



**SOMETHING TO
LIGHT
UP
THE
WORLD**

"Reach, Ignite and Empower People for Jesus"



Family of Shepherd,

As we head toward Advent – the season of light, and anticipation of the coming of Christ – we can't help but look toward what lies ahead for us as a community of faith, and who we are becoming as God's people. This look ahead invites us to look back, too, at who we've been and who we've become along the way.

There's a gift-giving mantra that goes: *Something you want, something you need, something to wear, and something to read.* Eventually it was expanded to add, **and something to light up the world.**

As a congregation, there are things we want, and things we need, in order to accomplish our day-to-day work. But as a community of faith committed to bringing about the Kingdom of God, our biggest commitment is to ministry that lights up the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

And creating and sharing this light *does* require commitment – of our time, our energy, and our financial resources. We've created this booklet to share more about that last one, especially. We want you to know how we currently put your financial resources to work as we use them for ministry that lights up the world.

We've also been dreaming together this fall, as a leadership team and Shepherd staff, about what we could do and what we could be if time, logistics and money were no issue. These dreams are big and there's no reason why most of them can't happen. They will simply take additional and deeper commitments.

This booklet includes some of both – both who we are today, and who we could become as we live into these dreams. Each of you is an integral part of our foundation, and we want to help you to understand how your commitments are making a difference now, and to imagine how they might help us to live into God's call to light up the world in the name of Jesus.

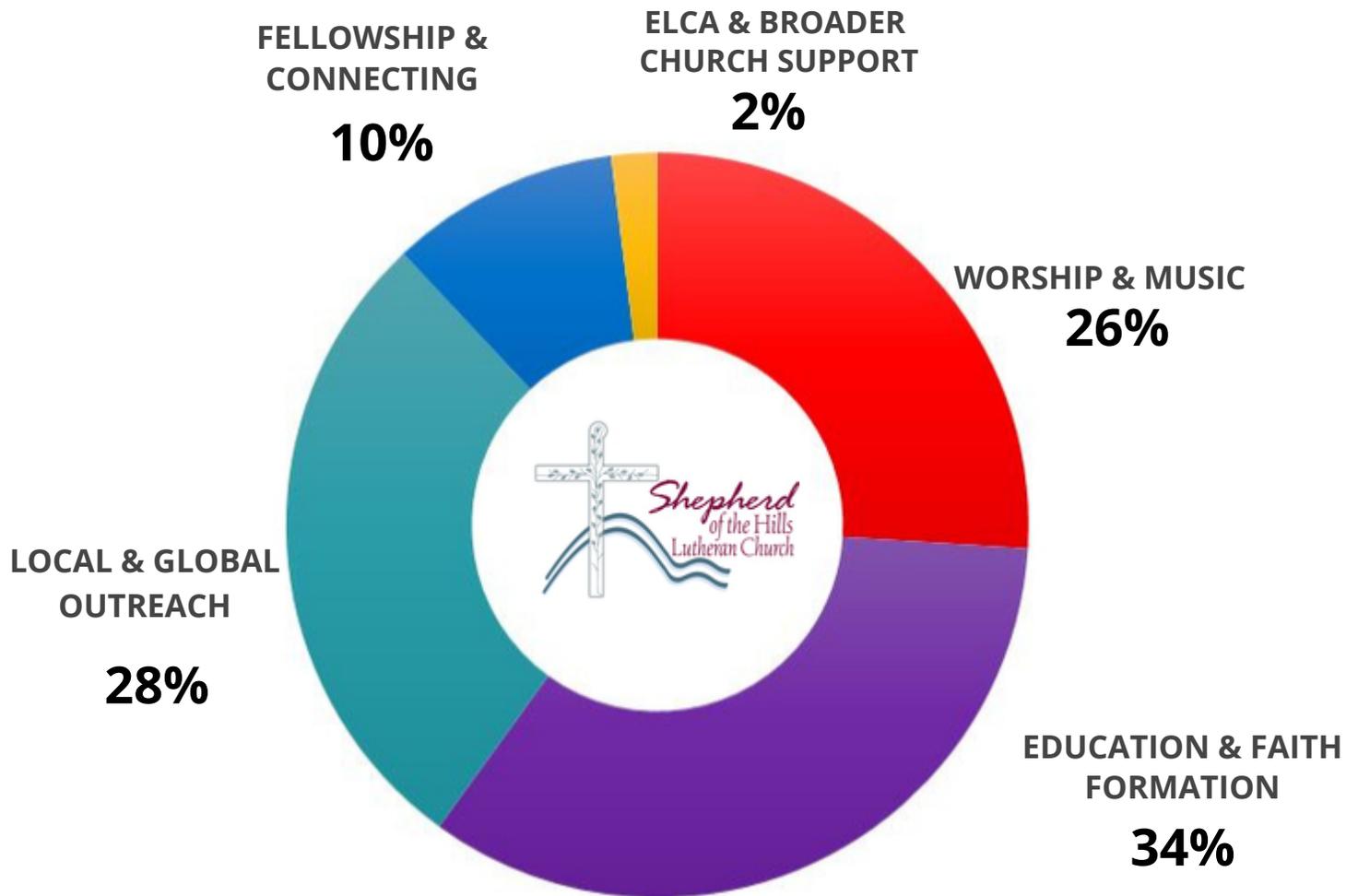
What a privilege it is to serve as your leaders and to walk alongside you in ministry! We don't take that privilege for granted. Join us in discerning how you and your family can make an even deeper commitment toward bringing for the the light of the Gospel message as we continue to REACH, IGNITE and EMPOWER the world for Jesus Christ!

