



Shepherd's Staff

"One Small Thing" A Lenten Discipline Challenge

The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church March 2020



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"One Small Thing" Lenten Discipline Challenge

Earlier this year, we as a congregation voted with hope, joy, and abundance-thinking to operate with a stretch budget for this year. Together we acknowledged that meeting this budget will not come easily, and will take the excitement and involvement of the entire congregation, and we believe that we are up for the challenge. As we enter the journey of Lent, it seems most appropriate that we find ourselves in a season that calls for self-reflection and which often includes the changing (adding or subtracting) of disciplines in order to draw us closer to God.

With this in mind, the congregation is invited to join the "One Small Thing" Challenge. This Lenten discipline invites each household to look for one small thing we can give up, and/or one small thing we can add to our giving in order to help achieve the budget, and therefore mission, that we approved. We will also practice this on a congregation-wide level.

Ideas that an individual/household might consider during Lent:

1. How can I rearrange my budget in order to give \$5 more each week?
2. Setting up automatic giving so that even if I'm not in worship, I'm participating

in the offering that serves God's mission in the world.

3. Bringing my own mug for coffee, instead of using disposable cups (better for the earth and the budget!).
4. Encouraging children to collect change during Lent to bring to a noisy offering on Palm Sunday weekend. During the offering, children (but really, everyone) will get a chance to drop, clank, and crash their coins into metal containers to "make a joyful noise to the Lord!" (Psalm 100:1)

Here's what the congregation will be doing in Lent:

1. Throughout the entire season, we will print our bulletins and announcements in black and white ink only. Did you know that printing color copies adds roughly \$3000 per year? Black and white is also symbolic of the ashes with which we begin the season.
2. On the 1st, 3rd, and 5th weekends of Lent, we will celebrate a "Paper: Less Weekend" in worship. We'll reduce our use by printing a one-page order of service, announcements, and Connect Cards, and using our hymnals and screens.
3. On the 2nd, 4th, and 6th weekends of Lent, we will forgo donuts. Did you know that donuts (and coffee) cost close to \$8000 per year? Don't forget to pack a snack!

Throughout Lent, there will be a display in the narthex where folks can write down the "one small thing" they are adding or giving up for the sake of mission at Good Shepherd. We hope that this challenge will not only draw us closer to God as we consider our call to good stewardship of resources, but also that it will draw us closer as a congregation, as we see our small things adding up to great ministry together.

"Team: Good Shepherd," are you up for the challenge?!



Josh Brecht
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What Happens Next?

There are many questions that arise in a time of pastoral transition. Whether you have been in a Lutheran church most of your life, or are relatively new to ELCA Lutheran practices, you likely have questions about what the retirement of a Senior Pastor means for the rest of the staff and the congregation. As such, we wanted to clarify as much as we are able at this time. Your Church Council will be working closely with our Central States Synod Bishop and staff to determine our process and timeline,

which will be shared as it is developed in the coming months. For now, here are a few responses to some common questions.

When the Senior Pastor retires does that mean the other pastors and/or staff have to leave?

No. The other rostered leaders, as well as lay staff, will continue serving at Good Shepherd. (“Rostered leaders” are deacons and pastors, which include Pastors Rich, Amy, and Josh, and Deacons Suzie and Gail.) Some congregations have had “coterminous” calls with Senior Pastors and other rostered staff which require other staff to leave when a Sr. Pastor leaves. This is *not* the case at Good Shepherd.

When Pastor Rich retires does that mean Pastor Josh or Pastor Amy’s roles change?

Maybe, and maybe not. We will certainly have some sharing and changing of duties during the transition time to ensure ministry happens here, but Good Shepherd will have a time of discernment as a whole congregation. (This will take shape as the Synod staff and GSLC council work together.) This will give us, as a congregation, time to consider who we are, where we hope to go in the future, and what type of leader we seek to serve as the lead pastor for the next chapter. Only after this critical work will we be able to determine where the Holy Spirit is leading us in terms of pastoral roles and our leadership needs.

After this time of discernment, what comes next?

