

Our Shepherd
Lutheran
CHURCH • SCHOOL • CHILD CARE



ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT

2019
REPORT

OUR SHEPHERD GATHERS, NURTURES,
AND SERVES BECAUSE JESUS LOVES

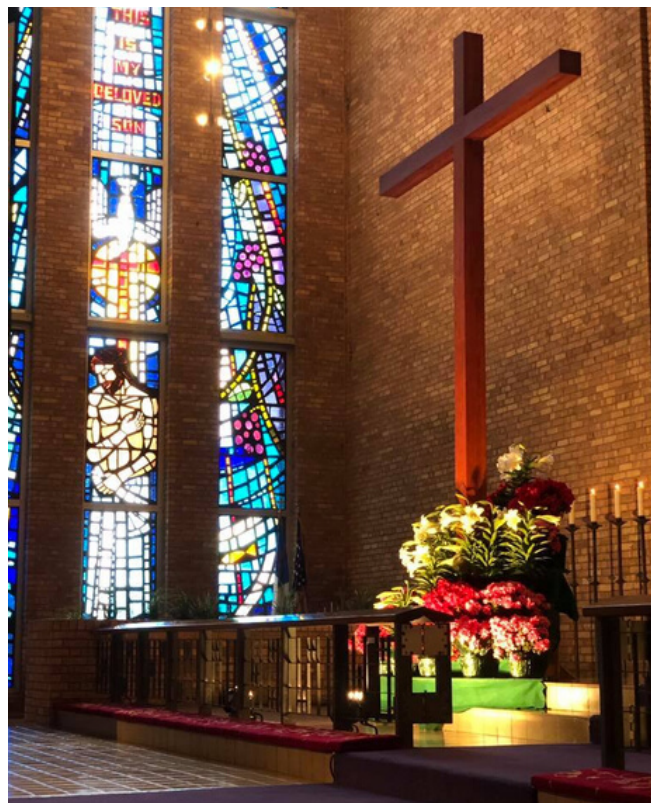


WORDS FROM PASTOR GAERTNER

I arrived in May 2018 to be the fourth senior pastor of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, School, and Child Care. For some people, it may feel like I have already been here for a long time, but in many ways I still feel very new here. A part of feeling new involves figuring out the different traditions at Our Shepherd.

I have experienced the different seasons of both the church year and school year. As I go through these different seasons, I enjoy discovering the well-loved traditions that help point people to Jesus. I marvel at the joy of discovery that the children have in the classrooms. I treasure the embrace the infants and young toddlers receive in our child care. I have great confidence that Jesus Christ is equipping the people of our congregation to be participants in His mission and in the ministry in our community.

This ministry report is intended to provide a snapshot of how well we are fulfilling our mission and community ministry—to gather, nurture, and serve because Jesus loves. The report begins with our core values. When these seven core values are present in how we conduct ourselves as a congregation, our ministry and programming align with each other and we are best able to serve those God has placed among us. These core values are leading indicators which help guide where we are going as a congregation. The first core value is our trust that the Bible is the true Word of God. Faith in God remains vibrant and fervent through the Word of God. St. Paul declares confidently in Romans 10:17, “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” Everything depends on Christ, the Word of God in the flesh.



The numbers you find in this report are intended to be read in the context of our trust that, through His life, death, and resurrection, Christ is victorious over all things. The kingdom of God has arrived in Jesus Christ. Daily we are learning (and re-learning!) how to live in the promises of God. It is our Lord Jesus Christ who gathers us in worship. It is our Lord Jesus Christ who nurtures us in our life together. It is our Lord Jesus Christ who is present among us as we serve our neighbor through our words and works.

I am thankful that, as a family of brothers and sisters in Christ, God continues to gather us around His Word and Sacraments. He nurtures us in Christian love throughout the week both in small groups and as we do life together. The Holy Spirit keeps opening our eyes for opportunities to live out our faith as we serve our neighbors.

PASTOR EVAN GAERTNER

SENIOR PASTOR

CORE VALUES

THAT SHAPE WHO WE ARE

The Bible is the true Word of God

Engaged and connected worship and prayer

Educating all generations toward a maturing faith

Meeting people where they are

Courageously sharing Jesus

Living life together

Serving the community



GATHER

to God and His people in worship

Our shepherd, Jesus, gathers us to receive His Word and Sacraments. We join together to worship God because of the love He has shown us in His son Jesus Christ. As we worship, we are assured of our forgiveness. By gathering, we are responding to the love of God in Christ Jesus with our prayers and praise.

