



# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

*January 25, 2026*

9:50 AM

## A G E N D A

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Minutes of Last Congregational Meeting (pages 1-4)

Pastoral Report (page 5-6)

Associate Pastoral Report

Director of Childrens' and Family Ministry's Report

The Pastoral Intern Report

Music

Financial Secretary's Report (page 7)

Treasurer's Report (pages 8-9)

Finance Committee Report (page 10)

Reports from Council Committee Chairpersons

Education

Adult Activities

Deacons

Church and Community

Trustees (page 11)

Missions and Charities (pages 12-13)

Stewardship

Presentation of 2026 Budget (page 8)

New Business

Nomination of 2026 Church Officers (page 14)

Comments by the Chairperson

Adjournment – The Lord's Prayer

Tim Pearson, Chairperson

Pastor Chris Buresh

Trisha Wolcott

Pastor Chris Buresh

Pastor Andrew Bell

Lori Puttkammer

Immanuel Karunakaran

Aaron Basch

Michael Gentile

Joe Jaksich

Michael Gentile

Edith Schmitt

Lauren Kirkner

Mike Aspan

Melinda Moore

Matt Behrman

Shawn Erickson

Scott Chappelle

Joe Jaksich

Kristie Traverso

Tim Pearson



## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

February 9, 2025

The annual Congregational Meeting of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd was called to order by Chairperson, Tim Pearson at 9:57 a.m. on February 9, 2025. Pastor Chris Buresh opened with a prayer. Attendance was taken and determined to be enough for a quorum and legal meeting. The minutes from the January 2024 meeting were distributed to everyone.

- *Motion made to accept minutes: Mark Baldwin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kristie Traverso; Approved.*

**Pastoral Report:** Pastor Buresh reviewed membership changes noting that there was membership growth. The church celebrated the retirement of Cindy and Donna and welcomed Beth and Angie into their new roles. Pastor acknowledged the partnership of Pastor Basch, Mark Stutrud, Rev. Prins, Ms. Toni and various mission partners. Pastor Buresh worked alongside the Deacons Committee to revise our Mission and Vision Statements and Core Values. This year, the church looks forward to new Capital Improvement projects and a trip to Germany. Pastor thanked all the staff, lay leaders and volunteers that helped this year and gave special thanks to Joe Perry for his years serving on council.

**Associate Pastor Report:** Pastor Bell started with discussion of the New Orleans youth mission trip. Good Shepherd youth activities were a success this year. The lock-in went well. Pastor Bell is looking forward to the upcoming dessert auction and Mission Trip to Detroit. It's been good to bring people together. The youth and their families have been incredible in showing up this year.

**Director of Children's Ministry:** Lori Puttkammer reported that church provided the Sunday school children with many creative ways to learn about God and how he provides us with all we need and the children reflect those efforts. The Children's Ministry continued to grow, and new ideas were tried out to great success. Thanks were given to Sunday school teachers and assistants. Break Out Sundays and Puppet Ministry continue to be a success. The children have many ways to share in His Word each week. The church nursery continues to offer loving caregiving in the 11:00 service to children under 2. The larger events such as the Easter Eggstravaganza, VBS and Trunk or Treat continued to show growth. Volunteers are needed to continue the momentum. The Unfading conference was a wonderful experience, and Ms. Lori was so grateful to be able to attend. Many thanks for the continued support.

**Director of Music:** Aaron Basch thanked everyone for their support this year. Thanks to the church council for choosing Angie and Beth. The choir resumed full schedules. Thank you to Donna and Cindy. Time to join, please consider choir.

**Financial Secretary:** Michael Gentile thanked the congregation for continued generosity and support. Contributions are used to fund operations at Good Shepherd and assist the community through mission work.

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Regular Offerings     | \$642,101.65 |
| Charities and Welfare | \$46,733.08  |
| Other Receipts        | \$10,815.00  |
| Total Receipts        | \$699,649.73 |
| Memorials             | \$6,875.00   |

- *Motion made to accept the Financial Secretary's Report: Sue Ellen Spooner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry Gunderson; Approved.*

Treasurer: Joe Jaksich reviewed the Treasurer's Report for 2024:

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Opening Balance 1/1/24                 | \$226,000        |
| Plus Receipts                          | \$700,000        |
| Less Expenditures                      | <u>\$932,000</u> |
| Ending Balance 12/31/24                | <u>(\$6,000)</u> |
| Church Property and Furnishings (est.) | \$11,926,000     |
| Church, Checking Operating Account     | \$434,000        |
| Memorial Account                       | \$248,000        |
| Bernstein Enrichment Accounting        | \$3,932,000      |

- *Motion made to accept Treasurer's Report: Lenore Meyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lauren Kirkner; Approved.*

Finance Committee: Paul Behrman reported on the Bernstein Enrichment Account and the Mission Endowment Account. The account is very helpful in supporting annual missions.

