

FEASTING AT GOD'S TABLE



*“I the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.”*



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION
602 OLD ORCHARD LANE
LEWISVILLE, TX 75077

To Grow in Love of God and Neighbor

A Word From Your Stewardship Chair

Arriving to Annunciation, walking into Sunday School and afterwards to the services for the day's Liturgy I wonder "How will I be spiritually fed today?" What will God present to sustain me in life and prepare me for His service?

Recently, in Sunday School, I heard of the prophet Elijah's experience of being sustained by water from a river and being brought bread and meat by the mouths of ravens. As drought came, God told Elijah that he had directed a widow in the town of Zarephath to provide him with food. When he arrived, Elijah discovered that the widow and her son didn't have enough food to keep them alive. Despite the fact that Elijah's God was not her god, the widow believed him and, in an act of trust and faith, she did what Elijah asked and fed him. God kept His word to her that their food and water would never run out and Elijah stayed with her and her son for the duration of the famine.

Now, could you imagine that God's promise to feed would come from the mouths of ravens? But God delivers. How could a widow and her son, whose god was not Elijah's, trust that God will feed them from through a prophet from a different land? Because God delivers. How do you trust God to deliver to your home...to Annunciation...to your community?

God has provided Annunciation many ways to feed. Navajo Land, Book Club, Small Group, Laundry Love, Christian Formation and our recent engagement with YouTube. Much like Elijah, God is preparing us to feed for the future, to be faithful stewards of the bounty He provides. He has brought us a good and faithful priest in Fr. Michael Anderson during this transitional period, a revived music ministry in Dr. Gary Gordon and ministries that reach beyond our doors. With God's inspired direction, we as Annunciation set a course for five strategic priorities that call us all to serve and be served that offer fellowship through our Small Group Ministry, expanded services to meet the mental, physical, and spiritual needs of our community, reimagining and rebuilding our Parish Hall, annual evaluation of community service offerings, and development of a bilingual ministry.

Ephesians 2:10 teaches us "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." As a church family, our offerings to the Stewardship Campaign are a commitment to walk with Him...to feed In His Name. Our church family has responded to the extraordinary calling to feed each year, and that calling continues today. I ask that you pray for guidance on what can be given in 2023 and what God is calling us to pledge for next year to feed our church and our community the Good News of Christ love.

In His Name,

Ron Duncan
Stewardship Chair

2023 ANNUAL BUDGET

Where Does the Money Come From?

Pledges	\$375,000
General Offering	90,000
School Use Fee	57,600
Clergy Support Grant	67,226
Other Income	1,250

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$591,076

Where Does the Money Go?

Worshiping Together	\$51,062
Caring for God's People	194,086
Caring for Our Campus	105,610
Moving Beyond Our Walls	52,467
Forming Community	25,750
Managing God's Resources	99,617

TOTAL EXPENSES \$528,592

How will my giving serve as a blessing to others?

A \$520 estimate of giving, **\$10/week**, will provide two weeks of laundry services to all those who need it through our Laundry Love ministry to the unhoused and underemployed.

A \$1,300 estimate of giving, **\$25/week**, will provide 360 hot lunches to feed the hungry of our community through our partnership with the Salvation Army.

A \$3,380 estimate of giving, **\$65/week**, pays for our electricity for nine weeks.

A \$5,200 estimate of giving, **\$100/week**, will fund our Christian Formation program, allow us to offer Vacation Bible School to the children of our community, and provide a safe space for our youth to grow in their faith.

An \$8,000 estimate of giving, just over **\$150/week**, will purchase music for our Adult, Youth and Cherub Choirs, provide for our choral scholars, and pay for supplemental musicians at Christmas and Easter.

A \$12,480 estimate of giving, **\$240/week**, pays for one-fourth of the benefits for our clergy and staff.

Your giving, however large or small, will help us to keep our many ministries and outreach efforts alive and thriving. Every gift is perfect in the sight of God, and a blessing to our community!

2024 Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priority #1



Form small groups for the entire membership to meet on a regular basis.

