

Budget Notes for Our Saviour Lutheran Church 2016-2017

Notes

- 1) This budget is produced by, and approved by, the Church Council of Our Saviour Lutheran Church. This year's budget was approved unanimously.
- 2) If you have questions to submit about this budget, please submit it to the church email address (oursaviourjamaica@nyc.rr.com) and refer to the line number.
- 3) These notes pertain to the areas of the budget which can be the most mis-understood – we hope these notes help.

Expenses

Outreach – this is the first section of the budget intentionally – outreach is at the heart of what we do at Our Saviour and is the first part of our budget

Line a: Benevolence Synod – this is our gift (based on a percentage of our giving) which goes to our local Synod. This monthly gift is used for Synod expenses, the Bishop's staff and a portion of this is forwarded to our national church to support the ministry of the entire church.

Line b: Congregational Events – most of this line represents expenses from the Community Carnival. Things like renting the inflatable bounce house, renting tables and chairs, purchasing the giveaway Bibles, etc. do not come cheap. This is a VERY important ministry of this church.

Line a: Benevolence Other – this line represents gifts from our congregation to support other ministries, or organizations. This year, no money was expended.

Line c: Worship Supplies – expenses incurred for any items used in worship; flowers, communion wafers, wine, paper for worship bulletins

Leadership

Line d: Base Salary – is based on guidelines presented by the Metro NY Synod for years of ordained service, merit increases and proposed cost of living increases (COLA) The COLA is computed as a percentage of salary based on the US rate of inflation and determined by our Synod. This information is available on the Synod website at MNYS.org. This year's COLA was 1.65%

Line e: Housing Equity Allowance – is added to the Pastor's salary as a benefit to the Pastor. Living in a church parsonage (Senior Pastor), or receiving a housing stipend (Associate Pastor) does not allow for a building of equity in a home like most people who own their own home. This small amount helps, over time, to allow the Pastor to build up equity to purchase a house upon retirement.

Line f: Social Security – the church is responsible for half of the Social Security amount from the Pastor's salary.

Line f: Pension/Medical – this line is based on a percentage of the base salary. Pension = 10% of salary required to be submitted by the congregation. Medical = the remainder. Both are paid to Portico Finance, the organization that manages the ELCA pension and medical funds.

Support

Line i: Future Staff – this is money put into the budget keeps the door open for hiring additional staff, in lieu of calling an Associate Pastor – for example: a youth worker, or a part-time secretary, etc.

Line j: Office Staff – Previously, this line in the budget represented salaries of both the Church Secretary and Office Manager Volunteer Coordinator. However, the drastic reduction is due to an

accounting change where the Secretary's salary is now 100% paid by the school. There are still some part-time hourly staff included in this category

Line k: Accounting Fees: as mentioned in the Financial section of the Annual Reports package, we have now hired an outside accountant to ensure that we meet the reporting standards for our financial reports.

Income _____

Line m: PreSchool Shared Expenses – every year the Preschool gives the church an amount proportional to it's usage. This “rent” covers their share of the utilities, insurance and repairs. Please note that this year we will receive a decreased amount due to an “accounting swap” where our church secretary's entire salary is now paid by the school – the shared expenses given to the church are lowered by a commensurate amount.