



The King of Love My Shepherd Is



# Leading With Love

1 The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never.  
I nothing lack if I am his,  
and he is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth;  
and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me;  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and oh, what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of  
days, thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever.

- Hymn 645

We are using this beautiful hymn text as our theme for stewardship for the second year. This rendering of the 23rd Psalm has continued to ground us as we navigate these times. To know ourselves as being guided, supported, and loved as we've faithfully responded this past year has been a key element of our resilience and subsequent flourishing.

When I was discerning my call to come here in 2014, there was a chant I returned to again and again. It sits on the prayer desk of my office. The words are simple, but they also remind me of who we are called to be as children of God. "Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life." This is a mantra for Christian discipleship.

It reminds us that when our “wants” are frustrated, we may be invited to realign our priorities and commitments. When our “fears” become overly noisy, we also may not be hearing the voice of our Shepherd, Jesus Christ. The patterning of our life is cruciform in nature. We rely on grace from above and grace between one another to discover the fullness of life in community.



Our community has continued to rally in extraordinary ways in this past year. Our faithfulness in the small and the big ways has made this possible. This year we can ask our Shepherd, the King of Love, to continue to guide and support us as we choose faith and hope. We choose abundance over scarcity. We choose faith over doubt.

In traversing the many challenges and changes of the past year we have continued to learn the importance of aligning our values with the values of Love. When we follow Love, Love follows. When we trust in the goodness of God, we will find hope and God’s peace. When we operate from a place of generosity and compassion, we will be transformed in ways that fear and isolation cannot provide. We are stronger when we reach out to one another and share our love. We have done this in new ways this past year, but we continue to *Feed San Antonio with the Bread of Life*. We too are fed in the feeding.

I am grateful for your generosity and know our community is strong. May we all continue to grow in Love as we follow the King of Love.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beth" followed by a small cross symbol.

The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton



## Wardens' Message

How joyful is the return of a full service and programming schedule this fall! It's an interesting sensation to relearn something that once seemed second nature. It takes time, can be clumsy, but soon enough we remember and can rejoice in bringing our new wisdom to that old familiar feeling.

It is wonderful to be with one another again, remembering the power of worshiping both in person and virtually! It brings us great happiness to hear the sounds of friends reconnecting, the magnificent singing of the choir, and the long-missed laughter coming from our children and youth. Just like our parish house and church, the people of St. Mark's are a beautiful work in progress as we recover from the last two years of unprecedented separation and modified gathering.

Through this upheaval, the clergy and staff have surpassed their call of duty with patience, grace, and much personal sacrifice. What we see on Zoom and at 315 Pecan Street appears seamless and easy, but if you take a look behind the curtain you'll discover how much time, effort and selfless generosity is actually involved by our clergy and staff. We would be remiss to not publicly thank them.

As a community fragmented by both the pandemic and the 2019 scaffolding incident, we've grown deeply and can more fully understand the importance of our connections to one another, to the community, and ultimately, to God.



Through our programming for adults, children, and youth, St. Mark's is offering more opportunities to engage than ever before, both in person and virtually.

We continue to fulfill our core vocation, *Feeding San Antonio with the Bread of Life*, through member programming, and our enduring commitment to the community beyond our walls through our work with six partner agencies, nine organizational recipients of our Core Vocation grants, and of course, our Bread of Life Grant recipient.

These community partnerships not only keep us connected in service, but also remind us of the continuous and ever-changing needs of our San Antonio friends, neighbors, and visitors. Fulfilling our core vocation is impossible without your continued financial support of St. Mark's. Giving generously is one way in which we can do the work Christ calls us to do, enriching our lives in ways that surprise, comfort, and enlighten us.

Making your 2022 pledge to St. Mark's is easy. You can make your pledge using the online giving platform at [StMarks-SA.org](https://StMarks-SA.org), by mail, or by bringing your pledge card to the November 7th Ingathering. We would love to see you and celebrate the generosity of this parish together.

We thank you for prayerfully considering your pledge to St. Mark's, remembering that together, we are one body in Christ.

*- Submitted by Brooks Englehardt, Senior Warden, and Laura Wickham, Junior Warden*

## **Stewardship Ingathering - Nov. 7th**

Plan to bring your pledge card to the ingathering on November 7 during the 7.45am, 9.00am, or 11.15am worship service at St. Marks. If you can't join us in person, we invite you to pledge online at [StMarks-SA.org/give](https://StMarks-SA.org/give) or use the enclosed return envelope.

## In the Words of Our Members



Our family had been planning a move to San Antonio for some time, but due to Covid-19, it ended up happening sooner (and under different circumstances!) than we had anticipated.

The staff from our previous church in Austin spoke highly of St. Mark's so I reached out to introduce our family and we immediately got plugged in. From "Virtual VBS", to outdoor children's choir rehearsals, to Christmas and Easter services in Travis Park, St. Mark's did an amazing job helping our whole family feel connected in ways that still felt safe during the pandemic.

Our family is worshipping online for now and are very thankful that this has continued to be an option, but are looking forward to meeting many more of you in the coming year!

— Submitted by Amy and Josh Ryan, pictured with daughters Linnia, Lucia, and Gwendolyn. Members since 2020.



St. Mark's is, has been, and will continue to be family for me, especially during this last year of the pandemic combined with personal medical challenges. The church has managed our resources to ensure our members are aware of the help that is available at all times and for every need. Zoom has played a really big role in staying connected with my St. Mark's family providing the opportunity to continue to study, worship and stay abreast of how our congregants are doing; this has been a great bonus! The phone calls and programs feed my soul and make me aware of how fortunate I am and how God has guided me to exactly the right place at exactly the right time!

