

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Loving, Living & Sharing Christ

99 Central Park Road

Plainview, NY 11803



Fulfilling God's Purpose!

October 18, 2018

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

I greet you in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

With excitement and eager anticipation, I write this letter to tell you about the stewardship program we will begin on Sunday, October 28th, called ***Fulfilling God's Purpose!*** During this four-week program, both our worship services and our adult Bible classes will focus on the work of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament as he teaches us how **fulfill God's purpose**.

We will use God's Holy Word to discover more about who we are as God's people, what God's purpose is for our lives, and how we can live a lifestyle of stewardship rather than limiting stewardship to one day a week or one period of time during the church year.

I pray that each of you will avail yourself of the opportunities to worship Christ, our Chief Steward, and to learn about his will for your life. It is also my prayer that Good Shepherd might be energized and equipped to **fulfill God's purpose** for the praise and glory of our Lord, to build up the faithful, and to reach the unchurched for his Kingdom.

Two new ways that we as a congregation can seek to fulfill God's purpose is to expand our ministry to both our youth and seniors.

1. We can and must do more to attract, support and protect our youth. In an age of cyber bullying, the opioid epidemic, and intense performance pressure, we need a consistent quality program with skilled leadership to build our young people up in Christ. To do this we will need to call a full time youth worker. The cost to maintain such a program will be about \$40,000 per year.
2. Many senior members of our community can no longer drive and are reluctant to take rides from members in their personal cars because they feel as though they are being a burden. The acquisition of a church van and the development of a transportation ministry would change that. It would give members of the congregation a new way to serve their neighbor and would express to our seniors that we value their presence at our worship and fellowship gatherings. The cost for a van and insurance and maintenance would be approximately \$10,000 per year.

So you can see from the math that we each need to pray about how we can give more to help **fulfill God's purpose**. Can we increase our annual giving by \$50,000 or \$60,000 or even \$70,000 this year so that we can set the foundation to launch these new ministries? I believe there is no limit to what we can do with God's help as we strive to **fulfill God's purpose!** Strong stewardship results will enable us to begin the process of developing these and other ministries.

Please bring the enclosed Commitment Form with you to church on Christ the King Sunday, November 25th, or drop it off in the church office at your convenience.

God's blessings on your continued faithful stewardship. May we together **fulfill God's purpose!**

Your servant in Christ,



Pastor Eric O. Olsen

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Enclosures

PS: Electronic giving is an easy way to make your regular offerings without having to write a check or even leave your house! What is electronic giving? With your authorization, an amount determined by you is withdrawn from your checking account, on a date which you select, and "given" directly to the church's bank account. You determine the frequency and may start or stop it at any time. No more weekly checks or envelopes to deal with, and if you miss church service, your offering will still be made. This benefits both you and Good Shepherd and is so easy to get started. If you are interested, please visit our website, www.ourshepherdlives.org, click the "Donate Online" tab, then complete and submit the form.