

# For Generations to Come... **GO!**



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## A couple of weeks ago, Bob Smith shared the sermon message.

In it, he mentioned that the president of our Eastern District, Pastor Chris Wicher, commented that he knows that Good Shepherd is a pretty unique congregation. I totally agree with him. It is unique in many ways.

The members of our congregation understand what it means to be committed to Jesus Christ and to His ministry. You show it by the time, talents, and treasure that you invest here. We have seen those investments pay off in blessings to many people in our community. We show our care through CCIA, Christmas Baskets, Operation Christmas Child, donations to Lutheran World Relief, which notes that we are among the top fifty donor Lutheran congregations in the United States.

So, our next step out in faith is bigger, but not different. Our partnership with Habitat establishes a relationship that connects us to this community in a very organic way, joining two organizations that are helping families. It is also challenges to us, which helps to keep us healthy. It is an opportunity for all of us to be involved on some level in one project together.

We've already seen that within the campaign. Everyone who has joined is excited about this opportunity to become involved. We are getting to know each other better by working together. That's one of the truths of the church. In business, work is there to get accomplished. In the church, work is there to create relationships that get the work accomplished.

Another part of that unique character is that we ask you to sign a covenant. I talked about this the first week of the campaign. A covenant is not a contractual or transactional agreement: "If you do this for me, I'll do that for you." It is a relationship

agreement. We are in this together to accomplish God's purpose.

On November 20 and 21, we're asking you to return a Commitment Card that will be provided, asking you to recommit to the four tenets of our covenant: to protect the unity of our church, to share the responsibility of our church, to serve the ministry of our church, and to support the testimony of our church.

When our campaign consultant heard that we use a covenant, he was really enthusiastic about that. It sets before us the relationship that we expect of each other. He made the comment, which I think is really neat, that if we didn't receive one dollar from this campaign, but every one of our members recommitted to those tenets, we would be a stronger and more powerful congregation. He is 100% correct. The campaign is not about money. It's about commitment.

However, committed people always put their time, talents, and treasure at the service of our Lord, Jesus. They often do it in immeasurably greater ways. That's the ultimate commitment we're making. It's in response to the commitment that Jesus made to all of us. He gave Himself to die for us so that we might live for Him. He gave so we could be with Him. We give so that all may come to know Him. It's one of the ways we serve God by serving others.



*Pastor Don Muller*

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**Bob Smith,**  
*Chair of Church Council*

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has been greatly blessed by God as we have done his work here in Canandaigua.

Now we are called by God to participate in the next stage of church growth.

For a number of years, the members of our congregation have been discussing increasing our ability to serve our members, and to reach out to our community with the Gospel message.

We have an opportunity to do just that by participating in a ministry campaign designed to increase our resources so that we can better

serve our members and reach out to those around us who need to hear about Jesus.

As we increase our professional staff, care for our physical plant, and provide opportunities for all of us to serve, we are committing to guarantee the vitality of Good Shepherd for Generations to Come as we Share Christ and Change Lives. I urge you to whole-heartedly commit to the success of our campaign, and to the mission and ministry of our church in the coming decades.

## Launch Weekend Celebration and Butterfly Release





## Now that our campaign is underway, there's a lot to talk about. First, I would like to thank everyone who came to the Launch weekend.

It was wonderful to gather and worship together. Thanks to our Inform Team, our Communications Team, and our Youth, Children, and School Emphasis Teams, it was an exciting weekend with treats and a butterfly release!

Second, I would like to thank everyone who was able to come to one of the forums. Thank you for asking questions and wanting to know more. Thank you for being willing to consider the next steps in the future of Good Shepherd, and working to fulfill our purpose of *Sharing Christ and Changing Lives*.

I know that I've said it before, but I want to say it again: I believe that this campaign is an opportunity for Good Shepherd to recommit to the great commandments to love God and love our neighbors. It's a chance for us to restore our joy in service—together. Working on the campaign has forcefully reminded me of this. It has been a joy to work with a team of committed believers, people who are putting so much time and energy and thought into helping us move out into our community and to grow as a congregation in order to serve more people.

