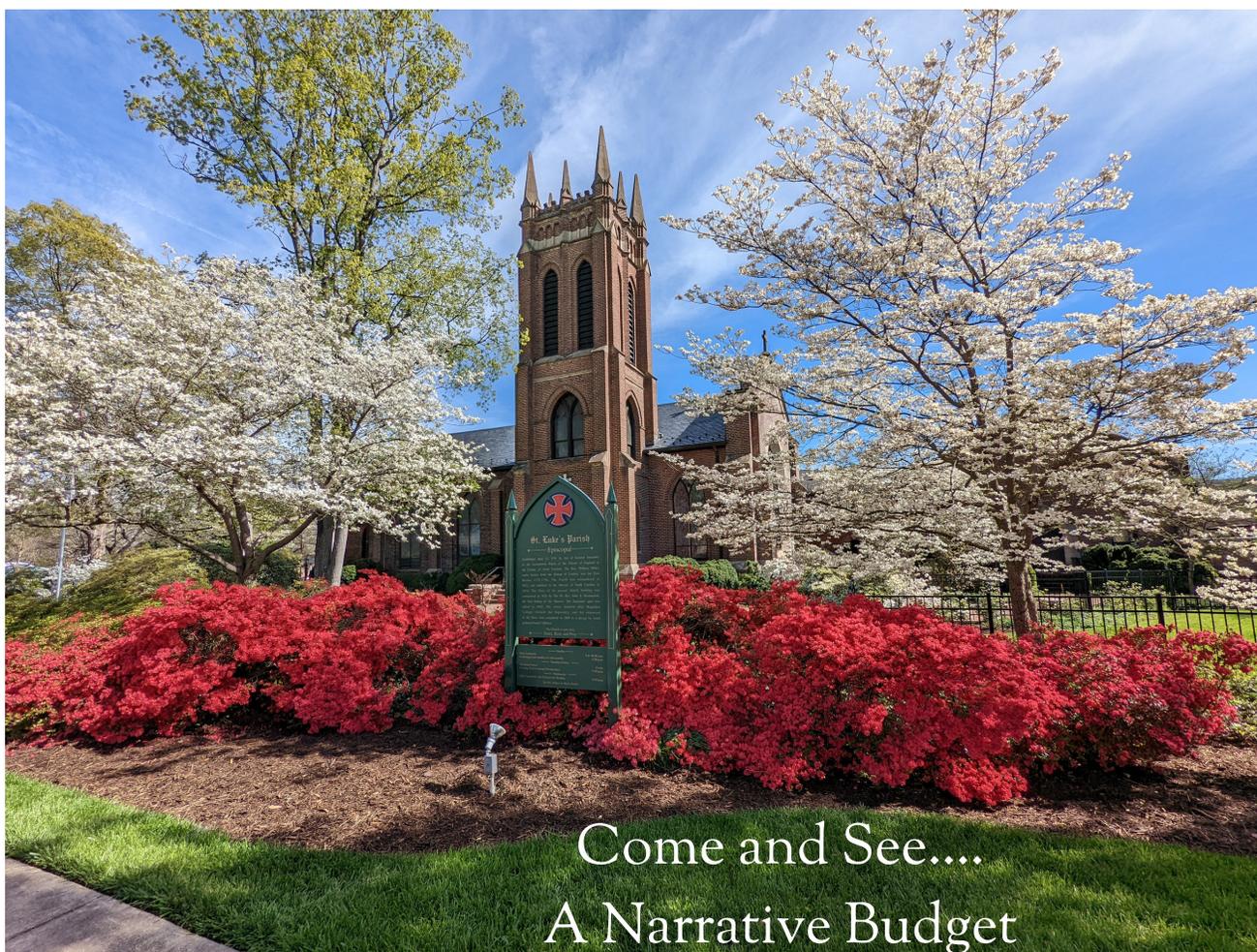


# ST. LUKE'S

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## EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Come and See....  
A Narrative Budget

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St. Luke's is a Eucharistically-centered church in the Anglican tradition located in downtown Salisbury that exists to help people to come and see the difference Christ makes through abundant grace, beloved community, and intentional worship. Established by the Colonial Assembly in 1753, we are a parish in the Diocese of North Carolina.



