



# SHEPHERD @ 50

— LOVE BUILDS UP —

## Shepherd @ 50 Update from Pastor Chris

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you to everyone who has attended the Shepherd @ 50 informational dinners! We have 95 RSVPs for this Sunday, which means close to 400 people will have attended over the five dinners. Please be sure to mark your calendar for the big Pledge Sunday Commitment Celebration at Lutheran High School and RSVP by Oct. 23 at [shepherdlutheran.com/shepherdat50](http://shepherdlutheran.com/shepherdat50).

At the informational meetings, excellent questions have been asked. Many are about pledging. Let me address a few:

### **“What is a pledge?”**

A pledge is a promise of what you intend to give over a three-year period on top of regular tithes and offerings. Your pledge is a best estimate based on your current and expected financial situation. Naturally, things may change. Only God knows the future. If your family faces a financial catastrophe and you need to adjust what you’ve pledged, that is understandable. I hope nothing of the sort befalls you. Conversely, if you win the lottery, get a nice raise, or otherwise have a gain in your giving capacity, you are encouraged to contribute beyond what you’ve pledged.

### **“How do I submit my contribution for Shepherd @ 50?”**

The short answer is that two separate payments are preferred: one as your regular tithe/offering, the second as your Shepherd @ 50 offering. Regular offerings and Shepherd @ 50 offerings do not go in the same “pot.”

**If you pay with check or cash:** In the 2018 offering envelopes for church members, there will be 12 special envelopes marked Shepherd @ 50, one for each month. Specially marked envelopes will be available for school families or church families who do not receive offering envelopes for various reasons.

**If you pay online:** You'll need to submit two payments, one for regular offering and one noted as Shepherd @ 50. There is a 3 percent service charge for online payments. You'll have to add 3 percent to your payment so the church receives the full pledge amount.

**“What if I don't have much money to give?”**

A few people have expressed worries about whether their personal finances will allow them to contribute to Shepherd @ 50. Please do not be anxious. We're only hoping you'll contribute according to how you've been blessed. If you've been blessed with much, you're in a position to make a larger pledge, if that's what God leads you to do. On the other hand, if finances are tight, please do not feel pressure to give beyond what is right for you. We don't want anyone struggling with daily needs because of overcommitment to Shepherd @ 50.

I do encourage everyone to contribute in some way, no matter how large or small. For example, if your finances are stretched so thinly that you can give only a one-time donation of \$10, that is fine. The point is that everyone participates, so that each of us can say, “I helped make Shepherd @ 50 happen. I played a part.” Jesus commended a widow who gave two small coins, not because the gift came from great wealth, but because it came from a heart devoted to God. (Luke 21:1-4) Even more than raising funds, we're seeking to raise up *people* as faith-filled partners in ministry.

Another way you can help is by giving a Shepherd @ 50 booklet to a prospective supporter. You may know people with a heart for Christian education and outreach who would be happy to contribute. Please take an extra booklet and give it to someone who might be able to help. When you include other people in Shepherd @ 50, you are involving them in Christian ministry. God will work through it all!

**“When do I turn in my pledge card?”**

Pledge cards may be submitted any day before or on Pledge Sunday, Nov. 5. You may place your pledge card in the offering plate at worship services. You also may bring your pledge card to the church office when you're here for weekend worship or during weekday business hours.

**“When do I begin fulfilling my pledged offering?”**

As stated on the pledge card, pledge offerings cover three years - Nov. 19, 2017 to Nov. 30, 2020. So, we'll begin receiving Shepherd @ 50 offerings Nov. 19. You may give a Shepherd @ 50 offering sooner, of course. To fully cover the expenses we'll commit to for the building and church plant, the church will need to receive all pledges in full by Nov. 30, 2020.

**Follow Church Planter Roy Farias**

Roy Farias, our lead church planter, is keeping up a regular blog. His entries will allow you to see what exactly goes into starting a new congregation. The address is [thereforegoandmake.wordpress.com](http://thereforegoandmake.wordpress.com).

Building up God's Kingdom with you,  
Pastor Chris