Youth & Education Committee: Pastor Buresh reported for Edith Schmitt. The Youth and Education team is pleased to report that it was a wonderfully successful year for members of all ages. The educational programs and family activities have been well received, and participation is increasing. Lenten Supper, Easter Eggstravaganza, VBS, Trunk or Treat and LSSI Christmas Gift program were successes. Thanks to Pastor Bell, Pastor Buresh and Lori for their leadership and devotion and thanks to the volunteers that give their time, talent and stewardship.

Congregational Activities: Lauren Kirkner reported that the church year kicked off with another great Rally Day. The Ash Wednesday beef stew luncheon was a success last year and they are currently preparing for this year's luncheon. There will be a new pictorial directory in March. Thanks to the congregation and to all the volunteers that helped and attended throughout the year to share friendship and love. Please get involved and help if you are able.

Deacons: Mike Aspan began by thanking retiring committee members Paul, Wendy and Ron for their time and energy. The committee welcomes three new deacons – April, Natalie and Rich and look forward to working with them. The committee has been posting the offerings of the district members into the recording software. The committee will continue to prepare for the Lenten dinner and church picnics. The Deacon coffees will continue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. Deacons Committee has also worked very hard on putting together a new Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Core Values for Good Shepherd. Thanks to the deacons for all of their hard work, dedication and time to make the church a great place.

Church and Community: Renee Wright reported for Melinda Moore. The Church and Community Committee continued its work to help Good Shepherd showcase its place in the community and promote awareness of events happening at the church. Events like Easter Eggstravaganza, VBS, Trunk or Treat and the Christmas concert were a success in connecting with the community. Good Shepherd was also a polling site for the last election. Participation in the Palos Heights Holiday Parade was lots of fun and special thanks were given to Joe and Brian for their participation in creating the church banners and dressing up as Santa. Two community blood drives were hosted in 2024 and exceeded their goals. May 4<sup>th</sup> will be the next blood drive. Thank you to everyone who helped with the events that took place last year.

Trustees: Matt Behrman reported that a claim was filed for the roof. The church has signed a contract with Excel for roof and skylights. Bethany Hall will also be remodeled this year. Thanks to Jan for keeping the church clean. Thank you for all your generosity.

Missions and Charities: Shawn Erickson reported that the Missions Committee was thankful for everyone's generosity. The committee spent time identifying agencies that could use support. More than \$240,000 was distributed this year. Council initiated a new program called the Giving Tree and donated \$50,000 to 4 agencies in need. They will be continuing this program again in 2025. The committee generally meets 4-6 times a year and would love to hear from you.

Stewardship: Joe Perry reported that the Stewards Committee counts the money that you donate so generously. You keep donating and they'll keep counting. Scott Chappell will be taking over for Joe.

2025 Budget: Joe Jaksich presented the 2025 budget to the congregation to approve. The transfer of funds was for Capital Improvements.

- *Motion was made to accept the 2025 Budget: Sue Buerger, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nancy Cross; Approved.*

New Business: Mike Aspan presented the proposed Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Core Values from the deacons.

- *Motion was made to adopt the new Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Core Values: Mike Aspan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry Gunderson; Approved.*

Nomination of Church Officers: Sue Buerger presented the nominations for the 2025 Church Officers.

- *Motion was made to accept the new 2025 Church Officers: Rodger Rosenquist, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lee Miller; Approved.*

Comments by the Chairperson: Tim Pearson thanked everyone that participated in a committee and volunteered their time on council. Tim asked us to reflect on God's love with our new mission Statement. He praised the staff and leadership that we have at the church.

Pastor Buresh: Thank you to all. Look forward to next year.