I have also been surprised to realize how important worshipping in community has become for me. This has also given me a chance to grow in understanding my stewardship role in Christ's church and explore how God's plan for me is unfolding.

I believe that all we have comes from God; we are his stewards. Several years ago I decided I wanted to increase my gift annually based on a percentage. I allow several weeks for prayer, contemplation and time with God for his guidance.

— *Submitted by Cathy Robinson. Member since 2006.*





Beginning with the strictest days of the Covid-19 lockdown, Susan and I were given the opportunity to give back to the St. Mark's community in a very simple, and yet meaningful way. As relative newcomers to the parish, we felt especially powerless to help in the early weeks of the pandemic, but were willing to do what we could.

The parish staff expressed a need to have Forward Day by Day devotional pamphlets delivered to those social distancing at home. We happily accepted. Of the two of us, Susan has always given the best attention to detail. The staff provided us with a list of names and addresses she converted into an efficient route between each home. (I'm sure she could teach UPS a thing or two!) Together, with her acting as navigator, we made our way around San Antonio delivering this somewhat ordinary thing, and enjoying time together as a couple.



In the months that followed, we were happy to have the opportunity to repeat this humble act of service as new pamphlets were published. It crossed our minds that our efforts seemed so trivial in the grand scheme of things—but the meaningfulness of our simple actions by those on the receiving end came to light in messages of thanks we received by email and thank you cards. All were welcome, we were so happy to help.

Doing this simple thing, taking the opportunity to give of our time and (Susan's) talent, we felt a little more connected to the community of St. Mark's.

In this season of our stewardship for the parish we call home, as a couple, we come together to examine our shared values and act from them. Speaking personally (Alan), I connect with my own inner divinity in the intentionality with which we examine our values, priorities, and our future plans. God is present as we meditate on the mutual support we give and receive within our community; St. Mark's is all of us, we are St. Mark's!

— *Submitted by Susan and Alank Hanks, pictured with children Calvin and Rin. Members since 2019.*

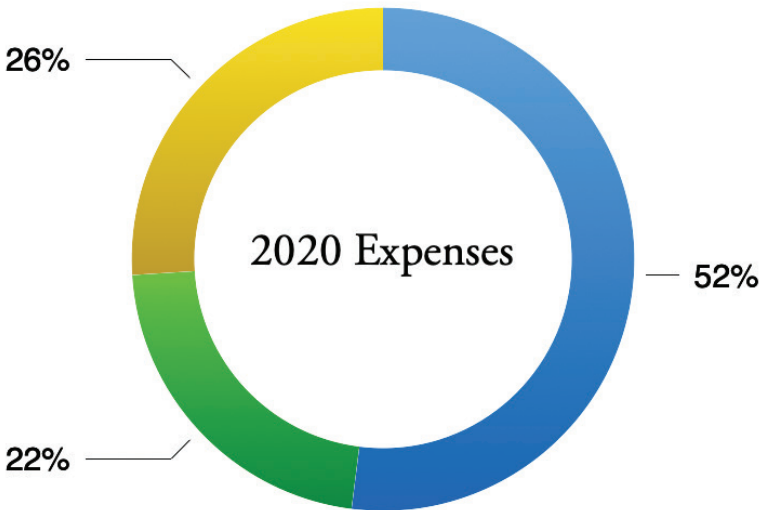
“I pray that God will open my eyes and ears and my heart to understand what he would have me do. I give thanks to God every time I step onto St. Mark's campus. I am so thankful for this community and place of study, growth and worship. Praise God!”

- *Cathy Robinson*

## 2020 Revenue

Giving by Households	73%
Parking Lot Revenue	10%
Endowment and Designated Funds	13%
Miscellaneous	4%

● Programs ● Outreach ● Facility/Admin



### Programs

Worship  
Pastoral Care  
Formation  
Parish Events  
Music  
Children & Youth  
Hospitality  
Communications

### Outreach

Outreach Grants  
Christmas to the Street  
CAM  
SAMMinistries  
Good Sam  
Morningside Manor  
Habitat for Humanity  
Walk-in Assistance  
Diocesan Support  
Seminary Support

### Facility/Admin

Building & Grounds  
Security  
Insurance  
Office Equipment  
Finance  
Management

## 2021 Pledging By The Numbers

Average Pledge  
\$5,700

Median Pledge  
\$3,000

30% of Pledgers Give  
≥ \$5,000

First-Year Pledge Average  
\$1,500

## First Time Pledgers

Making a first year pledge of \$100/month or more will help you develop a deepening sense of gratitude and belonging.

## Renewing Pledgers

60% of households increased their pledges for 2021

Prayerfully review the 3%, 5%, and 7% increases calculated for you on your pledge card. With this commitment, we can grow meaningfully into our ministry and outreach, while exploring deeper connection with each other and our neighbors.

## Pray, Pledge, Gather, Give

- 1 Prayerfully consider your 2022 pledge
- 2 Gather on November 7 to offer your pledge in community
- 3 Give generously
  - Schedule your giving online at [StMarks-SA.org/give](https://StMarks-SA.org/give)
  - Text gifts to 210-399-0072 (Ex. Text 100 to give \$100)
  - Give by mail or during worship services

## Pledge and Give Online

StMarks-SA.org/Give  
or Ministry One app



## Schedule Your Giving

To help St. Mark's experience an even cash flow to pay for ministry and outreach, consider scheduling your giving.

Example below: \$500/mo.

One-time

Recurring

Fund

2022 Pledge

X

Amount

\$ 500.00

### Recurrence

You can edit your recurring gift anytime.

Frequency (required)

Monthly

▼

How Many Gifts

12

Minimum of 2 payments, not to exceed 24. Leave blank for an ongoing recurring payment.

Start Date (required)

01/01/2022

Submit Pledge \$500.00 Monthly