

Tell your story.

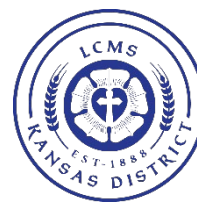
Narrative Budget Guide

Connecting Mission, Ministry, and Means

LCMS KANSAS DISTRICT (2019)

Narrative Budget Guide

LCMS Kansas District



A SHORT BUDGET STORY

Once upon a time ...
There were two boys, Ben and Zac. Ben and Zac brought something for the Sunday School collection at their church every week, but they didn't really think much about it.
Until the chicken.

Ben and Zac's Sunday School decided to get involved in Lutheran World Relief's effort to provide animals to families throughout the world.

Their goal: Raise \$40. Get a chicken!

With a concrete target in mind (see the hen and chicks over there?), giving took on new meaning for the boys.



With permission from LWR

"They were super excited about the project," said their dad. "They really wanted to buy the chicken. They even saved money specifically for that."

Was the class successful? Yes! The news was included in the weekly church announcements:

THE CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL REACHED their goal to purchase a chicken through Lutheran World Relief. They raised \$40 over the past few weeks and have a new goal to raise \$45 to purchase a pig. These animals are given to families around the world to help them make a living.

And so, their story continues.

WHAT'S THE STORY OF YOUR BUDGET?

What are your members supporting with their gifts? Why? What's the impact? How are their gifts connected to your congregation's mission and ministry activities? How are you communicating that message?

If your members are seeing only numbers in stewardship discussions, you're missing an opportunity.

Enter the narrative budget. With a narrative budget, you tell—or better yet, *show*—members how their gifts are being used and the impact they're having. The budget becomes part of your bigger congregational story about your life in Christ, not just a list of line-item figures.

When you're looking to inspire generosity and faithful stewardship, stories are invaluable (as we see throughout the Bible.)

Your primary goal with a narrative budget: Tell an inspiring story of mission, ministry, and means at your congregation.

Process Overview

If you're new to creating a narrative budget, it might help at the outset to review a summary of the steps involved, since it will take you a fair amount of time to create this document (at least the first time around). If you keep good records as you create your narrative budget, future versions should take far less time.

Step	Challenge/Time Investment	Materials Needed	People Involved
PLAN/DEVELOP BASELINE			
Initial meeting(s) to discuss the narrative budget (aims, workplan and due dates, rollout)	Moderate	This guide; narrative budget examples; recent budget materials from your congregation	Pastor(s), financial lay leaders (e.g., Stewardship Board), Church Council and/or Board of Elders
Create the line-item budget	Moderate to high	Previous year's budget; projections for the coming year	Stewardship Board, treasurer, ministry leaders church staff
REWORK THE BUDGET			
Identify mission and ministry categories	Easy to moderate	Line-item budget; mission statement	Stewardship Board, church leadership
Fit line-item budget items into categories; determine the percentage of staff time and administrative resources devoted to each category	High (key challenge step)	Line-item budget; time allocation worksheets; calendars	Stewardship Board, church leadership; ministry leaders; called and support staff
Produce a rough visual of the budget (e.g., pie chart) with the major categories, figures, and percentages	Moderate	Materials from previous steps	Stewardship Board; a good number cruncher
WRITE AND DESIGN			
Create compelling stories of ministry impact for each area (text and visuals)	High (another key challenge step, CRITICAL for the success of this project)	Supporting material (e.g., examples, statistics, facts, testimony, photos, Bible passages, letter from the pastor)	Creatives (writer/editor, photographers or people who can supply high quality photos) + ministry leaders and participants
Design and produce the final document(s)	Moderate to high	Text, photos, and graphics	Graphic designer or someone with a good eye for appealing layout
DISSEMINATE			
Determine how to share the narrative budget with the congregation	Easy to high	Depends on mode of circulation (e.g., print, web, video)	Stewardship Board, church leadership, communications staff

NOTES

- With every step above, be sure to build REVIEW into the process. Who will review the result in each step?
- **If you have limited time and resources and can do only one thing, concentrate on the “write and design” phase** and start telling a few stories about God's work in your congregation.