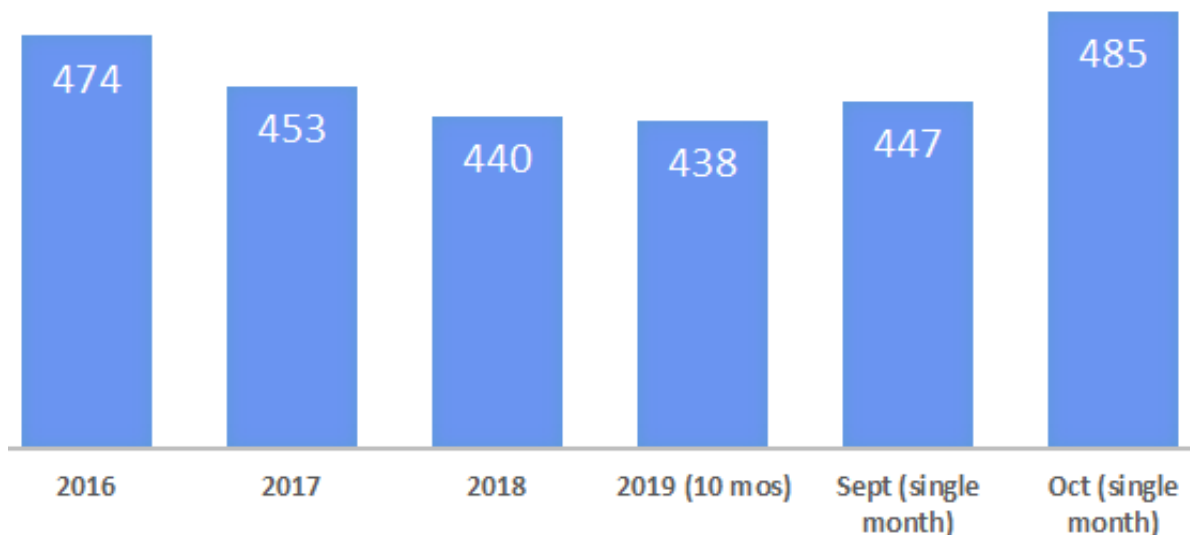
Over this past year, we have continued to focus on excellence in all of our worship

[Jesus said,] “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” (Matthew 18:20)

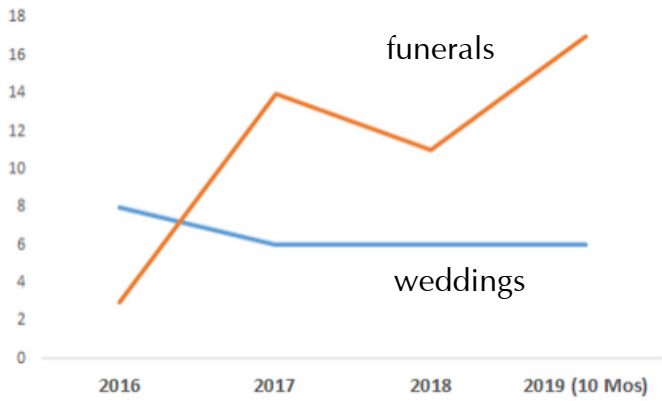
services. We continue to work on providing engaging and inviting Sunday morning Bible studies that meet people where they are in their walk with Jesus.

We are excited and thankful to have Hannah Walsh join Our Shepherd to build upon the youth ministry already occurring. Over the next year, we are looking forward to further enhancing youth ministry, particularly in reaching youth who attend schools other than Our Shepherd. Other plans include investing in the Saturday night worship service.

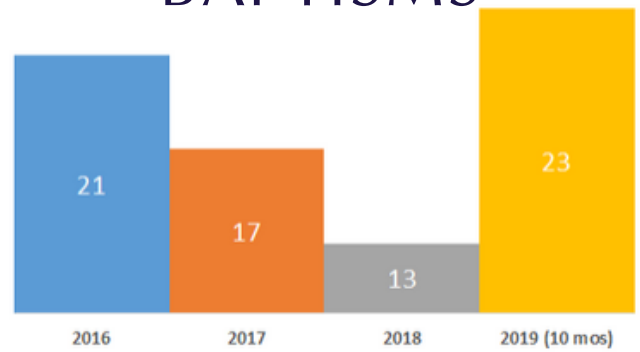
AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE



