



# You Have Heard It Said

MAKING SENSE OF FAITH & FINANCES

Beloved members and friends of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

You may have heard it said that money follows mission—and we believe that to be fundamentally true. When we have a clear ministry focus shared by the entire congregation coupled with the passion for what God is calling us to be and to do in the world—our ministry has the potential to become contagious. That shared vision and collective passion is what draws people in, stirs hearts and changes lives. The Holy Spirit—working in and through you—is what draws people in, stirs their hearts and changes their lives.

With that in mind, while you have now heard it said that money follows mission, we say to you that our ministry and our hearts must follow passion. As a congregation, we've identified that intersection—where our ministry, our hearts and our passion have connected with God's call.

## A Shared Vision & Call To Mission

Together, we—the congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church—have been called to:

- Reach out beyond the walls of the church to serve human need in deeper ways.
- Be more intentionally inclusive by offering a radical welcome to all people—especially the LGBT+ community, people of color, minority ethnic groups and people who are marginalized or living in poverty.
- Cultivate a deeper sense of belonging in our community that creates opportunities for all.

To these ends, we need your help to pursue the ministry in 2024. We have a big vision for the year ahead—a vision that we're collectively passionate about and confident of God's call for this community—that is only possible with your help. Here are a few ways you can help:

- **Presence:** We need you in worship, in fellowship and to go out into the community. If you need help finding that opportunity to connect or if you've felt distant—please talk to one of us.
- **Participation:** We need you to join a ministry team—to be the hands and feet, the brains and hearts of the ministry. There are several opportunities as we begin to make steps toward our vision—please talk to one of us and we'd be happy to connect you where your passions align.

- **Pledge:** We need your financial support for the ministry, too. To achieve the ministry that we're collectively passionate about and called to by God, we anticipate a need to increase our collective giving by \$37,000 in 2024—an average of \$20 per household per month.

### **Our Ministry Priorities**

Our church council is prayerfully considering how to craft the budget in 2024. If we are able to achieve our collective goal of increasing our giving by anticipated amount, we look to do the following in the upcoming year:

- Increase our footprint that goes beyond the walls of the church:
  - Live into the advocacy and allyship work of Church in Society through training and participating in community events.
  - Grow our relationships and resources with One Big Tent and other ministries that support our neighbors who may be living on the economic margins and/or experience homelessness and food insecurity.
- Continue to strengthen the root system already established within our church:
  - Expand our faith formation to include training for advocacy events and community outreach.
  - Support and grow youth ministry, especially through time and talent.
  - Launch congregational care ministries that empower lay leaders to help care for members of our community.
- Steward our property, building, technology, and personnel resources:
  - Maintain and enhance the building and parking lot, which have been dutifully cared for and with normal wear and tear are scheduled for support and repair.

To help us answer God's call, we ask that you prayerfully consider whether you could possibly increase your giving or make a special gift to support our mission and ministry in 2024. Your generosity, no matter the amount, is deeply appreciated and will further our shared ministry.

We look forward to our shared ministry in 2024. If you have any questions or wish to discuss how your support will be used in the year ahead, please reach out and we would be happy to set up a time to discuss with you.

For this community of faith, for God's guiding presence and for your continued generosity and support, thanks be to God.

Pastor Leah

Pastor Matt