

Season of Gratitude

2026 Financial Plan for Mission

Season of Gratitude



We have been so richly blessed with God's grace and abundance!

As we begin this program year, we want to acknowledge our blessings and our role as stewards of God's abundance with a 'Season of Gratitude' - a year for us to thank God and celebrate the blessings and grace with which we have been so richly blessed.



The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

A season of gratitude is not only the theme for our program year, but it is also the theme for our 2026 Stewardship program. The essence of stewardship is truly acknowledging the abundance of God's grace and living fully into our role as God's stewards.



Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Paul's words to the Thessalonians remind us that letting go of fear and scarcity and being thankful in all circumstances requires trust in God's transforming love!



Gratitude is a way of living!

We pray that each of you will let this year-long Season of Gratitude lead you to...

Live abundantly, share generously and serve joyfully!

Grow as followers of Christ!

Be thankful in all things!

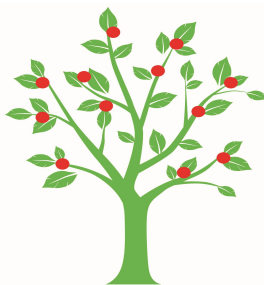
Big Plans Ahead

Through the strategic planning process, we heard the big steps that you believe will enable St. Luke's to thrive well into the future. **Your bold vision is front and center in our strategic plan, *Growing Together: Our Vision for the Future of St. Luke's*, and our 2026 Financial Plan for Mission.** To that end in 2026, with your faithful and generous support, we want to...

- **Expand our Youth Director position** from 5 hours per week to 10 hours per week to better support our children and youth - \$9,000 increase in Children and Youth expenses for 2026
- **Add a contract communications/marketing position** (5 hours per week) to help spread the good news about St. Luke's and free Rev. Ashley to focus more of her time and energy caring for and ministering to the St. Luke's community - \$10,000 annual cost
- **Add additional paid singers and establish a junior choir** to enhance our incredible music program - \$1,800 increase in Music expenses for 2026
- **Add a full-time Sexton position** to better maintain our buildings and campus grounds - \$35,000 net increase to the operating budget for 2026
- **Provide a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment** for our Rector and staff - \$8,800 increase to Wage expenses for 2026
- **Fund Missions as a part of Operating Budget** to truly show our commitment to loving our neighbors, sharing our 'first fruits,' and making a tangible commitment to missions year after year – 2% of our total operating expenses in 2026 and rising to 10% over time

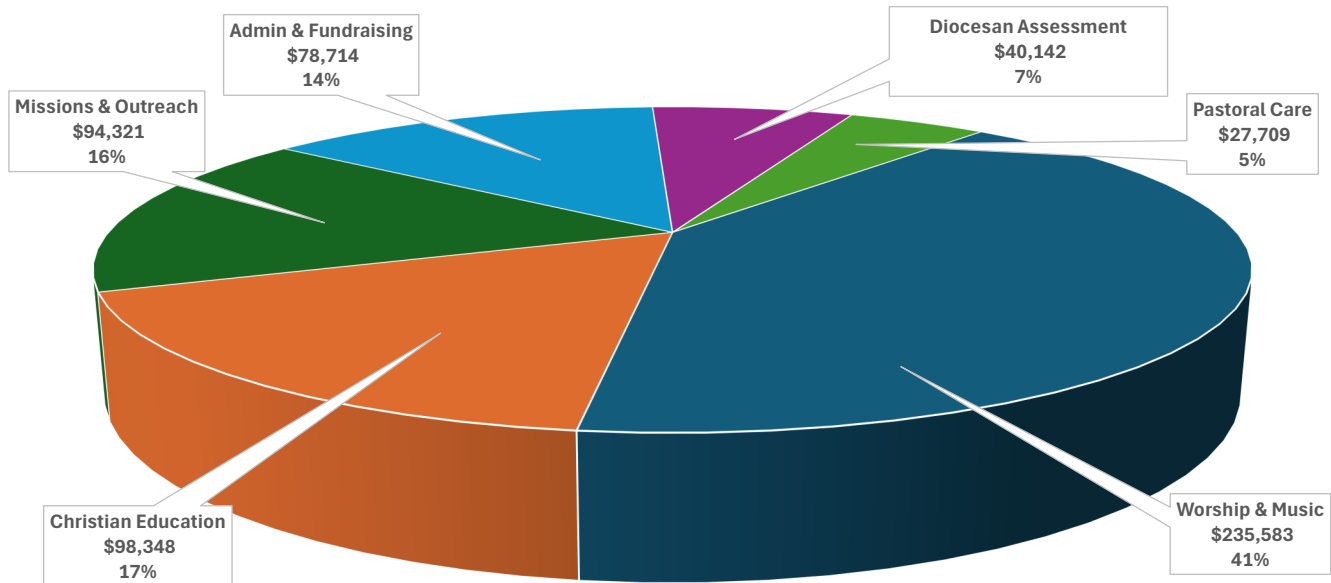
We are very excited about these bold steps that will help grow our children and youth program, better share the good news of St. Luke's, improve the care for our buildings and property, enhance our wonderful music program, fairly compensate our amazing staff, and enhance our commitment to missions. These actions will require us to increase our pledge revenue by 26% or \$87,325 over our 2025 pledge levels.