The Process in Detail

In the following pages, we delve a little deeper into each of the steps outlined in the process overview. As you read, please keep these points in mind:

- The information here is intended to point you in the right direction, with some helpful tips along the way. This guide is NOT exhaustive, and the examples and suggestions won't apply equally well to all congregations. Take what works, and if you have questions, feel free to contact our stewardship executive in the District Office.
- For the sake of space and easy illustration, the figures included here as examples are VERY simple (e.g., round numbers like \$10,000). Your own figures will likely be quite different.

PHASE 1 PLAN and DEVELOP A BASELINE

Initial Planning

If you're reading this guide, you're likely involved in stewardship efforts at your congregation. You might be thinking about your next annual stewardship drive or a campaign to develop a greater spirit of generosity in your church. Or maybe you're aware of significant changes to the budget on the horizon (ministry expansion, sharply rising administrative costs) and you think a fresh approach to stewardship communication will help.

A narrative budget can be a big help in scenarios like these, but before you decide to create one, it's important to discuss a few questions with congregational leaders. These initial discussions will help get everyone on the same page with goals and expectations and help you identify potential challenges.

Questions for discussion:

- The basics: What is the narrative budget? Why are we creating one? How will it work with the line-item budget in our communication to members?
- Process overview: What do we envision producing? How elaborate will it be? What's realistic in light of various constraints (e.g., time, expertise, money)?
- Resources: Who in the congregation might be able to help us complete this project successfully?
- Workplan: Who will do what by when? How will the narrative budget be rolled out?

The Narrative Budget at a Glance

Definition (for churches): A descriptive, visual version of a church's budget that tells an inspiring story of the connection between mission, ministries, and means.

Purposes: Inspire, show, persuade, engage, humanize; useful for encouraging faithful stewardship during special campaigns and throughout the year.

Length: 2-6 pages (maybe more, if your church is large and complex)

Format: Word, Publisher, InDesign, PPT, possibly video

NOTE: We use the label "narrative budget" consistently in this guide, since that language is common in stewardship circles, but you don't have to use it. You might find something you like better—e.g., illustrated budget, budget story, ministry impact report, "Our Budget at Work," etc.

Create (Review/Adjust) Your Line-Item Budget

A narrative budget does not *replace* the line-item budget. The line-item budget allows members to see precisely where money is being spent, what various items cost, and how funds are being allocated. Not everyone wants to see this level of detail, but some members of the church will. And you need it as a baseline.

Following is a simple version of a line-item budget, with a few adjustments for the proposed budget year (e.g., 3% increase in salaries and benefits; increases in some areas made possible by a loan payoff). You likely already have something similar available from previous years, so your work on this step should be fairly straightforward.

SAMPLE PROPOSED BUDGET: All Saints Lutheran Church and Preschool, Sunnyvale, KS

INCOME		
	2018-2019	2019-2020
Weekly Offerings	250,000	250,000
Preschool Tuition	40,000	40,000
Investment Income	6,000	6,000
Misc. Income/Special Gifts	4,000	4,000
TOTAL INCOME	300,000	300,000
EXPENSES		
Pastor Salary	62,000	63,860
Pastor Benefits	22,000	22,660
Administrative Assistant Salary	35,000	36,074
Admin. Asst. Benefits	10,000	10,308
Other Church Support Staff	10,000	10,308
Worship/Music	10,000	10,000
Education/Curricular Materials	6,000	6,000
Physical Plant/Maintenance	18,000	21,690
IT Support	2,000	2,000
Preschool Staff Salaries	35,000	36,050
Preschool Staff Benefits	10,000	10,300
Preschool Operations	6,000	6,250
Human Care	3,000	5,000
Mission Support/Outreach	5,000	10,000
District and Synod Pledges	25,000	27,000
Website/Advertising	3,000	3,000
Fellowship/Committee Activities	5,000	5,000
Youth/Young Adult Ministry	5,000	6,500
Office/Administrative Expenses	8,000	8,000
Loan Payoff (2019)	20,000	--
TOTAL EXPENSES	300,000	300,000

We have the basic facts here, but that's it. A few questions NOT answered by this line-item budget:

- What's our mission?
- What are our goals as a congregation? Where are we headed?
- How are our spending priorities connected to our mission and goals?
- What are we accomplishing in various areas of ministry? What's the impact of our gifts?

