



SHEPHERD @ 50

— LOVE BUILDS UP —

Shepherd @ 50 Update from Pastor Chris

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

While our church and school are putting pieces in place to expand and reach out, tragedies elsewhere cause us to pause and remember that others are struggling merely to put the pieces of their lives back together. Please join me in praying for the victims, families, and all affected by the shooting in Las Vegas. As a Lutheran church and school, we're particularly mindful of ministries that are hurting; the Lutheran education world is a close-knit family. This past week I received an e-mail requesting prayers for Faith Lutheran High School in Las Vegas. A number of students and faculty from the high school were at the concert where the shooting occurred. Two students - twin sisters - were wounded, along with one alum. All three made it through surgery and are in stable condition.

This morning I had breakfast with a wise brother in the Lord. We were discussing the presence of evil in the world. He reminded me that Jesus is the light who shines in the darkness. This weekend at the 10:45 service Sunday, our kindergarten through second graders will be singing our school theme song this year: "He Is the Light." (You can view school staff leading the song during chapel today on our Shepherd Facebook page.) It's important for us to remember the truth that the song declares, the truth about Jesus taught in God's Word: "In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, *and the darkness has not overcome it.*" (John 1:4-5)

Why do we do what we do at Shepherd? To shine the light in a dark world. Why do you do everything good that you do as a follower of Jesus? To shine the light of Christ. The world needs the light. Jesus is the light of the world. (John 8:12)

Informational Dinners and Celebration Event

The first two of five informational dinners have gone well! At the first meal this past Sunday, we had about 60 people. The second was Wednesday evening, geared toward school families. About 90 attended. RSVPs for the final three dinners so far are between 50 and 90 for each event. That would mean 300-400 people total attending! Thank you to our Elders and Deaconesses for being present at these events to connect with your flock. On Sunday, I witnessed Elders and Deaconesses visiting and even praying with members.

Please be sure to RSVP for an informational meal if you haven't already. And please RSVP for the big event Nov. 5, Pledge Sunday Celebration at Lutheran High School. We want everyone there to celebrate what God has done through our capital campaign. You can RSVP for an informational meal and the Celebration Event at <http://shepherdlutheran.com/shepherdat50/>.

You may return your completed pledge card to the church office anytime before Nov. 5. Otherwise, bring your completed pledge card Nov. 5 to the Pledge Sunday Celebration Event

held at Lutheran High School and turn it in there. At that event, we'll count all pledge amounts and announce the total!

Funding

The majority of funding for Shepherd @ 50 will come from member pledges as well as commitments from current school and child care families. In addition, Shepherd @ 50 leaders are leaving no stone unturned in pursuing all other funding options:

- **Former members** - Frona McGuire and Steve Deskin are corresponding with former members, now living elsewhere, who had a big heart for Shepherd. Out-of-town supporters can submit a pledge at <http://shepherdlutheran.com/shepherdat50/pledge/>.
- **School grandparents** - Gary Larsen, church member and grandparent of two Shepherd students, will be meeting with other school grandparents next week to share his passion for the school. Wednesday is Special Persons Day in chapel, when students are encouraged to bring their grandparents or other special people. (Gary's grandson, Brayden, is my son Caleb's chapel buddy, by the way. We pair up big kids and little kids to sit together. Caleb really admires Brayden.)
- **School alumni** - Principal Sue Gary is reaching out to alumni. Many of our students have gone on to successful careers and are in a position financially to support their alma mater, Shepherd. Many parents and grandparents have given generously at our auctions over the years because they believe in the mission of the school.
- **Vendors** - We're sharing Shepherd @ 50 with groups that have used our facilities as well as companies that have serviced our campus. Often groups will want to give back in gratitude for us sharing our facilities with them. Likewise, many companies have appreciated our business over the years and are happy to support our ministry if asked.
- **Grants** - Thank you to school parent Erin Upton and church member/mother of three Shepherd alum Andrea Melcher, both professional grant writers. They are diligently working to identify and write for grants of five- and six-figure amounts. Another church member is connecting me with a friend who oversees a foundation and is interested in our project. Just this week, Pastor Aaron received a letter from a foundation in Houston that is giving the church plant a grant of more than \$4,000.
- **Sharing is everyone's job** - You can share Shepherd @ 50 with people in your life who have a heart for Christian education, church planting, and the Gospel! Please feel free to take an extra booklet to pass along. A downloadable version of the booklet is available, too - <http://shepherdlutheran.com/shepherdat50/> - perfect for sharing via e-mail. Fellow Christians who "get" the mission of the church usually are honored to be invited to participate in God's Kingdom work. The more sharing all of us do, the more we multiply the involvement and momentum.

We're rolling toward an exciting finish to the campaign. With God's help and your participation, we'll have a lot to celebrate when it's all said and done!

Serving Jesus alongside you,
Pastor Chris