Motion to Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am with Pastor Buresh leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

*Motion to adjourn: Joe Jaksich, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sue Ellen Spooner; Approved*

Respectfully submitted,

Trisha Wolcott, Secretary

**People of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
The Statistical Summary for 2025**

|  | <u>2023</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u>2025</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Entering our Communicant Membership:</b>  |             |             |             |
| by transfer from other Lutheran Churches   | 6           | 2           | 10          |
| returned from "out of area" listing  | 0           | 4           | 0           |
| by Adult Confirmation or Profession of Faith   | 3           | 18          | 14          |
| Juniors Confirmed  | 15          | 14          | 14          |
| returned from "inactive" listing   | <u>0</u>    | <u>1</u>    | <u>0</u>    |
|  | 24          | 39          | 38          |
| <br><b>Those who left our active communicant membership:</b>   |             |             |             |
| by transfer to other Lutheran churches   | 3           | 2           | 3           |
| by death   | 17          | 15          | 21          |
| placed on "out of area" listing  | 0           | 0           | 6           |
| placed on "inactive" listing   | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| withdrawal or other denomination   | <u>0</u>    | <u>0</u>    | <u>0</u>    |
|  | 20          | 17          | 30          |
| <br>Transfers or releases issued to those who have been<br>on our "out of area" or "inactive" listings | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| <br><b>Summary of Membership Reports:</b>  |             |             |             |
| Baptized membership at end of year   | 1,759       | 1,780       | 1,772       |
| Communicant membership at end of year  | 1,453       | 1,475       | 1,483       |
| <br><b>Official Pastoral Acts:</b>   |             |             |             |
| Baptisms   | 21          | 12          | 11          |
| Marriages  | 1           | 6           | 8           |
| Funerals   | 29          | 26          | 28          |
| <br><b>Total Worship Attendance</b>  | 21,970      | 22,330      | 23,788      |
| <br><b>Total Communion Attendance</b>  | 6,632       | 6,389       | 6,585       |
| <br><b>Youth School Enrollment:</b>  |             |             |             |
| Confirmation Classes (grades 6-8)  | 35          | 36          | 38          |
| Sunday School (nursery – 5th grade)  | <u>66</u>   | <u>56</u>   | <u>56</u>   |
|  | 101         | 92          | 94          |

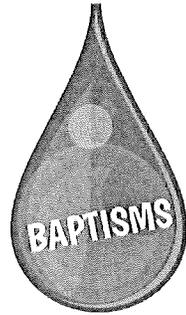
SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Sessions</u> | <u>Enrolled</u> | <u>Total Attended</u> | <u>Total %</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 2023        | 47              | 2,187           | 1,102                 | 50.4%          |
| 2024        | 47              | 2,094           | 1,049                 | 50.1%          |
| 2025        | 47              | 1904            | 966                   | 50.7%          |

# PASTORAL ACTS 2025

## Holy Baptisms

Jane Elizabeth Brennan  
Natalie Ann Huff  
Archer Jon Knoll  
Oliver James Lotter  
Brad Richard Telander  
Adelyn Arlene Gibson  
Olivia Jean Mai  
Eleanor Grace Mattson  
Callie Lynn Meyer  
Violet Lydia Adair  
Gilmore Rose Flanagan



## Marriages

Jillian Atkenson & James Gradowski  
Caroline Huttner & Nicholas Lopez  
Melanie Behrman & Cory Busse  
Tyler Brown & Taylor White  
Julie Johnson & Matthew Schwartz  
Katherine Malley & Ron Luce  
Alexandria Stark & Ryan Knoll  
Sabrian Souza & Jordan Relyea



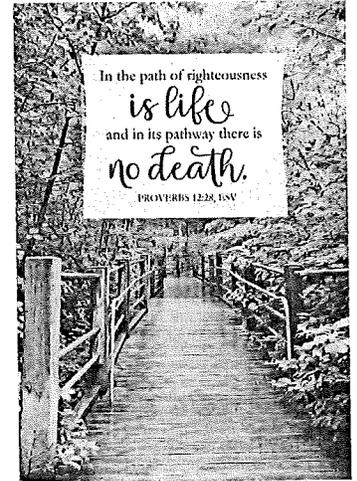
## Junior Confirmands

Isaac Samuel Bell  
Marek John Bell  
Hattie Elizabeth Courtney  
Alexandra Marie Facko  
Mitchell John Good  
Ruby Rose Gutierrez  
Sara Kate Held  
Henry Daniel Jacobek  
Alexandra Leigh Jaksich  
Cody Robert McCoy  
Alexis Hope Miskovic  
Nicholas Joseph Schmidt  
Ian John Schroers  
Lucy Beatrice Wilkerson