PHASE 2

Rework the Budget

Identify Mission and Ministry Categories

Identify your mission.

If you already have a mission statement that you use regularly, this step is done. The mission statement will be useful throughout the narrative budget process and should be included in the final document, which will allow your members to see clearly the connection between your purpose, ministry areas (where you're investing your dollars), and resources.

If you don't have a formal mission statement (or don't regularly use yours), spend some time thinking about how best to express your mission as a congregation. What's your purpose, in a sentence or two? You don't need a poetic soul to write a solid mission statement (although thinking in "threes" often works well, rhythmically). Spend some time looking at other mission statements, and you're likely to come up with something workable.

We'll use the following for our All Saints Lutheran Church example:

All Saints Lutheran Church, a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, seeks to share the love of Christ through Gospel-centered preaching, teaching, and mission outreach.

Identify primary areas of ministry.

How are you accomplishing your mission? How is God calling you to serve your neighbors? What ministry areas, emphases, or priorities characterize your life together as a congregation? (Think about the LCMS's recent emphases of "Witness, Mercy, Life Together.")

Creating categories is helpful for two reasons. First, it allows you to focus on more of the big picture, with key points of emphasis. Addressing just a few major areas (e.g., worship, community outreach) is much easier than having to justify 27 different items in a line-item budget. Second, it prompts members to think about the budget differently—to see how various expenditures (e.g., salaries, programs, administrative costs) work together to accomplish goals in a particular area.

Looking at All Saints Lutheran Church's line-item budget and mission statement, we might cluster activities in the areas of preaching/worship, Christian education, helping neighbors (missions and human care), and supporting the larger Church. You could also include general/administrative expenses as a category, but another option is to take those expenses, divide them proportionately, and include them in the four other categories (i.e., as the cost of doing business in those areas).

If you're aiming for a very basic narrative budget, you could use straightforward labels like "Christian education." If you'd like to get more creative, aim for something catchier and more memorable. **All Saints Lutheran, for example, might choose one of the following sets of terms:**

- Worship, Learn, Serve, Share
- Proclaim, Teach, Help, Give
- Proclaim the Word, Teach the Faith, Connect/Serve, Walk Together

Determine how to allocate expenses.

You're now ready to shift line items into your new categories. How much of your budget is allocated to each area?

You can approach this step in a couple of ways.

The basic approach: Simply review your line-item budget and put every line item into one of the ministry areas. Add up the totals, round them off, and you're done.

With All Saints Lutheran, for example, you could put the pastor's salary and benefits along with worship in "Proclaim the Word." Curricular materials and preschool costs would fall under "Teach the Faith." Human care and mission outreach could be subsumed under "Serve Others," while District and Synod support would fall under "Walk Together."

BUT, the pastor preaches, teaches, and serves his neighbor. Should all of the costs associated with the pastor fall in the "Proclaim the Word" category? And where should other expenses go, including support staff, IT support, website and advertising, and debt reduction?

The basic approach to number shifting is fine if you can get it to work, but you'll likely need to do at least some advanced work to determine how to allocate costs properly.

Advanced approach: Identify items that fit easily into your chosen categories. With items that remain, determine what percentage of that item—be it staff time, facility usage, supplies, etc.—should be allocated to each ministry area, and calculate accordingly. For this step, you'll need to ask staff members and other informed parties to estimate the percentage of work, time, or material devoted to each of the ministry areas.

