

The Lord Is Our Shepherd



We Shall Not Want

Dear Chapel in the Pines,

The best opening sentence would straighten your spine and flood your awareness like a double-shot of espresso hope, utterly absorbing your attention so that you would stop and lean against the mailbox or kiosk, or sit down at your kitchen table wanting to read more.

This gripping effect is what the ancient writer intended by beginning, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” Behold, that is as powerful a promise of divine presence and care as found in all of scripture!

And yet, it’s so familiar. I confess I might gloss over it even on my most calm and focused days without the distractions of the dog, the family, the chores, the news, and the eternal question, what’s for dinner?

So, in your equally busy life, please allow me to highlight a subtle, yet crucial change in this year’s stewardship campaign from the famously familiar Psalm 23 — the Lord is OUR shepherd, WE shall not want.

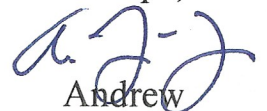
WE are Chapel in the Pines. WE give of our time, talent, and treasure. WE pledge money and volunteer.

We have set a stewardship goal of \$450,000 and together WE will meet it!

The LORD is OUR shepherd. Leading us to green pastures and new outdoor ministries. Bringing us to still waters and partnerships in the community. Setting a table before us in worship through new staff members and beloved traditions. Filling up our cup to overflow with joy and love.

The best closing sentence would not be a raised fist in the air, but rather a warm handshake, generating feelings of recognition, inclusion, and faith so that, not from compulsion but out of gladness and gratitude for grace upon grace, you would join our stewardship campaign. And as we look to the future, remember the closing line of Psalm 23: Surely, goodness and mercy will follow us all of our days.

In hope,



Andrew