## Deaths

Lois Benda  
Sharon Cyrnek  
Scott Tracy  
Marjorie Hultquist  
Matthew Wolan, Jr.  
Arthur Glick  
Jeanette Hunt  
Scott Histed  
Leah Delcourt  
Robert Wilkerson  
Robin Scanlan  
Joseph Sabia  
Kenneth Scholes  
Deborah Booe-Fornato  
David Meneou  
Jameson Meneou  
William Altier,, Jr.  
Evelyn Olinger  
Audrey Draeger  
Caryn DeBoer  
Patricia Kratz  
Donna Dinkmeyer  
Christine Hassel  
Marecelyn "Marcee" Schulz  
William Dawson  
Paul McNaughton  
Nancy Justus-Stevens  
Eunice Sargent  
Michael Faubel  
Betty Paska  
Joyce Grochowski  
Cheryl Teigeler  
Marianne Werner  
Raymond Borner  
Richard Peterson



**FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT  
YEAR ENDING: 12/31/2025**

| <b>CASH RECEIPT ANALYSIS:</b>         | <u><b>2024</b></u>                  | <u><b>2025</b></u>                  |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Regular Offerings:</b>             |                                     |                                     |
| Envelopes                             | 500,812.31                          | 517,547.35                          |
| Eofferings                            | 125,351.27                          | 115,789.56                          |
| Plate                                 | 14,761.25                           | 18,439.10                           |
| Sunday School                         | 417.82                              | 423.76                              |
| Lenten Folders                        | 0.00                                | 0.00                                |
| COVID Fund                            | 100.00                              | 0.00                                |
| Confirmation                          | 628.00                              | 356.00                              |
| Bank Adjustments (DR)/CR              | 0.00                                | <u>2,660.76</u>                     |
| Sub Total                             | <u>642,070.65</u>                   | <u>655,216.53</u>                   |
| <br><b>Charities and Welfare:</b>     |                                     |                                     |
| Mission Envelopes                     | 40,594.00                           | 62,058.00                           |
| Mission myEofferings                  | 6,139.08                            | 8,123.02                            |
| Special Missions - Youth Mission Trip | 0.00                                | 0.00                                |
| Adjustments - bank and other (DR)/CR  | <u>0.00</u>                         | <u>(282.18)</u>                     |
| Sub Total                             | <u>46,733.08</u>                    | <u>69,898.84</u>                    |
| <br><b>Other Receipts:</b>            |                                     |                                     |
| Special Gifts                         | 9,068.00                            | 41,600.00                           |
| Special Projects/Capital Improvements | 0.00                                | 0.00                                |
| Youth Fund                            | 0.00                                | 0.00                                |
| Facilities Rental                     | 860.00                              | 500.00                              |
| Congregation Groups/Socials           | 887.00                              | 341.00                              |
| Baptisms/Weddings                     | 0.00                                | 670.00                              |
| Miscellaneous                         | <u>0.00</u>                         | <u>0.00</u>                         |
| Sub Total                             | <u>10,815.00</u>                    | <u>43,111.00</u>                    |
| <br><b>TOTAL</b>                      | <br><u><u><b>699,618.73</b></u></u> | <br><u><u><b>768,226.37</b></u></u> |

|            |          |          |
|------------|----------|----------|
| Memorials: | 6,875.00 | 5,190.00 |
|------------|----------|----------|

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael Gentile*

Michael Gentile  
Financial Secretary

|   |
|---|
| <b>Good Shepherd Treasurer's Report</b><br><b>2026 Budget</b> |
|---|