Taking these visionary actions will require each of us to make a bold investment in St. Luke's — joyfully sharing our time, talent, and financial resources to ensure that St. Luke's, our beloved church home, continues to thrive as a community that shares Christ's transforming love with one another, our community, and the world.



What Will it Cost in 2026 to Achieve Our Vision?

By Program Area

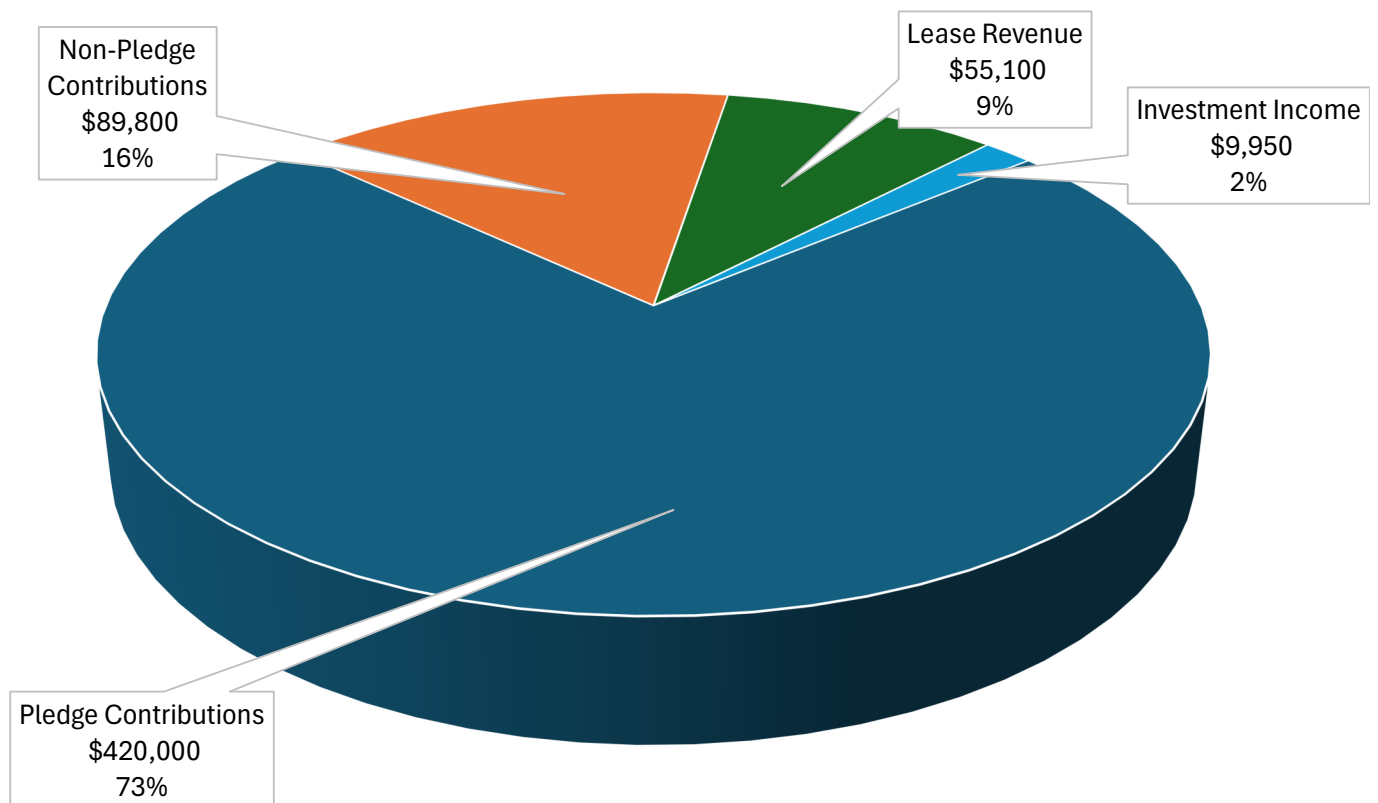


With funding for our action steps and addressing overall rising costs, we expect our operating costs to increase by 17% (\$82,451) over 2025 levels.

By Expense Category

Wages & Benefits	\$	375,122
Buildings & Grounds	\$	48,535
Diocesan Assessment	\$	40,142
Utilities	\$	33,298
Supplies	\$	18,955
Reserve Funding	\$	18,000
Missions	\$	11,982
Equipment Lease/Rental	\$	11,833
Publishing	\$	6,002
Food & Beverage	\$	4,189
Community Outreach	\$	2,667
Fundraising	\$	2,148
Financial Fees	\$	1,432
Meetings & Events	\$	515
Total Projected 2026 Operating Expenses	\$	574,817

Bold Actions Require Investment!



Achieving our vision will require \$420,000 in pledge revenue.

This represents a 26% (\$87,325) increase over 2025 levels.

