



GOOD  
SHEPHERD  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

# A PLACE TO CONNECT:

WITH GOD, OTHERS, AND THE WORLD

STEWARDSHIP 2018

## FAITH INTO ACTION

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is an inviting, generous congregation. We connect our faith with action and engagement in the world. This is who we are.

We began as a mission congregation and found an early identity in being a place of refuge for those who needed us. In the 1980's, we lived that out through support of Hmong refugee families. We have also extended an intentional welcome and hospitality to people with developmental disabilities. In 2007, we expanded the welcome to explicitly invite lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer-identifying people, many who have been made to feel unwelcome in congregations, when we became a Reconciling in Christ congregation. In recent years, we have supported members and friends facing deportation due to their immigration status, a commitment that we deepened in 2017, when we became an AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation.

**We will strengthen our involvement with social action through more hands-on support of AMMPARO** (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Representation, and Opportunities). The word "*amparo*" in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage.

The ELCA's AMMPARO strategy was created in response to the plight of children forced to flee their communities because of complex and interrelated reasons.

**We also seek to deepen our engagement with community programs like the Kid's Lunch Club, and the Decorah Community Food Pantry.** We love to give money to support those in need and also desire to put our bodies to work as well to create the justice that God longs for the world to know.

Members are engaged in service and advocacy in the community and the larger world. We will continue to ask: What more can we do together? How can our building help us connect more with the needs of our community and the world?

The goal of our 2018 Stewardship Appeal, **A Place to Connect**, is to **increase offerings and gifts by \$85,000**, some of which will pay for our youth and elder ministry.

Pray for a generous response and please prayerfully consider increasing your giving in the coming year. With your engagement, we will invest in the social action ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran as we connect with God, others, and the world.

# A PLACE TO CONNECT: WITH GOD, OTHERS, AND THE WORLD.

Here is a bar graph that displays two charts of our giving. One bar shows how many gifts are currently being given at the indicated weekly amounts (if you give monthly, be sure to break that down to what you give weekly). The other bar shows how many gifts are needed at each level to reach our goal. As you read this gift chart, ask yourself these questions:

*How does my giving compare with other ways I use my money?*

*How adequately does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for what I have in my life?*

*Where would I be if I doubled my offering? And can I consider doing that?*

*How much more could I give if I really wanted to?*