Leaders: Jennifer Luthe and Jennifer Williams

Annunciation is a unique parish which provides liturgically rich worship, places a high priority on outreach, and is welcoming to new people. This flows from the spiritual life of the church and our desire to follow in the path of our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that the next step in Annunciation's spiritual growth is small groups.

Small groups at Annunciation provide a place to connect with God and with others, as well as an opportunity to learn more about their faith in Jesus Christ. The purpose of this priority is to intentionally create opportunities for members of the congregation to experience the joy of relationship and to grow deeper in their faith.

Core Values

Growing in faith, love, and joy in Jesus Christ

Welcoming of all people

Connecting church and community

Sharing our resources for God's purposes

Mission Statement

To grow in God's love and offer that love to the community.

Strategic Priority #2

Increase operating budget to hire a full-time assistant clergy person with the potential to develop a bilingual ministry in our community.

Leaders: Ron Duncan and Bill Behrens

Annunciation has always placed a high priority on training young clergy as part of the Diocesan Curacy program and been blessed in return by their ministry among us. Unfortunately, the Curacy program is only two years long, and we have to say goodbye to these wonderful people shortly after saying hello. To that end, it has been a goal for many years for Annunciation to hire a regular, full-time assistant clergy person to enable our congregation to grow and thrive well into the future. The growth of Lewisville has also brought a new opportunity to reach those for whom English is not their first language. While there are Spanish speaking services in the area, there are no Spanish speaking liturgical services. We would like to hire someone who has the ability to meet the underserved Spanish speaking population in our community, to be a greater blessing to others who do not have the option to worship in a liturgical church in their native language.





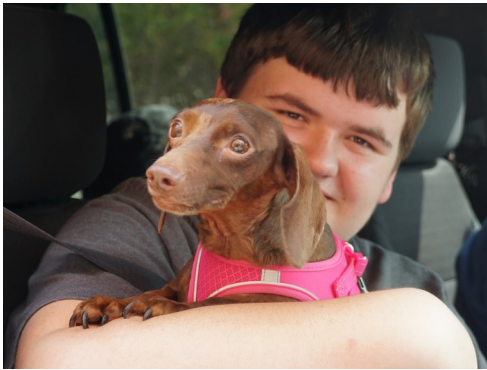
Strategic Priority #3

Expand offerings to meet the mental, physical, and spiritual needs of our community.

Leaders: Lorie Grant and Pam Behrens

Our partnership with Khesed Wellness has been quite successful, providing no to low-cost mental health care for the uninsured and the underinsured people of our community.

From that partnership came a vision of expanding the services we offer to our community, not only for their mental health, but also for their physical and spiritual health, as well. We are in the process of putting together a health fair for this year. Other possible ideas include expanding Holy Yoga offerings, offering wellness checks and vaccination clinics, as well as providing contemplative prayer groups and classes in spirituality to help others grow in their faith. We are hopeful that a small portion of the new Parish Hall might become a health and wellness center for this expanded list of offerings.



Strategic Priority #4

Develop and communicate a master plan for the Parish Hall rebuild.

Leaders: Laura Braun and Blake Wyne

As God is calling us to expand our outreach and care for our surrounding community, we are aware that our existing Parish Hall fails to provide the adequate space needed. Our congregation has grown, and the school now has nearly 100 students. Additionally, the building was constructed in 1970 and now has considerable maintenance requirements. Our goal is to create a space that is more helpful to both church and school, within the context of a new master plan for the campus. The future Parish Hall could then be better equipped to meet the future needs of the church, our school, and the surrounding communities. We are currently awaiting bids from Architects for the creation of a master plan.



Strategic Priority #5

Develop a plan by which we annually evaluate opportunities to serve our community.

Leaders: Sebastian Campbell, Joanne Teeters, and Michael Anderson

As we discovered during our interviews with community leaders, there is never a shortage of need in our area. There are many ways in which Annunciation can choose to use its resources rightly in the service of God and our neighbors, but that doesn't mean we must participate in all of them. This goal would take a systematic look at the identified needs, including the financial cost and the required volunteer hours, including the ministries in which we are currently involved. The committee would then create a system by which we would select from among them, ultimately allowing us a framework within which we can establish our Outreach Calendar on an annual basis.