## Come and See the *difference* Christ makes



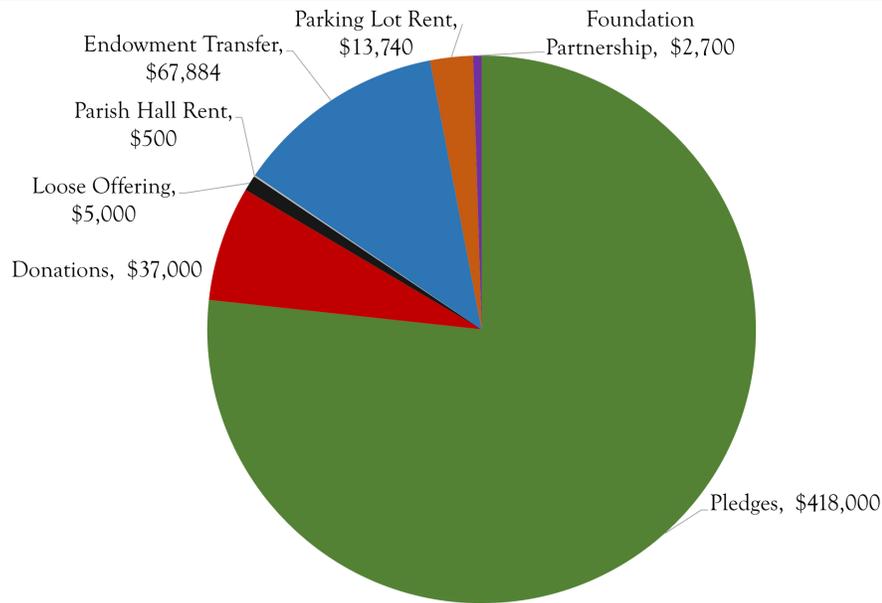
- The transformative love of God is not an abstract idea, but a way of life that applies to all parts of our lives. The invitation of faith is to *come and see*.
- All wounds can be healed, all estrangements can be reconciled, all fears can be overcome, all doubts can lead to faith, and this is the *difference Christ makes*.
- Central to all we are and do is the deep and abiding trust that we are loved by God not because we have deserved it, but because God has chosen to love us no matter what. The limitlessness of this love is *abundant grace*.
- In all that we do, we strive to follow the Holy Spirit's equipping us to be a community for all shaped by God's love for the purposes of caring for one another, enjoying fellowship, and being a reconciled people known as the *beloved community*.
- What nourishes us in our identity is a commitment to *intentional worship* which grounds us in the truths of God's peace and mercy with the intention of being transformed by God's love.

## The How and Why of Giving

As you will see in this narrative budget, there are many ways that we seek to faithfully live into our identity. Our beloved community is richer when all participate in the Body of Christ. There was a time when Church attendance and giving could be (relatively) taken for granted - but that time has passed. If we want St. Luke's Parish to thrive, it will take *all* of us. No one should have to carry too much of that burden, but *all* need to help carry the load. This is why our Vestry has set a goal of having 100% of our members contributing financially to the vitality of our Parish. Currently, we are at 66% support.

There are several ways you can give:

- Return the enclosed pledge card
- Give regularly by setting up auto-draft contributions through your financial institution
- Give regularly by setting up a credit card donation online at [www.SLS.church/give](http://www.SLS.church/give)
- Give regularly by cash or check in the offering plate at church
- Make Sunday attendance a priority to strengthen the beloved community of St. Luke's
- Join the 1753 Society by including St. Luke's in your will or estate plans
- Participate in and volunteer at church events