In God's Peace,

Your Shepherd Staff and Governing Board Leadership Team

A PICTURE OF SHEPHERD

BY THE NUMBERS



OUR STORY IN NUMBERS

The graph above illustrates how our financial and time resources are currently allocated, according to categories that reflect our commitments as a community of faith. (Staff and building expenses are included not as separate categories, but rather divided into how that time and those resources are used toward these same commitments.)

No graph, however, tells the whole story, or includes all the numbers. Numbers cannot show that we are a vibrant community of the Holy Spirit! Or that we have thriving ministries that are reaching people through worship, teaching, volunteering, preschool experiences, and reaching beyond our walls. We are becoming known more widely within our community as a people of faith in action. What we do here matters!



TODAY

WHERE WE ARE. WHO WE ARE.

OUR CURRENT MINISTRY INVESTMENT

We do a lot here at Shepherd. When we stop and think about the ins and outs of all the ministry we make happen, and all the work that goes on here, it turns out that we do even more than we imagine.

Many of the things we do don't cost a dime, because so many of you donate your time and energy. You cook meals for the larger community and you straighten the pews for worship and you tend to our grounds and sing in the choir and chaperone youth events, and when it comes right down to it, this place would be sunk if it weren't for the abundant generosity so many of you demonstrate with your time and energy.

That said, many of the things we're about in this place require financial resources, and we're grateful that God makes it possible for us to be generous in this way, too. What follows is only the tiniest sampling of what it currently costs to keep this place humming, day in and day out, following the same categories as the graph on the previous page.

FAITH FORMATION



SHEPHERD KIDZONE (SUNDAY SCHOOL)

Helping our kids learn the stories of our faith

\$800/year



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Education & faith formation for our adult learners

\$6200/year



HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREATS

Help our youth connect with God and each other

\$2050/year

FELLOWSHIP & COMMUNITY



GATHERING & COFFEE

Coffee, tea, and donuts

\$300/week



PAPER PRODUCTS

We purchase "green" products that are better for our planet.

\$750/month



COFFEE WITH PARENTS TIME

To deepen our connections & relationship with our parents

\$1600/year



POINSETTIAS & LILIES FOR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

A sign of Shepherd for those at home

\$500/year



AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY

Being prepared for emergency care

\$200/year



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

To wrap those in need with a handmade shawl of prayer

\$200/year



SUPPORT TO THE BROADER CHURCH

We are better together!

\$10,000/year



SUPPORT TO TANZANIA STUDENTS

Help our students gain an education for a better future

\$4000/year



FOOD SUPPORT GIFT CARDS

To help those in need with food

\$500/year



SEASONAL SNOW REMOVAL

Otherwise, the snow would be *up to here!*

\$4500/season



BUILDING CLEANING SUPPLIES

Clean floors, shiny bathrooms, empty garbage cans

\$500/week



NURSERY ATTENDANTS DURING WORSHIP

Quality care for the littlest ones in the family of Shepherd

\$50/week



COMMUNION ELEMENTS

The Body of Christ, given for you

\$60/month



VISITING MUSICIANS

That help enrich our worship experience

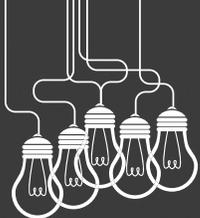
\$4000/year



ORGAN & PIANO TUNING

Keeping us all on pitch!