2023 Legacy Fund

At the end of 2017, Annunciation received a bequest from the estate of Pat Springfield, which combined with a generous donation from members of Annunciation, became the seed money for what is now known as our Legacy Fund, an endowment meant to secure the financial future of our church. All contributions to the Legacy Fund are invested, and a conservative percentage of the proceeds from those investments are used each year to subsidize our youth mission trips, provide seed money for new ministries, and to assist with larger capital improvement projects. These funds will never be used to subsidize our operating budget and are managed by the Endowment Committee to ensure the sustainability of the Legacy Fund over the long-term.

No gift is too small, and every gift has the potential to make a big impact on the future of our church. You might consider giving the equivalent of your annual pledge as a one-time gift to the Legacy Fund. You could remember the church in your estate planning. Or you could consult your financial advisor to set up a Charitable Remainder Trust to provide for both the church and your loved ones in your lifetime. No matter the path you choose, future generations of believers will benefit. If you would like more information on any of these options, or would like to give a gift, please contact the church office at churchoffice@annunciationlewisville.org.

	Fair Market Value	Total Contributions
2018	256,836	176,722
2019	288,528	4,250
2020	319,495	5,950
2021	341,692	19,642
2022	290,122	10,837
2023	339,073	3,525

*as of August 31



Looking Forward: A Vision for 2024

In addition to our five strategic priorities and our legacy fund, we have some other significant goals this year:

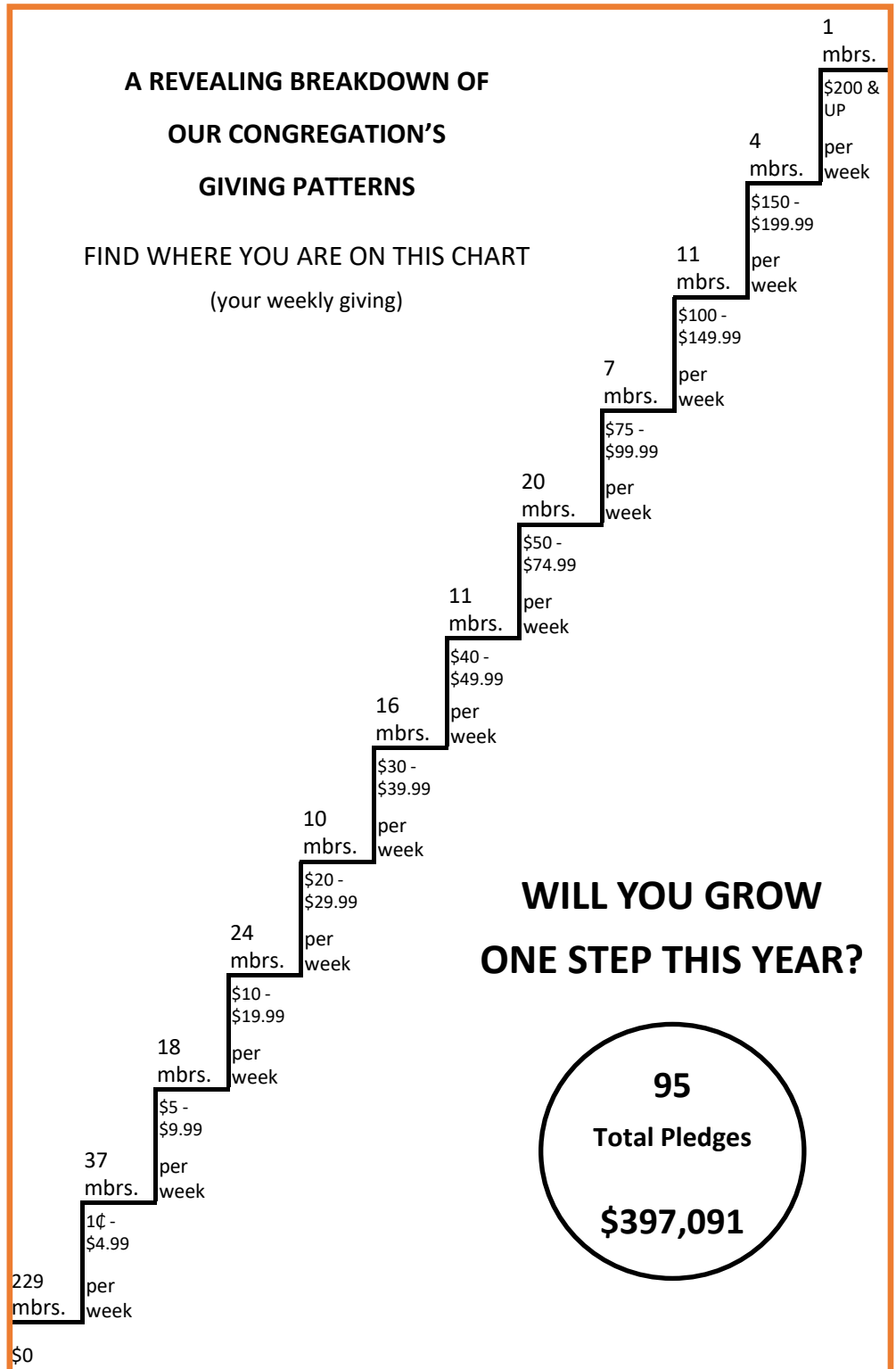
- Increasing the Music Ministry Budget
 - In a recent survey, parishioners indicated how important the music ministry is to the life of the church.
 - So, the Vestry brought back our wonderful music Dr Gary Gordon as a full-time staff member.
 - Gary has done a fantastic job of filling out our choir and our choral scholars. The resulting music under Gary's leadership has been wonderful.
 - However, in order to continue to provide such excellent music, we need to increase our music ministry budget to pay our choral scholars and allow Gary the resources to continue to build up our music ministry.
- Facility Needs
 - We have been informed that our furnace in the church is in need of replacement.
 - In order to increase safety and security of our Parish, we would like to re-key our sanctuary, possibly with a digital key pad.
 - Also for the safety of our parishioners and MES students the ramp leading up to the church offices is in need of repairs.



