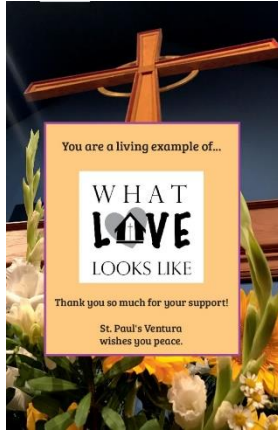


# How to Make a Pledge

Please think and pray about this important decision, and then complete a pledge card or simply let us know how much you'd like to pledge in any way that is convenient for you – mail, call, email, etc.



## Ways to Give

Donations may be made by cash, check, PayPal, or you can Text StPaulsVentura to 73256. You can also arrange online payments through your bank, click the "Give" button at [www.saintpaulsventura.org](http://www.saintpaulsventura.org) or use the QR code below.

## Consider a Legacy Gift

Remembering the church in your estate planning is a wonderful way to give a gift that keeps on giving long after our years. Your generosity can benefit future generations. This is a great time to make these arrangements.

## Have any Questions?

Please contact the church office. We're always happy to hear from you! We'd be glad to answer your questions over the phone, via email or to set up a meeting with you.

## Your Pledge will Make All the Difference

When we remember that we are Rooted in Abundance, we give out of gratitude for the many amazing blessings that God has given us. With gratitude for all who have given to get us this far, we ask your support for the coming year. Please make a pledge today. Thank you for your generosity!

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

10am Sunday School begins

10:15am Service with Holy Eucharist

11:30am Coffee Hour

All are welcome!

Attend Services in-person or online at:

- [www.SaintPaulsVentura.org/live](http://www.SaintPaulsVentura.org/live)
- [www.facebook.com/SaintPaulsVentura](https://www.facebook.com/SaintPaulsVentura)
- [www.YouTube.com/StPaulsVentura](https://www.youtube.com/StPaulsVentura)



Since founded in 1889, St. Paul's has been a source of comfort, strength, and inspiration.



St. Paul's continues to follow Jesus, worship ministries and welcome all.



Over 134 years and still growing strong. Dedicated to the mission and ministry of 134 more!



# St. Paul's Ventura



## Because of YOU...

The generosity of so many people has carried us through the past 134 years. We are grateful for every gift, every pledge, every dollar, every volunteer, everything that has kept this congregation going and growing. Now we ask for your pledge to support the church through the year 2024. Does your gift make a difference? **Yes, it makes all the difference!** Thank you so much for your generosity.



## Rooted in Abundance

*They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when he comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. Jeremiah 17:8*

### Asking your Support

Welcome to this year's Annual Giving Campaign. We are asking you to please pledge to support the mission, ministry and growth of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The materials in this pledge packet will introduce you to the campaign and explain our goals for the coming year. We ask you to please think and pray, then pledge to support St. Paul's Operating Budget through the year 2024. We really appreciate your support!

### This Year's Theme

This year's campaign is called Rooted in Abundance. It's a reminder to us that we are inspired to give because so much has been given to us. We give because we are grateful for God's love and abundant blessings in our lives. We give because we love this church and want to see it continue to thrive.

### Remembering we are Rooted in Abundance

This is a challenging time to be a church, but we walk in faith. Our members have been generous, and God has shown us again and again that we are Rooted in Abundance. This has been made clear to us over and over again throughout the past 134 years that St. Paul's Ventura has offered our mission and ministry to the world. We are so grateful to those who came before us who started, supported and sustained St. Paul's for over 134 years. And now, we ask you to give out of gratitude for the gifts God has provided. We pray that everyone will bless the church with their generous pledge for the coming year. We give thanks to God for the opportunity to do this important and sacred work and Thank You for the generosity that makes it possible.

## Why make a proportional gift?

Recently retired Bishop of Olympia, the Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel, stated that the tithe is only the beginning point. As Christians we give one hundred percent of what we have in gratitude for God who gave us everything there is. We're *all in*.



### When you make a proportional gift:

- You set aside your first fruits, dedicating a portion of your wealth, works, and 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 life-time journey; setting a percentage allows you to step up your giving over time.*



QR Code to our Website's Giving Page where you can make a pledge, find more information, and see a proportional giving chart.



## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

3290 Loma Vista Road, Ventura, California 93003  
[office@saintpaulsventura.org](mailto:office@saintpaulsventura.org) 805 643-5033



## 7 Ways Your Pledge Makes a Difference

### 1 Operating Expenses & Staff

With your help we can keep the church running, pay our monthly bills, purchase supplies, and produce bulletins, newsletters, and promotions. We can also take care of our dedicated staff.

### 2 Sunday Worship Services

As a liturgical church, the heart and soul of who we are is expressed in our worship services. Your pledge makes it possible for us to offer weekly worship services as we have for over 134 years.

### 3 Music Ministry

Our beautiful and inspiring music lifts our spirits and connects us with God. Your pledge helps us to provide wonderful music as an important part of our worship experience.

### 4 Youth & Children's Ministries

We provide Christian Education through our Sunday School and Youth Group Programs. Your pledge makes it possible for us to support families as they develop their faith.