|                                     | 2025 Actual         | 2025 Budget         | 2026 Budget         |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Salaries and Wages</b>           |                     |                     |                     |
| Pastors                             | 135,813.12          | 136,363.00          | 142,651.00          |
| Staff                               | 214,696.34          | 212,008.00          | 225,276.00          |
| Auto and Cell Phone                 | 10,085.00           | 10,380.00           | 11,820.00           |
| Housing                             | 31,400.04           | 31,400.00           | 35,600.00           |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>391,994.50</b>   | <b>390,151.00</b>   | <b>415,347.00</b>   |
| <b>Fringe Benefits</b>              |                     |                     |                     |
| Health, Welfare, Insurance          | 117,527.04          | 135,470.00          | 120,981.00          |
| Social Security Expenses            | 16,179.07           | 16,218.61           | 17,234.00           |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>133,706.11</b>   | <b>151,688.61</b>   | <b>138,215.00</b>   |
| <b>Church Programs</b>              |                     |                     |                     |
| Children's Programs                 | 5,410.70            | 8,000.00            | 8,000.00            |
| Early Childhood Ministry            | 396.22              | 1,000.00            | 1,000.00            |
| Youth Program                       | 7,000.00            | 7,000.00            | 7,000.00            |
| Adult Education                     | 1,387.79            | 1,700.00            | 1,700.00            |
| Family Enrichment                   | 1,177.42            | 3,000.00            | 3,000.00            |
| Church-Wide Activities              | 4,028.30            | 12,000.00           | 4,000.00            |
| Vacation Bible School               | 2,500.00            | 2,500.00            | 2,500.00            |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>21,900.43</b>    | <b>35,200.00</b>    | <b>27,200.00</b>    |
| <b>Other Operating Expenses</b>     |                     |                     |                     |
| Utilities                           | 60,035.93           | 50,000.00           | 60,000.00           |
| Repairs and Maintenance             | 32,528.44           | 35,000.00           | 35,000.00           |
| Office Supplies & Equipment         | 6,300.14            | 5,590.00            | 7,000.00            |
| Religious/Worship Supplies          | 9,700.19            | 9,000.00            | 9,000.00            |
| Music Programs                      | 3,680.61            | 2,000.00            | 2,500.00            |
| Bulletins                           | 231.62              | 3,000.00            | 4,000.00            |
| Mailings                            | 4,048.52            | 5,000.00            | 4,000.00            |
| Insurance                           | 21,200.00           | 19,000.00           | 22,000.00           |
| Convention, Conference & Continuing | 10,754.51           | 2,000.00            | 27,000.00           |
| Snow Removal and Lawn Care          | 20,557.93           | 14,000.00           | 19,000.00           |
| Miscellaneous                       | 8,139.35            | 9,000.00            | 9,000.00            |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>177,177.24</b>   | <b>153,590.00</b>   | <b>198,500.00</b>   |
| <b>Total Budgeted Expenses</b>      | <b>724,778.28</b>   | <b>730,629.61</b>   | <b>779,262.00</b>   |
| Capital Improvements                | 194,087.20          | 500,000.00          | 200,000.00          |
| Missions and Charities              | 231,564.49          | 230,000.00          | 300,000.00          |
| <b>Total Before Transfers</b>       | <b>1,150,429.97</b> | <b>1,460,629.61</b> | <b>1,279,262.00</b> |
| Transfer Money Market/Misc          | -294,510.00         | -710,000.00         | -250,000.00         |
| <b>Grand total</b>                  | <b>855,919.97</b>   | <b>750,629.61</b>   | <b>1,029,262.00</b> |
| Balance - Operating - Old National  | 102,626.99          |                     |                     |
| Balance - Operating - Bernstein     | 43,452.95           |                     |                     |

## MEMORIAL ACCOUNT

|  |              |                                    |
|--|--------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Balance 1/1/2025</b>                              |              | <b>\$ 247,635.04</b>               |
| Receipts:  |              |                                    |
| Donations  | \$ 5,190.00  |                                    |
| Interest   | 1,545.02     | \$ 6,735.02                        |
| Disbursements  |              |                                    |
| JFT Construction, LLC                                | \$ 11,371.80 |                                    |
| Creative Carpets                                     | 11,839.50    |                                    |
| True North - Asbestos Survey                         | 1,695.00     |                                    |
| Chris Buresh - Storage Unit                          | 386.02       |                                    |
| Chris Buresh - K-Log downstairs furniture            | 16,848.55    |                                    |
| Lori Puttkammer - SS Altar Supplies                  | 378.44       |                                    |
| NES Environmental - Abatement work                   | 27,245.00    |                                    |
| JFT Construction LLC - drywall, painting, etc.       | 10,338.00    |                                    |
| JFT Construction LLC - drywall, painting, etc.       | 13,075.00    |                                    |
| Chris Buresh - TV & Mount                            | 519.98       |                                    |
| JFT Construction, LLC - final payment                | 1,000.00     |                                    |
| School Specialty, Inc - Preschool Rug                | 235.25       |                                    |
| Donna Choquette - Preschool & Bethany Hall purchases | 120.50       |                                    |
| Creative Carpet & Flooring                           | 11,839.50    |                                    |
| Lori Puttkammer - décor supplies Beth Hall           | 93.93        |                                    |
| Warner AV Company, Inc.                              | 23,705.82    | \$ (130,692.29)                    |
| <b>Balance 12/31/25</b>                              |              | <b><u><u>\$ 123,677.77</u></u></b> |