Feasting at God's Table

The early church in Acts took care of one another by pooling their resources together and distributing them to those in need. This was their form of rebellion against the cruel and corrupt power-structures of the empire. In a larger culture where the principal "survival of the fittest" was the animating force, the early church represented an alternative approach, one which cared for the weak, the widows and the orphans. This is what it meant for the early church to feast at God's Table. Their practice of caring for one another revealed two beliefs: 1) that ultimately all their resources were a gift from God, and 2) that God will always provide what was needed. Feasting at God's table in this way can be scary for us. Our reserves and material goods give us a sense of security. The ability to spend our money on whatever we want gives us a sense of control. Sharing with God's church and its outreaches involves a growth in faith, one which is part of our continued discipleship. The good news is we worship a good and gentle God. So, this growth should be slow and gradual. Our request is that you would find yourself on the below chart—where you are currently giving—and, in faith, take the next step up. We believe wholeheartedly that God will honor your faithfulness as you are drawn in deeper communion with Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Father Michael Anderson



Stewardship is a Lifelong Journey

A suggestion for Beginning the Lifelong Journey

- Calculate your annual household income.
- Write down your current annual pledge to Annunciation.
- Calculate the percent of income you are giving to the church.
- Consider what gift (or percent of your income) would bring you joy.

More Fuel for the Journey

- On an annual basis, how much does your household spend on _____?

(Fill in the blank with something you consider to be a discretionary expense such as hobbies, entertainment, vacations, etc.)

- What percent of your income do you spend on this item annually?
- Compare this number with the percent you have given to Annunciation.

For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also. Luke 12:34

What Portion Shall I Give?

By considering our gift to Annunciation as a proportion of our income, we establish priorities that reflect our relationship with God. Determining our giving to God through the church requires prayer and faith. If you are able, we would ask you to give generously. For some, it is helpful to calculate the current percent of income given to Annunciation and to grow one or two percent per year. As a guide for your stewardship journey, we offer this proportionate giving chart.