The standard process would be that a congregation creates a Ministry Site Profile (MSP), which is a detailed document describing Good Shepherd, our ministries, our mission and vision, and our needs/desires for a Lead Pastor. This document is submitted to the Bishop’s office, and from this they will be able to recommend potential candidates. We will also form a Call Committee that will be responsible for reviewing and interviewing candidates. When a Call Committee decides on a candidate, they make a recommendation to council, and if council agrees, a recommendation is made to the congregation. The congregation would then decide by a congregational meeting and vote to call a pastor.

Don’t Lutheran churches have an interim Senior Pastor in a time of transition?

This *is* often the case. However, there are a few factors that indicate this may not be the case at Good Shepherd. There is a shortage of trained, intentional interims in the ELCA relative to the need. We will continue to have two pastors (Amy and Josh) and two deacons (Suzie and Gail) on staff to carry the day-to-day pastoral ministry of the church. We will also need to be judicious with our finances over the next year. This is yet to be determined, but even if we do not have an intentional interim pastor, we will likely have some professional outside help to guide us through the work of discernment.

How long with this process take?

We do not know. We hope to move expediently, but we also recognize the danger of moving too quickly. We will utilize the expertise and wisdom of the Synod staff, and take this time as an opportunity to reflect together on who God is calling us to be and where God is leading us. The most important factor is to be open to the Spirit and take whatever time is needed to listen, to pray and then be able to move forward in faithfulness to our calling.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Josh



Glenn Kraft
Council President

When we give, we are usually feeling one of the following sensations; Cheerful, Generous or Sacrificial. The cheerful giver feels good about the cause and donates accordingly.

The generous giver dedicates a major portion of their income to giving, perhaps as high as 10 percent (a tithe). The sacrificial giver doesn't just "give until it hurts", they give until their giving affects them. A sacrificial giver gives until they feel changed. The idea is not that giving should hurt, but that when you give more you gain a renewed perspective. God gave us his only Son, the ultimate sacrifice. Do you think God was changed when he did this for us? You can be changed to live in the recognition that you have enough, even when giving to God in thanksgiving.



There is a popular trend for churches to sponsor the now well-known training entitled Financial Peace University. This is a healthy training for young and old people to set new priorities for financial health (no debt, dedicated savings, regular giving). It's a great title: Financial Peace. Many of us know people in our lives who live in financial agony. Financial stress can occur at every income level. Financial peace is available to all when we manage ourselves and recognize that most of life's pleasures are not financial. At first, it's not easy, but once financial peace is obtained, you just don't want to lose it.

If you currently give a little, please consider an additional \$10 per week; this amount will make a huge impact for the church. If you have been generous, please think about dipping your toe into sacrifice. If you are sacrificial in your giving, please consider sharing your journey and teaching us more your journey.

Please let me know if you would like to share your stewardship story in a new upcoming Stewardship video.

Glenn Kraft
President

Article submitted by Jill Thompson

To my sisters and brothers at Good Shepherd Lutheran:

I found Monday's budget conversation to be similar to many congregations in multiple denominations where I've been involved. Such conversations always prompt me to reflect on my theology as it relates to my giving. I humbly share this with you which includes two seemingly contradictory notions. I believe they are intricately woven threads in a fabric.

When I started coming to GSLC just a year ago, I was not sure I would join or that I and my wife of 27 years would be welcome. As is my habit, I had a discussion with God about joining and then realized my dilemma about growing towards a tithe. My argument was I hadn't joined yet so I could hold my contribution until I decided. However, I lost the argument with God. God challenged me with the first of the contradictory ideas: my giving has absolutely nothing to do with GSLC and everything to do with my relationship with God. Nothing to do with this place. Everything to do with God. Would I trust God to use my giving to advance God's kin-dom and righteousness and love even if I wasn't committed to this particular place? Would I let go of my desire to control my 'gift' and freely give it to how God might direct the funds? Could my faith in God grow deeper by not even thinking about the location of the gift and just thinking about it being between me and God? God won the argument!

