

The Good Shepherd “Giving Tree” Gift Program

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Palos Heights is committed to sharing our blessings with others to help and support the care and ministry of organizations serving the Children of God.

In 2024, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church began setting aside funds to assist other non-profit/charitable organizations serving the greater Chicagoland area through the “Good Shepherd Giving Tree” gift program. The Good Shepherd Giving Tree’s mission is to plant seeds of difference in our community for the purpose of seeing them grow to make a significant, life-giving impact.

As Good Shepherd sets aside funding to improve our own physical church building and grounds, we feel the need to go above and beyond our current missions giving by investing additionally in our community to support God’s work. Given that, for the foreseeable future, the “Good Shepherd Giving Tree” gift program will be supported with up to \$50,000 annually. Funding will be allocated to organizations and entities by the Missions Committee based on the applications we receive.

As this Good Shepherd Giving Tree continues to take shape, be aware that the entire amount may be allocated to a single entity or may be divided among several depending on the judgement of the Missions Committee. Furthermore, we recognize that some projects or uses may span multiple years. In recognition of this, the Missions Committee will consider commitments that extend into multiple years, recognizing that such commitments would require re-applying annually.

If awarded, the expectation is that the funds would be used as described in the application and that quarterly reports of the progress and work would be provided to the committee. Failure to provide quarterly updates would result in an organization not being considered for subsequent funding.

We have created this application for organizations who may be interested in applying for these funds.

In your application, please include:

Contact information

- Name of the Organization
- Location of the Organization
- Contact person name, phone number and email
- Name of the project/use for which the funds are being requested

Organization information

In one paragraph, please describe the overall mission and goals of the organization as well as the approximate number of households your ministry directly serves each month.

Gift application information

Specific to the project/use for which the funds are requested, please address the following information.

1. Describe the project/use for which the funds are requested and why you chose this specific project/use.
2. Describe how this project/use will make a difference for those you currently serve as well as the wider community.
3. Please provide a budget for the project/use and indicate how much of the funding for the project/use has already been secured through donations or pledges.
4. To the best of your knowledge and understanding, share the expected start date, date of completion and any other significant dates for the project/use.
5. Describe how Good Shepherd may be able to connect with the project/use beyond financial support.
6. In one concise paragraph, please share any other information you feel would further assist us in reviewing your request.

We would ask your gift application information contain no more than 7 paragraphs (one for your organizational information and one for each gift application point).

We would also ask you to provide a copy of the organizations completed 990 form or financial information from your annual report.

Please submit to: Pastor Chris Buresh either electronically (pastorchrisc@good-shepherd-church.com) or via mail: Pastor Chris Buresh, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 7800 W McCarthy Rd., Palos Heights, IL 60463.

Upon receipt of your request, we may ask additional information to help further understand your organization and the request.

Deadline for submission is October 15, 2026. You will receive a response on your application no later than February 15, 2027. Distribution of the funding would be in the 2027 calendar year.

We look forward to hearing what God is doing in your organization and how we may be able to help. God bless.