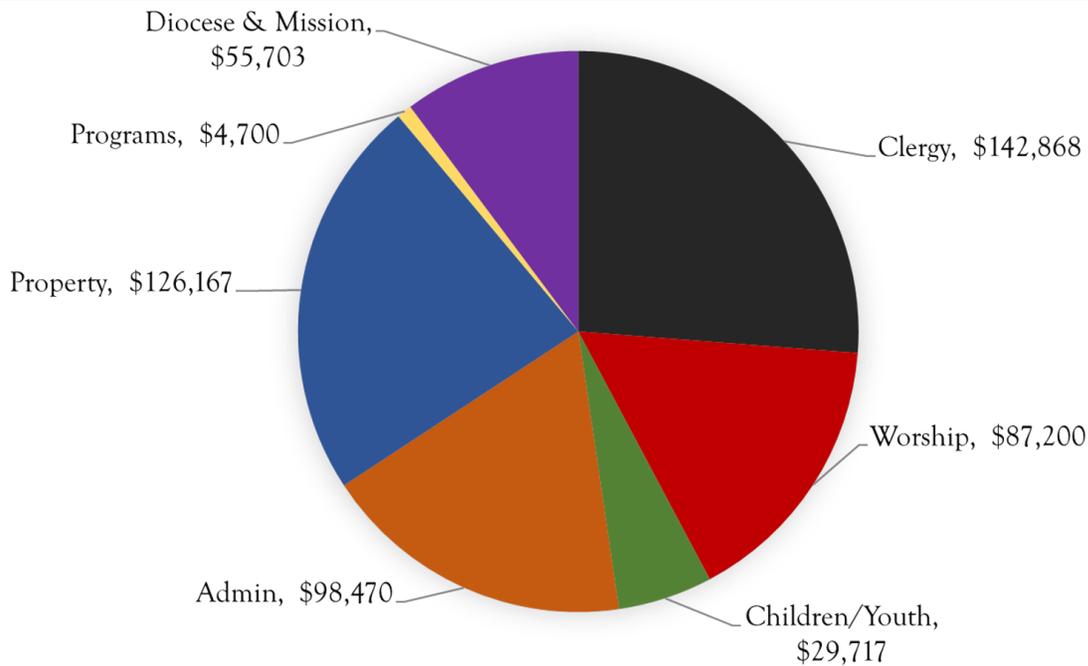


The vast majority of our funding comes from your generous support.

- **Pledges:** This is money church and community members tell us they intend to give each year. Contributions that we know about are the easiest to plan ministries with.
- **Donations:** This is unpledged money given by church and community members.
- **Loose Offering:** This is cash put into the offering plate that is not tied to a specific donor.
- **Parish Hall Rent:** The modest income we receive when outside groups use our space.
- **Endowment Transfer:** Striving to be faithful stewards of the gifts of previous generations, we use only a percentage of the investment income from our endowment (based on a 3-year average) and never use the principal. By including St. Luke's in your estate/will, you can add to this support for generations yet to come.
- **Parking Lot Rent:** Income from renting parking spaces during the week.
- **Foundation Partnership:** Rental agreement with the Foundation for administrative space and support.

## Pledging FAQs

- **What is a Pledge?**  
A statement of intention and commitment for the upcoming year. A pledge is not a contract, it can be changed depending on life circumstances. There is no guilt or shame in not being able to give as much as hoped - life happens, and we understand that.
- **What is a Tithe?**  
Generally speaking, a tithe is giving 10% of one's income. A good practice is to work towards giving 5% to the church and 5% to other charitable organizations that you want to support.
- **Why should I pledge?**  
Pledges help us to make a faithful and responsible budget. We cannot plan for what we are not able to count. Pledging is also a sign of faith and trust in God's provision and a commitment to the church. A pledge also requires you to have a household budget, which is a good and holy discipline as well.
- **Doesn't the church have enough money?**  
We are fortunate to be able to meet our budget, but it is a very tight budget.