The other seemingly contradictory thought is that my giving has everything to do with this place, GSLC. Context matters! During the discussion Monday, it is apparent some are still struggling with the vote to adopt the welcoming statement. People's hearts seem broken, either by friends that have left or are leaving or with the efforts ending with divisions. I think there may be an opportunity to heal our broken hearts. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Huh? It is a spiritual truth that where our treasure rests (yes, money), there will be our hearts.

I experienced this in a very powerful way in my past. I was working on my masters degree, working very part-time, having to cover added expenses of commuting to Chicago. Yet I felt called to give money to a special racial equity project. I had a passion for racial equity. With the advice and support of spiritual advisors and family, I put my treasure towards this project. To my amazement, my passion for racial equity grew exponentially! My heart for racial equity followed and grew as a result of placing

my treasure there.

I would suggest to heal our broken hearts and to expand our hearts, we put our treasure into this base budget but then to really, really expand our hearts and have our hearts join with each other, bringing healing and advancing God's kingdom, righteousness and love, we also commit to these growth goals (cuts and gaps). I've heard so many say how much they love our ministries with children, with youth, through music, through our outreach ministries and through the Stephen's Ministries, etc. We love them! But I suggest, if we put our treasure in the budget and towards these stretch goals, the cuts and gaps, we will love them exponentially more! Where our treasure is there our hearts will be also! And if we love these ministries together, put our treasures there together, the divisions and broken-heartedness will fade away. We will be joined together in these joint causes that heal us and expand our hearts for these ministries and for each other. That's how we heal our hearts! As I have put my treasure in this specific place, GSLC, my love and heart for the people here has grown, has expanded beyond my expectations. "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." May it be so.

In love and peace, Jill Thompson



Stewardship Team

In January, the Stewardship team launched our 2020 campaign - "G.I.V.E." - which was a change from our pledge cards of the past. This new campaign encourages the congregation to "Live and Give Boldly" by filling out both a Pledge & Discipleship letter and an Involvement

form showcasing areas where you and family members can contribute your time, talent, and treasures to Good Shepherd in the areas of Gifts, Involvement, Volunteerism, and Evangelism. Thank you to everyone who has returned their forms to the office or placed them in the blue box in the Narthex. If you haven't returned your forms yet, there's still time! And if haven't picked up your packet, please check your mailbox.

In a recent letter from Council President, Glenn Kraft, he echoed the challenge from the townhall and annual meetings for members to help "Step Up!" our giving goals in 2020 in order to achieve the approved budget. Over the coming months, you'll hear more from Stewardship through the G.I.V.E. campaign and how together, we can continue to be the thriving unicorn church that we are.

If you are looking for ways to help at Good Shepherd, or on the G.I.V.E. campaign, the Stewardship team would love to hear from you!

Together in Christ,



Make an impact with Thrivent Choice Dollars & Thrivent Action Teams by Vicki Haugen

What's your passion? Thrivent members have an opportunity to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars, individually earned on their Thrivent products, and be involved with Thrivent Action Teams (TAT). Both are ways for members, family and the church community to get involved to make a difference. Thrivent Choice Dollars requests have a deadline of March 31. TAT Projects are given a \$250 gift card from Thrivent Financial to bring people together for a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event to be completed in 90 days. Thrivent Members need only apply for both at <https://www.thrivent.com>.

A "Wink from the Welcome Ministry Team by Elliott Haugen



Happy spring! This is a great time of the year as temperatures warm, daylight increases, birds and baby animals appear, tree leaves develop, and flowers blossom. Spring is a time of growth for all new and old living things, but it is also a time of planting. The Gospel points out how God's Word and love come to us like seeds which can grow and sustain us and others. For example:

Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Matthew 13:8

And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold . Luke 8:8

These words indicate that growth is helped by good soil. Clearly, the loving hearts and generous spirits within Good Shepherd help all of us to grow in faith, love, joy and relationships with God, each other, and the world. So please welcome, invite and include our new and existing members to join in your journeys of growth this season.

West County Interfaith Alliance educational tour of United Hebrew Congregation on March 28th. Please click on the link to view the Flyer.

[WCIA Educational Program Flyer](#)

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Good Shepherd Calendar

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