

Saint Luke's Parish

2026 ANNUAL APPEAL & RENEW & REIMAGINE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

FROM OUR RECTOR

*Glory to God whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:
Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church,
and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.
— Ephesians 3:20,21*



Dear Friends,

When 10 faithful parishioners met in Ira Scofield's home in August 1855 to charter a new Episcopal church in Darien, they could hardly have imagined what Saint Luke's would one day become—one of the largest and most vibrant Episcopal churches in all of New England.

Theirs was an act of faith and courage, boldness and generosity. Over the past 170 years, countless others have followed suit, offering their time, talent, and treasure to build the church we know and love today.

Now it's our turn to hand that gift on to the generations who will follow after us.

This is an exciting year for us at Saint Luke's, full of incredible ways to Grow, Love, and Serve together. We are hosting 'Why Church?' conversations about what it means to be part of a Christian community today. We are celebrating big outreach milestones, including 10 years of Run With the Saints and 20 years of Community Supper. And we are launching a capital campaign to renew and reimagine our campus for ministry in the decades to come.

Saints Luke's is alive and well, thanks to each one of you. And together we are building a church for the future.

Like the generations before us, let's step out in faith and offer our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Let's stretch our generosity and leave a legacy that will last long after us. Let's put our faith in God "whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen."

With my love and prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Fleenor'.

The Rev. Ryan Fleenor
Rector



TWO THINGS WE NEED YOU TO DO THIS FALL

Participate in the 2026 Annual Appeal

As we do each fall, we will be asked to make a financial commitment to sustain programs and ministries for the year to come. Please make your annual pledge to fund our 2026 day-to-day expenses. If you pledged last year, please consider increasing your pledge by 3-5% to help us keep up with inflation.

Prayerfully consider a pledge to the Capital Campaign

This year we are asking you to make a second gift or pledge in support of our Renew & Reimagine capital campaign. This campaign is funding major capital needs that the operating budget cannot cover, including a comprehensive renovation of our historic church building. You will have three years to make payments to fulfill your capital gift.



WHY WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In a time when churches are struggling and religious affiliation is declining, we are lucky to be experiencing a season of growth at Saint Luke's.

New families are joining.

New ministries are emerging.

And we are building a bright future together.

As we write the next chapter of the Saint Luke's story, your financial support is more important than ever.

Recent years have seen sustained year-over-year growth in our Annual Giving. Thanks to you, we have been able to invest in our children and youth, grow our outreach in the community, and support our hardworking staff. Your generosity is most appreciated.

Now it is time to sustain that level of Annual Giving while stretching our financial generosity to make once-in-a-generation investments in our campus to support our ministry for decades to come. Together, we can build a strong foundation for this and future generations.

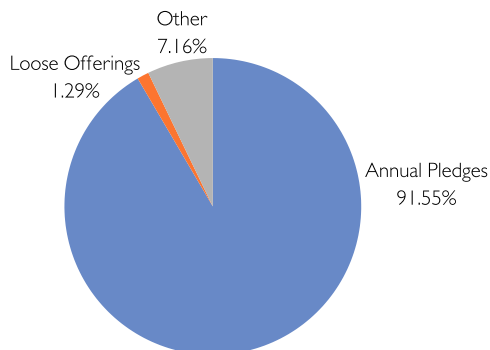


2026 ANNUAL APPEAL

Saint Luke's operating budget is almost entirely funded by parishioners' annual financial commitments. Your contribution supports the church's day-to-day operations - worship, ministries, programs, staff & outreach - keeping the lights on and our mission moving forward. Please join us in making a pledge to the 2026 Annual Appeal.

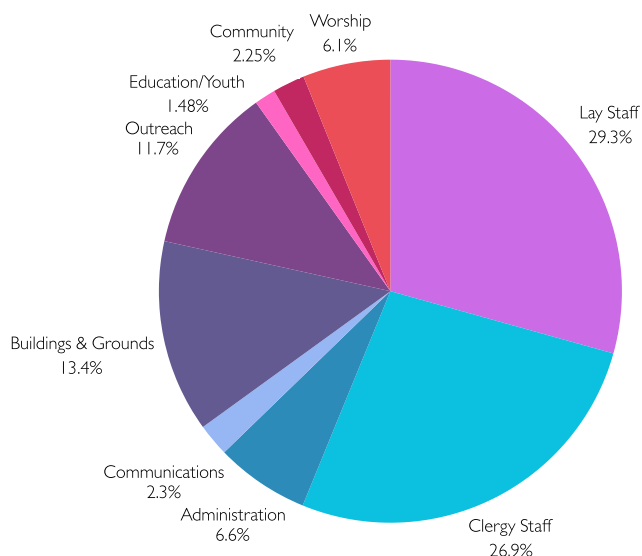
2025 Income Budget

Annual Pledges	\$1,850,000	91.55%
Loose Offerings	\$26,000	1.29%
Other	\$144,750	7.16%
Total	\$2,020,750	