\$1800/year



OUR DREAMS

WHO WE ARE BECOMING

WHAT'S POSSIBLE

The Kingdom of God will always remain just outside our reach, and yet as disciples of Jesus, we will continue to pursue it here on earth for as long as we possibly can. This doesn't necessarily mean adding more programs, though perhaps it will. Rather, it means we'll continue to ask who's missing, and how we might be even more welcoming and inclusive. We'll continue to ask how we might care better for the environment, as stewards entrusted by God with this work. We'll continue to pursue economic justice, whether it be for our staff, or for families hoping to send their kids to camp, or for people in our area who don't know where their next meal will come from. We'll continue to pursue forms of worship that reflect who we are as a faith community, committed to sharing the light of the Gospel message.

These are our dreams. You've shared them with us in so many different ways. **There's no reason they can't come true.**

Don't revel only in the past, or spend all your time recounting *the victories of days gone by*. Watch closely: I am preparing something new; it's happening now, even as I speak, and you're about to see it. I am preparing a way through the desert; Waters will flow where there had been none. **Isaiah 43:18-19**

FAITH FORMATION



PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM EXPANSION

To reach more children with a Christ centered education

\$20,000



PRAYER PARTNERS

To deepen our prayer relationships that cross generational boundaries

\$300/year



FREE CONFIRMATION

Because we promised to help train them in the faith

\$1700/year



FUNDING FOR LAY LEADERSHIP TRAINING

To empower us to learn more about how "we" are the Church

\$5,000/year

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, this is the way; walk in it. Isaiah 30:21

The LORD is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. Psalm 28:7

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28



OPEN HANDS MIDWAY MEAL SUPPORT

This buys 150 meals for the Open Hands Community

\$267/week



ELCA WORLD HUNGER SUPPORT

Buys a cow to support an entire family with milk & cheese

\$500



HYDRATION STATIONS

Replacing and upgrading water fountains to provide eco-friendly water

\$3600



CONNECTION MINISTRIES

Small group ministries by a different name

\$1600/year



NARTHEX UPDATE

To make this space more flexible for our community use

\$6,000



GATHERING COORDINATOR SUNDAY MORNING

Coffee, clean-up and Waffles!

\$8,000/year



NEW PROJECTOR

A welcoming experience begins with a good worship experience

\$15,000



UPDATING PARAMENTS

Enhancing our worship experience

\$3500

OUR COMMITMENT RUNS DEEP

"How much should I give?" This is not an unusual question, but there's no one answer across the board. We hope you can be generous with your financial resources in a way that gives you joy in recognizing your part of bringing about the Kingdom of God. Below are examples of how some families think about their giving, in the hopes that one or more might resonate with you:

-  *I give at least as much to the church as I spend on my gym membership each month, to recognize that my spiritual health is equally important to my physical health.*
-  *My spouse and I budget our weekly gift to the church to match what we spend on groceries.*
-  *I choose a monthly bill every year and commit to giving the church the same amount. Each year I choose one that's a little higher than the one I matched the year before.*
-  *My partner and I keep track of how much we spend on coffee and eating at restaurants each week, and we try to put at least that much into the offering plate.*
-  *My family gives as much to the church as we spend on extra-curricular activities for our kids, and they know it. (We want them to understand that we value church as much as we value sports, music, art, etc.) Every time they want to do something new, we sit down and figure out if we can swing it, knowing that if it costs more, it will increase our giving to the church, too.*
-  *I used to give to the church whatever was left at the end of the month, but now it's the first thing I budget. Basically, I've decided that it matters, so I've made it a priority in my giving and spending.*

Together, we can light up the world in so many more ways than we ever could alone. To that end, we invite you to join in making one of the commitments below, as we continue to work toward bringing about the Kingdom of God in the world today and for generations to come.

In order to be as wise and accurate as possible in forecasting our budget, our strong preference is to receive financial offerings by way of regular (weekly/bi-weekly/monthly), automated giving. We will also continue to provide giving opportunities through worship offering by cash and check, special appeals as needed, text message donations, and giving directly through your financial institution.

Making these deeper commitments on or before November 17 will allow us to prepare a balanced budget for 2020, and will help us in balancing our budget for the remainder of 2019.

Learn more & access all the methods of giving to Shepherd:

sohsv.org



Name (individual/couple/family) _____

I/we commit to doing the following on or before November 17, as a deeper commitment to the current and future life and ministry of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church:



- I/we will set up regular, automated giving for the first time.** I'd like help setting up this automated gift
- I/we will increase the amount of our current regular, automated giving.**
Increase to _____/week/month/year. Initial _____
- I/we will not use automated giving, but prefer to give through check, cash envelope, or directly through my/our financial institution.** Please send me envelopes for 2020

Please fill out, tear this slip off, and bring it to worship on November 17, when we'll receive them as an offering during worship.