ST MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LIKE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE MANIFOLD GRACE OF GOD, SERVE ONE ANOTHER WITH WHATEVER GIFT EACH OF YOU HAS RECEIVED.

— 1 Peter 4:10

Tell Out My Soul

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

NOV 2, 2025 | 11:00AM

Please come and join us for a day of prayer and celebration as we give thanks to God for the gifts in our lives.

Tell Out My Soul

Jesus said: My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples

— John 15:8

LETTER FROM THE STEWARDSHIP CHAIR

Dear Friends,

Our Stewardship campaign is a chance to reflect on the many ways that we are connected to each other. Our theme this year focuses on the stories we tell and the ways we are called to share our words, our actions, our love, and our joy with the world. This year, with all that has been going on in the news, in our homes, schools and offices, and ever-shifting economic forecasts, the one constant has been the connections we have formed here in our church.

Our stories bring us together. Each of us has a story to tell, a reason why we found this congregation and continue to participate. Each of us has dreams, ambitions, and great ideas, just as each of us has struggles and moments of difficulty. One of the parts of our Good News is that we can bring our whole selves, all our story, to this place and to these people, and receive the support, encouragement, and praise that we need.

We will be hearing so many stories in our campaign this year: artists, musicians, poets, weavers, and more. Each of them focuses on the inspiration they receive from God and how their soul transforms those inspirations into art, music, words, and objects. This same process happens in you as you seek ways to share your gifts from the inspiration and blessing you have been given.

With this letter, I am sending campaign materials for you to use in your discernment for how you will share the Good News of your transformative creativity and abundance with us and with our neighbors. Each hour spent volunteering, each good idea that you have, each dollar that you donate is transformed through prayer and Grace into ministry and mission. We could not be an example of love and compassion in our community without your many and various gifts. Please return your pledge cards by [date] so that we may include them in our ingathering and bless them.

Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!

Jamie Cairo

We invite each of you to take a moment to reflect on this year's stewardship theme, "Tell Out My Soul." This powerful phrase calls us not only to recognize the blessings in our own lives, but also to share our stories of faith and gratitude with others. Consider how your individual journey—the challenges you've faced, the victories you've celebrated, and the moments of grace you've experienced—can inspire and uplift those around you. How does your narrative intertwine with the mission of our church? In what ways can your talents, time, and resources serve as a testament to the transformative power of faith in action?

AND MARY SAID,
"MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD,
AND MY SPIRIT REJOICES
IN GOD MY SAVIOR..."
— LUKE 1:46-47, NRSV

Caring for our
CHURCH

SUPPORTING WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Worship and Music includes paying our clergy and musicians, the care and maintenance of our organ, required publications, licensing, and subscriptions. It also covers worship supplies, as well as the purchase and repair of sacred objects and vestments. Our 2026 goal includes continuing to fund a part-time Music Director, maintain our 100 year old pipe organ, continue to offer sacred music for services that are in the English choral tradition, support singing scholarships for college students, and offer services and rites that spiritually nourish the parish.

CARING FOR OUR CHURCH

We care for our church by maintaining its heating system, updating its electric, internet, and sound systems. We also are tasked with caring for the physical exterior and interior of our historic church. Our 2026 goal is to attend to differed plaster and painting, restore woodwork, update the carpeting, and perform other structural repairs. Additionally, we plan to convert the old music room downstairs from the All Saints Chapel into a Preschool Sunday School space for use by toddlers and parents in our congregation.

CARING FOR GUILD HALL

The Hall is the space where we gather for events, store the church's records, provide space for the clergy and office staff to do their work, store items for our homeless ministries, and cook and serve meals. Some space in the Guild Hall is rented out to our anchor tenant: Library Square school. We maintain their classroom spaces so that they meet all current regulations and requirements. Our Sexton also lives on the top floor of the Hall. In 2026 we hope to continue to renovate the used space in the building, address some water issues on the roof, and attend to our HVAC systems and the parish kitchen. We also hope to create a library space where the church's historical documents can be studied.

