

2021 Approved Spending Plan



Live In God's Word
Live *With* God's People
Live Out *God's* Love
Live Through God's *Grace*

What We Believe

As Lutheran Christians, we believe in the salvation, hope and the new life that comes through the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

God's grace and goodness draws us into relationship with God, all of the people of the earth, and all creation. We believe that God calls us to be a part of God's mission in this world and to join in showing love, mercy, and compassion to others.

We are part of a larger church body called the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. For more information about what we believe and who we are, please go to www.stmarklacey.org or www.elca.org.

Benevolence - \$ 31,190.00

As members of the ELCA, we do mission together through our financial giving. We do God's work in ways that no individual, congregation or synod can do alone.

Benevolence is the portion of our weekly financial offering that this congregation shares with the Southwestern Washington Synod and the church wide organization, the other two expressions of this church. Sharing Jesus' message of love around the world; it is the lifeblood of the work that God does through the ELCA.



Utilities - \$32,389.87

Property Taxes, Insurance, Gas, Electricity, Water, Sewer, Trash, Telephone, Internet, and Cable. The utilities of St. Mark keep things moving. Most of our missions here require spaces to be heated, illuminated, and safe.

Mortgage - \$35,784.00

St. Mark is blessed to have a wonderful piece of property here in Lacey. Through the years many changes and improvements have been made. We have grown from a farm house that housed all activities at St. Mark to the structures we have today. Currently we have a mortgage with Thrivent Financial. The monthly payment required on the mortgage is less than \$3,000. Payment of this mortgage is an essential part of the continued growth of our congregation.

Buildings & Grounds - \$9,800.00

Buildings and grounds can be leveraged to support a church's mission and to extend its presence in the community. Maintaining this physical presence allows us the ability to provide the congregation and visitor with a safe and beautiful place to worship and a peaceful location where they might rest and contemplate the nearness of God.



Administration - \$72,259.87

The church administration keeps our programs and services running. Administration is communication, scheduling, interaction, diplomacy, resource management, and much, much, more.



Music - \$83,599.65

Music supports and enhances the worship service. Our message is enriched through the talents of many, guided by dedicated and gifted professional musicians. 'Let your song rise up.' St. Mark without music is hard to imagine.

Stewardship - \$11,696.33

Stewardship is not just financial giving but taking care of those gifts that the Lord has given us and sharing them with others. Money, time, expertise, love and even a warm smile are all to be shared. We can never run out of something worthwhile to give."



Education - \$21,647.06

The acquisition of scriptural knowledge is a lifelong, sacred activity, pleasing to our Lord. The more knowledge we have of biblical truths the greater influence we can exert for good on those around us.