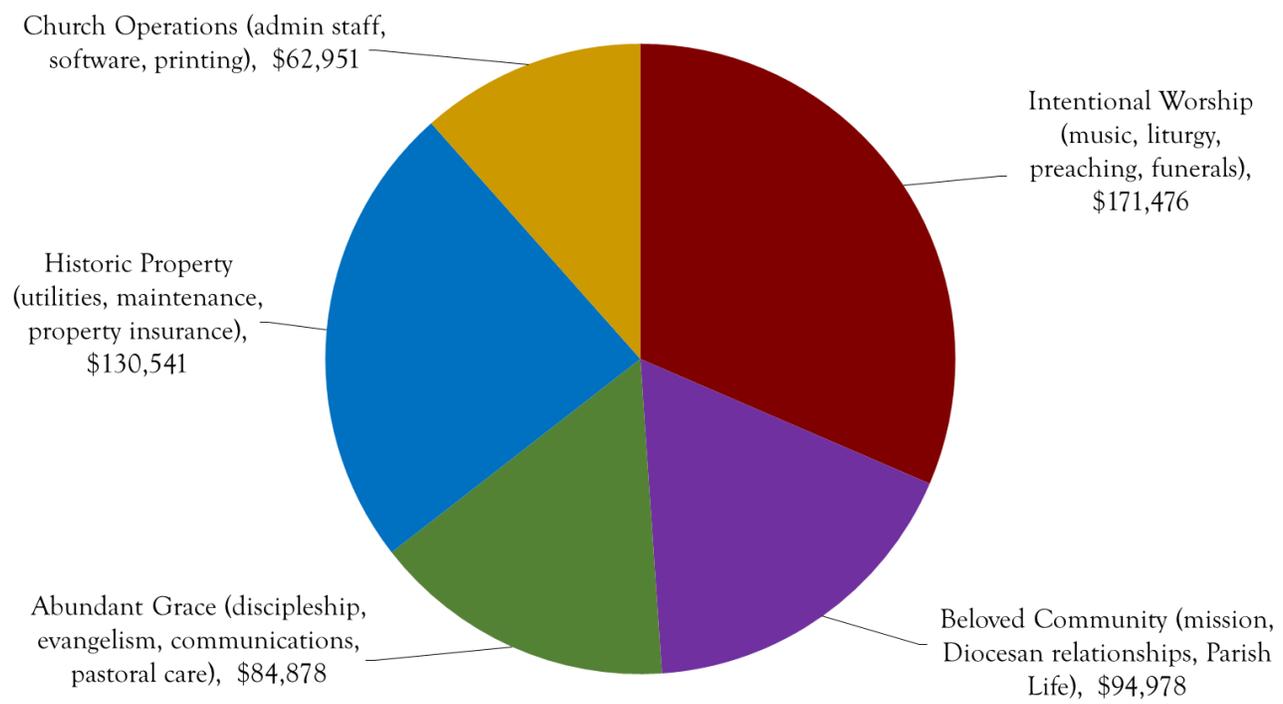
The majority of our budget is investments in our historic buildings and grounds and our staff. The Clergy section includes not only salary and benefits, but also includes substitute clergy, Deacon expenses, and professional expenses. St. Luke’s has a relatively small budget and staff size when compared to other downtown congregations in Salisbury, and yet the ministries we offer and our reputation in the community are second to none. This is a testament to the staff being good stewards of our funds and incredibly dedicated to the ministry to which they are called. We are also blessed to have many dedicated members who volunteer their time and talents which helps us in not having to pay outside contractors for their services. The only discretionary part of our budget is program expenses, which are modest.

## Our Hopes and Plans for 2023

- Maintain a balanced budget
- Give the staff cost of living raises to keep up with inflation, as well as keep up with the inevitable increases in health insurance coverage
- Continue to grow our ministries with children and youth
- Build an even more robust music program now that we have a fantastic new Director of Music Ministry as a part of the staff
- Focus on inviting more people to come and see the difference that Christ makes through evangelism

## Challenges in 2023

- Due to deaths and members moving out of town, we anticipate starting this campaign with about \$35,000 less in pledges from 2022
- Church attendance has not recovered from the pandemic
- General economic uncertainty and a shaky stock market
- Given the plans and challenges above, we are looking for 100% participation so that we can have about \$55,000 of new money in our budget (an overall increase of about \$20,000).



## What We Invest In: Intentional Worship

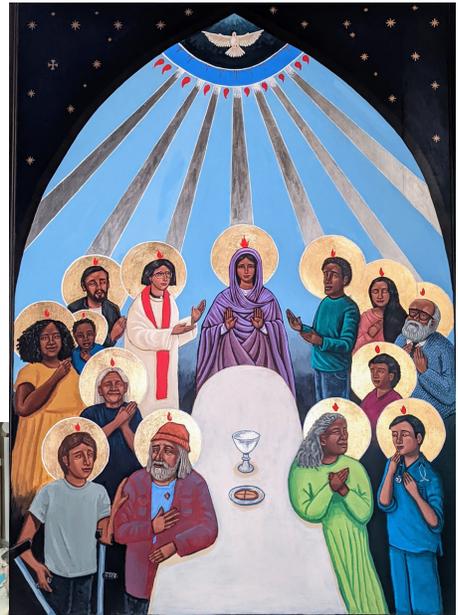


Worship grounds us in the grace and love of God and gathers us as God’s beloved community to offer our praise and thanks for the gifts we have been entrusted with. Through Word and Sacrament, we are fed and sent out into the world as the Body of Christ.