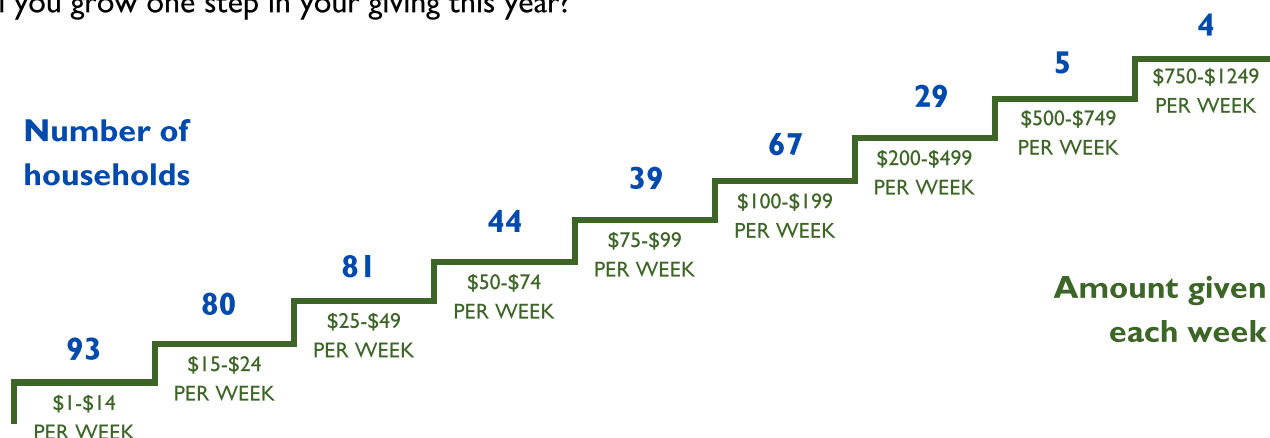
2025 Expense Budget

Lay Staff	\$592,193	29.33%
Clergy Staff	\$542,084	26.85%
Administration	\$132,425	6.56%
Communications	\$46,000	2.28%
Buildings & Grounds	\$271,500	13.45%
Outreach	\$235,698	11.68%
Education/Youth	\$29,925	1.48%
Community	\$45,400	2.25%
Worship	\$123,600	6.12%
Total	\$2,018,825	



As you determine your Annual Appeal contribution toward Saint Luke's 2026 operating budget, consider the information below on Saint Luke's households and how much they give per week.

Will you grow one step in your giving this year?



RENEW & REIMAGINE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

From Generation to Generation

As Saint Luke's approaches its 175th birthday in 2030, the Vestry has authorized a Capital Campaign to secure the future health and vitality of our parish by addressing the most pressing needs on our campus in order to prepare for ministry in the decades to come. Our primary goal is \$9 million, with a stretch goal of \$10.5 million.

The major project areas that will be funded by the campaign include:

- *Repair and reconstruction of our iconic church tower and steeple, including restoration of our historic 1876 bells, allowing them to ring again.*
- *Comprehensive interior renovation of the Church, including renovations to the Chancel and Sacristy; improving accessibility; updating lighting, sound system, and fire suppression systems; restoring damaged pews; repairing water-damaged plaster; and replacing worn carpet with a new, beautiful floor.*
- *Exterior improvements to address critical accessibility & safety concerns, including a new ramp from the lower parking lot to the Cloister, a new accessible entrance to the Narthex, and lighting upgrades in the parking lot.*
- *Relocation of the Playground to a safer location near the Parish School.*
- *Growing the Parish Endowment, to boost income for ongoing capital repairs and improvements.*
- *Funding to continue planning for future campus improvements, including the Third Clergy House, Person-to-Person Food Pantry, and traffic flow improvements.*
- *And, when the stretch goal is reached, rather than upgrades to the digital organ, the installation of a new custom-built Pipe Organ by Juget-Sinclair organ builders in Montreal, Quebec.*

Find more details on each of the above campaign priorities via this QR code. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can help secure the future of Saint Luke's for this generation and for the many faithful generations to come by contributing toward the capital campaign.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



I give to Saint Luke's regularly.