Worship - \$95,147.38

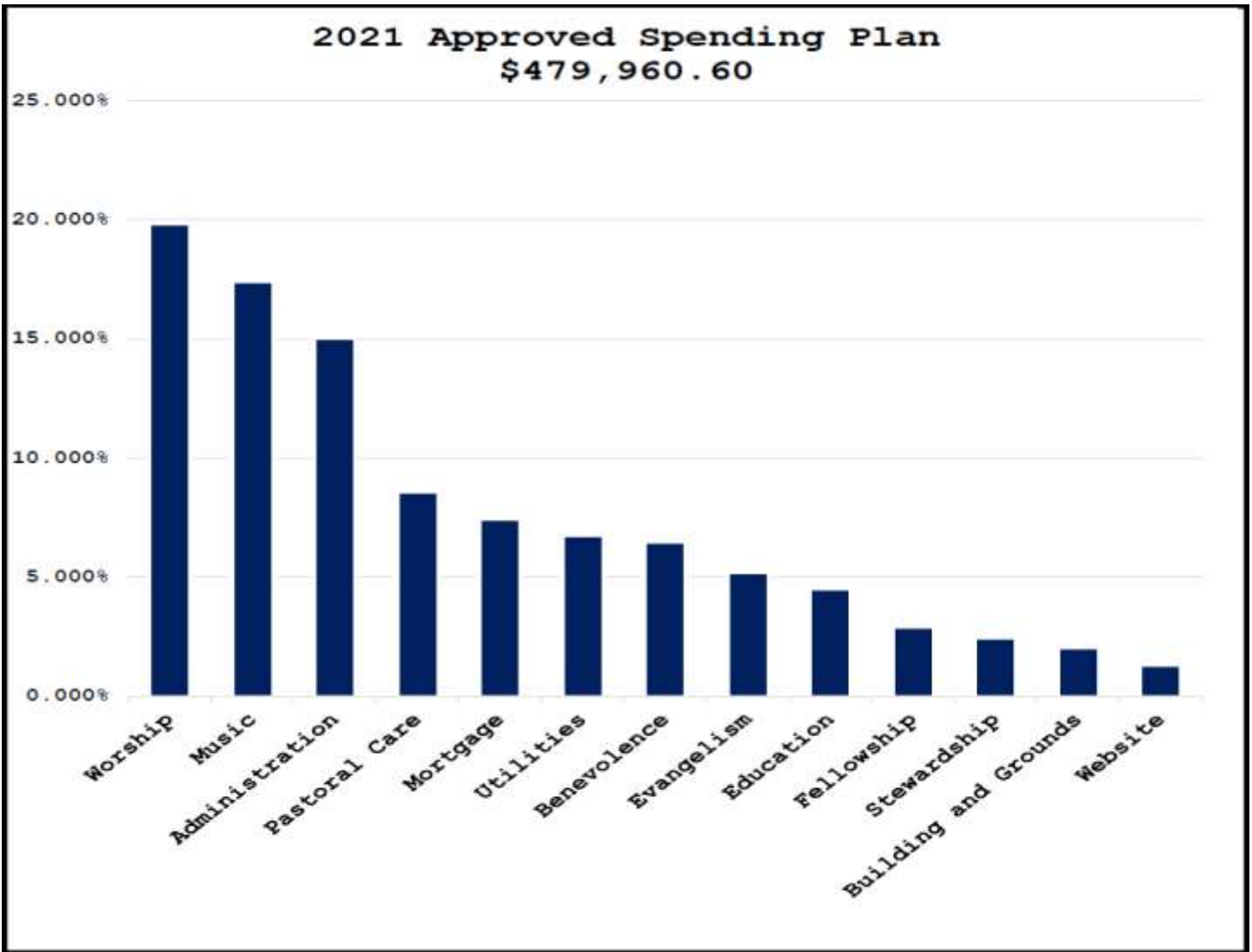
We gather for worship on Sunday mornings, with two services. In the weeks leading up to Christmas and Easter, we have additional weekday evening services. Worship is liturgically based, with a variety of musical settings. All are welcome at the Lord's Table each Sunday. There are many opportunities for member participation in the various worship opportunities.

Fellowship - \$14,041.91

Fellowship abounds at St. Mark, from the coffee and snacks between worship times, to potluck meals. We have wonderful space for groups to meet for planning and conducting the business of the church, as well as fellowship opportunities. There are on-going groups such as Seniors Together, St. Mark Old Guys, and a hiking group that is just starting.

Evangelism and Website - \$31,264.81

God's work, our hands. What a beautiful image as God calls us to serve others in our community. We plant and harvest food, we minister to home bound congregational members, we provide clothing to homeless youth and give them a safe place to clean their clothes, we give back packs to homeless kids, and we have branched out to our local school district. These are just some examples of how we do God's work. Evangelism is the heart of St. Mark. St. Mark's robust web site draws the community to our congregation. It informs and inspires our members and others by sharing sermons, congregational news and up coming church life events.



Pastoral Care - \$41,139.72

Pastoral Care includes all the ways in which the pastors care for the people of God. Primarily, this includes such things as preaching, teaching, counseling, leading worship, listening to confessions and offering absolution, prayer, baptisms, Confirmation, weddings and funerals. We also receive the Word of God individually from our pastors to comfort us when we are troubled, to strengthen us when we struggle, and to give us counsel and guidance.

Our pastors care for each of our members, not only through their public preaching and teaching of the Word of God, but also by bringing that Word into our homes, when we are hospitalized or home bound, or when we are burdened by sorrow, grief, or shame. In addition, our pastors care for members of our community who are in need of spiritual support. It is important to be together as the people of God.





Non-Budgeted Money Spent in 2020 for the Missions of St. Mark

Capital Improvements and Remodeling Projects	\$ 55,444.83
Pastoral Sabbatical Planning	\$ 85.19
Clean Kids	\$ 995.78
Food Bank	\$ 7,651.25
Mountain View School Project	\$ 290.00
Endowment Holding	\$ 6,030.00
Quilters	\$ 32.90
Smogs	\$ 91.00
Staff Gifts	\$ 7,477.90
Special Service Offerings	\$ 385.00
Youth [Gatherings, Events, and Projects]	\$ 2,621.61
Youth Summer Music	\$ 1,500.00
Garden	\$ 3,081.83
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 9,576.00
St Mark Neighbors	\$ 465.00
Branching Out	\$ 200.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	\$ 100.00
Living Stones	\$ 1,061.25
North Thurston Homeless Youth	\$ 2,475.98
Women of the ELCA	\$ 350.00
Roundabout Project	\$ 6,575.47
SAFI	\$ 345.00
Computer Replacement	\$ 1,566.33
St Mark Member 2 Member	\$ 2,700.00
Homeless Backpacks	\$ 2,590.00
ELCA Covid-19 Response	\$ 104.19
Post High School Learning	\$ 600.00
Technology Grants	\$ 230.34
Total	\$ 114,626.85





ELCA members in more than 9,300 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately \$1.75 billion in regular offering to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide. When members give through their congregations, a percentage of that money is then shared with the local synod and the national churchwide organization.

This unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, gives us both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world and a portion of the gifts circle back to support ministries in synods and local congregations. Of these unrestricted gifts, the churchwide organization receives around 2.6 percent. This represents the largest portion of the ELCA churchwide organization's operating budget.

Your Mission Support helps fund the following churchwide ministries:

Grow the ELCA in the United States



- Enable congregations to renew their ministries and reach out to their surrounding communities.
- Work together with our African Descent, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Latino/Latina members to develop networks and resources for ministry.
- Develop and share resources for faith, discipleship, prayer and worship.

Grow the Lutheran church around the world



Send 230 missionaries in more than 48 countries, and more than 84 Young Adults in Global Mission in 11 country programs.



- As a member of The Lutheran World Federation, we're in communion with 145 member churches and directly connected to 85 companion churches in other countries.
- Accompany new Lutheran churches, expand ministries, and train leaders and evangelists.

Provide coordination and support for churchwide ministries



Maintain constituent database, including 1.1 million records of rostered and lay leaders, members, donors and congregations.

- Preserve and maintain archives and historic records of the ELCA and its predecessor bodies.
- Provide office space, equipment and human resources for staff and operations.
- Process 150,000 gifts to ELCA ministries.
- Equip congregations and synods with resources to assist in risk management and legal matters.

Support and develop current and future leaders in the ELCA



9,900

Support and develop current and future leaders in the ELCA Recruit, prepare and implement a system for the assignment of 9,900 rostered ministers.

- Support the work of seven ELCA seminaries and 26 colleges and universities.
- Identify, connect and provide ministry resources and opportunities for networking for lay leaders.
- Offer events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults.

Invest in technology and communications



Design and maintain communications tools to strengthen our Lutheran identity and grow awareness of our church and its mission and ministries.

Connect members with one another through new technology and systems.



Provide governance and leadership



Organize lay and clergy leaders from across the church to serve on the governance boards and committees that provide guidance and oversight for ELCA ministries.



65

Coordinate meetings and support for 65 synodical bishops.

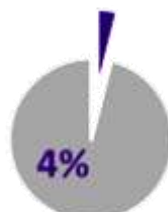
Grow and sustain financial resources



Develop and promote efforts related to stewardship education, financial literacy, mission interpretation and growth in giving to all church ministries.



Address social issues and work for justice



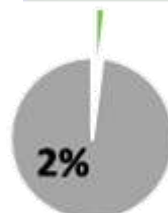
1 in 50

Support social ministry organizations, such as Lutheran Services in America, to impact the

- Engage in churchwide study and deliberation to create social statements and resources that address social, political, environmental and other public issues.
- Equip members and leaders to advocate with lawmakers in order to support policies that promote justice and peace.

Your designated gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response provide additional funds annually to address hunger, poverty and suffering around the world.

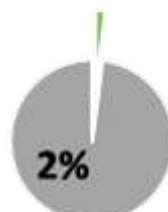
Engage in research and strategic planning



Research and analyze trends that impact the ELCA and develop innovative strategies to improve mission and ministry in the 21st century.



Sustain ecumenical and interfaith relationships



Seek unity in faith and life with all Lutherans and six full communion partners.



Facilitate dialogue and common action among communities of other faiths, including the development of resources and communications for ELCA congregations.

ELCA NEWS



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The ELCA has worked with Lutheran World Relief to repurpose \$160,000 in project funding for emergency responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

In Latin America, the funding will be used for food assistance in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, which have been hard-hit by the coronavirus and the resulting economic disruption that is causing increased hunger. In Africa, the support will provide improved water, sanitation and hygiene, along with personal protective equipment, to displaced communities in South Sudan. And a project in Nepal will ensure that quarantine facilities are hygienic and comfortable, and that households economically affected by COVID-19 are able to cultivate their crops and sustain their small-scale businesses.

“The ELCA has a tradition of standing with our global neighbors in good times and in bad,” said the Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA. “Our partnership with Lutheran World Relief is a reflection of that strong commitment and allows us to deepen and extend it in this time of extreme crisis.”