This investment includes the portion of staff and clergy time that goes into worship planning and leadership, altar guild expenses, bulletin printing and production, and our music program. It is the largest part of our budget, which is appropriate given that worship is central to our identity and mission.



In our Anglican tradition, the idea of the parish is central. The parish is not just another way of referring to our congregation, rather a parish is a geographic area for which a congregation has a duty to care for. We very much believe that God intends to grow and transform our community and that we are a part of that. Through reconciling differences along racial lines, caring for the environment, building deep and compassionate relationships with one another, and encountering Christ through serving the least of these, we strive to become the beloved community that God intends.



## What We Invest In: Abundant Grace

God's love is the most beautiful and powerful truth that there is. We are loved not because we have done anything to deserve or earn it, but because God is love and has chosen us in love. This reality transforms us and is what enables us to trust that all shall be well.



We invest in Abundant Grace by creating opportunities for people to come and see this difference that Christ makes. We do this through ministries with families, children and youth, new believers, small groups, and classes and podcasts to help members go deeper in faith.



St. Luke's is blessed to have one of the most historic and beautiful churches in the region. Our campus provides ample space for offices and meetings. These sacred spaces bring us closer to God and draw us deeper into the beauty and holiness of God. The cost of insuring, maintaining, and operating such a large campus is significant. Our buildings and grounds are true gems that we need to take care of, which requires a significant investment.



## What We Invest In: Church Operations



Just as a business has overhead expenses - so do churches. Things like health insurance, payroll services and taxes, office supplies, IT support, postage, a copier lease, software licenses, website hosting, and phone and internet service are all needed in order to keep St. Luke's functioning in the world we live in. These expenses support and equip us to have vibrant ministries.



By dividing out the annual costs for various ministries, we can roughly allocate the costs of some of our ministries to give you a better sense of how much it costs to maintain and operate the parish of St. Luke's and illustrate why we need everyone coming together to support the Body of Christ. The numbers might appear high, but they are representing staff allocation, ministry budgets, and building usage costs being allocated into a single number.

One Family Formation Night: \$986

Sunday Morning Worship: \$3,298

Pastoral Visit: \$76

Week of Office Hours: \$1,211

## Stewardship & Investing in St. Luke's

We are not running a fundraising drive or trying to meet a budget. Yes, those might be desired and helpful side effects to our primary goal of stewardship. However, being a steward is a fundamentally different way of relating to money. Stewardship recognizes that all that we have is a gift from God and that we are to care for and use these gifts in response to God's gracious love.

The first step in investing in St. Luke's is therefore prayer. Give God thanks for the gifts that have been bestowed upon us and ask the Holy Spirit to equip us as faithful stewards of these gifts.

Secondly, make a household budget. This is not only good financial advice, but it is good spiritual counsel. A budget allows us to plan for generosity and helps us to see where we are living beyond our means and how we have our spending aligned more closely with our faith.

Thirdly, we discern how we will use our resources to invest in God's mission in the world. As Jesus says, where our treasure is, so also will be our hearts. What we invest in shapes us into the people we are becoming. This is why giving is a spiritual discipline before it is a financial one. A good goal is to give 5% of your income to St. Luke's and 5% to other charities you wish to support. Even if you are not yet able to give 10% total, take a step in that direction.

Lastly, we offer our gifts to God knowing that working through us, God will do abundantly more than we can ask or imagine.

### Stewardship Committee:

Father Robert Black

Reg Boland

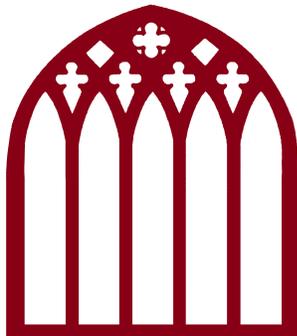
Chip Carter

Terry Courtemanche

Cathy Green

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