



Shepherd's Staff

GROWING
FAITH
GROWING
GENEROSITY
GROWING
IMPACT

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GOOD SHEPHERD

OCTOBER 2024



1 Cor. 3:6 "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."

Stewardship Team

Rock Foster

Every October we focus on stewardship for a season. On October 13 we will kick off our annual stewardship campaign concluding with Commitment Sunday on November 3. This year, the stewardship committee has worked with the consulting firm GSB Fundraising, specifically their Stewardship For All Seasons (SAS) program. The SAS program gives us tools to help each person grow in their own generosity journey. Our goal is to provide greater transparency through the entire process. We will communicate a specific goal for 2025; the needed increase in a dollars per week; an anonymous graphic presentation of the current contributions by all giving tiers and a proposed increase at each level. We will also be communicating more clearly how your increase in giving will impact the mission and ministry of Good Shepherd.

You will notice a few different approaches to our fall campaign this year. One big change is that we will communicate with each of our current donors asking for a proposed range of increase in generosity for 2025. These increases are generally a mathematical allocation of our need informed by pastoral insights. Another shift is that we will refer to the requests as intents rather than pledges better reflecting the nature of the communication. The amounts you share reflect your intent, not a contract, of your generosity. These gifts are between each donor and God. Most importantly, our desire is that this month of discernment would be accompanied by frequent prayer.

The stewardship team is very excited about the many ministry opportunities in front of Good Shepherd in the coming year with the continued generosity of this extraordinary community.

Josh Brecht
Lead Pastor



Guatemala Intergenerational Mission Trip 2025

Good Shepherd has a long history of connecting with the global church through intergenerational mission trips. The last international mission trip was in 2017, but our passion for missional partnership is still strong. Earlier this year we heard about an organization called **Tree 4 Hope** that is doing fantastic ministry in Guatemala. After some initial conversations with the director and other congregations that have served with Tree 4 Hope, Beckie Finland and I put together a Mission Trip Team to explore the possibility of a trip to Guatemala in 2025.



Tree 4 Hope was started by ELCA Pastor and Deacon, Jennifer and David Hope-Tringali. This ministry works with **Hogar Miguel** orphanage and launched a bilingual STEAM school for girls called **Hope Academy**. Through these ministries they also work on food security, community engagement, and equipping young people with job skills for the future.

In September, Beckie and I were able to travel to Guatemala with other church leaders and the director, Deacon David Hope-Tringali, to meet the leaders of Hope Academy and Hogar Miguel orphanage. It was an amazing experience!

Hope Academy has 125 students, age 3 – 6th grade. It is a bilingual school to equip these amazing girls to be a part of the global community and open up new opportunities for their future. **Chica Bean Coffee** partners with Hope Academy, offering an internship teaching students about business, science, agriculture, and economics.

Hogar Miguel Orphanage began 25 years ago and is now home to 76 kids. Part of what makes Hogar Miquel exceptional is the wholistic approach to care the kids receive. Music education and phycological care help the kids address trauma they have experienced. They also help the wider community, providing families food support, and they are in the process of launching a trade school. Beckie and I were able to spend time with the kids and adult leaders during our time there and it was a tremendous joy to see these children flourishing and experiencing the love of Christ.

We are excited to announce an Intergeneration Mission Trip with Tree 4 Hope next June, open to youth 6th Grade – Adults! Join us on **Sunday, October 20** to learn more about Tree 4 Hope and this exciting opportunity!

Informational Meeting

Sunday, October 20
12:00 pm, Room 205

Guatemala Mission Trip Details

When: June 21-29, 2025

Who: 6th Grade – Adults (youth must be accompanied by a parent or designated guardian)

Cost: \$1,500 - \$2,000 per person (variable depending on airfare)

Fundraising opportunities will be available

[Click Here For More Information](#)

A Wink From the Welcome Team Elliott Haugen



Happy Halloween month! Many of us love Halloween and the creative costumes and decorations, trick and treating, and scary parties. Maybe it is the anonymity of the costumes but it seems like we transform into Halloween extraverts as we welcome strangers to our doors, share a few words, and give them treats. We enjoy sharing friendliness and hospitality.

So, what does that have to do with Good Shepherd's welcome ministry? Well, each week people we may not know come to our church door, come into this house, sit with us, and share a communion meal. This is different than Halloween because what at Good Shepherd we aspire to a higher, deeper level of hospitality by making sure people feel not only welcomed, but also valued. We try to provide a warm, welcoming environment where we notice and acknowledge those around us. We try to make eye contact, smile, say hello, introduce ourselves, call people by name, and show that we care about them.

In the book "Radical Hospitality", authors Homan & Pratt suggest that hospitality is a personal response to our own need to connect with other people. And that hospitality is not something you achieve, but rather something you enter, i.e., it is not what you do, but what you become.

Thanks for helping create a space of inclusivity and acceptance, for welcoming and embracing each other, and for being willing to extend yourself beyond your comfort zone. Your active hospitality is a reason that another group of wonderful people has decided to join Good Shepherd this month. Please help them feel welcomed, loved, cared for, and connected. As St. Paul wrote:

"Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." Romans 12:13

**Weekly Services Saturday 5pm (casual) and
Sunday 9am (traditional) and 11am (contemporary)**

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