

“Storytelling Budget 09”

Unlike the Expense Budget which tells us where the money goes, this Ministry Budget tells us what our gifts are accomplishing this year:

Pastoral Care **\$28,105** **15% of budget**

When people have been faithful to the church throughout the years, the church needs to be faithful to them when infirmity or injury prevents them from attending worship. Monthly Communion for shut-ins, hospital visits for those dealing with illness or surgery, and scheduled appointments for pastoral care and counseling in Pastor's office or parishioner's homes are provided by our offerings to the ministry of Our Redeemer.

Many of us at some point in our lives have a crisis be it spiritual, emotional, financial, or physical. Pastoral Care provides a lifeline in these times of need and enables members of the congregation to regain their footing.

Worship **\$52,463** **28% of budget**

With over 160 public worship services throughout the church year; praise, thanksgiving, edification, comfort, and encouragement are a central ministry of Our Redeemer as we worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. We encourage private prayer life with devotional materials and other worship resources that we distribute within the congregation.

Many have remarked about how powerful the forty days of Lent were this year. The “heart work” of Lent, the stark worship space, the drumming, the forgiveness DVD on Good Friday – all prepared us for the Easter celebration.

Nurture **\$24,358** **13% of budget**

The Splash Baptismal program, Sunday School, Sunday School Singers and chimers, Confirmation Classes, Adult Christian Education, Bible Study, Women's Groups, Youth Group, Men's Group, Church Library -- Our Redeemer nurtures the faith of young and old.

“Jesus, Justice and Jazz” summed up the theme of the ELCA National Youth Gathering. This triennial event sparked fellowship with pancake breakfasts, outreach through our Fests, and nurtured growth in the ORLC participants.

Service/Ministry **\$20,106** **11% of budget**

Braille ministry, Bethesda Sandwiches, SICM and Scotia Food Pantries, space for Scouts and AIAnon, Soup Kitchen preparation, Regional Inclusion Library, and Women of the ELCA ingathering: these are just the regularly scheduled ministries that we support to serve our neighbors in imitation of Jesus who fed, healed, and blessed others.

High points of 2009 year were the recognitions of Marilyn Berrigan by SICM for 28 years of service to the Emergency Food Task Force and of Ed Kauffman for his many years leading our Salvation Army Soup Kitchen ministry.

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Sharing/ Benevolence **\$7,495** **4% of Budget***

Because of the deficit budget adopted due to the recession, most of the budgeted amounts were down from last year including benevolence. Usually, Our Redeemer builds about 6% of it's operating budget to support the UpState Synod, the national ELCA and many local church and community organizations as a part of the way we “reach out to share our blessings.”

***Despite the lower budgeted amount this year, directed giving (impressed benevolence) from members to World Hunger, Disaster Relief, our Zimbabwe partner Rengwe Parish, Emergency Food, and other benevolence means that we still share more than 11% of our combined operating and impressed income and hope that we can return to our 14% level as the recession recedes.**

Invitation/Fellowship **\$14,989** **8% of budget**

We take the connections that we have with one another seriously and reach out to invite others to be a part of Our Redeemer. The Messenger's Voice, Coffee Fellowship, website, Bring a Friend Receptions, Adult Fellowship, Craft Fellowship, church directories, as well as celebrations to mark special occasions with our community and extended families are all a part of way that we reach out to share our connection with Our Redeemer.

The inter-generational Valentine’s Dance and the Parent’s Night Out fellowship dinner were new fellowship activities this year where “a good time was had by all.”

Ministry Support **\$39,347** **21% of budget**

Of course, all this ministry doesn't happen by accident. As careful stewards of our offerings to Our Redeemer we provide support to our Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and other Board Officers . We coordinate our work together, see to the care of our buildings and equipment, and make sure the tasks that need to be done to care for, nurture, serve, invite and share are accomplished. We expend time and money to administer the “business end” of our dealings with suppliers, insurers, contractors, government agencies, and others so that our work is done effectively and in good order.

While this amount of money seems very large, this is the way we multiply our offering dollars by enabling and supporting hours of our volunteer time and skills in all the ministries that are a part of Our Redeemer’s mission to reach out and share the blessings we have received.