UPDATE

2020-2021 One Fund Budget: \$3,300,000

| <u>7/01/20 - 12/06/20</u> | <u>Last Year</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| \$1,080,830 | \$1,262,324 | \$1,323,395 |



Livestream equipment was installed in both worship spaces in October in order to improve online ministry and service experiences.

RECURRING ONLINE GIVING. Most online giving is recurring, which is an easy way to help facilitate your generosity. You can also consider re-evaluating your present recurring gifts.

TEXT TO GIVE. Text GSHEP to 77977

ASSET-BASED GIVING. Unique forms of giving may be good options for you and may even offer tax benefits. To maximize your gifts to Good Shepherd, consider talking to your financial advisor and tax professional about the options listed below.

- Donor Advised Funds
- Qualified Charitable Distribution/IRA
- Stock Donations

CARES ACT. For Individual itemizers, givers who itemize their deductions may continue to deduct charitable gifts like before, but they now get a special deduction for cash gifts made in 2020 to churches and public charities. With this special deduction, givers are able to deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in 2020. For Individual non-itemizers, givers who take the standard deduction on their personal tax return are entitled to deduct up to \$300 from their income for cash gifts made in 2020 to churches and public charities. This is in addition to the standard deduction.

Questions? Visit the [Giving page on the website](#), or contact **April Fecht, Director of Finance** at fecht@goodshepherd-naperville.org

All gifts must be received or postmarked by 12/31/20 to claim as a 2020 tax deduction.

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7



GIVING TO ADVANCE GOD'S KINGDOM

PETE AND DELYNNE BERG have been married 25 years and members at Good Shepherd since 2000. Over the years they have participated in and served with several ministries, including adults, families, operations, and hospitality. Let's learn about their generosity journey at Good Shepherd.

Share briefly about how you came to Good Shepherd Church and how experiencing Jesus has changed your life. When we moved to Naperville, we tried several churches. We stumbled upon Good Shepherd one Sunday morning and saw Pastor Gary, whom we had met seven years prior in Ohio at a family wedding! We remembered each other, and the rest is history. Church has been a part of our lives for a long time, and hearing the good news strengthens and fulfills us.

What has inspired you to give, and how has that changed and evolved over time? Giving was instilled in me as an aspect to my faith from an early age. It feels good to know we can help advance God's kingdom. The more we give, the more God provides, and we have never once been in need.

"Our gifts come from God, and giving back is the least we can do to show our thanks." PETE BERG

How have you been challenged in your giving and discipleship journey? We've had job changes and other challenges along the way. We've also been challenged to do more as the church has grown. In every case, the faithful servants of Good Shepherd have met the need and helped to be a part of growing God's kingdom.

Why do you consider Good Shepherd a good investment of your time and resources? Our 17-year old twins Cammy and Tyson have grown up in this church, and we have developed some of our closest friendships here. Good Shepherd has helped us and others manage through life events. It's been a foundational investment.

What excites you about the future of Good Shepherd Church and what God is doing in and through the community? We're excited to see Good Shepherd boldly emerge from the pandemic and resume a growth and leadership place in the community, including our local and global missions outreach. We are anxious to see what the future holds.



What would you say to encourage someone who is on their journey of generosity, or who is newer on the giving journey? *Trust me, the more you give, the more you'll find you receive.* You'll be happy you did! It's a component of our faith, and God depends on us to help sustain and expand the kingdom of believers.

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Luke 10:2



MISSIONS IMPACT

Regardless of our inability to gather together, our mission work continues! Below are a few of the recent ways your generosity has impacted others.

- **Transported 3,962 lbs of apparel items** to God's Closet clothing pantry at First Trinity Church in Chicago
- **Over 45 volunteers refurbished two homes of seniors & veterans** through a Rebuilding Together Aurora project
- **Provided critical supplies to Cheryl's Children's Home** in Nairobi, Africa, including 812 handmade face masks
- **Collected 366 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes** to be shipped worldwide with Samaritans Purse
- **80 quilts** handmade for World Lutheran Relief
- **Gift distribution program for 175 people** through DuPage Care Center Shining Star and Angel Tree (Prison Fellowship)
- **Hunger relief projects and supplies collections** for Hesus House, Bridge Communities, Loaves and Fishes and Honduras.

Top: A team serves by packing meals and distributing food with Loaves and Fishes in Naperville.

Right: Children in Honduras receive masks from Good Shepherd.



STAFF GIFTS: A NOTE FROM OUR CHURCH COUNCIL

This Christmas season, in addition to a year-end gift, we invite you to prayerfully consider contributing to a fund that recognizes our pastors and staff. You can use the same enclosed envelope and mark the additional check "Staff Gift", or you can give online. Thank you in advance for your gifts!