Let's take the pastor's compensation as an example. To get a good sense for how to allocate his salary and benefits, you'll need to ask him to do some estimating (perhaps with the help of his calendar). How much time does he spend in worship-related activities? Teaching? Serving? Or something else?

Example for All Saints Lutheran (2019-20)

Pastor's salary: \$63,860

Benefits: \$22,660

Total Compensation: \$86,520



Preaching/pastoral care: 50%
\$43,260



Teaching: 30%
\$25,956



Serving: 20%
\$17,304

Go through the same process with all other areas of your budget where costs need to be spread over more than one area. If you have multiple people working on this task, think about a good system for collecting data (e.g., ask people to complete a budget allocation worksheet; an example for All Saints is included on the next page).

Sample Allocations for All Saints

EXPENSES		Proclaim	Teach	Serve	Walk Tog.
Pastor Salary	63,860	31,930	19,158	12,772	
Pastor Benefits	22,660	11,330	6,798	4,532	
Administrative Assistant Salary	36,074	18,037		18,037	
Admin. Asst. Benefits	10,308	5,154		5,154	
Other Church Support Staff	10,308	5,154		5,154	
Worship/Music	10,000	10,000			
Education/Curricular Materials	6,000		6,000		
Physical Plant/Maintenance	21,690	7,230	7,230	7,230	
IT Support	2,000	667	666	667	
Preschool Staff Salaries	36,050		36,050		
Preschool Staff Benefits	10,300		10,300		
Preschool Operations	6,250		6,250		
Human Care	5,000			5,000	
Mission Support/Outreach	10,000				10,000
District and Synod Pledges	27,000				27,000
Website/Advertising	3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Fellowship/Committee Activities	5,000			5,000	
Youth/Young Adult Ministry	6,500			6,500	
Office/Administrative Expenses	8,000	2,667	2,666	2,667	
TOTAL EXPENSES	300,000	93,169	96,118	73,713	37,000
		31%	32%	25%	12%

Crunch numbers.

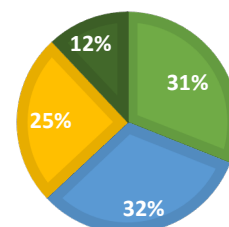
This is your final step in the accounting phase. Take the information you have and add up all the numbers to determine how much of your budget pays for each major area of your ministry.

Once you've added the numbers and checked them against the line-item budget, run another quick check. Do the numbers for each ministry area, especially in comparison to other areas, seem accurate? If something seems amiss, do some investigating. What might need shifting? Are your categories covering everything adequately?

If you're satisfied with the raw figures and percentages for your narrative budget, create a pie chart or other visual graphic. This will provide a good lead-in to the creative phase of the project.

OUR MINISTRY

■ Proclaim the Word ■ Teach the Faith
■ Connect/Serve ■ Walk Together



PHASE 3

Write and Design

PHASE 3 is key. If you don't have much time but want to do *something* different, focus your energy here.

Create compelling stories of ministry impact for each area.

With each major ministry area, identify what you're doing. Which activities are worth special attention in your narrative? What are your dollars accomplishing? What difference are these activities making? How do you know? (This story-writing assignment could be assigned to relevant coordinators, committees, or boards. If you decide to divide the work, it would be helpful to provide guidelines to writers up front and have one editor who pulls all contributions together in a unified narrative.)

As you gather supporting material, look for the following types of evidence:

- **Concrete examples** ("In the past year, we've started three new educational programs for youth.")
- **Statistics** ("We served over 1,500 meals to people in the community at our Reformation celebration.")
- **Testimony** ("All Saints Lutheran has been a real life changer for me. I was raised Lutheran, but I left the Church and stayed away for about 20 years. Now, I can't imagine not being here every Sunday, hearing about what Christ has done for me.")
- **Anecdotes** ("Eight children were baptized this year at the same font as their great-grandparents.")
- **Engaging details** ("The preschool children sang 'Jesus Loves Me' to 30 nursing home residents, many of whom joined in and sang along.")
- **Photos** (Essential!)