CARING FOR OUR MEMBERS

St. Matthew's provides spiritual and pastoral care for its members. This provided by the Rector and a dedicated care team. As we move into 2026, the parish is seeing new groups forming: Women's scripture study and devotional group, a men's devotional group. Our book club continues to offer an opportunity for general fellowship. We hope to expand our capacity to serve and help our members through a new initiative we are calling "helping hands" where parish members who need help around their homes can request assistance with tasks they are unable to perform.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Our parish seeks to re-establish its connections and ministry to our neighbors. St. Benedict's Circle is working to create relationships with other churches and social service agencies to address the needs of the homeless in our neighborhood. Our Giving Wall provides person essentials such as clothing and personal hygiene items. With the support of our Bishop, we hope to expand our ministry in 2026. We also hope to augment our Soup Kitchen work at the Shalom Center with our own locally hosted meals for the needy. We further plan, to get our parish reconnected to the Diocesan ministry work in Haiti.

FORMATION AND EDUCATION

Spiritual formation and scripture study are essential to the life of discipleship. Opportunities are provided by the Rector throughout the year for Bible Study. Spiritual reflection and formation opportunities are offer in sync with the calendar of the church year. In 2026, we hope to continue to build the parish's library of resources for these purposes. We also hope to offer a spiritual retreat for those interested in deepening their understanding and experience of their faith.

ANNUAL GIVING FINANCIAL REPORT

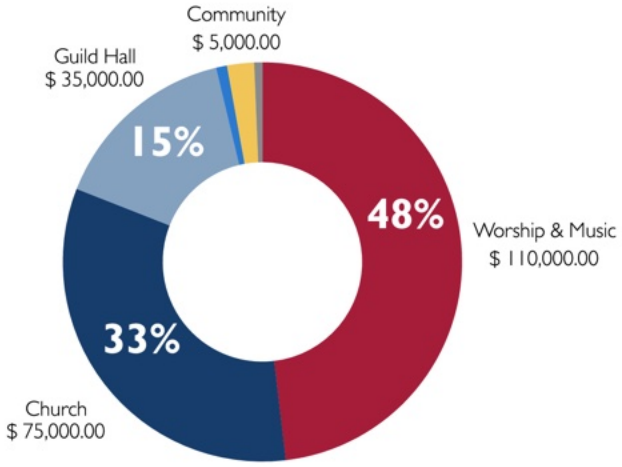
The work of our parish relies on the generosity of our congregation. The church receives the vast majority of its income from annual pledging. We also receive additional gifts from our members that are given for specific ministries and projects, as well as receiving interest earned on the church's modest investments. On occasion, we also receive small grants from the Diocese of Wisconsin to assist us with our ministries. We are currently unable to run a completely balanced budget without making withdrawals from our investment accounts. In 2026, the parish desires to try to move forward financially - in order to attend to deferred repairs and restorations in the church itself, the refresh our common community areas of the Guild Hall, as well as being able to invigorate our ability to care for each other and our neighborhood. Included below is a picture of our planned finances for the coming year. Your pledge of time, talent, and treasure will make this possible.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2026

