



St. Michael & All Angels

Episcopal Church
601 Montañito Rd. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107

October 5, 2025

Dear Siblings in Christ,

“Step Out in Prophetic Faith During Troubling Times”

In our work on creating a timeline of the parish this year. Our Stewardship Team discovered that our three values—**welcome, action, and spiritual grounding**—have been the parish values for 75 years. These values are not just words, but the pillars of our shared mission—a mission to which we all contribute and are all a part. In August, we asked the Parish to reflect on “why we are here in this place at this time?” The responses to these questions were varied, but most spoke of loving our communal life, particularly for the diverse worship services, our liturgy, and our shared experiences together. So, how do we support the ministries that we engage in? How are we fostering healing and reconciliation in our community and beyond? Are we acting as the radical, welcoming, loving rebel, Jesus? Are we building relationships with one another, our neighbors, and strangers by fostering connections with each other and with others?

The simple act of a financial gift to our community underpins the work of spiritual grounding and radical action that builds and strengthens our community. The spiritual action of monetary support strengthens all of our relationships. We know that we have support in all forms. From the small acts of waving and smiling at someone we don't know during worship, to providing refreshments to people between services, working with asylum seekers, feeding our neighbors at the food pantry, and educating the children of our community. These actions build solid relationships and beautiful, meaningful worship, and these collaborative efforts strengthen and grow our community. Jesus calls us to work together, to recognize the needs of our neighbor, and to spread his love into the world. He calls us to support and love each other, to act for the benefit of all, and in these acts of love, we build the kingdom of God, a place of justice for all, a place that respects the dignity of every human being. Your financial support is what makes all of this possible.

Fall is the time of year when we ask for monetary gifts and invite our members to learn about and join in the work of the ministries of our church. **We estimate that to close our gap in the budget for 2026, the average pledge would need to increase by 20%. The Vestry is encouraged because the average increase last year was 18%.** We are asking you to step into prophetic faith and increase your pledge. Pray about it, ask your family to engage in conversations about what you can do. But make it an intentional practice of your faith.

Last year, our gifts increased by an average of 8%. This level of commitment to our faith community is inspiring and energizing. Can we match that growth this year? We understand that not every member is in a position to increase their giving each year, and we celebrate each gift. If you can improve your gift, we invite you to do so. We are deeply grateful for each and every pledge in support of St. Michael's vital mission, and we want to express our heartfelt appreciation for your contributions. Remember, your pledge is not just a personal commitment, but a collective effort towards our shared mission. We encourage you to pray as you reflect on your responsibilities for this year. Discuss your decision with all family members. The vestry and stewardship ministry leaders have all agreed to pledge in good faith, and we hope that you will also give generously as we plan for our future. **Ingathering Sunday will be on All Saints Sunday, November 1, 2025.** Help St. Michael's invest in making a prophetic act of faith and make a difference in these troubling times.

Yours in Christ's Love,

Cathy Bailey, Stewardship Chair

The Rev. Mike Angell, Rector

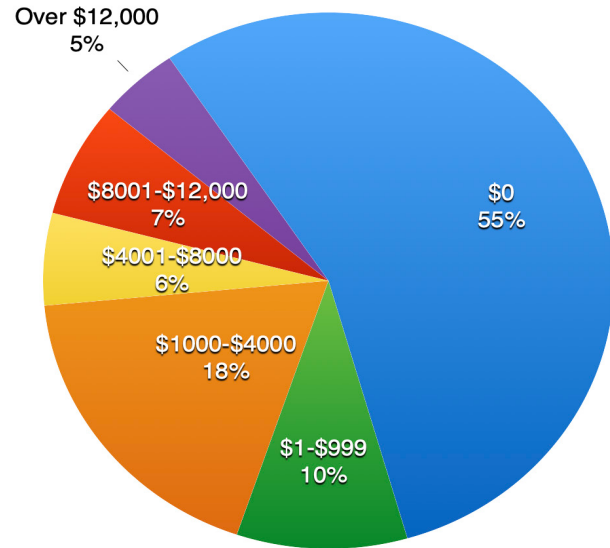
Join us Sunday September 22 at 10:15am for a forum on finances.

VISUAL BUDGET: WHAT DOES PLEDGING LOOK LIKE?

2025 Pledge Participation

\$0	267
\$1-\$999	47
\$1000-\$4000	89
\$4001-\$8000	27
\$8001-\$12,000	34
Over \$12,000	22
Total Households	486

Average Pledge: \$3234

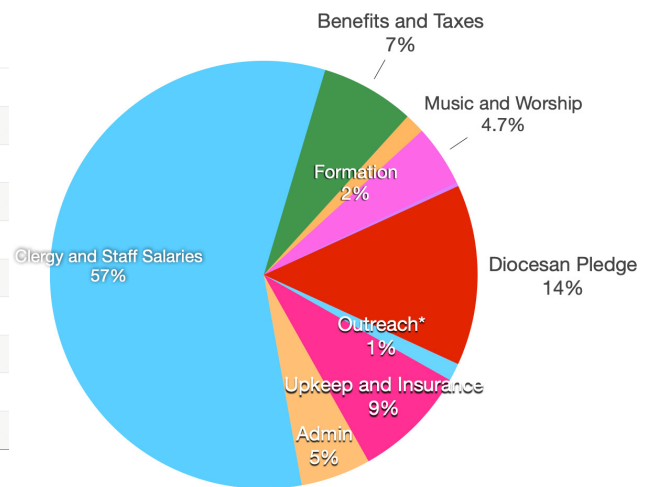


Every pledge counts. We would like to see every member make a pledge. St. Michael's is an economically diverse parish, and we are grateful for generosity at all levels. Almost ten percent of our members pledge between \$1 and \$999. We also know that for some of our members, increasing their annual gift would not create a financial hardship. We encourage you, if you are able, to reach the "next level" in your annual gift to the church. We are also working hard to invite those members who have not pledged, to make a pledge.

VISUAL BUDGET: WHAT ARE THE CHURCH'S OPERATING EXPENSES?

Budget Expenses 2025

	Total August 2025	Budget
Clergy and Staff Salaries	\$359,804	\$544,991
Benefits and Taxes	\$54,161	\$67,254
Formation	\$762	\$14,350
Music and Worship	\$30,365	\$44,175
Fellowship	\$2,039	\$2,600
Diocesan Pledge	\$81,123	\$129,544
Outreach*	\$49,404	\$12,680
Upkeep and Insurance	\$75,167	\$82,098
Admin	\$49,797	\$50,300
Total	\$702,622	\$947,992



The generosity of our members accounts for 9/10ths of our budget. We do not receive money from the wider church. Rather, we contribute over \$125,000 annually to the diocese and the Episcopal Church. We aim for financial transparency at St. Michael's. We projected a modest deficit in our budget this year, but with increased staffing and programming, the deficit for 2026 looks significant. **We estimate that to close our gap in the budget for 2026, the average pledge would need to increase by 20%. The Vestry is encouraged because the average increase last year was 18%.**