## SPECIAL PROJECTS ACCOUNT

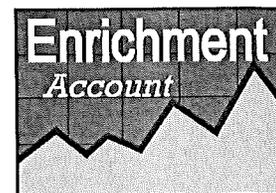
|                         |          |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Balance: 1/1/25</b>  |          | <b>\$16,709.26</b>               |
| Receipts:               |          |                                  |
| Refund Service Charges  | \$ 42.00 |                                  |
| Interest                | 3.35     | \$45.35                          |
| Disbursements           |          |                                  |
| Service Charge          | \$ 77.00 | (\$77.00)                        |
| <b>Balance 12/31/25</b> |          | <b><u><u>\$16,677.61</u></u></b> |



## Investment Committee Report for 2025 Good Shepherd Enrichment Accounts

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|  |                    |  |
|--|--------------------|--|
| Total Asset Value on January 1, 2025                   | \$ 4,261,539       |  |
| Additions to Fund in 2025*                             | \$ 3,712           |  |
| Withdrawals from Fund in 2025 **                       | \$ (294,510)       |  |
| Capital Appreciation/(Depreciation)                    | \$ 424,630         |  |
| Income from Dividends and Interest                     | \$ 128,781         |  |
| Less: Management Fees***                               | <u>\$ (28,059)</u> |  |
| Total Asset Value on December 31, 2025                 | \$ 4,496,094       |  |
|  |                    |  |
| Composite Time-Weighted Rate of Return in 2025****     | 13.0% (after fees) |  |
| Composite Time-Weighted Rate of Return Since Inception | 5.7% (after fees)  |  |



### Footnotes:

Asset Allocation on 12/31/2025: 52% equities, 48% fixed income

\* Charitable gift of stock

\*\* Payment to GS operating budget

\*\*\* Total fees (including fund fees) were ~1.11% as of 12/31/25 asset value

\*\*\*\* TWRR measures how an investment itself performed, ignoring cash flows, i.e., deposits and withdrawals

## Report on the Mission Endowment Fund

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|   |               |  |
|---|---------------|--|
| Initial Deposit on May 6, 2008                    | \$ 164,860.96 |  |
| <b>Current Account Value</b> at December 31, 2025 | \$ 50,445.62  |  |
| Total Distributions through December 31, 2025     | \$ 140,131.72 |  |
| Current Account Value plus Total Distributions    | \$ 190,577.34 |  |



*Current Account value plus Total Distributions exceeds initial deposit.*

|   |               |  |
|---|---------------|--|
| Projected payment base as of December 31, 2025<br>(no change since May 6, 2008)   | \$ 164,860.96 |  |
| Projected Payment Amount as of December 31, 2025<br>(no change since May 6, 2008) | \$8,243.04    |  |

# GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

## ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 2025

### TRUSTEE REPORT

As we start the year, I want to highlight several important accomplishments from last year.

Last year, we finally brought the long chapter of the roof repairs to a close. After extensive back-and-forth with the insurance company, the skylights and roof of the Church (along with the parsonage roof) were replaced. A special thank you goes to Jack Cody and Excel Roofing, whose persistence ensured the work was covered.

The Church also completed the remodel of Bethany Hall, which turned out beautifully. Roger Rosenquist and the committee put in a lot of effort and worked under a tight timeline to make sure the space was ready for fall Sunday School, and their effort truly shows in the result.

As always, many individuals deserve recognition for their contributions:

- Jan Nelson, our longtime custodian who retired this year, faithfully kept our Church clean for many years and thanks to Jill Price and Tim Carroll, who have stepped in and are working hard to fill her shoes.
- Dave Holke who led the effort to get the trees on the detention pond cleared.
- The gardening committee, whose ongoing care keeps our Church grounds looking their best.

Finally, thank you to everyone who stepped in whenever help was needed.