Our proposed budget for 2026 is **$228,000.00**

HOW MONEY WILL BE ALLOCATED

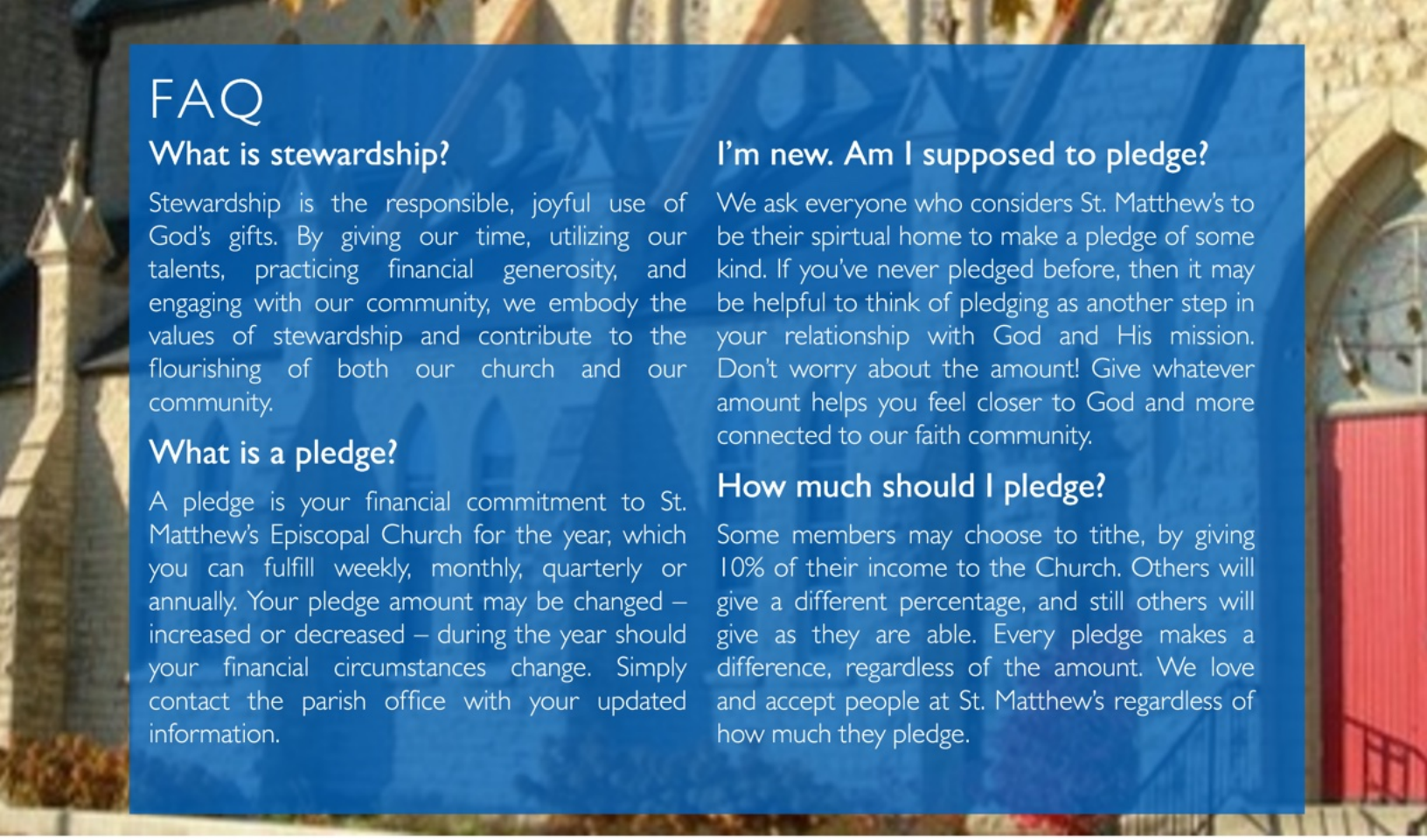
Supporting Worship & Music	$	110,000.00
Caring for the Church	$	75,000.00
Caring for Guild Hall	$	35,000.00
Caring for Our Members	$	2,000.00
Caring for Our Community	$	5,000.00
Formation and Education	$	1,500.00
TOTAL	**$**	**228,500.00**



LOOKING AHEAD

We have ambitious goals for the upcoming year. Our financial objective is to increase our overall pledges to support our evolving programs, promote our educational initiatives, and enhance our facility. **An increase of $166 of giving per month per family will fully fund our priorities.** This increase will allow us to introduce new programs that cater to the needs of our growing congregation and address community challenges.

We invite each one of you to consider your level of support for the upcoming year. Encouragingly, the average pledge among our congregation stands at $2,794.35, which highlights the commitment many of you have made. However, we want to remind everyone that every contribution counts, regardless of the amount. Whether you are able to pledge $1.00 or increase your previous pledge, your support plays a vital role in helping us achieve our goals. We invite each member to prayerfully consider their pledge for the year ahead, knowing that even the smallest donation can make a significant impact in our mission. Let's come together as a community and show that every gift matters!



