

October 27, 2026

Dear friends,

The grace and peace of the Lord be with you!
As we turn the calendar to November this Sunday morning, we can thank God for the extra hour that comes from turning our clocks back overnight. Only God knows how much longer we'll be adjusting our clocks twice a year for daylight saving time, but one thing we know for sure is that the month of November brings plenty of opportunity to express our gratitude for all the blessings in our lives. Along with the Thanksgiving holiday, this upcoming month also brings the opportunity to offer our pledges of giving to the Lord in worship on November 15.



This year's stewardship theme is **"GOOD SHEPHERD GRATITUDE."** Psalm 23 famously celebrates the Lord's provision for us through the image of a shepherd caring for his sheep. 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."

- **Nov. 1:** We'll celebrate Communion together and be reminded that Jesus our Good Shepherd offers us abundant life.
- **Nov. 8:** We'll hear words of testimony and dig into the much-beloved Psalm 23 to consider the shepherding care God provides.
- **Nov. 15:** We'll offer our pledges to the Lord, enacting Jeremiah's prophecy that God's people *"will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord."* (Jer. 31:12)
- **Nov. 22:** We'll offer prayers of thanksgiving, reflecting on how well-tended we are by our Sovereign Lord.

Together we are invited to pledge to the Lord in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" **Our annual Pledge Sunday is November 15.** On that day, each household will bring their completed Pledge Card (enclosed) to the church, offering them confidentially to the Lord as an act of devotion. Following worship, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for our annual **Pie & Praise Luncheon**, a midday feast of pies savory and sweet celebrating God's gracious provision.

As we bring our offering to the Lord in worship, may we be filled with Good Shepherd gratitude!

Sincerely in Christ,



Elder Vic Chaloupka



Pastor Kurt Helmcke

RESOURCES FOR YOUR DISCERNMENT

The heart of pledge stewardship is:

- **Thanksgiving** – We give thanks to God for all that we have been given and respond by sharing what we have with others.
- **Joy** – Through stewardship and sharing, we discover what our time is worth. It brings us closer to God, and we feel more grounded and experience deep joy.
- **Commitment** – Does our level of commitment match our core beliefs? How we spend our time, talent, and treasure is a powerful indication of our spiritual life.
- **Good News** – God has given us creative power and entrusted us to manage this potential to show the world the image and likeness of God.

Your stewardship, how you give of your time, talent, and treasure, is a personal decision. As you consider your stewardship of God's creation:

- *Pray* – Ask God to give you a clear vision of the prudent management of the resources you control.
- *Listen* – Communication with God in prayer goes both ways if we let it.
- *Decide* – Determine what portion of your resources should be returned to God for the benefit of others, in Christ's name.
- *Remember* – Your commitment is based on your situation now. If your situation changes, it is appropriate that your pledge changes also.
- *Offer* – Present your pledge of money to God as you bring it forward in worship and offer your pledge of time and talent through participating all year long.

Stairsteps of Giving

For those of us who might be able to take a step up in our giving, prayerfully consider the following:

- Based on your 2026 giving, find your corresponding step on the graphic (right).
- Notice one step above. What would it take to increase your offering by that one step?
- Alternatively, what would it take to inch closer to the upper range of the step you're on?

The chart may also be helpful to those who have seen a decrease in income. The biblical concept of tithing (a "tenth"), as percentage giving, amounts to equal sacrifice among God's people, accommodating increases and decreases in income year-by-year.

