Plenty Good Room

Making Plenty Good Room at St. Marks, Grand Rapids

The Spiritual Plenty Good Room tells us a story about God's inclusive love. The home is there, the table is spread, the place is prepared. For 190 years St. Marks has invited people to have a seat and sit down. When we sit in the pews and chairs at St. Mark's today, we are sitting at the invitation of God, and the people of St. Mark's who came before us.

We are invited to join them in continuing to create an oasis of Gods Kingdom in the heart of Grand Rapids; one that will never put out a sign that says no vacancy. What a joy, and what a challenge! Making Plenty Good Room requires our best efforts and our prayerful imagination to see the vision that God is calling us toward, an all-inclusive love that we know humanity. In 2027 that could look like fresh programing to welcome newcomers into the church and engage them in discipleship, new outreach opportunities to bless the community of Grand Rapids, or new engagement with pastoral care by an assistant priest freshly out of seminary.

The less comfortable reality is that this work, whatever it looks like, requires money. We estimate that this year, it will cost us more than $950,000 to pay for the mission of St. Mark's if we change nothing. If we want to grow our ministry, for example by hiring a curate (assistant priest), that figure will increase by $110,000.

Making Plenty Good Room at St. Mark's is holy work. It will ask of us only what Jesus asks of us, which is exactly what he offers us – everything. I believe that as long as we are extending God's love into the community around us, God will see to it that we have what we need to generously make Plenty Good Room - in our hearts, in our lives, and in St. Mark's, for generations to come. TENS.org

Questions for Reflection:

What is your hope for ministry at St. Marks in 2027?

Where do you see new opportunities to make Plenty Good Room at St. Marks?



The Rev. Jedediah Fox has served as the Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan since 2025. Previously, Fr. Jed served congregations in the metro areas of St. Louis, MO and Seattle, WA. He is a graduate of the General Theological Seminary.

TENS THE EPISCOPAL NETWORK FOR STEWARDSHIP