

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Operating Budget 2025

At St. Mark's, we believe that whoever you are, and wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here as you are, to receive the blessings of God so freely given to you. Walk in love as Christ loved us.

This journey that we take together requires that we consider how best to give of our time, talent, and treasurer. This year, we are asking the parish to join the Vestry in its commitment to creating a balanced budget.

We have a pledge goal this year of \$340,000. How we reach this goal depends on each of you. For example, if everyone who pledged in the past increased their pledges by just 6%, and if we add 4 to 5 new pledges, averaging about \$3200 each, we would reach this goal.

Our total operating income is projected to be \$370,000. Of this, roughly \$30,000 comes from investments, restricted grants, and a small amount of building income from our new parish hall.

The proposed budget can be broken down as follows:

Clergy and administration compensation is \$193,000 or 53% of the budget. This supports Don, our full-time priest-in-charge, and Sara, our part-time parish administrator.

Building and operating expenses is \$65,400 or 18% of the budget. This covers power, heat, water and city services, interior cleaning, insurance, office/finance, and minor maintenance expenses. We use volunteer donations of time and expense coverage to cover exterior groundskeeping and snow removal, and we are hopeful that our interior cleaning expenses with the new building will be reduced with volunteer efforts.

Music is \$36,960 or 10% of the budget. This supports Kelly, our interim music director and 1 to 2 cantors. Some of this expense is supported by targeted donations from several parishioners.

Parish Life is \$6,650 or 2% of the budget. This covers expenses for worship materials, flowers, Sunday School, Adult Education, and parish social events. We depend on your volunteer effort and donations for much of the activities here.

Diocesan and denominational church support is \$64,668 or 18% of the budget. This covers our Diocese of Wisconsin assessment that supports our bishop and diocese, and the denominational church.

Outreach is \$3700 or 1% of the budget. St. Mark's is a member of Common Ground, a non-partisan organization committed to addressing issues in the southeast Wisconsin area. We pay dues of 1% of our operating budget.

The Vestry considers the budget to be a very lean budget and meets our basic operating expenses. We ask the parish to be mindful that every extra dollar given will allow us to continue growing, thriving, and building new programs for the future.