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8051>

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

As members of the ELCA, we believe God is calling us into the world – together. ELCA World Hunger is our church's ministry working to break the cycle of hunger and poverty. Through Global Mission's international programming, gifts to ELCA World Hunger were at work in over 60 countries in 2018.

The world provides enough food for all, but more than 800 million people around the world face chronic hunger. We believe in a God of abundance, so as a church, we live out our call in baptism to strive for a just world where all are fed. Internationally, this includes supporting the transformative ministries of our companion churches and partners around the world.

Eswatini/Swaziland

By growing spinach and tomatoes to feed her family, Mary Zwane is helping make her rural community of Luggedzeni less vulnerable to HIV and AIDS. With funds from ELCA World Hunger, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa–Eastern Diocese supplied seeds and training to 482 gardeners, indirectly feeding almost 3,000 people. The project's objective is to improve the quality of life in three rural communities for orphans, vulnerable children, the elderly, people living with HIV and people living with disabilities.



Mrs. Maziya (right), treasurer of the Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, purchases spinach from Mary Zwane (left).



WATER & SANITATION



EDUCATION & TRAINING



AGRICULTURE & NUTRITION



INCOME & SAVINGS



HEALTH



PEACE, JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS



ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

To learn more, visit ELCA.org/hunger.



Lutheran World Federation staff direct relief in Mozambique after Cyclone Idai.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

Mozambique/Zimbabwe

In March 2019, Cyclone Idai ravaged Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi, causing more than 1,300 deaths and \$2.2 billion in damages. "I saw rocks and muddy waters coming into our room, and soon I was half-buried under rubble," said Enia, who lost her husband, home and possessions in Zimbabwe's Chimanimani district. Funds from Lutheran Disaster Response are helping the Lutheran World Federation and other partners walk alongside people such as Enia, offering food, shelter and psychosocial support and strengthening early-warning systems. Thanks to them, said Enia, "I am able to survive."

To learn more, visit ELCA.org/disaster.



A Message from Congregational Council & the Financial Planning Committee

This year we are again attempting to provide you with a motivational view of how our financial gifts relate to the various ministries within our congregation.

The sections on the inside of this brochure reveal the amount of the spending plan that will be devoted to each ministry area. Additionally, each section provides some insight into how those resources will be used in that area. By combining pictures and brief comments, we hope that you will be left with an inspiring vision of each of our ministries. The line chart provides a graphic representation to visually relate the portion of our overall budget that is devoted to each area.

The Approved Spending Plan for 2021 contains increases for staff and clergy in order to abide with the minimum recommendations of the Southwest Washington Synod of the ELCA as well as a 6.5% benevolence for a total increase of \$7601.61.

This plan represents less than a 1.61% increase compared to the 2020 spending plan.

In addition to our tithes and offerings which support our spending plan, we are blessed as a congregation to have designated funds to pursue many of our ministries and goals.

Again, it is our hope that this narrative will provide an inspiring vision of our spending plan here at St Mark.



Detailed information about this Spending Plan can be obtained through the Church office.

A Message from Pastors Eric and Beth Utto-Galarneau

We are Pastor Eric and Pastor Beth Utto-Galarneau. Thank you for seeking to know more about us and our congregation! As pastors, we feel blessed to serve with the people of St. Mark.

St. Mark Lutheran Church is a place of grace. We are a diverse group of people who seek to live as loved and forgiven children of God. We are life-long Lutherans, people of many other faith traditions, and those with no faith background at all. Together we pray and play, serve and share, laugh and learn, feast and fellowship, and worship and witness. St. Mark is a congregation with the generous heart of a servant-reaching out with the love of Christ to each other, to this community, and to those around the world.

We invite you to explore with us what it means to live as disciples of Christ and to love God as we love our neighbor. All are welcome to grow in God's love and share together in the journey of faith.

We are a Clergy Couple sharing a 1.5 time position at St. Mark. We are happy to be here! St. Mark is an amazing place filled with talented, loving, generous, faithful people.

We came to St. Mark in the summer of 2012. Before being called to St. Mark, we served congregations separately in Palo Alto (Beth) and Santa Clara (Eric), CA, and together in South Lake Tahoe, CA, and Aberdeen, WA. While in Aberdeen, Beth also taught 6th grade half time and Eric ministered as a hospital chaplain. Both of us grew up in Washington state-Beth in Ridgefield and Eric on Camano Island. We met while attending Pacific Lutheran University.

Prior to becoming pastors, Beth taught elementary school and Eric worked as a social worker. Beth completed her Masters of Divinity in 1993 at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago and Eric finished his in 1997 at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley.

We have two college-aged children, a daughter and a son. All of us enjoy playing sports, trips to Disneyland, being creative, and spending time outdoors.

We welcome you to St. Mark!

