



ST. LAURENCE  
CHURCH  
FAITH | FAMILY | TRADITION



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STEWARDSHIP  
2024





“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”  
— Acts 2:42





# FAITH. FAMILY. TRADITION.

It's What We Believe. It's Who We Are. Grounded in Scripture.

If you asked anyone here how they would describe St. Laurence, they would inevitably come to the words: Faith, Family and Tradition. Our faith in the one true God and His holy scripture, guides all that we do. Our love for each other, our support of each other and our genuine enjoyment of each other is truly special in a world where most people just walk by and maybe, nod their head in greeting. Our upholding of a tradition of worship that has been passed down from Jesus Himself, sustains us and fortifies us for the daily battle with the world and its enticements.

Our Faith. Our Family. Our Tradition. It brings us back here time and time again, to a Church, a people and a worship that we can't live without. God is with us and is drawing us to Him and to each other.

Here at St. Laurence, we are living out Acts 2:42. "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." That's it. That's where our Faith, Family, and Tradition were forged. Deep in God's word, it undergirds all we do and who we are.



# DEAR PARISH FAMILY,

Thank you for all you've done to support the mission of St. Laurence! Through your generosity, St. Laurence continues to be a wonderful place to experience God's goodness and unconditional love. We seek to be a Church that is deeply in love with God (Faith), deeply loving toward one another (Family) and deeply rooted in the historic Christian Faith (Tradition).

Somebody asked me recently, "Father, what's the new mission of St. Laurence?" I reminded her that our mission is an ancient one, given by Jesus Himself in the Great Commission: to baptize, to teach, to make disciples, all with the assurance that He is always with us. It's an unchanging and yet ever new mission, that requires a fresh commitment to walk with Jesus each day. Everything we do at St. Laurence: our worship, pastoral care, evangelism, and spiritual growth all work toward advancing His mission.

As you thumb through this packet, I hope you have the same sense that I do: God has richly blessed our Church. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the clear story that is told on these pages is one of abundant blessings. Surely our right response to that can be nothing other than tremendous gratitude.

As you take a look at what you can do financially to support the ministry of Christ here at St. Laurence, please know that I thank God for each and every one of you. This place is unique and special because you make it so. I hope you'll join Liz and me, and so many St. Laurence families, in financially supporting the critical mission that God has laid before us.

Faithfully,  
Fr. John Jordan  
Rector



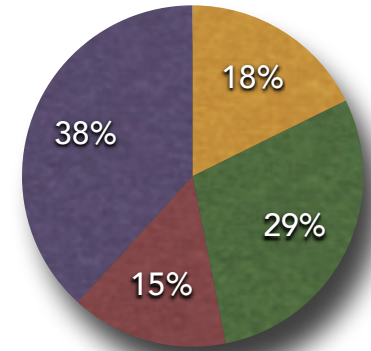
# HOW WE SPEND GOD'S MONEY

In last year's 2023 stewardship campaign, \$1,070,782 was pledged. In our budget, we planned on an additional \$286,163 of income through non-pledged offerings, gifts, Parent's Day Out tuition, etc. for a total income amount of \$1,356,945.

Every dollar we spend supports our ministry work. Expenditures are divided into 4 categories:

- **Spiritual Growth:** Includes children and youth ministers' compensation, nursery, Parish events, hospitality, youth group, Christian education, Parent's Day Out and VBS.
- **Worship:** Includes music staff compensation, Choral Scholars and outside musicians, altar supplies, building repairs and maintenance, landscape, cleaning, security, utilities, property insurance, altar flowers and debt service.
- **Evangelism:** Includes support of the Diocese of Northern Malawi, GRACE, Nashotah House Seminary, Union Gospel Mission, Camp Crucis, mission trips, the diocesan assessment and all other outreach.
- **Pastoral Care:** Includes clergy and office staff compensation, insurance, payroll taxes, office supplies, and normal office expenses.

● Spiritual Growth ● Worship  
● Evangelism ● Pastoral Care







“Sanctify yourselves;  
for tomorrow the  
Lord will do wonders  
among you.”  
— Joshua 3:5







“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”  
— 1 Peter 4:10





# WITH GOD'S GUIDANCE, MUCH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN 2023

God has blessed St. Laurence and has guided us to achieve some amazing things this year.

