

## 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 130 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

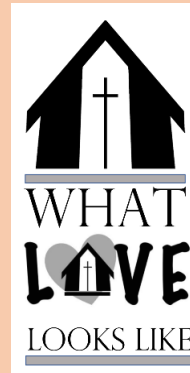
### Fellowship & Formation

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.



Thank you  
for your generosity!



### How to Make a Pledge

Please think and pray about this important decision, and then let us know by completing 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.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
3290 Loma Vista Road  
Ventura, CA 93003  
[office@saintpaulsventura.org](mailto:office@saintpaulsventura.org)  
(805) 643-5033

### 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. Our generosity can benefit future generations.

### Have any Questions?

Contact the church office, we'll be happy to hear from you!

(805) 643-5033

[office@saintpaulsventura.org](mailto:office@saintpaulsventura.org)



### Ways to Give

Donations may be made by cash, check, PayPal, or 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 this QR code.



Empty Church...



...Empty Plates

1

Honoring the  
PAST

2

Providing Spiritual  
Support through the  
pandemic in the  
PRESENT

3

Preparing for the  
FUTURE

ST. PAUL'S  
VENTURA, CA  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WHAT  
LOVE  
LOOKS LIKE



## Giving

### To Secure a Bright Future

St. Paul's is a pledging community, which means that the funds we need to operate come primarily from the generosity of financial commitments from our members. Some follow the Biblical principle of tithing, giving ten percent of their income to the church, while others commit a lesser amount. Some give weekly or monthly while others make a one-time annual gift. Everyone is asked to give as they are able. Each financial pledge is a blessing and whatever you pledge is much appreciated!



## LOVE Looks Like an Empty Church

Our church has stood empty for the past six months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is empty out of a concern for ourselves and our neighbors. Love is why we stay away. This is a huge sacrifice for our members. We long to be together. We miss the in-person worship experience and love we feel when surrounded by our church family. Out of love we make this sacrifice. For now, an empty church is what love looks like.

### The Church May be Empty But our Ministry Continues

Though the church is empty, our hearts our fill and the work of the church carries on. We offer weekly online worship services. We continue feeding the hungry and serving our neighbors who are in need. We work to keep our members separate but supported and, our small group ministries help us continue to grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

### Your Pledge Is What Love Looks Like

Please prayerfully consider how you can support the ongoing mission and ministry of St. Paul's so that we can sustain the church we love through this challenging time and secure a bright future for years to come. Every gift helps. When we put them together, every gift can make a big difference. We're so grateful for your pledge!



# WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE

## What is Stewardship? Why is it an important part of the Christian Journey?

*All that we have, all that we are  
and all that we can do  
are gifts from God.  
Stewardship is the way  
we show our gratitude.*

*Through acts of careful and loving  
stewardship we help to bring the  
blessings of God to the world  
in the name of Christ.*

*Stewardship is what we do after  
we say "I believe..."*

*Stewardship is not fundraising  
but the Christian act of caring for  
and investing in the mission and  
ministry of the church out of  
an abundance of appreciation  
for God's gifts to us.*

*Stewardship is living into  
a vision of ministry  
in a concrete way.*

*Stewardship is the main work  
of the church.*

*Stewardship is the way we use  
all our resources, including:  
our time,  
our talent  
and our treasure.*

*Stewardship is something  
we all do together.  
We hope that every member  
of the church will contribute  
in whatever ways they can.  
It is especially important  
to have a pledge – any amount  
can help us to the important work  
we are called to do.*

*Thank you for joining us in this  
wonderful journey of faith!*

## Church Budgeting:

What does it cost to run the church for a year?  
What does our pledge money cover?

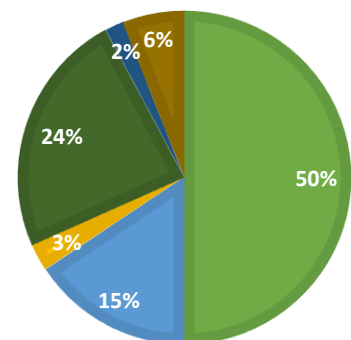
The church Operating Budget varies from year to year depending on income, needs and what the Vestry chooses to focus on that year. In 2020 we changed our budget to include some of the employees brought in during the Comprehensive Growth Project so they could continue their wonderful work. Here's a quick look at the 2020 Budget. What will happen in 2021? That depends on how much income we can expect and what happens with the pandemic.

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

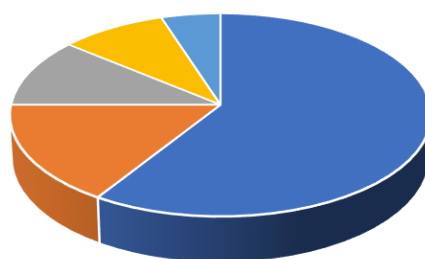
The funds we have to work with come from pledges payments, plate donations and other gifts but also from campus rental income, facility use fees and fundraising. We also draw from some funds (savings) and continue to use up some money that remained after the Comprehensive Growth Project concluded. In 2020 most of the pledges continued to come in despite the pandemic. Unfortunately, some of our renters have been unable to keep up with their rent, fundraisers had to be postponed and several potential new renters did not move in. Things are "on hold" as we wait for schools to be able to reopen after the danger passes.

#### SOURCES OF INCOME

- Pledge, Plate and Gifts \$293,400
- Leases and Rental Income \$91,944
- Fundraising \$15,800
- Comprehensive Growth Project Funds \$139,500
- Other Funds \$10,976
- Draw on Investments \$35,091



#### 2020 Budgeted Expenses



- Employee Expenses \$326,270
- Buildings & Grounds \$101,325
- Administrative Expenses \$67,300
- Mission Outreach \$56,186
- Program Expenses \$33,050

### EXPENSES – Where does the money go?

1. **59% goes to Employee Costs** – Our staff includes two full-time Clergy, a part-time Parish Administrator, a part-time Sexton (groundkeeper), a part-time Music Minister, a part-time Assistant Music Minister, a part-time Organist, an ASL Interpreter, and an hourly Nursery Care Provider.
2. **16% goes to Buildings & Grounds** – This category includes: cleaning services and supplies, landscaping services, property taxes, trash pick up, 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 Building and Grounds Committee forecasts the projects we'll need to do in the coming year and the approximate cost.
3. **11% goes to Administrative Expenses** – This category includes everything it takes to keep the office running and the congregation up-to-date, including: telephone and internet, copier lease and office supplies, bookkeeping software and services, technical equipment and maintenance, insurance, account and program fees, and postage.
4. **9% goes to Mission Outreach** – These are the costs associated with the ways we reach out to the world in the name of Christ. They include: our pledge to support Mission Congregations in the Diocese of Los Angeles, a small amount for Deanery dues and a gift to support Theological Education. We also pledge to support operations of Family to Family (this does not include the food needed for our turn each month to help feed the hungry), and support various programs that serve the needy locally and throughout the world.
5. **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 and Youth Group.

St. Paul's, Ventura

We worship Jesus, nurture  
ministries and welcome all.

### #HolyDistancing



*We are the Church*

### #AllareWelcome



### #ASLminute



### #SeparatebutSupported



### #KeepingtheFaith

Your pledge makes all the difference!  
Thank you so much for your support.

**ST. PAUL'S**  
VENTURA, CA  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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