

Invitation and Response

You are the giver of all good gifts and we, the grateful recipients. **Change our hearts, O God.**

You provide abundantly for all we need. **Change our hearts, O God.**

You call us to generosity, to letting go, to sharing. **Change our hearts, O God.**

Increase our faith in you, our love for our neighbor, and our heart for your mission, that we might participate in what your Holy Spirit stirs up at Esperanza. **Change our hearts, O God.**

Change our hearts, O God, and by our generosity, may we be like you. Amen.

We invite you to pray for this year's stewardship appeal, that each one of us might prayerfully discern how we are being called by God to give. We invite you to read the enclosed letter and prayerfully respond with generosity and hope. On Sunday, November 12, during worship, we will gather our statements of intent, and we will see how God has moved among us.



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Change My Heart, O God

2024 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Introduction

Esperanza Lutheran Church creates authentic connections and a deep sense of belonging as a Christ-centered community. We know from our own experience that our neighbors in the Ahwatukee Foothills feel isolated and are seeking community; as a community, we are called to respond.

When we gather on Sunday mornings to sing and pray, hear God's word and share the meal, we connect not only with God but with one another.

Beyond the worship and study life of the congregation, together, Esperanza engages in many community outreach programs, including Habitat for Humanity, I-HELP, and the Kyrene Resource Center, sharing hope with some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

Needs

We see our larger community more fragmented than ever, with people feeling isolated and polarized. In response, we are working to be a place where people can create authentic connections and discover belonging, whether they come to church on Sunday mornings, enroll their children at Child of Hope Child Development Center, attend AA meetings or Scouts here, or simply encounter the people of Esperanza at a community event. As a Christ-centered community, we have love to share and a story to tell that is truly hope-filled.

In 2005, Esperanza established Children of Hope Child Development Center which provides high-quality faith-based early childhood education to our students and grounds them in loving relationship. As people of hope, we embody our hope for the planet through our Garden of Eatin' and growing in our stewardship of God's good gifts.

Together, we are responding to God's call.



MINISTRY INITIATIVES

As leadership has planned for ministry in 2024, we've set a goal of receiving 61 statements of intent for giving in 2024 and identified a need for growing our congregation's giving by \$18,500 (\$356/week) in order to continue our work of sharing Christ's story and meeting the growing needs of our community in new ways. Here are some examples of how those funds will be invested.

ENSURING OUR FUTURE: \$6,000 (\$115/week)

Our facility is vital to our welcome. When guests arrive, our building is their first impression. Just to make our current facilities possible, each year our community spends \$41,000 in debt service toward our mortgage in addition to other facility operational costs such as A/C maintenance.

In 2023, through good planning we significantly reduced our annual equipment lease costs. These savings, along with additional funds raised through this appeal, will allow us to make additional principal payments to our mortgage and to take good care of our facilities over the long term. We look forward to the day when, our debt retired, we can direct even more funds towards mission work.

ENSURING OUR EXCELLENCE: \$7,500 (\$145/week)

We are blessed to be in a time of renewed energy and service in our congregation, and we know our ministry's continued growth is dependent on excellent staff and quality ministry. The electric bill is more than a utility; it ensures the lights are on when a guest arrives. The cleanliness of our building is about welcoming people to our home. Our staff teaches, preaches, and organizes the people of Esperanza for ministry together.

Because all costs are rising, in 2024, we must plan for increased staff compensation and costs for goods and services.

STRENGTHENING OUR SERVICE: \$5,000 (\$96/Week)

