



*Our Mission, Our Ministry,
Our Life*

a

2020 Narrative Budget

*I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work
among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.*

Philippians 1:6

Our Mission

At St. Mark's by the Lake we do not have a mission statement because we take our lead from Jesus, who gave us the mission to love God, love our neighbours, and to go and make disciples of all nations. The two Great Commandments and the Great Commission are more than adequate to direct our efforts and shape our mission and ministry as a parish. These teachings of Jesus find expression throughout our common life in the way that we use and share the rich blessings that God has given us in gifts and talents, in time and resources. Our love for God is expressed profoundly in worship and fellowship. Our love for our neighbours is expressed powerfully in our pastoral care and outreach. Our efforts to make disciples are expressed in education and evangelism. God is good and has given us so much love that we cannot help but return it to God and share it with the world.

This Document

This Narrative Budget is an attempt to share how we are looking to go about our mission and ministry in the year ahead and some thoughts about what additional resources could do for God. Normal budgets do the same thing but fail to capture the human effort that is tied up in our mission and ministry and they fail to share how the money and effort, actually affect people's lives. The work we undertake and the resources that we use have a profound effect on the people of our parish, and on the world around us. We hope this document will help us all to appreciate the good work that God has begun in us and help us know how we can continue in that work moving forward.

Worship

“Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.” Luke 4:8

Ancient and modern traditions find expression in our gathering as God's people on Sunday and Wednesday mornings and at other gatherings of God's people for worship. God's life-giving word is proclaimed in word, in song, and in sacrament and through that, hope and faith are inspired and enlivened. Our music programme is strong, our liturgies are life giving, and there is a palpable sense of the presence of God in all of our worship experiences.

A group of parishioners said...

“We love the community that we experience in worship, we are friends who love each other. That allows us to sing together, to pray together, to experience God together.”

This area includes:

- Liturgies that enable the relationship between God and God's people
- Thoughtful insight into God's word through homilies and other presentations
- Our parish administrator's efforts to organise the many volunteers that make worship possible
- Maintenance of the building and property
- The choir and music director

Volunteer Hours in Ministry: 2,214 Cost of Ministry: \$88,167

Fellowship

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...”

Hebrews 10:24

Recognising the presence of Christ in the lives of others we gather for times of fellowship and fun to be filled with love so that we can share God's love and goodness with the world. Whether it's coffee hour, a potluck or other meal, or informal gatherings in and around the church, we encounter Christ and are filled with rich blessings by spending time together.

One of our Knit Wits said...

“We get together to knit, crochet, loom, and do other stuff like that. We also get together to laugh, to chat, and to support and love each other. We spend as much time eating and talking as we do making hats, sweaters, and mittens. Our knitting time helps keep people warm on the outside and us warm on the inside.”

This area includes:

- Greeters at each service
- Special social times
- Publication of our newsletter
- A supervised nursery for our youngest members
- Parish BBQ
- The administration of our prayer list
- Coffee Hour
- The Parents Without Social Lives events
- Safe Church policy implementation
- Knit Wits

Volunteer Hours in Ministry: 3,944 Cost of Ministry: \$37,992

Pastoral Care

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” John 13:34

Jesus reached out to the sick and the lonely with love, compassion, and the grace of God. We follow his example in offering care and love to members of our parish who find themselves in times of difficulty and pain, or find themselves cut off from the community of faith because a move or decreased independence. We take communion and we take the community of St. Mark's by the Lake out of the building to hospitals, nursing homes, and private homes, wherever sick or lonely members of our congregation find themselves.

A member that experienced illness recently said...

“The prayers, the visits, the cards, the food. We were well taken care of and everyone was waiting to help. A church member took my son grocery shopping and that helped him feel like he was contributing. Personally, I could really feel the prayers. It was a great support that helped get us through a difficult time.”

This area includes:

- Regular visits to members
- Support in times of crisis, bereavement, and need
- Clergy and lay visitation for those shut-in or in hospital
- Counsel and direction on family, marital, and vocational issues
- A listening ear on the telephone
- A parish administrator who can connect those in need to those who can help
- Training parishioners to minister to each other
- Coordination of prayers of the people requests

Opportunity for Enrichment

- More pastoral care visitors

Volunteer Hours in Ministry: 780 Cost of Ministry: \$36,926

Outreach

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Following the example of Christ, we are a Church committed to serve and care for those who may not have any connection to our church at all. The people of St. Mark's live out our baptismal covenant to “seek and serve Christ in all persons” in a variety of ways. We engage in outreach projects that are local, diocesan and global in focus; providing food, clothing, toys, money and many volunteers.

A note from The Rev'd Canon, Todd Townshend, Dean of Theology at Huron University College reads...

“We are grateful for this support and connection with Huron’s students.”

This area includes:

- Counselling for hurting people
- Backpack Collection
- Collection for Canterbury College
- Refugee Sponsorship
- Outreach for Justice Team information nights
- Food bank collection
- Christmas collections for children and seniors
- Other collections taken up from time to time
- Support for WRYM, WYC, and other local outreach organizations
- St. Mark's Award for Excellence in Christian Leadership (Huron College prize)

Opportunities for enrichment:

- Providing space for community youth to spend time safely
- More volunteers for community outreach organizations

Volunteer Hours in Ministry: 218 Cost of Ministry: \$21,159

Education

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42

At St. Mark's we believe growth in our knowledge of God and our faith is an essential aspect of life. Opportunities for education, fellowship, sharing and service provide the environment for the development of each person's individual faith. Thus, we become better equipped to share our journey with others.

A parishioner at Fall Food and Faith said...

“I have an almost insatiable desire to know more about the love and ways of the God I follow. Bible study and the other studies help to fill this need for me. When we miss bible study on Thursday, because of a cancellation or other reasons we feel a void. It is not only study but fun. We students have become a 'family'.”

This area includes:

- A well-equipped and staffed Sunday School programmed
- Teens and tweens ministry
- Preparation for Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, and marriage
- Weekly bible study
- Fall Food and Faith
- Lenten Series
- Outreach for Justice Team education events
- Communication through our newsletter
- Participation in deanery and diocesan education events

Opportunities for enrichment:

- More assistance for Sunday School
- Mentorship to help people grow in faith

Volunteer Hours in Ministry: 298 Cost of Ministry: \$42,516

Evangelism

“Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborer’s into his harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38

At St. Mark's we are passionate about the faith we share. We want our church and its members to be a visible and relevant example of God’s reconciling love and justice in the world. What goes on outside the walls of this church is just as important as what goes on within them. We also want to provide opportunities for those who are here to grow in an understanding of what it means to be a Christian witness on the Journey.

A newer couple to our parish said...

“Two years ago we came to St. Mark's and felt at home immediately; everyone was very welcoming. Another important early experience was that we loved seeing children at the church and that they had a place in worship with all of us together.”

This area includes:

- Welcoming new members and families and encouraging their participation in parish life
- Developing parish brochures and welcome packages
- Education and encouragement for individuals to share faith
- Our annual All Souls service where people outside are invited to remember loved ones
- Outreach through our Children and Youth programme

Opportunities for enrichment:

- Dinner Church – sharing fellowship and faith with isolated seniors in Tecumseh and the Belle River area
- Neighbourhood events to reach out to nearby families

Volunteer Hours in Ministry: 596 Cost of Ministry: \$22,711