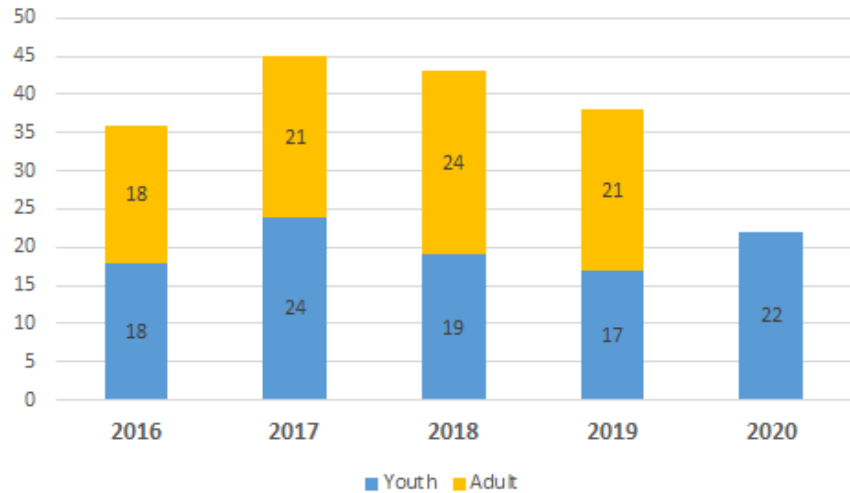
WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS



BAPTISMS



CONFIRMATION YOUTH & ADULT



BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Bible Study

Sundays: 3-5 alternating classes with 60-80 total participants

Midweek: 6 midweek classes with 60-80 total participants



TEENS

4-7 per week



15-25 children per week

6-10 children per week





NURTURE

together in God's Word as we do life together

We are committed to nurturing one another through the study of God's word, Christian education, and living life together. We accomplish this by engaging in small groups and supporting one another through life's circumstances.

[Jesus said,] "...I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing..."

John 15:1-11

Some of the activities and groups at Our Shepherd where we are nurtured in God's Word and have the opportunity to support one another throughout life:



Music Ministry

small groups
GATHER | NURTURE | SERVE

Senior's Ministry

MIRACULOUS mission
JESUS SAVES THE WORLD

UPWARD BASKETBALL

Men's Ministry

M
MOPS & MOMS NEXT
this is motherhood

Women's Ministry

TRUNK OR TREAT

Nurture

small groups

GATHER | NURTURE | SERVE

"I was always too intimidated to join a small group because I didn't feel that I knew the Bible well enough and would have little to contribute. But I was so wrong!"

The small group I joined was so welcoming, and I found that I looked forward to attending each week! Reading Scripture together was so fulfilling to my heart, and just being in a quiet space with warm smiles each week was such a blessing."

- Missy Macavage



146 participants

17 small groups



Nurture

MOPS is for ALL MOMS! Working, stay-at-home, single, married, first baby on the way, mother of 19, adopted children, biological children, or step-child(ren). MOPS is a time for fellowship with other moms in the same stage of life and for learning strategies and tips that will help us be the best moms we can be. In MOPS, children are cared for in their own separate program where they engage in age appropriate activities. MomsNext meets when children are in school. We also offer opportunities for moms' nights out, playgroups, and other fun activities.



37 Enrolled Moms

47 Children in the program, plus 5 infants

3 Families became OS members in the last 2 years

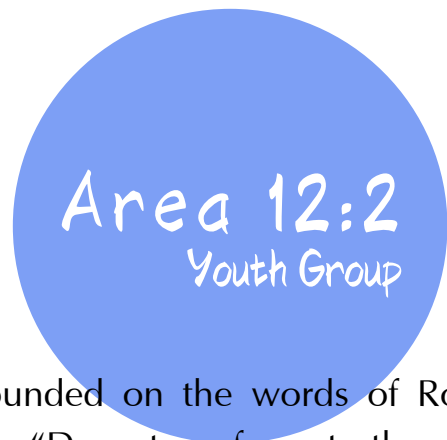
5 Children were baptized at OS last year

Family Life Events



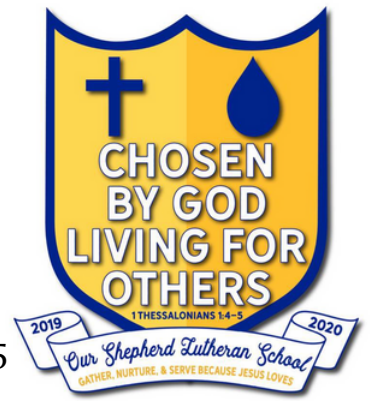
- Congregational Campouts
- Men's Retreat
- Men of Integrity
- Women's Retreat

Hannah Walsh accepted to the call to serve as Youth and Family Ministry Leader and looks forward to building relationships with our youth



Area 12:2 is founded on the words of Romans 12:2 which says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."

