

# GENEROSITY MATTERS

A Stewardship & Generosity Update from Good Shepherd Church



## A MESSAGE FROM TOM ANDERSON

Dear Good Shepherd Family,

There is so much to rejoice in and look forward to! This summer, we give God praise for incredible ministry impact through our Preschool, Missions, Family Life, and Marriage Ministries. We celebrate the hundreds of children, students, and leaders who participated in ministry this summer (44 students attended Eternal Impact, 48 High School students served at Workcamp in Port Huron, 354 children were here for VBS, and 78 kids participated in Preschool Summer Camp). We rejoice in the 23 couples who attended the Marriage Ministry Retreat in June, and we give thanks for the hundreds of volunteers dedicated to serving and participating in local and global missions throughout the summer!

As ministry continues at Good Shepherd, our Call Teams have been hard at work joining together through spiritual team formation. At the same time, the Senior Pastor Call Team has drafted our MSP (Ministry Site Profile), which has been approved by our Council and the Synod. With the MSP approved, the team is beginning to recruit candidates! Please continue to keep the teams and our future pastors in your prayers.

I hope you have enjoyed our sermon series, "Practicing Ordinary", as much as I have. Each week has caused me to reflect on areas of my own spiritual life where I can draw closer to God. James 4:8 says "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you." I'm thankful for the encouragement and challenge each Sunday has brought me!

I'm also looking forward to the next sermon series called "The Gift of Sabbath". Coming out of the pandemic, my family's and my lives have been busier than ever, and I am recognizing the need to rest. As we transition into a new school and ministry year, I pray that we'll all lean into the wisdom shared on the upcoming Sunday mornings on how we can embrace the sabbath as an essential part of what we do, so that we can recharge for all of the activity that comes with the fall, all the way through the holidays.

None of this would be possible without you! Thanks for your continued commitment to supporting ministry at Good Shepherd with your gifts to God. As we head into a new season, please consider how you might increase your gifts to God so that more people might be invited to walk together in the calling of Christ for a life of eternal impact.

Good Shepherd will soon be bustling in a new ministry year. If you haven't gotten a chance to get connected (or reconnected), please reach out to a ministry leader! We have a place for you here, and we are better together.

Blessings on you!

**Tom Anderson**  
Chief Operating Officer

## WAYS TO GIVE to Good Shepherd



Set up or modify recurring online giving at [goodshepherd-naperville.org/giving](https://goodshepherd-naperville.org/giving).



Text GSHEP to 73256.



Bring cash or check to worship, or mail a check to:  
Good Shepherd, 1310 Shepherd Drive, Naperville, IL 60565.



Talk to your financial advisor about asset-based gifts such as Donor Advised Funds, QCD, IRA, and stock.

# THE BLESSING OF GIVING: AN INTERVIEW WITH THE O'TOOLE FAMILY



There are 6 members in the O'Toole family: Jon, Katee, Ellery (7yrs old), Leighton (5yrs old) and their two pugs, Oswin and Rose. The O'Toole family have been part of the Good Shepherd family since 2018. Lets learn how the O'Tooles have experienced God in our church and how God has been at work in their family!

## What ministry area(s) are you a part of at Good Shepherd Church, and what inspired you to get involved?

Katee is involved with the Cafe and Jon serves with Fuel, our Middle School Ministry. We both have helped lead small groups and with serving Communion during Worship. We both served just recently at VBS in different roles. We really started getting more involved with everything after completing *Rooted*. That helped us really understand the importance of serving and using our spiritual gifts to help others.

## How has hearing and experiencing the good news of Jesus has changed you and your family's lives?

Going through *Rooted* and *Knowing Him* helped Katee have the relationship with Christ that she had always been searching for. Putting our faith first has helped us grow as a couple, as parents, and a family.

## What has inspired you to give and how has that changed and evolved over time?

We weren't regular givers before *Rooted* - we did when we remembered or when something big happened, but it wasn't part of our rhythms. We realized that as being stewards of God's belongings, it was our part of relationship with God to give back to the church. We feel like our whole family has been blessed by Good Shepherd so we want to give back whenever we can. Also the more we serve and give, the more connected to the community we become.

## Why do you consider Good Shepherd Church a good investment of your time and resources? Also, what excites you about the future of Good Shepherd Church and what God is doing in and through the community?

Good Shepherd blesses so many people! We had struggles with our youngest and Danielle, Audrey, and the Fusion team were such an amazing resource. They made sure that Leighton felt included and welcomed.

We have witnessed how Good Shepherd has helped not just us but others in so many ways (like VBS being able to support the LARGEST number of kids in their Fusion program this year or being a rock for the community during these trying times).

So, YES! It is a good investment because every little thing helps in BIG ways. We are excited to see where God is leading our church! While we are in a season of transition, God has shown how many great leaders, teachers, and passionate people call Good Shepherd their church home. We pray over the possibilities that God will provide over the next coming months and years, but we do so with thanksgiving as we are faithful that good things are to come.

*"We are excited to see where God is leading our church! While we are in a season of transition, God has shown how many great leaders, teachers, and passionate people call Good Shepherd their church home."*

## What would you say to encourage someone on their journey of generosity or who is newer on the giving journey?

We started off small when we committed to tithing, and then we have re-evaluated every 6 months to increase the amount. It feels good to know you are helping others. Plus, there are so many ministries that need people to serve! Putting your spiritual gifts to work is so rewarding. It's a great way to meet new people, too! If you aren't sure about jumping right in, join a Rooted Small Group! You will get a chance to serve together and learn about the rhythms that go along with being a follower of Christ!

## JOIN US! BETTER TOGETHER SUNDAYS

This summer, we have embraced the call of being better together as a church family through *Better Together Sundays*.

You are invited to join us this upcoming **Sunday, August 28**, for our third Better Together Sunday! We will be using this time to serve together as a community of faith.

After worship services, we will pack personal hygiene kits for Ukrainian refugees which will be donated through Lutheran World Relief (<https://lwr.org/>).

Thank you for the generosity you were a part of this summer as we collected ordinary items for an extraordinary purpose. As we pack these kits together, we are tangibly extending God's compassionate love and care for those in need!