Think about your members. What's important to them? What do they want to know about your ministry activities?

The narrative you write for each area can take different forms, but the following basic outline is typical:

1. State the importance of the ministry area/aims (first sentence or two).
2. Provide evidence of impact (typically a paragraph or two; maybe more, if the focus warrants it).

As you're writing your narratives, keep style in mind. **Aim for short, simple, specific, and conversational** text. This isn't the place for footnotes and heavy theological reflection.

Your primary aim with your stories is to present a vivid picture of gifts being used wisely in the service of God's mission. What would convince YOU that a congregation was managing its resources well, or inspire you to give cheerfully?

The ministry narratives will account for a big part of your creative effort, but you'll also need to decide how much information to include in your document about your present stewardship drive (e.g., goals, timeline, commitment process, ways to give). Search for examples online, and you'll see that this information can be presented in a variety of ways.

Design and Produce the Final Document(s).

If you search the Web for examples of narrative budgets, you'll see that designs range from very basic to more sophisticated. The route you choose depends largely on time and resources. We've included a basic example at the end of this guide—anyone with some familiarity with Word could produce something similar. What you need for a simple narrative budget:

- Facts and figures (pie chart)
- Narratives
- Images
- Church logo

A note on images: Photos should be sharp and engaging. If you need some inspiration, flip through *The Lutheran Witness* or *Engage* or visit the LCMS online photo gallery. (Ministry in action! *That's* what you're after.)

To expand on the basics, you might:

- Add a letter from the pastor or Stewardship Board.
- Weave verses on stewardship throughout the document.
- Emphasize our vocation as Christian stewards, called to serve our neighbor with our God-given gifts.
- Pay more attention to visual appeal (e.g., use publication software like Publisher or InDesign; secure higher quality/additional photos).
- Create one or more videos to help tell your story.

That takes care of the budget itself. You might also want to produce additional materials at this point, such as short bulletin announcements or inserts profiling particular ministry areas. (See examples in the following section.)

The final step before producing the actual materials (an absolute must): Run your materials by several sharp-eyed reviewers and key church leaders and ask for feedback. Revise and adjust as needed.

PHASE 4

Disseminate the Budget

You have several options for sharing your narrative budget materials with members of your congregation. A few possibilities:

- Print copies and circulate at a congregational meeting or stewardship event. Create a coordinating slideshow, if you think that would be helpful for presentation purposes.
- Post print materials and video (if applicable) on your church website.
- Make copies available in prominent places in your church (e.g., literature tables, bulletin boards)
- Create shorter accounts that you can use in bulletins or newsletters during a stewardship campaign and throughout the year.
- Use social media to let people know about the availability of the budget.

If you'll be presenting your ministry plan at a large congregational meeting, you may want to invite several speakers to help you present the budget by telling stories of impact in various areas (e.g., invite the preschool director to share stories about the preschool ministry).

Be prepared at this stage to answer questions, especially about the budgeting process (e.g., creation of the narrative budget; cost allocations; what's included in each category).

Take note of feedback and keep those comments in mind for the next round of narrative budgeting.

Additional Resources

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The narrative approach to budgeting needn't be limited to a once-a-year ministry plan. You can keep members thinking about the impact of their gifts with regular announcements and, when appropriate, short updates from ministry leaders.

Short Announcements for the Weekly Bulletin

- Your offerings last month helped us pave our north parking lot. Safer for you, safer for our visitors!
- Last week's offerings covered tuition support for **three** students at our preschool, allowing them to grow in faith every day of the week.

Update in Monthly Newsletter/Bulletin Insert

We're now halfway through our budget year, and we're happy to report that we're right on track with our giving. Thank you for your generous support! Your contributions are critical for our ministry activities here at All Saints Lutheran. Here are just a few things made possible with those gifts:

- Our midweek education and worship night, where average attendance is now over 100!
- Vacation Bible School, which drew 56 students this year, a dozen of whom were from the surrounding neighborhood.
- Much-needed HVAC repairs—now our sanctuary is comfortable for everyone (including our visitors).