Nurture: Preschool through 8th Grade



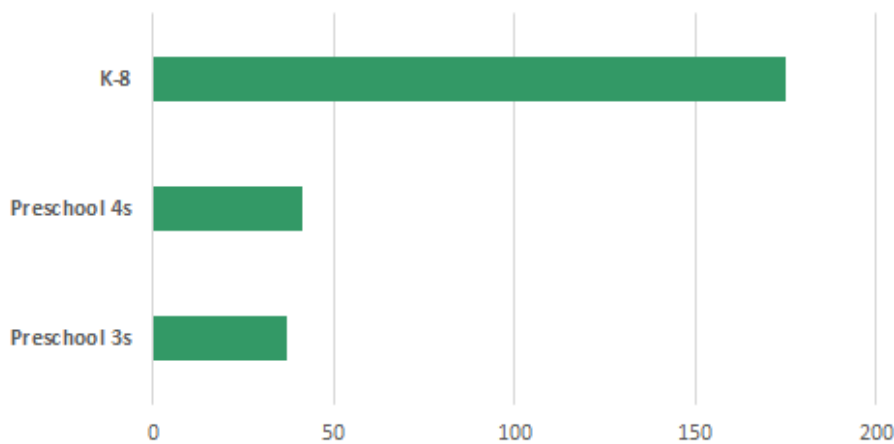
Our Shepherd Lutheran School was established in 1956. This year we celebrate sixty-three years of quality education. Students from 25 communities attend Our Shepherd. About 76% of the student body is

Lutheran and 23% belong to non-Lutheran congregations. Currently, there are 240 children in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Our Shepherd is accredited through the following organizations: The Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools, the Michigan District of Lutheran Schools, and the National Lutheran Schools Accreditation. Our Shepherd students place in the top five of all Lutheran schools in Michigan.



Our Shepherd students grow in their relationship to God, through His grace, and live in obedience to His word. They gain skills and motivation to learn and think with confidence and independence. At OS, students earnestly study Scripture, arts, sciences and humanities for an ever-expanding knowledge and appreciation of God's word. They experience God's love in relationships with faculty, staff, parents, and peers. They mature in personal responsibility and compassion for others, and flourish in the midst of a demanding and changing world.

Enrollment





SERVE

Serve Christ with our words and works in this world

We tell people about Jesus both through our words and actions. As our relationship with Jesus grows, our lives overflow with His love in service to others. Serving those in our community finds its source in God’s amazing grace.

[Jesus] rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.
John 13:4–5



The bus ministry began in 2016 to bring home-bound members, or those needing a ride, to worship. There is a rotation of seven drivers who transport seven individuals on a weekly basis. Since the ministry began, three individuals became members of OS and one person was baptized.



FAMILY OF GOD

Serve: Child Care

The mission of Our Shepherd Child Care is to nurture children in the Christian faith so that they may know Jesus as their Savior, serve Jesus as the Lord of all creation, and share Jesus' Word and deeds with all the lives they touch.



In 2019, six individuals associated with the child care center became Children of God through baptism



Child Care's focus is on the relationship between family, church, and school. The center works with families as they prepare their children to enter school by giving them a firm foundation for success.

Camp Shepherd



Our Shepherd
Lutheran Child Care



Serve: Missions Investments

\$301,964

Total missions related funds spent



- Love for Others
\$19,335
- ASSIST Grants
\$43,003
- LHSA Grants
\$102,550
- EKWIP Grants
\$5,000
- Allwardt Scholarship
\$12,060
- Carol's Cupboard
\$14,141
- Prison Bible Ministry
\$7,552
- San Juan Lutheran Church
\$7,200
- Family of God
\$1,000 plus monthly meals
- Homes of Hope
Built a home with 8 OS members / friends
\$750
- CareNet
\$750
- SOS
\$1,040
- Camp Restore Detroit
\$750
- Urban Neighborhood Initiatives
\$750
- Michigan District
\$41,599
- Mexicali Mission
\$42,434
- Kids Coalition Against Hunger
\$2,800

Serve: Volunteering

Altar Circle
(22)

Bus ministry
(7)

Carol's
Cupboard
(2-4)

Parent
work session
(40)

South
Oakland
Shelter
(100-150)

Ensenada
Mission
(10-12)

Family
of God
(6-8)

Food baskets
(75)