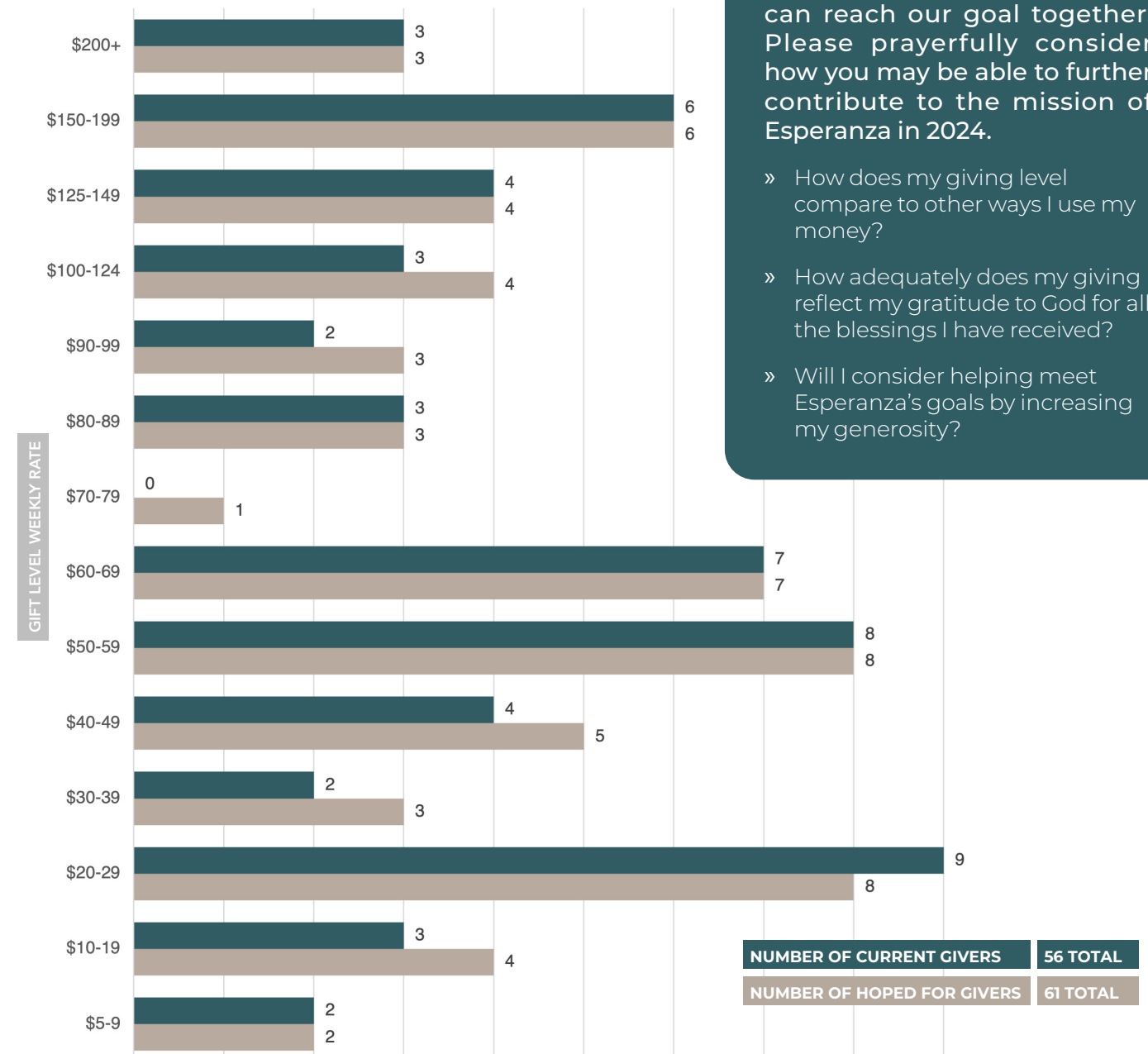
Esperanza is more than just worship on Sunday morning. The ripples of our generosity and service are felt across the world.

In 2024, as we enter into a relationship with a congregation from the Lutheran Church in Mexico, we hope to help fund projects they have identified as well as opportunities for connection between our communities.

In addition, we know that we are part of a regional, national, and global church. New congregations, campus ministries, camps, and the work of hands across the world is made possible by our generosity. We plan to continue increasing our annual Synod gift in 2024.

ESPERANZA LUTHERAN CHURCH

RANGE OF GIFTS GIVEN AND HOPED FOR



The following charts point out where we are now and how we can reach our goal together. Please prayerfully consider how you may be able to further contribute to the mission of Esperanza in 2024.

- » How does my giving level compare to other ways I use my money?
- » How adequately does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I have received?
- » Will I consider helping meet Esperanza's goals by increasing my generosity?