



ST MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

the Rev Joel Neubauer, Pastor

October 2024

Community of St Mark: grace and peace to you from Christ our Guardian & Guide!

As we enter the time of harvest and Thanksgiving, we also enter the time for planning for our 2025 budget. Our annual stewardship drive begins with our Oktoberfest celebration (October 6) and concludes on All Saints' Sunday (November 3). Throughout these weeks, we ask you to pray and to return "estimate of giving" cards to help us plan for our future. We ask you to consider what St Mark means to you. How do we benefit from and support St Mark and our various ministries?

Please consider the graphic on the reverse of this letter, which shows how ministry funds (budgeted and unbudgeted) have cared for God's world this past year. From St Mark at the center, gospel ministries flow out from our congregation locally, regionally, nationally and globally. Thank you!

Our ministries include our St Mark infrastructure, supporting our staff and the facilities that host worship and community activities throughout each week. Our campus — our church home — is supported both in our budgeted expenses (*e.g. utilities, insurance, and routine maintenance*) and through funds set aside from prior years in our capital investment fund to support unbudgeted costs (*e.g. repairs to our roof, HVAC systems, and fire panel upgrade*). Funds that we save to provide for unexpected costs are vital; we need to be intentional as we build and maintain our capital improvement fund.

Within our annual budget, in addition to our day-to-day operations, we commit to providing benevolence: locally (*to partners like PPCC*); regionally (*through our Virginia Synod, including LSS-Virginia/EnCircle*); nationally (*through the ELCA, including Lutheran Social Services; Lutheran Disaster Response; Lutheran Immigration/Refugee Services*); and globally (*through the Lutheran World Federation, including World Hunger Relief*). Beyond our budget, we also gather special collections to provide for children in China and Ecuador — and through our "Joyful Generosity" pink envelopes we offer unbudgeted funds to immediate ministry needs locally (*York County Food Closet, Natasha House, PORT, PPCC, Seminarian Support*); regionally (*Caroline Furnace, Special Synod Appeals*); nationally (*natural disaster relief*); and globally (*as we did this year for visiting Lutheran partners from Namibia, Slovakia*). Again, thanks!

Our 2025 budgeted expenses are around \$37,000 monthly or \$444,000 annually. Your estimates of giving let us plan for our day-to-day operations and ensure we have a welcoming and functional space in which we worship and open to our neighbors' use. Last year we received generous estimates of giving from 76 households — this year we ask you to share your estimate again, or to add your estimate if this would be your first time! St Mark is a bighearted, caring, faith-filled and welcoming congregation. We thank you for being part of our bigger community in the life of Christ!

Karen Taminger, Council President

118 Old York-Hampton Highway
Yorktown Virginia 23692-4818
757-898-4395 / smlconline.org

Joel Neubauer, Pastor