Respectfully,

*Matthew Behrman*

Matthew Behrman – Head Trustee



## MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

### Lutheran Churches or Agencies

|    |                                      |               |
|----|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1  | Lutheran World Relief                | 20,000        |
| 2  | Lutheran Social Services of Illinois | 23,000        |
| 3  | Lutheran Outdoor Ministry            | 2,000         |
| 4  | Lutheran Church Charity Comfort Dogs | 1,000         |
| 5  | AbleLight                            | 1,000         |
| 6  | Metro Chicago Synod                  | 22,000        |
| 7  | We Raise                             | 1,000         |
| 8  | Walcamp                              | 1,000         |
| 9  | Bethania - Chris Brown Church        | 1,000         |
| 10 | Latinx Strategy                      | <u>7,000</u>  |
|    | <b>LUTHERAN TOTAL</b>                | <b>79,000</b> |

### Local and Community Agencies

|    |                                    |               |
|----|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 11 | Beds Plus+                         | 5,000         |
| 12 | Bethshan                           | 500           |
| 13 | Blue Cap                           | 2,000         |
| 14 | Bridge Teen Center                 | 5,000         |
| 15 | Chicago Bible Society              | 500           |
| 16 | Community Center Foundation        | 4,000         |
| 17 | Crisis Center for South Suburbia   | 2,000         |
| 18 | "Giant Step" School for Autism     | 3,000         |
| 19 | Northside Housing                  | 1,000         |
| 20 | Paws Assisting Wounded Warriors    | 1,000         |
| 21 | Park Lawn                          | 2,000         |
| 22 | Pathlights                         | 5,000         |
| 23 | Saint Coletta's                    | 2,000         |
| 24 | Stagg High School Music            | 500           |
| 25 | The Night Ministry                 | 9,243         |
| 26 | Together We Cope                   | 4,000         |
| 27 | Palos Food Pantry                  | 8,000         |
| 28 | UCP Seguin                         | 4,000         |
| 29 | Elim Christian Services            | 3,000         |
| 30 | Gigi's Playhouse                   | 4,000         |
| 31 | All Things Through Christ Outreach | 4,000         |
| 32 | Morningstar Mission                | 4,000         |
| 33 | Almost Home                        | 3,000         |
| 34 | iCan Dream Center                  | 1,000         |
| 35 | My Joyful Heart - Mokena           | 2,000         |
| 36 | The Second Story Foundation        | 1,000         |
| 37 | Rise Above Foundation              | 500           |
| 38 | Selfreliance Association           | <u>2,000</u>  |
|    | <b>LOCAL &amp; COMMUNITY TOTAL</b> | <b>84,543</b> |

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>National and International Outreach</b>        |                       |
| 39 Crossroads Mission, Big Build                  | 1,000                 |
| 40 Feed My Starving Children                      | 1,000                 |
| 41 Heifer Project International                   | 0                     |
| 42 Share Your Soles                               | <u>1,500</u>          |
| <b><i>NATIONAL &amp; INTERNATIONAL TOTALS</i></b> | <b><u>3,500</u></b>   |
| <b>Special Needs</b>                              |                       |
| 43 Cooking with Care                              | 1,357                 |
| 44 Lutheran Disaster Response                     | 5,500                 |
| 45 Campus Outreach - Adam Scribano                | 1,500                 |
| 46 Disaster Relief - California Fires             | 11,500                |
| 47 Disaster Relief - Texas Floods                 | <u>4,000</u>          |
| <b><i>SPECIAL NEEDS TOTALS</i></b>                | <b><u>23,857</u></b>  |
| <b>Capital Improvement Grant</b>                  |                       |
| The Night Ministry                                | 8,200                 |
| <b>Giving Tree Gift</b>                           |                       |
| Northside Housing                                 | 10,000                |
| South Suburban Joy Emporium                       | 24,000                |
| The Second Story Foundation                       | 10,000                |
| Refugee One                                       | <u>6,000</u>          |
| <b><i>GIVING TREE GIFT TOTALS</i></b>             | <b><u>50,000</u></b>  |
| <b><i>MISSIONS DISTRIBUTION TOTALS</i></b>        | <b><u>249,100</u></b> |

This year, Good Shepherd distributed in missions the equivalent of 32% of our operational budget. Included in the support was the awarding of our capital improvement grant to The Night Ministry to provide seating throughout their main office. The Giving Tree Gift program also distributed \$50,000 as outlined in the above report. We are excited to announce the recipients for 2026 which include supporting transitional age youth housing for Beds Plus+, resourcing the drop-in shelter for those awaiting housing with PADS, covering expenses for Park Lawn making their entryway become ADA compliant, allowing the South Suburban Joy Emporium to provide emergency rentals for seniors in need and helping The Night Ministry provide their Outreach and Health Ministry.