In 2023:

- **So many baptized into the body of Christ!** It's a record year for us with 18 babies and youth sealed and marked as Christ's own, and it's only October.
- **Malawi ministry continues to grow.** Our Adopt a Student program grew to support even more who want the chance to further their education. The priest's house in Mzuzu is almost completed and will soon help our partner priest to better serve the people of his parish.
- **The Summer of Prayer continued.** A team of prayer warriors (this year over 50!) prayed for everyone in the Parish again summer. We heard from so many of you that this was incredibly meaningful and that new friendships were forged through this special connection.
- **Choir is Lifted Up.** Some much needed risers have been added to the choir loft and new wood flooring is now in place. So not only does the loft look beautiful but we can see the choir and hear their beautiful voices better when they are spaced in a more professional way.
- **Revelation Bible Study sees huge attendance.** Our Wednesday nights are flourishing with so many people engaged in learning about the book of Revelation, connecting more deeply with our Lord and with each other.
- **Parish Social Events are booming.** Trunk or Treat, St. Laurence Day, Oktoberfest, Mardi Gras - all of our social events have had tremendous turn out. Y'all love to be together!
- **Children & Youth programs are bearing astounding fruit.** Our High School, Middle School and God Squad youth groups are bursting with youth who are committed to being together and to serving together. Mission trips continue to be their most favorite activity.
- **Kids' Sunday School forges strong bonds.** The new learning format developed last year has had a surprising affect. With classes now more interactive, the kids are engaging with each other more readily and developing strong friendships earlier. It used to be that these bonds were formed when the kids got old enough for youth group. Now they're starting in Sunday School and are being carried into Youth Group, resulting in some unprecedented participation.
- **Assistant Youth Minister Hired.** With the explosion in our youth programs we have now hired Liam Estes to assist our Youth and Children's Ministers, be active with our youth groups and mentor to our young men.
- **Youth take leadership role in Diocese.** Summer camp at Camp Crucis, Youth Rally, New Beginnings Retreat: our youth are leading the way as leaders and participants in diocesan events. They're making friends around the diocese, bringing them to St. Laurence, and many are joining in our activities.
- **Parent's Day Out flourishes.** In its 6th year now, Parent's Day Out extends its ministry to provide a solid foundation of Christian teaching and Anglican tradition to God's littlest ones, and to embrace their families.



# WHAT ARE WE ASKING FOR IN 2024?

Continue the Work We are Already Doing  
Strive to Make it Better

Our Stewardship Campaign funds the day to day operations of our Church, focusing on our core ministries of worship, evangelism, spiritual growth and pastoral care. The Capital Campaign, which will launch in the spring, is for the building of a new Parish Hall and the renovation of the existing Parish Hall.

## What we are asking for the Stewardship Campaign now:

- If you have made a pledge in the past, please keep your pledge the same for 2024
- If you haven't pledged before, please consider doing so, giving back to God out of what He has given you

0%  
Increase

Please keep your pledge  
the same for 2024.  
The big ask for the expansion  
is coming next spring.

## Why aren't we asking for an increase?

Because we will be asking for a significant commitment from everyone in the spring for the Capital Campaign, we are simply asking for you to pledge the same amount next year as you have given this year. Our hope is that any additional resources you have will be given to the expansion.

## Next Steps

Next week you will receive a pledge card in the mail. We ask you to please pray. Ask God to guide you in how you can be a part of what He is doing in our ministry together. Then bring your pledge card to Church on Sun, Nov. 5, drop it in the mail or pledge online.

Thank you for your generosity!





# FAQ's

## 1. Why should I pledge? Can't I just give what I want when I want?

Of course you can. But if instead you can estimate what you will be able to give next year, it helps us to plan our budget so we know what ministries, programs, and staffing we can afford.

## 2. Why are you asking me to keep my pledge the same?

We will be asking you for an additional commitment in the spring to our Capital Campaign for the new Parish Hall. Our hope is that all additional resources you have may be given to this project. If you wish to pledge more to this stewardship campaign, we will greatly appreciate it and use it toward advancing our mission.

## 3. What if I've never pledged before?

Please do so now! It's just your best estimate of what you will give to God's work at St. Laurence in 2024.

## 4. Can I change my pledge if circumstances change during the year?

Be assured that you can change your pledge and your giving at any time. You get to decide what happens with your giving.

## 5. Should I set my pledge up on auto-draft?

Yes, please do. It helps you to give steadily throughout the year without having to remember each month to donate. It also helps us to have a steady income each month.

## 6. How do I tell you my pledge?

Next week, you'll receive your pledge card in the mail. Complete it with your pledge amount and bring it to Church on Sun, Nov. 5, drop it in the mail, or pledge online.







**A PRAYER FOR  
GOOD STEWARDSHIP**

Father, you are the giver of all good gifts. Guide us to be generous with all that you give to us, that we might use our resources rightly, to the praise and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen







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