

February 26, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are in a very important phase in the life of St Mark. We are looking ahead to 2018 and the celebration of the 50th anniversary of our congregation. We are at a point to prayerfully consider our future as St Mark and the relative balance between the elements of our ministries. We now have an approved budget for 2017 which includes meeting an important milestone as we pay off our mortgage at the end of this budget year (January 2018). The mortgage expense is over \$100K a year (19% of the General Fund), so paying off the mortgage at the end of the year opens an opportunity to grow aspects of the ministry of St Mark. The church council has been working on a plan and has gathered input from our committees and staff members for ideas of things that need attention. In this letter, we are presenting a survey to gather input from the St Mark family so that we all share ownership of the plan we put together.

To develop a plan for where we want to be in the future, we must first understand where we are now. One accurate way to look at our current ministries is to “follow the money” and examine how our gifts support the work of St Mark (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34); we start with a high-level look at our St Mark ministries as expressed in the approved 2017 Operating Budget. Since we also support other work through the designated gifts to "Other Ministries and Benevolence Giving", we will include these areas as well. We analyze our ministries looking at the percentages of budget supporting ministry to the people of St Mark, ministry to our local community, and then ministry to the world beyond our local community. Although this is a rough estimate (since things like staff and facility costs support all three of these ministerial elements) it can be useful to understand the balance of all we do in Christ’s name.

The result of the analysis indicates that the ministry of St Mark is split approximately:

- 60% ministering to the people of St Mark,
- 20% ministering to the local community, and
- 20% ministering to the world beyond the local community

Survey Instructions:

For each question, select the response that best represents your opinion. If you have no opinion for a particular question, leave it blank. Please select the bubble only, and save written comments for the final question on the survey.

Each household is free to choose between filling out the survey individually, or one for the entire household. If you require additional physical copies of the survey, they should be available for pickup in the Narthex on March 5th and 12th. **Return surveys by March 15th** in the basket across from the coat racks.

Names and demographic information are optional but appreciated. Use individual / household names, and checkmarks / counts as appropriate for all individuals represented on the survey:

Individual / Household name: _____ Male _____ Female _____

<11 _____ 12-17 _____ 18-24 _____ 25-34 _____ 35-44 _____ 45-54 _____ 55-64 _____ 65-74 _____ 75+ _____

Our first set of questions are related to the balance of our ministry across the St Mark family, the local community, and the world:

1. Ministry to our St Mark Family

What is your impression of our emphasis on the ministry of St Mark to our St Mark family? How does what we currently offer (as a percentage of the overall ministry) compare with what we are called to offer?

This receives very strong emphasis

This receives strong emphasis

This receives adequate emphasis

This needs more emphasis

This needs much more emphasis

2. Ministry to our local community near St Mark

What is your impression of our emphasis on the ministry of St Mark to our local community? How does what we currently offer (as a percentage of the overall ministry) compare with what we are called to offer?

This receives very strong emphasis

This receives strong emphasis

This receives adequate emphasis

This needs more emphasis

This needs much more emphasis

3. Ministry to the world beyond the local St Mark community

What is your impression of our emphasis on the ministry of St Mark to the wider world beyond the local St Mark community? How does what we currently offer (as a percentage of the overall ministry) compare with what we are called to offer?

This receives very strong emphasis

This receives strong emphasis

This receives adequate emphasis

This needs more emphasis

This needs much more emphasis

Next, we'll look in more detail at specific portions of our programs and ministry as funded through the General Fund Budget. Dollar figures are from the approved 2017 budget. The 2017 Budget includes \$105.6K for mortgage payments and the mortgage will be paid off at the end of the 2017 fiscal year. Therefore, this \$105.6K will be available for other parts of our ministry starting in 2018 if our giving remains the same (or increases). In the questions below, we present a very brief description of the portions of the General Budget and ask for your feedback on whether you think the current commitment to the area is meeting the needs of our ministry and programs. At the end of these questions is a general question where you may highlight specific areas for which you would like to share input to the Council.

4. **Worship:** This includes support for acolytes; altar candles/oil, cleaning and supplies; bulletins; communion elements; devotional resources; and the Liturgical Arts Guild.

