



# GENEROSITY MATTERS

## STEWARDSHIP & GENEROSITY UPDATE



JUNE  
2021

DEAR GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY,

What a joy it has been to meet and worship together again in-person as we have turned a corner in the pandemic! And as we are adjusting to the new normal, I can't help but think about how change gives us new opportunities to grow, as individuals and as a church. Most recently at Good Shepherd, we trained new Care ministers, launched the Rooted discipleship study for small groups, and created a new role for a full-time video producer in our worship ministry. Talk about change for the better!

I am also grateful for your continued support as a congregation. Your gifts are a vital part of forwarding His Kingdom purposes. I invite you to reflect on how God is calling you, in this season ahead, to further invest in God's mission through Good Shepherd. Giving our time and resources is a key part of every person's discipleship journey. Generosity changes us and impacts others!

I'm excited to be on this journey with you. So many more people will get to know Jesus Christ because together, we courageously answered God's call to generosity.

Your brother in Christ,  
Mark Carlsson, Senior Pastor

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

Proverbs 11:24-25



WEEK OF HOPE, KENOSHA, WISCONSIN, JUNE 2021

### MISSIONS IMPACT

**Week of Hope.** We celebrate 65 Good Shepherd students and leaders serving with eight different organizations such as nursing homes, community gardens and special needs groups. After working at a YMCA camp during Week of Hope, one college student realized God's call for him to teach children and switched his major: from culinary to education! Another student said, "I felt like God was so ... there. I see Him moving through others." This was our first mission trip since the pandemic began in March 2020.

**Tornado Relief.** On June 20, Naperville, Woodridge, and a few other communities were impacted by an F3 tornado. Good Shepherd immediately opened our church to anyone without power for internet access and a meal. We mobilized teams to assist with clean-up projects, minor home repairs, providing meals, and moving residents whose homes were deemed uninhabitable.

### 2020-21 GENERAL OFFERING

<u>7/01/20 - 06/30/21</u>	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>
\$2,943,376	\$3,210,114	\$3,300,000

General offering for this fiscal year is 8% below last year (primarily pre-COVID) and 11% below budget. Although spending was far below budget, it was not enough to overcome the gap in offering, so we expect to finish FY20-21 with a negative bottom line. We need your help as we look to rebound in the 2021/2022 fiscal year.

# GIVING IS A GREAT REWARD

Q & A with Roger and Barbara Blomquist

**"Funding ministries and missions through Good Shepherd provides a tangible response to people's problems that we believe will help them come to know Christ."**

Roger Blomquist



Roger and Barbara Blomquist are long-time members of Good Shepherd. They have raised two daughters and encouraged spiritual growth of a great-nephew who lived with them for two years. Barbara is a former college administrator/teacher, and an actress; Roger worked in the sciences.

## **In what ministry areas have you served/participated at Good Shepherd?**

Offering Counter, Cheryl's Children's Home, World Vision (in Uganda) child sponsorship for over 20 years, High School Work Camp, small groups, A Gathering of Men, Quilting, worship serving team, painting, Shady Oaks renovation, Rebuilding Together, VBS, Feed My Starving Children, and Worship Arts (writing and acting in dramas).

**Share how you came to Good Shepherd.** We knew Pastor Berg, who, like Roger, had also been a nuclear submarine officer. **The messages we heard from him, and continue to hear regarding the New Testament are a huge aid in steering our life, especially in today's hyper-charged atmosphere.**

**What inspires you to give and how has that changed over time?** We have recognized many needs in our area and across the globe, both material and spiritual. Funding ministries and missions through Good Shepherd provides a tangible response to people's problems that we believe will help them come to know Christ. The fellowship we enjoy at Good Shepherd cements this belief.

**How have you been challenged in your giving and discipleship journey?** Like many others, we initially lived at a level that left a small margin for giving, but gave to our church, even when we were both graduate students. Over time, our challenge has been to increase our giving, which we have been doing, to great personal reward.

**Why do you consider Good Shepherd a good investment of your time and resources?** We have had congregational leaders, pastors, and staff who are good managers and stewards. As an offering counter, I have seen our procedures evolve to provide greater security and transparency. Also, we have talented and motivated members working within our ministries and missions.

**What would you say to encourage someone on their journey of generosity?** We have never regretted giving because Good Shepherd puts our donations to good use making the world a better place with more followers of Jesus. **We started small, and have upped our game over time, and are grateful for the opportunity to give.**

## **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 (\$600 for married filing jointly). This is in addition to the standard deduction. Contact your financial advisor or tax professional to see how this may apply to you.

*Questions? Visit the Giving page on the website, or contact:*

**April Fecht, Director of Finance**  
[fecht@goodshepherd-naperville.org](mailto:fecht@goodshepherd-naperville.org)

**Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.**

*Proverbs 22:9*