These financial contributions to God's work in our community take place alongside a multitude of other ways Good Shepherd helps to share God's love. These activities include: collecting and donating the Easter Blessing Bags and Birthday Boxes for the Palos Food Pantry along with mittens and gloves for My Joyful Heart, again constructing a house with the Big Build, collecting shoes for Share Your Soles, donating items to the Bridge Teen Center, collecting paper goods for UCP Seguin, providing 175 children in LSSI foster care with Christmas presents and cooking monthly meals for the clients of Morningstar Mission.

The Mission Committee appreciates the generosity of the entire congregation as we together work to live out our mission of being a caring fellowship. Please know that we take our role seriously and will continue to be faithful in helping your support make a meaningful impact in our world with the good news of Jesus.

## 2026 Church Officers



**Serving in 2025 . . .** This is a listing of those who are nominated to offices as designated by our Congregational Constitution. Space does not permit a listing of the wonderful volunteers and diversity of gifts that make our church a wonderful place, including Sunday School teachers, ushers, Chancel Guild, church landscapers, choir participants, etc., etc., etc.

### Church Council:

*Chairperson,*  
CJ Muller  
*Vice-Chairperson,*  
Mark Baldwin  
*Secretary,*  
Trisha Wolcott  
*Treasurer,*  
Joe Jaksich  
*Financial Secretary,*  
Michael Gentile  
*Deacons,*  
Mike Aspan  
*Education and Youth,*  
Edith Schmitt  
*Missions and Charities,*  
Shawn Erickson  
*Congregational Activities,*  
Lauren Kirkner  
*Church and Community*  
Melinda Moore  
*Trustees,*  
Matthew Behrman  
*Stewardship,*  
Scott Chappelle

### Finance:

Michael Gentile\*  
Paul Behrman  
Joe Jaksich  
Marie Perry  
Laura Petritsch  
Roger Rosenquist

\* Committee Chair

### Deacons:

Michael Aspan \*  
Jennifer Castor  
Nancy Cross  
David Fewkes  
Lynn Huttner  
Rich Jelinek  
Jim Johanson  
Tamara Marsh  
Natalie Ortiz  
Marsha Rauch  
April Strand  
Bill Teigeler

### Education & Youth:

Edith Schmitt \*  
Stewart Armbrrecht  
Todd Bergmann  
Dawn Bronson  
Sara Hupe  
Jenn Kriehner  
Julie Maty  
Steve Maty  
Sara Nicholson  
Paula Pries  
Lauren Schmitt

### Personnel Committee:

Mark Baldwin \*  
Todd Bergmann  
Susan Mish  
Greg Pengiel

### Missions:

Shawn Erickson \*  
Diane Adduci  
Angela Bell  
Andrew Behrman  
Shirley Bennett  
Flo Breitbarth  
Nancy Firkin  
Cynthia Grzych  
Tracy Heilman  
Sue Hennessy  
Jim Johanson  
Joan Meyers  
Carol Miller  
Joe Miller  
Larri Lyn Rauch  
Kristie Traverso

### Congregational Activities:

Lauren Kirkner \*  
Diane Adduci  
John Carlson  
Lynette Carlson  
Sharon Courtney  
Shawn Erickson  
Jim Johanson  
Melinda Moore  
Tim Moore  
CJ Muller  
Nicolle Pegorin

### Landscape Committee:

Linda Hubbard\*  
Renee Wright\*  
Shirley Bennett  
Sue Hennessey  
Dave Holke  
Deane Meier  
Melinda Moore  
Pam Pyka

### Church and Community

Melinda Moore \*  
Renee Wright

### Trustees:

Matthew Behrman \*  
Corey Bergamo  
Matt Booe  
Jack Cody  
William DeLeo  
James Ditchman  
Keith Gansel  
Tim Hoffman  
Dave Holke  
Larry Mish  
Tim Pearson  
Joe Perry

### Stewards:

Scott Chappelle \*  
Kirk Becker  
Cheri Boublis  
Lynn Evers  
Cynthia Grzych  
Nancy Metro  
Carol Miller  
JoAnn Montecki  
Mark Montecki  
CJ Muller  
Beverly Pauly  
Larry Pauly  
Joe Schmitt  
Suellen Spooner  
Doris Stachyra  
Rudy Stachyra