



Dear Beloved Members and Friends of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

As we begin a new season of ministry, we want to share with you a theme that has been on our hearts: "**The (Im)possible Promise of Enough.**" This theme invites us to reflect on a truth that might seem counterintuitive in a world often dominated by scarcity—God's provision is more abundant than we might imagine.

We live in a time when it's easy to feel that there is never enough—time, resources, energy. We're juggling so much, and there are demands on our attention and resources. Yet, as people of faith, we are called to trust in God's grace and provision. This theme, "The (Im)possible Promise of Enough," invites us to see beyond the limitations of our world and lean into the divine promise that what we have is not only enough—it is more than enough.

### **Abundant Blessings, Abundant Responsibilities**

Our congregation is a beautiful kaleidoscope of different ages, stages, and experiences. From retirees to parents of adult children to young families and individuals, we are blessed with a diversity that enriches our community. This diversity brings with it a wealth of gifts and talents, all of which contribute to the vibrant life of our church. Each of you plays a vital role in the ministry we share, and your contributions are what make our community so special.

The truth is, everything we have—our time, our talents, our treasures—are gifts from God. And these gifts are abundant. We have the resources within this congregation to do incredible things in the name of Christ. Through numerous ministries you do, we have seen the power of what happens when we come together in service to our neighbors.

But we cannot stop here. The year ahead brings new opportunities and new challenges. This fall, we will launch a new lay-led care ministry to help care for one another in deeper, more meaningful ways. We are also celebrating a significant milestone in officially becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation—a commitment to fully welcoming and including members of the LGBTQIA+ community. This important work will require us to stretch, to grow, and to live more fully into our call to love all people as Christ loves us.

### **A Call to Action: Time, Talent, and Treasure**

To sustain and grow our ministry, we are asking each household to prayerfully consider whether you could increase your giving by \$10 per month. This modest increase will allow us to continue the vital ministries that make such a difference in our community.

However, this appeal is not just about money. We are equally in need of your time and talents. Whether it's volunteering for a ministry team, participating in our new lay-led care ministry, or simply being more present in worship and fellowship, your engagement combined with the Holy Spirit's presence is what will make the impossible possible.

Let's not forget the incredible impact that our collective time, talent, and treasure can have. The early church grew not because they had abundant financial resources, but because they shared what they had and supported one another in radical ways. We, too, can embody this spirit. Let us break free from the myth of scarcity and embrace the truth of God's abundant provision.

### **Looking Ahead with Hope and Gratitude**

In last year's mission appeal, we helped clarify what stewardship truly means. We broke down misconceptions and focused on the holistic nature of stewardship—environment, time, talent, and treasure. This year, as we continue to deepen our understanding of stewardship, we want to emphasize that your contribution, in whatever form it takes, is generous and deeply valued. It's not just about giving money; it's about giving of yourself to the work of God in this place.

Our goal for this year is to expand our ministry in ways that will strengthen our community and deepen our impact. Together, we can ensure that Good Shepherd Lutheran Church remains a beacon of hope, love, and justice in our community and in this world.

We invite you to lean into this ministry with us. Whether it's through a financial contribution, volunteering your time, or offering your talents, know that your participation is vital to the life and mission of this church.

Thank you for being part of this community and for the many ways you contribute to the life of our church. We are grateful for each of you and look forward to seeing how God will work in and through us in the year to come.

Pastor Leah

Pastor Matt