### 5 Prayer & Pastoral Care

Taking care of those in need is one of our most important callings. With your help, we can continue to support the sick or shut in and provide prayer and support to those who need it.

### 6 Fellowship & Formation

All are invited to enjoy the fellowship and hospitality following Sunday services. We also offer many opportunities for life-long formation as we learn and grow in the knowledge and love of God.

### 7 Outreach

The people of St. Paul's have a heart for outreach. We take seriously our call to serve Christ by serving the world. Your pledge will help us continue this very important work.

# Church Budgeting:

What does it cost to run the church for a year?

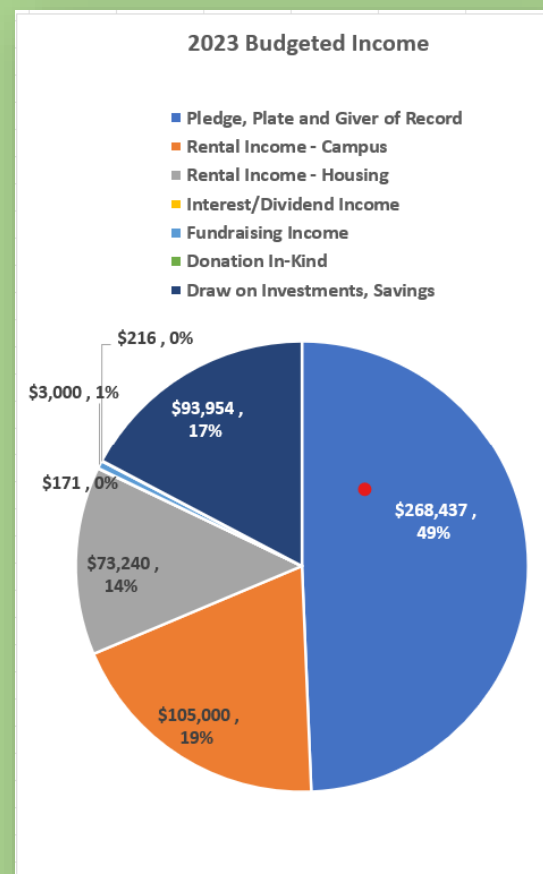
What does our pledge money cover?



The church Operating Budget varies from year to year depending on income, needs and what the Vestry chooses to focus on that year. The pandemic caused much strain. Even after cutting corners in many creative ways, we find ourselves running a deficit budget – spending more money than we bring in. We realize that this must be corrected. So, we renovated the Gooden Center and now have it rented out, serving women who are on the journey of sobriety while bringing in much needed funds to sustain the church. Though that helps a lot, we still need to do more – either by decreasing spending or by increasing income. Here's where we stand so far:

### OPERATING INCOME – Where does the money come from?

The funds we have to work with come from pledges payments, plate donations and other gifts, but also from campus rental income, facility use fees and fundraising. We also draw from some funds from our savings, and we make a small annual draw on our investments. In 2023, most of the pledges have come in consistent with the initial pledge commitments. Rental income has been consistent, and with the recent addition of the Gooden Center, our rental income will increase significantly over last year. We are grateful for everyone who supports our fundraisers big and small. They all help to make a difference!



- **49% Pledge, Plate and Giver of Record** (a giver who doesn't have a pledge)
- **19% Rental Income – Campus:** La Famiglia Preschool, Kindermusik, Ventura Charter School for Arts and Sciences and Pulse Drumming.
- **14% Rental Income – Housing:** San Pablo House and Gooden Center.
- **1% Interest/Dividend Income**
- **Less than 1% Fundraising Income**
- **Less than 1% In-Kind Donations**
- **17% Draw on Investments and Savings**

### EXPENSES – Where does the money go?

- **60% goes to Employee Costs** – Our staff currently includes one full-time Clergy, a part-time Parish Administrator, a part-time Sexton (groundskeeper), a part-time Music Minister, a part-time Choir Director, a part-time Organist, an ASL Interpreter, and three part-time positions in Youth & Children's Ministries.
- **14% goes to Buildings & Grounds** – cleaning services and supplies, landscaping services, property taxes, trash pickup, utilities, and security as well as upkeep and projects on campus. We have a very large campus and feel that it's important to keep up with the maintenance and not let the campus fall into disrepair. The Buildings & Grounds Committee forecasts the projects we'll need to do in the coming year and the approximate cost.
- **13% goes to Administrative Expenses** – everything it takes to keep the office running and the congregation up to date, including: telephone and internet, copier lease, office supplies, bookkeeping software and services, technical equipment and maintenance, insurance, account and program fees, and postage.
- **9% goes to Mission Outreach** – costs associated with the ways we reach out to the world in the name of Christ including: our pledge to support Mission Congregations in the Diocese, our Deanery dues, and a gift to support Theological Education. We also pledge to support operations of Family to Family and support various programs that serve our neighbors in need.
- **5% goes to Program Expenses** – this does not include the clergy or staff needed to run the programs, they are in Employee Costs. Program Expenses consists of all the supplies needed for worship services—altar supplies, flowers, hospitality, etc. It also covers music and choir supplies, organ maintenance & repair, and the curriculum, supplies, and materials for all our programs including Sunday School.