Revenues

Pledge Contributions	\$420,000
Non-Pledge Contributions	\$ 89,800
Lease Revenue	\$ 55,100
Investment Income	\$ 9,950
Total Revenues	<u>\$574,850</u>

Achieving our revenue goals and taking the action steps outlined on page 3 will require us all to faithfully and joyfully commit our time, talent and financial resources to serving God here at St. Luke's.

Pledging FAQs

What is stewardship?

Stewardship is the faithful management of all our resources. God has entrusted to our care our bodies, our talents, our relationships, our financial resources, indeed, all of Creation.

Why pledge?

A pledge is an act of faith and trust in God's abundance. Your pledge is a sacramental sign of your intention to serve God. It's also your commitment to your church home.

Why is pledging important?

A pledge is fundamentally different from a plate offering. Your church home needs your pledge so that we can responsibly plan for the ministries and programs that bring our Christ-centered mission to life.

What if I don't think I can afford to make a pledge?

No pledge is too small. It is amazing how your sense of investment and belonging at St Luke's will grow once you have made a pledge to return a portion of your resources, no matter the amount, to God's service.

What happens if my financial circumstances change?

If your financial circumstances change during the year, you may notify the church office and adjust your pledge as necessary.

How do I make a pledge?

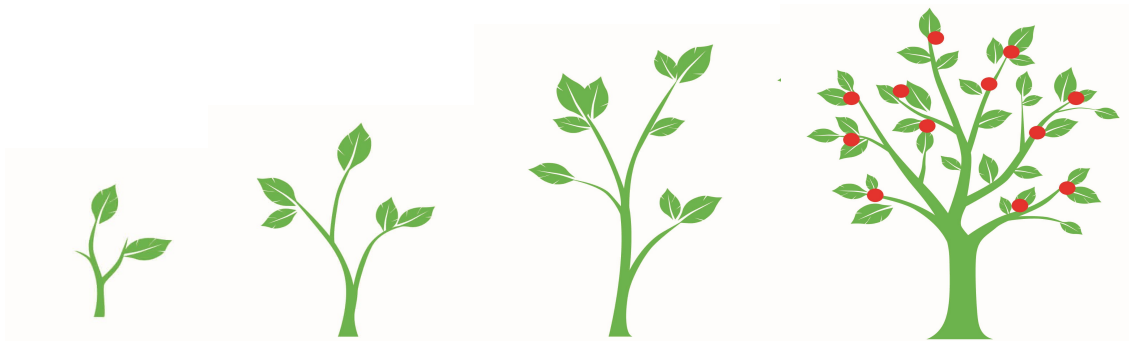
Fill out the pledge cards and return the completed cards at Ingathering Hootenanny Thursday, October 2nd or return it to the church office.

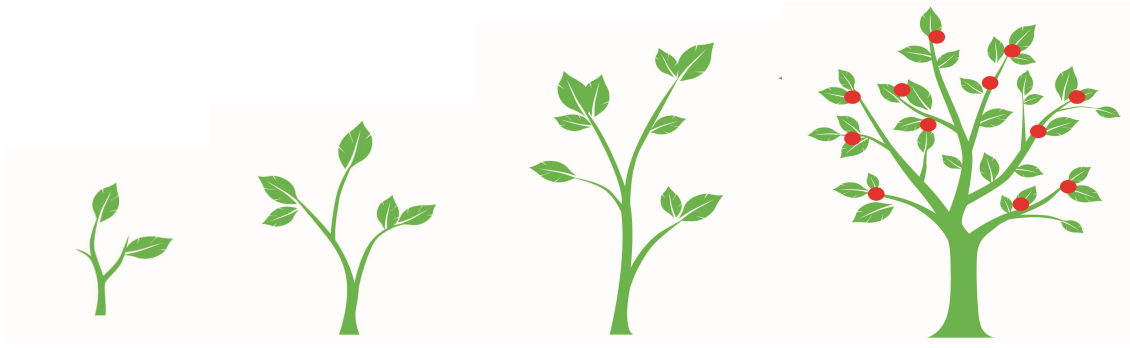


Important Mission Funding News

We are beginning a new way of funding missions. **Starting in 2026**, our mission activities will be funded through the general operating budget rather than through a separate mission campaign in Lent. This decision, reached in conjunction with our mission leaders, represents our commitment to loving our neighbors, sharing our 'first fruits', and making a tangible commitment to missions year after year.

The 2026 Financial Plan for Missions (Budget) includes mission funding at 2% of our total operating expenses, and it is the hope of the Vestry to increase mission funding to 10% of our total operating expenses over time. Although you can still make individual contributions to missions, we hope that you will include your financial support for missions in your pledge to the general operating fund.





Stewardship Prayer

Loving and gracious God, Creator and Giver of all that is good, we give you thanks and praise for the beauty of the earth, our lives, our family, our loved ones, our neighbors, the world, and all the gifts we have been given. We acknowledge that all that we are and have is from you.

Help us to be thankful in all circumstances, to let go of fear and scarcity, and to joyfully and generously use our time, talents and financial resources to do your work in the world and here at St. Luke's.

We remain ever grateful for your abundance, constant love, the gift of your Son Jesus, and the presence of your Holy Spirit with us as we strive to be your faithful stewards.

Amen.