



HOPE IN ACTION

A PLEDGE CAMPAIGN
FOR 2025

OUR CORE VALUES

INCLUSIVE FELLOWSHIP

We are a community of Christians who believe that St. Mark is a place of welcome and belonging. We value the individual gifts of every part of our community and work together to find new ways to build connection and understanding across boundaries.



For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

1 Cor. 12:12-14



INTENTIONAL STEWARDSHIP

We celebrate the abundance God has put in our lives: our gifts and skills, our faith, our relationships, and our finances. We intentionally share these gifts of abundance with one another, our church community, and the whole world.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:10-11

ACTIVE COMPASSION

We seek out meaningful ways to serve each other and our neighbor and we spend time listening to the world around us. We work to practice the extraordinary love of Jesus Christ through our worship, service, and fellowship.



I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35



RESPONSIVE FAITH

We believe that the voice of God is active and vibrant and we seek to respond in joyful faith and hopeful optimism. We celebrate the movement of God in our worship and our daily lives. We celebrate all that God has done and look with trust to the future.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

Isaiah 6:8

"The abundance of our lives is not determined by how long we live, but how well we live. Christ makes abundant life possible if we choose to live it now."

-Barbara Brown Taylor

WHAT'S A PLEDGE?

a pledge is a commitment to give your time, talent, and financial wealth as an expression of faith and a joyful response to the abundance of God

A PLEDGE HELPS THE CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP EFFECTIVELY PLAN FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR AND INVITES EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY TO CONSIDER THE PLACE OF GOD IN THEIR LIFE.

Traditionally, pledging has been thought about as a question: *how much money are you going to give?*

Our intention is to transform our understanding of pledging to ask a different question: *how are you sustaining your relationship with Jesus and with our community?*

Pledging is for everyone – regardless of your giving amount, your time commitment, or your worship attendance, pledging is important for everyone.

Our 2025 pledge campaign invites a focus on three areas of our life together as people of God: spiritual, relational, and financial.

This campaign is an invitation to discernment. Take time to consider how God is calling you to grow in your commitment of time, talent, and money to the ministry and mission of St. Mark.

How will you respond to the abundant love that God has already given to you?

There are three components to consider. As a part of the visioning process, your church leadership is developing new and engaging ways to care for each component of your life as a member of this community.

SPIRITUAL

It might seem like a given, but a commitment to regular worship and prayer is a key part of life with God. In worship and prayer, we connect with God, our neighbor, and ourselves.

1. Consider your prayer life – where might you be able to spend more time in conversation with God?
2. Consider your worship life – what does your worship attendance look like?

RELATIONAL

While we worship alongside familiar faces, we don't always know one another. This component invites us to deepen our relationship with one another and with the ministry and programs of St. Mark.

1. Consider your time and skills – are there places you could spend more time in service?
2. Consider joining a small group – We are in the process of developing small groups as a way to help us connect beyond the walls of Sunday morning.

FINANCIAL

Did you know it costs over \$19,000 a month to keep our church operating? Our giving covers about 57% of those costs. Currently, we sustain our budget through our endowment, grant money, and ministry support from St. Mark's Christian School. What might it look like to respond with joy to the abundance of God in your life?

1. Consider your regular giving – can you grow your giving by 5%? How about 10%? or even 15%?
2. Consider your planned giving – sometimes we call this “estate planning” as well. How might you care for the long-term needs of St. Mark by giving via your estate or in other, planned ways? We'll have more opportunities to discuss this in the coming months.

**WE WANT TO ASK A NEW QUESTION:
HOW ARE YOU SUSTAINING YOUR RELATIONSHIP
WITH JESUS AND WITH OUR COMMUNITY?**

BY THE NUMBERS

The chart below reflects the regular giving of our community. On the chart, find the number that most closely aligns to your regular giving and consider what an increase might look like for you and your family.

Current Giving Amount	5% Increase	10% Increase	15% Increase	20% Increase
\$5.00	\$5.25	\$5.50	\$5.75	\$6.00
\$15.00	\$15.75	\$16.50	\$17.25	\$18.00
\$30.00	\$31.50	\$33.00	\$34.50	\$36.00
\$75.00	\$78.75	\$82.50	\$86.25	\$90.00
\$150.00	\$157.50	\$165.00	\$172.50	\$180.00
\$300.00	\$315.00	\$330.00	\$345.00	\$360.00
\$600.00	\$630.00	\$660.00	\$690.00	\$720.00

SCHEDULE

October 27th, 2024 | Reformation Sunday Hope in Action Pledge 2025 Launch

November 3rd, 2024 | Stories and Celebrations

November 10th, 2024 | Values and Connections

November 17th, 2024 | Hopes and Dreams

November 24th, 2024 | Christ the King Sunday Hope in Action Pledge 2025 Close & Celebration

BY THE PROGRAM

There are a variety of ways to offer your time and talents in service to our community. Several opportunities are listed below.

- Altar Guild | *care for the altar and other day-of worship needs*
- Coffee Stop | *host the after-worship time of fellowship*
- Thrift Shop | *sort donations, interact with guests on Saturday morning*
- Property | *adopt a flower bed, assist with general repairs, oversee projects and concerns*
- Small Groups | *join a small group, lead a small group, pray for a small group*
- Worship Assistants | *ushers, greeters, lectors, communion assistants, tellers*
- Committees and Teams | *serve on groups like: Worship Support Team, Council, Finance, Hospitality, School Board*



abundant life

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

John 10:10

Abundant Life is the stewardship ministry of St. Mark. For more information, go to www.stmarkcliftonheights.org/AbundantLife

St. Mark Lutheran Church
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