

GENEROSITY MATTERS

A Stewardship & Generosity Update from Good Shepherd Church

"We are God's fellow workers."

Dear Partner in Ministry,

I am writing to **thank you** for your partnership and support of ministry by giving to God through Good Shepherd. Though we have experienced change and challenges, I am thankful that you have chosen to join us in our mission of *"Inviting everyone to walk to together in the calling of Christ, for a life of eternal impact."*

Together, we are making a difference in our church and in the world beyond! As we look forward to new pastoral leadership, we are not waiting to move ministry forward. I would like to thank you for your generosity, share with you some of the many highlights from this past year, and give you a taste of the ways our ministry plans to make an impact in 2023.

- We are seeing a steady increase of weekly in-person Worship attendance! In comparison to 2021, we had an increase of 1,000+ people at our 2022 Christmas Eve services. In addition, we are working to produce our first series of videos that will accompany a published Bible study written by our very own Dawn Pulgine! This will be used by us and other churches in the community during Lent.
- With the addition of a new Adult Ministry Director, Women's Ministries has experienced its strongest growth in recent years. Young Adults, Men, 55 +, and Marriage Ministry all continue to meet regularly for Bible study, community, and fellowship. I'm thankful that the Wednesday morning "Gathering of Men" restarted in January, and I am excited to see what other Adult Ministry opportunities will be revealed.
- In 2022, our efforts on both local and global communities were tremendous! 2023 brings the return of global mission trips, where we have started sending teams to Belize and Kenya. Further, we are excited to equip and send our students to Work Camp in Hamilton, OH this summer.
- Our Disability Ministry continues to faithfully serve families in our community beyond Sunday mornings and provides monthly respite care through Buddy Break. I am excited for Good Shepherd to host our first ever "Light up the Night" in April. This is a red-carpet, dinner-dance experience for people with disabilities ages 14 and up.
- Recognized as a leader in our community, the Preschool has returned to pre-pandemic enrollment and added a new temporary classroom, leading to a maxed-out capacity of 141 children this school year. A proposed summer 2023 renovation project will make the temporary classroom permanent and add a second permanent classroom, growing our enrollment potential to 160 + children.
- Our Family Life Ministry continues to serve and walk with families by leading weekly ministry and hosting events for faith milestones such as Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. As of recently, I am joyful thinking of the 70 + middle and high school students (mine included) who had the opportunity to grow closer to God at Winter Camp in Lake Geneva, WI. I have great hope for the next generation!
- In caring for our congregation, we strive to meet people where they are in life. We have teams of trained caregivers, specialized support groups, a new Meals Ministry, revitalized ministries (such as funeral luncheons), "The Pie Thing," and new member program called Get to Know (G2K) Good Shepherd. I pray for continued healing as our team makes plans to process the change and the challenges of the past, while looking forward to what God will do through us and our church in the future.
- Lastly, I am thankful for our Church Council members who have worked hard to foster a greater sense of community and communication with the congregation through regular Coffees with Council, Better Together Sundays, and hands-on involvement throughout ministry. This year, we will have new opportunities to grow, both individually and collectively, as we take "One Step Forward" in the calling of Christ through self-assessment and opportunities to grow deeper in our walk with Jesus.

We know that with God all things are possible. In Paul's letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 3:9), he writes "we are God's fellow workers." I consider it a true joy to work with God alongside you!





Many blessings,

Tom Anderson, Chief Operating Officer



WAYS TO GIVE

to God through Good Shepherd

-  Set up or modify recurring online giving at 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.