

October 8, 2026

Dear partners in ministry,

As we stride into the fall season, it's a great time of year to consider how well God has taken care of us. We wondered how God would take care of the congregation during a three-month pastoral sabbatical over the summer, and we saw how God delivered through the coordinated caregiving of Pastor Scott Anthony, the Board of Deacons, Prayer Ministry, and our Stephen Ministers. Revitalization projects moved forward during this time, energized by the passionate efforts of staff and volunteers. The first major **Project 50** initiative, our Play Café outreach, launched in coordination with our third annual Back to School BBQ for community families. Our worship services are now enhanced by the presence of new hymnals, hot off the press, featuring songs ancient and modern. Our Tuesday Women's Bible Study is filled to capacity as they journey with Jesus through the gospel of John. These ministry highlights – and there are so many more – are a testimony to how well we are taken care of by our loving God.

God provides for all this and more through our stewardship investment of the financial resources we've been entrusted with. This November we will consider what it means to be cared for by a Good Shepherd, and how gratitude for God's bountiful provision is the foundation of faithful and generous stewardship. Accordingly, this year's stewardship campaign theme is "**GOOD SHEPHERD GRATITUDE**." Here's a snapshot of our series based on Psalm 23 & John 10:

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing."
Psalm 23:1*

Psalm 23 famously celebrates our shepherding Lord's provision for us, the people of His pasture. In John's gospel, Jesus claims to be our Good Shepherd who guides us into abundant life. **During this series we'll explore how gratitude for God's provision might encourage generous giving, as we consider ways in which God has given to us so abundantly that "our cup overflows."**



By God's grace and through your generosity, our financial position is strong. We express our appreciation to all who have given financially to the Lord through the ministry of this congregation. Thank you! Through your offerings the Lord has provided for this congregation, and your faithful giving is an ever-present expression of God's care.

This year we continue to emphasize that our giving to God through the church is an expression of our walk with the Lord who is our Shepherd. Giving money to the church is an act of devoted faith that draws us closer in union with Christ. In the process, the church's mission and ministry are supported through a percentage of our incomes (the concept of the "tithe," meaning "tenth"). In

this stewardship campaign we continue to encourage people toward proportionate and planned giving in response to the question, **“What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?”**

On Sundays during November, we’ll focus on stewardship with a theme-inspired series of worship services and sermons. Pledge cards will be mailed to households prior to the first Sunday so that we all have them as we listen to a special presentation about joyful giving on **Invitation Sunday**, November 1. The following Sunday, November 8, we will hear testimonies of God’s faithful provision and launch a renewed focus on our small group ministry. Our annual **Pledge Sunday** will be November 15, where we will offer our pledge cards confidentially to the Lord at the foot of the cross as an act of worshipful devotion. After worship we’ll host our traditional **Pie & Praise Lunch/Dessert** at the church (details to follow).

As we bring our offering to the Lord in worship, may we be filled with gratitude for the way our Good Shepherd provides for us.

Sincerely in Christ,



Elder Vic Chaloupka



Pastor Kurt Helmcke

Good Shepherd Gratitude: *“I lack nothing...my cup overflows”*

Date	Activity	Description
October 24	Dessert & Music Night	A free evening dessert with music provided by special guest Jeffrey Brewer (pre-registration requested)
October 26	Pledge Cards Mailed	
November 1	Invitation Sunday	Giving Invitation Sermon – “Life, Abundant” (John 10:7-18)
November 8	Small Group Sunday	Testimonies & Small Group Launch Sermon – “My Cup Overflows” (Psalm 23)
November 15	Pledge Sunday	Offering of Pledge Cards in Worshipful Devotion Sermon – “Bountiful Rejoicing” (Jeremiah 31:7-14) Following Worship: PIE & PRAISE! (11:30am – 12:30pm)
November 22	Christ the King Sunday	Sermon – “Well-Tended” (Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24)

A Stewardship Prayer: *Loving God, we thank you for the rich abundance in our lives. Open our eyes to see that, in being so blessed, we can, in turn, abundantly bless others. Open our hearts to feel the powerful generosity of your Spirit and let go of our fear and judgment. Open our ears to hear the needs of this church and community. Open our minds that, whenever called, we offer the world our measureless love, our generous time, our unique talents and treasure. Quicken our hands to your service, breathe your Spirit into us and touch us with the life of Christ. Amen.*