

# Investing in Our Future

## Hope for Tomorrow

### Bible Verse of the Week

#### 1 Peter 4:10

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

Stewardship is about exercising our God-given domain over creation, reflecting God’s image in our service to others, and the care, protection, and sustainability of our world. As stewards, we are essentially managers of God’s resources.

Three characteristics of a steward:

- Supervision of what belongs to another
- Authority to manage what has been entrusted
- Accountability to the owner

Every day we are bombarded with advertising, billboards, and commercials telling us we do not have enough – enough beauty, enough education, enough stuff. The world constantly reminds us of the newest items we

need for ourselves and that we certainly don’t have enough to share with others.

Conversely, a stewardship campaign is a counter-cultural, radical idea. An invitation to contribute in a systematic way, it calls us to face the reality that God provides for all that we need, and all that we have is ultimately God’s.



What hopes do we have for Esperanza’s short-term and long-term future?

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Esperanza is always looking to grow into the future, but we cannot do it without your support. In the two preceding bulletin attachments, we outlined our 2025 goals for Deepening Our Wells and Building Bridges into Our Community. This week, we are spotlighting our 2025 objectives for Investing in Our Future:

- Upgrading our lighting for efficiency
- Continuing to reduce our mortgage principal
- Retaining professional landscapers to ensure our campus is safe, engaging and inviting
- Meeting the increased business expenses of insurance, utilities, maintenance, and other contingencies
- Upgrading and enhancing our AV equipment to provide a higher quality and more reliable worship experience both in-person and online.

Esperanza has consistently expanded our involvement in our community while working to increase the participation of our members in all

aspects of the church. As we look to the future, we have a choice between surviving or thriving. We are asking for your financial support to continue the work we have started and grow it further. Knowing your giving intentions helps our council and finance team anticipate income and plan spending more reliably and responsibly. Last year we received 66 intents. This year we are targeting 73 intents.



*Dear God, I want to take a minute not to ask for anything from you, but simply thank you for all I have.*