



GENEROSITY MATTERS

STEWARDSHIP & GENEROSITY UPDATE



APRIL
2021

DEAR GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY,

I hope you had a very blessed Easter! What an amazing reminder of God's sacrificial gift and love for us through Jesus Christ.

Despite a challenging year, Good Shepherd's ministries have adapted and continued to serve our community through connection, study and prayer. A growing number of people have returned to in-person worship, and online we reach people like never before: the homebound community can worship with us weekly, plus, besides Illinois, top views for services are from Michigan, Florida, Colorado and California.

We celebrate what God has done in and through Good Shepherd over this past year and share the future vision that God is calling us to in the season ahead. Visit our website for the latest information on our Annual Meeting, including the budget and Annual Report.

Thank you for your ongoing financial support to the church. Your continued partnership makes it possible to provide transformational ministry and spiritual witness to our community. We are truly better together.

Many blessings,
Janice Rubin
Good Shepherd Church Council President

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



MISSIONS IMPACT

Despite the challenges to gather together, our mission work continues!

In February we partnered with Feed the Need to reach the goal of feeding 2,021 children for a year!

Working toward that goal, Good Shepherd enthusiastically hosted two packing sessions with over 150 volunteers resulting in the two largest sessions Feed My Starving Children had during the pandemic!

In March/April our Congregational Care and Mission Teams hosted a vaccine clinic at Good Shepherd for 570 members of our church and community in

partnership with Jewel Osco. It was an amazing outreach opportunity, as we welcomed several new people to our Church building through the clinic!

2020-21 GENERAL OFFERING BUDGET: \$3,300,000

<u>7/01/20 - 04/11/21</u>	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>
\$2,355,244	\$2,497,979	\$2,661,844

Although general offering is trending below last year (pre-COVID) and budget, expenditures are far below budget. Therefore, we expect to finish the fiscal year with a positive bottom line.

CHALLENGED TO GIVE BACK

KEVIN AND TAMMY WYNARD have an almost 17-year-old son Teddy, and a 14-year-old daughter Katey. The family became members at Good Shepherd in 2012. The early connections they found at Good Shepherd helped heal their hearts from past church disappointments and allowed them to move forward with living the testimony of God to others. Here we'll learn about their generosity journey.

What has inspired you to give, and how has that changed and evolved over time? We have been blessed immeasurably by God and the desire to be part of His blessings towards others. This inspiration grows as we see God using us and our gifts (time and treasures) towards serving others and building his kingdom. **When we were in need, God provided through the gifts of others. Our faith has blossomed because of what we have been given and we witness the effects of what we give.**

How have you been challenged in your giving and discipleship journey? It is all about having faith that God will provide for us so that we can faithfully give. We've been challenged to give financial gifts with consistency and to look for ways to give beyond our finances, as foster parents to two separate families. It has been a magnificent journey with its ups and downs, which helped us understand how blessed we are.

Why do you consider Good Shepherd a good investment of your time and resources? There is not a line between where our lives are outside of Good Shepherd and in it.

"For our family, the church is with us wherever we are, as the investment is being the body of Christ in the world."

KEVIN WYNARD



What excites you about the future of Good Shepherd Church and what God is doing in and through the community? We have experienced more than a year of creativity in forming new avenues of connecting with others, so there really are no excuses as to how we can imagine what the possibilities can be through Good Shepherd 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? Focus on your faith journey and your relationship with God. As ours has grown, we have become more secure in our faith to give generously consistently and challenged to also give our time and talents.



Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, church continues! We are blessed to be able to offer online worship and ministry via YouTube, Zoom, Facebook and other online platform

TEXT TO GIVE or ONLINE GIVING.

Text GSHEP to 73256, or visit the Giving page on the website.

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.

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. The CARES Act for 100% AGI limitation on charitable contributions has been extended into 2021, which means for individual itemizers there may be a tax incentive for cash gifts made to churches and public charities. With this special deduction, givers are able to deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in 2021. 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 2021 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*

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. Proverbs 11:25