WEEKLY INCOME	15%		12%		10%		9%		8%		7%		6%		5%		4%		3%		2%		1%					
	\$200	30.00	24.00	20.00	18.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	4.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	0.80	0.60	0.40	0.30	0.20	0.15	0.10	0.08	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.02
\$300	45.00	36.00	30.00	27.00	24.00	21.00	18.00	15.00	12.00	9.00	6.00	3.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	1.50	1.00	0.75	0.50	0.30	0.20	0.15	0.10	0.07	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.01
\$400	60.00	48.00	40.00	36.00	32.00	28.00	24.00	20.00	16.00	12.00	8.00	4.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	1.50	1.00	0.75	0.50	0.30	0.20	0.15	0.10	0.07	0.05	0.03	0.02
\$500	75.00	60.00	50.00	45.00	40.00	35.00	30.00	25.00	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	1.50	1.00	0.75	0.50	0.30	0.20	0.15	0.10	0.07	0.05	0.03
\$600	90.00	72.00	60.00	54.00	48.00	42.00	36.00	30.00	24.00	18.00	12.00	6.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	1.50	1.00	0.75	0.50	0.30	0.20	0.15	0.10	0.07	0.05
\$700	105.00	84.00	70.00	63.00	56.00	49.00	42.00	35.00	28.00	21.00	14.00	7.00	8.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	1.50	1.00	0.75	0.50	0.30	0.20	0.15	0.10	0.07
\$800	120.00	96.00	80.00	72.00	64.00	56.00	48.00	40.00	32.00	24.00	16.00	8.00	9.00	8.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	1.50	1.00	0.75	0.50	0.30	0.20	0.15	0.10
\$900	135.00	108.00	90.00	81.00	72.00	63.00	54.00	45.00	36.00	27.00	18.00	9.00	10.00	9.00	8.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	1.50	1.00	0.75	0.50	0.30	0.20	0.15
\$1,000	150.00	120.00	100.00	90.00	80.00	70.00	60.00	50.00	40.00	30.00	20.00	10.00	11.00	10.00	9.00	8.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	1.50	1.00	0.75	0.50	0.30	0.20
\$1,100	165.00	132.00	110.00	99.00	88.00	77.00	66.00	55.00	44.00	33.00	22.00	11.00	12.00	11.00	10.00	9.00	8.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	1.50	1.00	0.75	0.50	0.30
\$2,000	300.00	240.00	200.00	180.00	160.00	140.00	120.00	100.00	80.00	60.00	40.00	20.00	21.00	20.00	19.00	18.00	17.00	16.00	15.00	14.00	13.00	12.00	11.00	10.00	9.00	8.00	7.00	6.00
\$3,000	450.00	360.00	300.00	270.00	240.00	210.00	180.00	150.00	120.00	90.00	60.00	30.00	31.00	30.00	29.00	28.00	27.00	26.00	25.00	24.00	23.00	22.00	21.00	20.00	19.00	18.00	17.00	16.00

1. Find where YOU are on the chart (your weekly income/giving).
2. Move one block to the left to determine what GROW ONE % would be for you.
3. To convert your monthly income to WEEKLY INCOME, divide your monthly income by 4.333 or to convert your WEEKLY INCOME to monthly income, multiply your weekly income by 4.333.

Join Us as We Celebrate what God is doing in our Community!

On **Sunday, November 5th**, we will celebrate the commitment we make to continue serving God, Annunciation, and our community through the gifts God has given us.

You are invited and encouraged to attend a service at **7:15, 8:30, or 11:00 a.m.**, and celebrate with us.

Each service will be followed by breakfast so that we might continue to celebrate our ability as a church to love God and love our neighbor now and for years to come.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
ANNUNCIATION

2023 LEADERSHIP

Stewardship Committee Members

Ron Duncan, Chair
Laura Braun, Celebration Sunday Chair
Michael Anderson
Rob and Lori Grant
Jennifer Williams

Endowment Committee Members

Father Michael Anderson
Mike Scharff
Amy Kenney, Recording Secretary
David McIntire
Richard Westdyk

VESTRY MEMBERS

June McIntire, Senior Warden
Laura Braun, Junior Warden
Brent Thomas, Treasurer
Dick Gooding, Assistant Treasurer
Nancy Thorne, Clerk
Staci Barker
Ginny Biggs
Ian Refo
Cindy Simpson-Scharff
J'Lane Taylor