Note: Photos would work well with this example.

STEWARDSHIP VERSES

Following is a list of stewardship verses you might find useful as you prepare stewardship materials. These verses can be included in letters, the narrative budget document, slides, bulletin inserts, and/or as inspiration for a stewardship campaign theme.

OLD TESTAMENT

"The LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to work it and keep it" (Gen. 2:15).

"Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all" (1 Chron. 29:12).

"The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein" (Ps. 24:1).

"Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce" (Prov. 3:9).

"Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it" (Prov. 21:20).

"Whoever tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who guards his master will be honored" (Prov. 27:18).

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need" (Mal. 3:10).

NEW TESTAMENT

Matt. 25:14-30 (Parable of the Five Talents):

- “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master!’” (Matt. 25:21)
- “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away” (Matt. 25:29)

“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you” (Luke 6:38).

“Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48).

“Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, ‘Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them’” (Luke 21:1-4).

“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words the Lord Jesus, how he himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35).

“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful” (1 Cor 4:1-2).

“What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” (1 Cor. 4:7)

“We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us” (2 Cor. 8:1-5; see also Phil. 4:14-17; Acts 11:30; Rom. 15:26-27).

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9).

2 Cor. 9:6-15 (The Cheerful Giver), e.g., verses 11-12: “You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.”

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward” (Col. 3:23-24).

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17).

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10).

SYNOD RESOURCES

You can find a variety of stewardship resources, including stewardship principles, a “Stewardship Basics” Bible study, and “Stewardship from A to Z,” on the Stewardship Ministry page of the LCMS website (lcms.org).

QUESTIONS ABOUT NARRATIVE BUDGETS?

Contact Rev. Dan Galchutt, Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship, in the Kansas District Office at dangalchutt@kslcms.org or 785-357-4441, ext. 222.

Sample Narrative Budget (Basic): All Saints Lutheran



ALL SAINTS
Lutheran Church

2019-2020 Ministry Plan GOD'S GIFTS AT WORK

Dear Friends in Christ,

Exciting things are happening at All Saints, by the grace of God! We're blessed every week with faithful Word and Sacrament ministry, excellent education offerings, and opportunities to serve our neighbors. As an added blessing this year, we finally paid off our building loan, which has freed us up to invest more in other mission priorities.

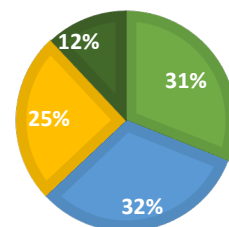
Our 2019-2020 Ministry Plan highlights how our gifts are making a difference—among our members, in the community, and beyond—as we "Proclaim the Word," "Teach the Faith," "Connect/Serve," and "Walk Together" with partners in the Gospel. We're grateful for the generosity you've shown in supporting our shared work at All Saints and pray that our gifts will continue to be used for the glory of God and His kingdom.

In Christ,

The All Saints Board of Stewardship

OUR MINISTRY

■ Proclaim the Word ■ Teach the Faith
■ Connect/Serve ■ Walk Together



All Saints Lutheran Church, a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, seeks to share the love of Christ through Gospel-centered preaching, teaching, and mission outreach.

OUR MINISTRY PRIORITIES AT ALL SAINTS

Proclaim the Word

31% of Budget

At the heart of our life together is Christian worship, an opportunity to come together to hear God's Word, receive forgiveness, be strengthened in faith, and offer praise and thanksgiving to our Lord. Our pastor, musicians, and other staff faithfully guide our worship every week, offering two services every Sunday, a Wednesday evening service, and a variety of special services, including funerals, weddings, and—new this year—feast days.



In 2018-19, Pastor Mitchell baptized five children, welcomed four new families, and confirmed six youth and seven adults. He also visited 14 homebound members monthly, bringing Word and Sacrament ministry to their places of residence. (One of those members, Marge Olson, has started inviting her neighbors at Woodlawn nursing home to join her when Pastor Mitchell comes to visit.)