FAQ

What is stewardship?

Stewardship is the responsible, joyful use of God's gifts. By giving our time, utilizing our talents, practicing financial generosity, and engaging with our community, we embody the values of stewardship and contribute to the flourishing of both our church and our community.

What is a pledge?

A pledge is your financial commitment to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church for the year, which you can fulfill weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. Your pledge amount may be changed – increased or decreased – during the year should your financial circumstances change. Simply contact the parish office with your updated information.

I'm new. Am I supposed to pledge?

We ask everyone who considers St. Matthew's to be their spirtual home to make a pledge of some kind. If you've never pledged before, then it may be helpful to think of pledging as another step in your relationship with God and His mission. Don't worry about the amount! Give whatever amount helps you feel closer to God and more connected to our faith community.

How much should I pledge?

Some members may choose to tithe, by giving 10% of their income to the Church. Others will give a different percentage, and still others will give as they are able. Every pledge makes a difference, regardless of the amount. We love and accept people at St. Matthew's regardless of how much they pledge.

WAYS TO GIVE

Pledges can be paid as a single gift, or designated installments of your choosing. St. Matthew's is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a federal tax id of 39-0842455

Online

Contributions can be made online as single or recurring payments. Simply visit the *Giving Online* section of our website or text 262-846-6002 and follow the prompts.

Check or Cash

Mail to the church office and pay weekly, monthly, or annually, your choice! Contributions can also be made through weekly offertory.

Stocks

Donating stocks and mutual fund shares offers you valuable financial benefits including being tax-deductible. Contact our Financial Advisor, Pat Johnson, for details.

Direct Charitable Distribution from IRA

Donate directly from a traditional IRA to a charity without it being considered a taxable distribution (age 70-1/2 or older).

Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

DAF accounts allow donors to make a charitable contribution, receive an immediate tax deduction and then recommend grants from the fund over time.

Matching Program

Contact your employer to inquire about charitable matching gifts

Planned Giving

Planned giving, also called legacy giving, consists of any gifts that are made through financial or estate plans. They're typically deferred, meaning the funds will not be disbursed until after the donor passes away.

For more information on making a donation or pledge, please contact Jennifer Merritt, our Office Administrator, in the church office:

5900 7th Ave, Kenosha WI 53140
(262) 654-8642
stmatts5900@gmail.com

St Matthew's Episcopal Church

My 2026 Promise

This year, our focus is on the rich tapestry of our Christian narrative, a story that began at Creation and weaves through the lives of the faithful, culminating in the transformative power of the Good News. Just as the Gospel of Luke opens with Mary's joyous proclamation of her encounter with God's promise, and closes with Mary Magdalene carrying the message of resurrection, we too are called to share our own Good News—the dreams and challenges placed on our hearts by God.

As you consider your pledge for the upcoming year, reflect on how you can share your talents and gifts to make a difference. Let us celebrate the stories that unite us and the lives we can impact by spreading God's love to our neighbors. Together, let us contribute to the ongoing narrative of faith, hope, and community at St. Matthew's!

MY 2026 PLEDGE

My total pledge for the 2026 calendar year is $_____

SIGNATURE: _____

I/we plan to pay my/our pledge by:

❑ Online ❑ Check/Money Order ❑ Donor Advised Fund ❑ Other: _____

**Checks should be payable to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church*

I/we plan to make pledge payments:

❑ weekly ❑ biweekly ❑ monthly ❑ quarterly, or ❑ annually in _____ quarter

GIVE ONLINE

Please use the QR code to make payments by credit card, debit card, or ACH bank transfer. Choose one time, weekly, biweekly, monthly, or annually recurring gift.

❑ I will make my gift online this year, please look for my gift.
(please complete this form even if you give online)

Bring your pledge to Stewardship Sunday service on November 2nd at 11:00am, submit via mail using the envelope provided, or make your pledge online at **stmatts.breezechms.com/give/online** or **text 262-846-6002**

PLANNED GIVING

Planned giving is an act of generosity that allows you to support our church in a way that aligns with your financial situation and personal values. It's a promise, not just to our immediate needs, but to the future of our parish. Please contact me about:

❑ Gift matching through my company, family, or foundation
❑ Securities made through stocks, bonds, CDs, or other marketable securities
❑ Personal property such as real estate, land, vehicles, or other assets.