Working as a team always makes us stronger. We learn from each other, support each other, and share our joy. In doing this, we become greater than the sum of our parts. That's not just true for the campaign; that's true for Good Shepherd and believers everywhere. The Body of Christ is stronger when all of the parts are working together.

This is why I'm excited about our campaign. My hope is that every one of us will be excited about working together to love God by loving our neighbors. We'll do this by serving in our community, sharing Christ by helping our neighbors. They'll see us living our faith. I'm not sure that any testimony speaks louder than that. We sing it in church, "They'll know we are Christians by our love."

We'll also do this by helping Good Shepherd grow so that we can be a home to more of God's children. We've known for quite a while that

growth requires more professional staff—more shepherds for a larger flock, if you will. And, of course, making improvements to our building and sanctuary allows us to meet the needs of a larger staff, as well as making sure that we have a comfortable and inviting space in which to welcome guests and new members of our church family.

I absolutely believe that we can do this. I know you and I know that you have the joy that comes from faith. I feel it every weekend when I come to worship and at every meeting I attend. You're not here out of obligation; you're here to share the joy of fellowship and worshipping together. And when we have guests, they always tell Pastor Don that they receive a warm welcome. That's because you want to share your joy with others. Joy always spills out as generosity.

Now it's time to take this outside our walls and into our community. That's one part of our campaign. But we also want to position ourselves for growth, so that Good Shepherd will be serving our neighbors and making disciples **For Generations to Come**. I know that with all of us working together as the body of Christ, we can do immeasurably more than we think we can. After all, with God all things are possible. **So, let's GO—together!**



Jenny Tessendorf Khan,  
Campaign Director

### Please Plan to Attend our Commitment Celebration!



Our Commitment Celebration will be held on Sunday, November 21 at 12:30 p.m. in Celebration Hall. November sounds far away, but it will here before you know it, and we hope you will be joining us. We invite you to join us for food and fellowship as the Commitment announcement is made—it's going to be an exciting time!

RSVPs are needed for this event. Simply GO! to the Wittenberg Door, find your family name, and write down the number attending—that's it! We'll see you on celebration day!



*Father,*

*We give You praise and thanksgiving for calling us to make a difference, for the generations to come, with the new missions and ministries you have shown us. Lead us to humbly use the gifts we have received from You and ignite our passion for the good work You have prepared. Help us to take advantage of the opportunities that you will provide and let us embrace that work with willingness and joy.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

**For Generations  
to Come...*GO!***

Matthew 28:19-20



## **GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

320 South Pearl Street, P.O. Box 690  
Canandaigua, NY 14424  
585-394-2760 church office  
office@goodshepherdcdga.org

## **Important Events**

### **November 20 and 21**

- Commitment Weekend.
- November 21, 12:30 PM. Commitment Celebration Event.

### **December 11 and 12**

- Congregational Meeting and Vote: Presentation and motion to approve campaign projects and allocation of funds. Voting will take place at the meetings. There will be a meeting and vote following each service.

### **December 18 and 19**

- Commitment Offering and First Fruits Gifts.

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This campaign will be a success because you are committed to Jesus. Without that commitment, we will not have the power of God behind us to help us accomplish the incredible things He's calling us to do. The projects we've put before you for the campaign are things we have been talking about for years among ourselves. None of them is a surprise.

They may not look like what you thought they would, but they are exactly what we have been saying we need to do to serve God. We might add more members to our congregation because of this, and we might receive more offerings because of what we're doing. But, those are not our goals. They are the result of our commitment to Jesus. Ultimately, when we offer ourselves in commitment to Jesus, we will grow as His disciples and more people will become disciples. That's one of the miracles of faith.

I pray that you will plan to be with us on November 20 and 21 as we place these commitments before the altar of our Lord. If you're missing, we will be lacking because God has equipped you with the gifts of time, talent, and treasure to help us serve. When we all commit, God can use that commitment to accomplish incredible things through faith in Jesus Christ. We're a unique congregation, doing a unique thing. I am sure that God will bless it because we are doing it in His name and to His glory.

*Peace,  
Pastor Don*



*Nash Bock from Habitat for Humanity*