Our Lord says, "Abide in my Word." Through your gifts, we're able to ensure that God's Word—faithfully preached, read, and sung—is all around us.

Teach the Faith

32% of Budget

We're charged with being faithful to God's Word, which requires that we KNOW God's Word. At All Saints, we're blessed with enthusiastic teachers who help us expand and deepen our knowledge of God's Word. In addition to weekly Sunday School classes for all ages, we offer midweek Bible studies, two book groups, confirmation classes for youth and adults, Vacation Bible School, and youth group. In the past year, we also hosted two guest speakers at special Saturday conferences (one on the book of Revelation and one on campus ministry), and we participated in the Synod's *Every One His Witness (E1HW)* program. One *E1HW* participant said she had a chance to apply what she learned in a conversation with her cousin, who had drifted from the church. "He called me a few weeks after we talked with a few faith questions," she said. "I shared what I knew as best I could and encouraged him to talk to our pastor."



For our little ones, we also offer a Christ-centered education at All Saints Preschool. Have you visited the school? If not, please make an appointment to stop by! You're sure to hear and see Christ's love everywhere—in the Bible stories, wall decorations, and the hugs from Mrs. Janusek, who will be celebrating her 15th anniversary as lead teacher this year.

We're "training up children in the way they should go." And when they're older, we stay the course.

Connect/Serve Others

25% of budget

In Galatians we read: “Serve one another humbly and in love” (Gal. 5:13). The members of All Saints engage in a variety of service activities, all enabled by your support. Our Human Care, Fellowship, and Youth Committees provide organized support for a variety of tasks. We maintain a human care fund to help those in need, whether they’re members of our church family or community members who stop by and ask for assistance. We take donations for Helping Hands, a community assistance program. We make our facilities available for ESL classes and Alcoholics Anonymous. Members and community groups use the All Saints Preschool gym for youth sporting events and financial management classes. All Saints is a busy place!



Our service to others extends beyond our church walls. Pastor Mitchell spearheads a disaster response team and serves as a circuit visitor in the Kansas District. And All Saints joins other LCMS churches in the area to help at the annual community Summerfest.

Walk Together

12% of budget



All Saints is one of about 6,000 congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and one of 160 congregations of the LCMS Kansas District. We’re “partners in the Gospel,” helping to support the shared work of the district and Synod. That work includes mission support at the state, national, and international level, resource development, programming (such as *re:Vitality*, which is on our radar for 2020), church planting, disaster relief, and education.

We also use gifts in this category to support three missionaries: Rev. Dale Nyquist in Nigeria, Nurse Mary Kelly in Togo, and Rev. Peter Santos in Belize. Some of you might remember the presentation last year by Rev. Nyquist, which included a video of his mission work. Seeing his African seminary students singing “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” (LSB 656) was truly inspiring. What a blessing these shepherds will be to those they serve!

THIS is what your gifts are accomplishing.

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

— Colossians 3:23-24 —

WHAT'S NEXT?

We appreciate your contributions to the mission and ministry at All Saints and welcome your continued support and prayers in the coming year as we work to "build up the body of Christ in love" (Eph. 14:6).

Ways to participate in 2019-20:

- ✓ Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to contribute to our shared work at All Saints in the upcoming year. Every gift—no matter the size—matters!
- ✓ Fill out your 2019-20 pledge card and bring it to Stewardship Sunday on June 23, 2019. If you're not able to attend, drop the card off in the church office. Additional pledge cards are available in the narthex and the church office.
- ✓ Watch for updates on our mission and ministry priorities in the monthly newsletter. Please keep all our ministries in your prayers! (If you'd like to get involved, contact a member of the All Saints staff.)
- ✓ Attend congregational stewardship and budget meetings in the coming year. Bring your questions and ideas.
- ✓ Contact a member of the Stewardship Committee, Pastor Mitchell, or our Board of Elders with any questions you have about our work here at All Saints.

Stewardship Board Members

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