Tell Out My Soul

I/we desire to serve and support the following:

❑ Altar Guild (7:30am)
❑ Altar Guild (11:00am)
❑ Adult Choir
❑ Lay Reader
❑ Eucharistic Minister
❑ Occasional Musician
❑ Usher/Greeter
❑ Preschool/Sunday School
❑ Coffee Hour

❑ St. Benedict's Circle
❑ Sacred Sips: Women's Faith Group
❑ Men of the Way: Men's Faith group
❑ Eldergarten Volunteer
❑ Healing Prayer
❑ Eucharistic Visitor
❑ Giving Wall/Food Pantry
❑ Soup Kitchen
❑ Haiti Partnership

❑ Vestry
❑ Hospitality Team
❑ Diocesan Convention Delegate
❑ Buildings & Grounds Team
❑ Pastoral Care Team
❑ Finance Team
❑ Woman's Book Club

CONTACT INFORMATION

If your contact information has changed in the past year, or if you'd like to be added to The Mentor mailing list or Announcements list, please complete the following information. Thank you for taking the time to help us be better stewards of God's blessings and more accurate in our record keeping. If you have any questions, please call us at 262-654-8642 or email stmatts5900@gmail.com

Address Incorrect? Please make any changes below:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

BIRTHDAY (Month/Day): _____ ANNIVERSARY (Month/Day): _____

❑ Please add me to the parish birthday & anniversary announcements list.

❑ Please add me to the church mailing list. I would like to receive The Mentor by: EMAIL or MAIL *(circle one)*

PROPORTIONAL GIVING

When you make a proportional gift, you set aside your first fruits, dedicating a portion of your wealth, works & wisdom to God. This is a sacred act. Your financial gift rises and falls with your income – it is right-sized to your household. Giving back to God is a lifetime journey; setting a percentage allows you to step up your giving over time.

Income		WEEKLY TITHES			Weekly Proportional Giving								
Annual	**Weekly**	**15%**	**12%**	**10%**	**9%**	**8%**	**7%**	**6%**	**5%**	**4%**	**3%**	**2%**	**1%**
$20,000	$385	$58	$46	$38	$35	$31	$27	$23	$19	$15	$12	$8	$4
$30,000	$577	$87	$69	$58	$52	$46	$40	$35	$29	$23	$17	$12	$6
$40,000	$769	$115	$92	$77	$69	$62	$54	$46	$38	$31	$23	$15	$8
$50,000	$962	$144	$115	$96	$87	$77	$67	$58	$48	$38	$29	$19	$10
$75,000	$1,442	$216	$173	$144	$130	$115	$101	$87	$72	$58	$43	$29	$14
$100,000	$1,923	$288	$231	$192	$173	$154	$135	$115	$96	$77	$58	$38	$19
$150,000	$2,885	$433	$346	$288	$260	$231	$202	$173	$144	$115	$87	$58	$29

$2794.35: The 2025 average for yearly offerings per person at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is slightly lower than the $3,093 median pledge for the Episcopal Church nationally.

Why is it important to pledge?
The tradition of giving back to God and to the church comes from the Biblical practice of tithing, which means to return a tenth of our earnings to the Lord. Financial Stewardship is an important component of our life in Christ. Returning to God a portion of what He has given us, is a tangible way to express our faith. When each of us give as we are able, together we can continue to sustain our ministry, transform lives across our congregation, community, and do God's work and will in the world.

Does it matter how much I pledge?
Some members may choose to tithe, by giving 10% of their income to the Church. Others will give a different percentage, and still others will give as they are able. Every pledge makes a difference, regardless of the amount. We love and accept people at St. Matthew's regardless of how much they pledge.

WHICHEVER WAY YOU PLAN TO GIVE, PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME AND YOUR ENVELOPE NUMBER