



SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

A church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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The Reverend Dr. Jack DiMatteo, Pastor

WELCOME. EQUIP. SEND.

September 5, 2023

Dear Members of Shepherd of the Hills,

A few weeks ago, you received a communication from me (email) indicating challenging financial circumstances currently facing our congregation. In short, here's the picture... SOTH is experiencing:

- Increased costs to maintain our building and grounds
- Increased costs of utilities
- An increase in our mortgage interest rate
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These costs, combined with some other unforeseen and necessary expenditures, have placed SOTH in a deficit situation, as our current income has not kept up with current expenses.

The Congregation Council, along with the Giving Team and other concerned individuals have deliberated on the best practices for mitigating the deficit and arriving once more at a "break even" budget. Over the years, we have been extremely frugal with expenditures and we have encouraged generosity to bolster our "supply side". Despite these efforts, we still need to find a way to stop the financial bleeding.

The Congregation Council and I are confident that our congregation will rise to the occasion to address this growing concern. **We are requesting everyone to prayerfully give 10% more than current giving levels. Our adopted slogan is "Give SOTH a Perfect 10".**

In the near future you will notice bulletin inserts, worship monitor slides and other communications inviting you to give 10% more... and giving electronically is an easy way to respond to this challenge. (I did this a few weeks ago and it only took me five minutes to complete the process!). Simply go to www.sothnj.org and click the "Donate" button on the toolbar. Follow the prompts, and you can do your part to help SOTH climb out of this financial deficit.

I am confident, that with God's grace and our determination, we can meet this challenge and make SOTH financially solvent again. Let's stand tall with faith in our hearts and hope in our souls to proclaim the words of the Scriptures, "With God all things are possible." (Mt. 19:26)

May God bless you in your generous response to this appeal. With and through God's Holy Spirit we can do amazing things!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jack