Why do I need to complete a pledge card?

When you complete a pledge card, it is an outward and visible sign that you are making a spiritual commitment to God and this community of faith. It also helps parish leaders plan well for the coming year. While we may like to think that the church is about more than the secular world, it has to operate in the secular world, paying bills just like any other institution.

Where do my Annual Appeal gifts go?

Ninety percent of Saint Luke's budget is made possible by your annual gifts. These sustaining gifts make possible all our worship services, outreach and service, joint ventures with partner organizations, ministries to families, children and youth, Bible studies, classes, workshops, speakers, pastoral care, and upkeep of our facilities. Every contribution, no matter the amount, counts.



What's the difference between Annual & Capital giving?

The Annual Appeal comes around each fall and funds our annual operating budget for the year to come. The Capital Campaign will be focused on a select number of discrete projects that we can't undertake without extra financial support. Annual giving tends to be funded from regular income and assets, and commitments are paid over 12 months time. Capital giving is often funded from accumulated assets or income, such as stock transactions, and gifts are paid over 3 years at intervals of your choice.



What about our Parish Endowment?

Saint Luke's is blessed with a relatively small but growing endowment dedicated to supporting capital improvements on our campus. No income from the endowment is used to fund annual operating expenses. The Investment Committee takes a conservative and prudent approach to using the endowment income, and all distributions are managed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee, with Vestry oversight.

Does the Diocese contribute toward our expenses?

Saint Luke's receives no funding from the diocese; in fact, we are asked to contribute approximately 10% of our budget each year to support the work of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. As one of the largest parishes in ECCT, we have a vital role to play in supporting the work and witness of our church throughout the state.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

How much should I give?

Ultimately, that is between you and God! We believe that financial stewardship is an important part of our Christian discipleship—both as a way of expressing our faith, and as a way of growing in faith. In the Bible, a tithe (10%) is held up as the standard for giving to God: the people are to give the first ten percent of the harvest (“first fruits”) as an act of worship. While tithing may be a difficult place to begin for many first-time givers, the concept of proportional giving can be helpful. We invite you to calculate what portion of your income you think you can reasonably give this year and to make a pledge for that amount. Next year, try to raise your pledge by a reasonable percentage as your work toward a tithe. You may not be able to raise your pledge some years; some years you may even have to lower it. However, if we know what percentage of our income our giving is, we will know how we are doing year over year as we work toward a goal of greater generosity.

I give to lots of charities. Why should I give more to Saint Luke’s?

At Saint Luke’s, we believe we are called to pray, work, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God. And we all know that God’s work is often done through many charities and other institutions, including schools, hospitals, and other nonprofits. There is no question that our generosity toward those institutions is part of our stewardship of God’s gifts. Many people find, however, that giving to the church is unique because of the church’s place in our lives as our spiritual home – the place we can come, week after week, to give us the spiritual foundation we need, and to find a community in which we can truly share the journey of life together.

How can I make my gift to Saint Luke’s?

There are a variety of ways you can make gifts to Saint Luke’s, including online giving, mailing a check, transferring securities, and more. Saint Luke’s is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, meaning your gifts to Saint Luke’s are tax deductible. Visit our website or contact the Parish Offices for more information. There may be a tax advantage to accelerating your charitable giving in 2025. As always, please consult your legal and financial advisors when planning your gifts to Saint Luke’s.



*Gracious God, we humbly come before you,
grateful for the rich history and many blessings
you have bestowed upon our beloved Saint Luke's Parish.
As we embark on a new chapter, we seek your guidance
as we move forward in faith.
Ignite the passion of each and every parishioner.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit and lead us into the future you intend for us.
Thank you for your unconditional love and abiding presence, day by day.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Do you have questions or want to know more about the
Annual Appeal or Renew & Reimagine Capital Campaign?
Call the Parish Office at 203-655-1456 or email
Kelly Wheeler at kelly.wheeler@saintlukesdarien.org.



Saint Luke's Parish

www.saintlukesdarien.org