What is your impression of our emphasis on worship at St Mark?

This receives very strong emphasis

This receives strong emphasis

This receives adequate emphasis

This needs more emphasis

This needs much more emphasis

5. **Music:** This includes support for choir and handbell music and resources; instrument maintenance (organ and pianos); and hiring musicians for Special Music occasions (e.g. Easter and Christmas Eve).

What is your impression of our emphasis on music at St Mark?

This receives very strong emphasis

This receives strong emphasis

This receives adequate emphasis

This needs more emphasis

This needs much more emphasis

6. **Christian Education:** This includes support for Confirmation, Cradle Roll, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and youth retreats.

What is your impression of our emphasis on Christian Education at St Mark?

This receives very strong emphasis

This receives strong emphasis

This receives adequate emphasis

This needs more emphasis

This needs much more emphasis

7. **Youth Ministry:** This supports youth programs.

What is your impression of our emphasis on Youth Programs at St Mark?

This receives very strong emphasis

This receives strong emphasis

This receives adequate emphasis

This needs more emphasis

This needs much more emphasis

8. **Café St Mark:** This covers the cost of the Café (including receptions) but most of the expense is covered by income to the Café.

What is your impression of our emphasis on Cafe St Mark?

This receives very strong emphasis

This receives strong emphasis

This receives adequate emphasis

This needs more emphasis

This needs much more emphasis

9. **Fellowship:**

What is your impression of our emphasis on fellowship at St Mark?

This receives very strong emphasis

This receives strong emphasis

This receives adequate emphasis

This needs more emphasis

This needs much more emphasis

10. **Sine Nomine Concerts:** The Sine Nomine concert series provides both arts education (hand bells, African folk tales, drama) and outreach to the surrounding area and the York Senior Center. Expenses are covered in part by offerings collected.

What is your impression of our emphasis on musical outreach at St Mark?

This receives very strong emphasis

This receives strong emphasis

This receives adequate emphasis

This needs more emphasis

This needs much more emphasis

11. **Churchwide Mission:** This covers our benevolence to our Synod, the ELCA and the Lutheran World Federation at a current value of 7% of the total General Fund budget. Roughly 50% goes to the VA Synod, and roughly 50% goes to the ELCA.

What is your impression of our emphasis on the Churchwide Mission at St Mark?

This receives very strong emphasis

This receives strong emphasis

This receives adequate emphasis

This needs more emphasis

This needs much more emphasis

12. **Social Ministry:** This includes our contributions to the Peninsula Counseling Center, cookies for the Kairos prison ministries, the Foodbank, Church family support, the Mitten Tree, and other ministries.

What is your impression of our emphasis on the social ministry at St Mark?

This receives very strong emphasis

This receives strong emphasis

This receives adequate emphasis

This needs more emphasis

This needs much more emphasis

13. **Evangelism:** We currently have no money budgeted toward evangelism and do not have an active evangelism committee.

What is your impression of our emphasis on evangelism at St Mark?

This receives very strong emphasis

This receives strong emphasis

This receives adequate emphasis

This needs more emphasis

This needs much more emphasis

14. **Staff Support:** This includes staff support for books and magazine, mileage, music professional dues, pastor education, supply pastors and organists, Pastor's discretionary funding, and pastor communication.

What is your impression of our emphasis on staff support at St Mark?

This receives very strong emphasis

This receives strong emphasis

This receives adequate emphasis

This needs more emphasis

This needs much more emphasis

15. **Property and Maintenance:** This includes support for electricity, fire systems, HVAC repairs, insurance, maintenance and supplies, natural gas, pest control, water, and sewer.

What is your impression of our emphasis on property and maintenance at St Mark?

This receives very strong emphasis

This receives strong emphasis

This receives adequate emphasis

This needs more emphasis

This needs much more emphasis

16. **Office:** This includes support for the copier, computer hardware support and repairs, computer software updates and maintenance, internet access, website hosting and e-mail, social media, memberships, postage, supplies, and telephones.

What is your impression of our emphasis on our office support at St Mark?

This receives very strong emphasis

This receives strong emphasis

This receives adequate emphasis

This needs more emphasis

This needs much more emphasis