Kids
Against
Hunger
(100-120)

Mexicali
(39)

Funeral
lunches
(8-10)

Quilters
(8)

Ushers
(50-55)

Garden Club
(3-4)

Counting
team
(12-15)

Giving
tree
(6-8)

Council
and Boards
(35)

Prayer Chain
(50)

VBS
(65)

Sunday
Coffee
Hour
(4-6)

Mary
Martha
Circle
(18-22)

Upward
Basketball
(28-32)

Prison
ministry
(1)

Bookstore
(4)

Music
Ministry
(60)

RESOURCES



Board of Resources is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of Our Shepherd physical properties. Over the past year, the Board installed LED lighting throughout the entire school building, installed air conditioning in the school multi purpose room, and new sinks and counter tops in school bathrooms including electronic low-flow faucets.

At the church site, the Board, with significant support from the Kitchen Committee, oversaw a total renovation of the church kitchen. The renovation incorporated a new hood and fire suppression system, flooring, dish washing line, and most appliances. We also added a new pantry for additional storage. Work to address

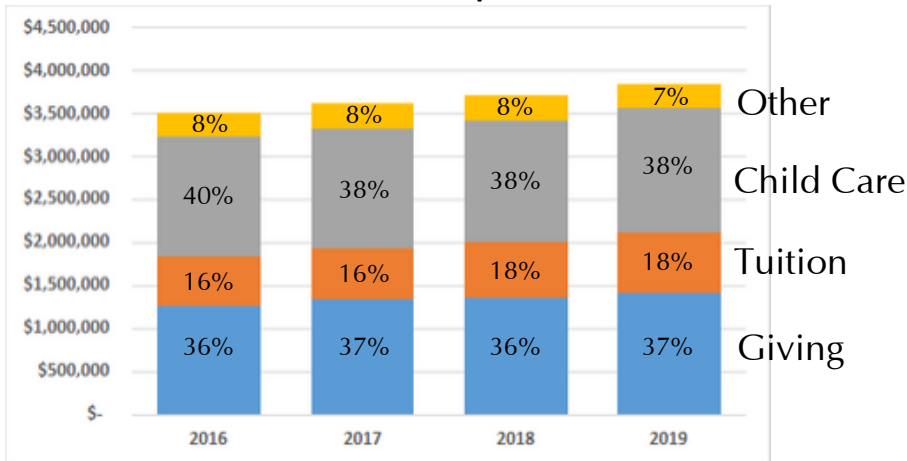


the water intrusion issue under the south wall of the lower level is continuing. The Board of Resources works diligently to support the planning, design, and construction of Renewing Our Shepherd Capital Campaign projects.



FINANCES

Income Components

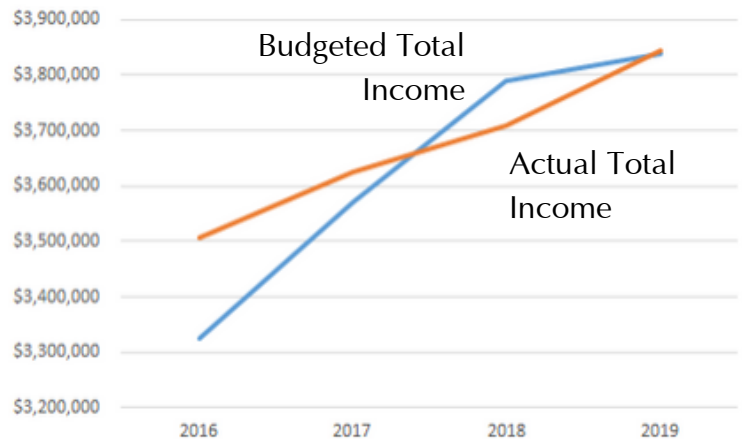


The Board of Finance focuses on maintaining a balanced budget that supports all ministries. Over the last year the Board has accelerated the adoption of electronic giving through Kindrid, a ministry-focused electronic giving platform, which now constitutes approximately 30% of total giving.

Giving has increased year over year along with tuition and childcare revenue. These are offset by increases in personnel costs, utilities, and investing in the properties reserve fund.

We continue to pay down debt with budgeted funds and designated debt reduction contributions.

Budgeted Income vs Actual Income



Debt



We are monitoring revenue sources to ensure there are sufficient resources to meet the increasing costs of supporting OS' mission. Over 85% of our budget is personnel and fixed costs leaving little ability to adjust to economic headwinds. Yet, we need to continue investing in our people, activities, and facilities.

Our Shepherd Lutheran

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