



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

This beautiful hymn text, which is a rendering of the 23rd Psalm, could not feel more needed in these times. We have moved away from any esoteric notions of faith and stripped everything back to the bedrock. Our foundation is a God whose love “faileth never.” What is our faithful response?

Love for God. Love for neighbor as we love ourselves.

If we do not begin with love “we are a noisy gong or clanging cymbals.” (1 Corinthians 13:1) If we cannot turn to God and God’s goodness we fall helplessly into a place of fear and scarcity. That is not God’s hope for us or for our world. Our focus on generosity this year has been an intentional choice as a community to look for what is being abundantly placed before us, despite so many changes in our routines and ways of being the church.

We also follow a Shepherd who has radical compassion for us when we feel lost. The first sermon I ever preached in seminary was from the Gospel of Matthew. The verse that struck me then and resonates still is “When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” - Matthew 9:36



Our Lord’s love for us is so profound that he feels our aches; our suffering and pain is his. This means that all the challenges we are experiencing have grafted us only closer to Jesus, who loves us without condition.

Our community has rallied in extraordinary ways in this past year. Your faithfulness in the small and the big ways has made this possible. We are invited in the coming year to continue to choose to follow the King of Love. We may not be entering this year with the same certainty we’ve had in the past. But of this we can be certain: the Shepherd will be faithful. And 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, and 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 +".

The Rev. Elizabeth Knowlton



Wardens' Message

We've enjoyed the first cool front of the fall season as we write this message and yet this year the "fall season" doesn't feel the same. 2020 has certainly forced us to rethink what "normal" looks like now...

Despite this uncertainty, the vibrant community of St. Mark's and the commitment to our Core Vocation has stayed strong. *Feeding San Antonio with the Bread of Life* has been challenging in ways we never could have imagined. This community has risen to that challenge.

The scaffolding event and the pandemic have actually expanded the ways in which we are engaged in this city. Our clergy and staff continue to offer a robust schedule of classes and programming; adult formation gives us new tools to make sense of our complicated times, while morning prayer and compline provide some structure to unsettled days and guide our daily lives. Children's and youth programs continue in new ways. Our outreach efforts have actually been strengthened this year - recommitting support to those in need.

Your continued financial support of St. Mark's makes all these good works possible.

Even though parts of our campus are still under construction, and in-person worship has returned in a modified way due to the pandemic, the real cost of delivering St. Mark's mission remains largely unchanged. Our expenses — mostly salaries that support worship and programs, and facility costs — are largely fixed.

Outreach also remains a top priority through our partnerships with Christian Assistance Ministries, Good Sam, and Crockett Academy to name just a few beneficiaries of our treasure. We support over a dozen agencies in a variety of ways and keep you informed about other pressing needs among our neighbors. We gather our gifts as a community to make this outreach possible - helping us live out our faith as we are called to do, as members of the body of Christ on this earth. As our Rector has encouraged, we have an opportunity to turn away from a scarcity mentality and to embrace generosity.

Sharing your resources during this time is a way to stay connected, even when we are not together as hoped. And it's easier than ever to fulfill our pledges with new digital tools including text and online giving.

The St. Mark's Vestry, staff, and wardens thank you for your prayerful consideration in support of our community life.

- Submitted by Brooks Englehardt, Senior Warden and Ann Leafstedt, Junior Warden

Stewardship Ingathering - Nov. 22nd

Plan to bring your pledge card to the drive-through pledge ingathering on November 22 from 4.00-5.00pm at St. Marks. If you can't join us in person, we invite you to pledge online at stmarks-sa.org/give or use the enclosed return envelope.

Pledge, Pie, and Advent Wreaths

At the ingathering, you'll be greeted by clergy as you offer your pledge cards. Our kitchen staff will be sharing a pre-Thanksgiving treat, and Advent wreath kits will be available for pick up. Look for details in an upcoming eNews.

Community in Action

During a time when our lives have been turned upside down by the pandemic, St. Mark's volunteers have helped the community stay connected and continue to meet the needs of others. In March and again in October, more than 50 volunteers made phone calls to all St. Mark's households so that we could check in with each other. More volunteers sent letters and cards to the people of St. Mark's, mailing Palm Sunday Crosses, sharing Easter greetings with postcards, and writing thank you notes to St. Mark's staff members.

Volunteers continue to deliver the quarterly Forward Day by Day devotionals. When St. Mark's high school seniors had most of their graduation festivities cancelled, a group of families lovingly assembled care packages full of each youth's favorite things. This summer, a team of volunteers took casseroles from our kitchen staff working from Los Patios to families to share joy and care with them. It took an army (100+) of volunteers to deliver St. Mark's yard signs and over 600 generosity kits to our members throughout the San Antonio area.



Worship support volunteers have demonstrated commitment and flexibility as we continue to reimagine worship services: lectors and intercessors have learned how to record readings from home, ushers and altar guild members have been retrained to serve at our modified in-person worship offerings, and greeters have participated in new ways to welcome Newcomers to the community.

Despite the fact that many volunteer opportunities in the city have been on hold, our people continue to answer calls for help outside the church walls. A group of volunteers sewed and donated over 700 face masks to those most vulnerable in our city. 24 St. Mark's members have become pen pals with residents of Morningside Ministries Nursing Center who are most in need of connection. From home, our volunteers have assembled hygiene kits for Corazon Ministries and written notes of appreciation to lift the spirits of the staff at Crockett Academy.



All of these efforts have helped us meet the needs of others and provide meaningful connection for our community during this challenging time. We are deeply grateful for each and every St. Mark's volunteer who reminds us all that #WeAreTheChurch.

In the Words of Our Member Volunteers

“How do you fend off boredom and claustrophobia? We learned about our church community by helping to deliver signs. We had no idea how many other parishioners lived in our neck of the woods. Volunteering during this time of social distancing helped keep us connected to our church family.”

--**Blanca and Mark Bird**

“When I agreed to deliver ‘The Church has left the building’ yard signs, I assumed it would be a necessary, but unfulfilling, task that had to get done. It actually turned out to be kind of fun -- seeing people's homes and feeling like I knew them slightly better because of it, learning about neighborhood connections among our members, and continuing to see so many signs I delivered still proudly out, now over six weeks later.”

--**George Spencer**

“Opportunities for volunteers abound at St. Mark’s, and these are as variegated as a garment made of Donegal tweed. I have felt over the years that tasks undertaken by St. Mark’s volunteers are essential to the life and mission of our parish. I am also confident that volunteers profit through the exercise of their apparent strengths and frequently develop new talents and abilities through their service. Something to keep in mind that will increase your willingness to be a volunteer and of your having a great time serving as one are the words written in St. Paul’s Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:7, ‘But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.’”

--**Harold Sager**

“One of my personal ‘miseries’ of the current lockdown, is being absent from my greeters’ post at the gates of our beautiful Tucker Courtyard on the fourth Sunday. However, because I miss you so much, I have written some little notes. And not unexpectedly, for you are loving people, you have written me back or even better, called. We are all doing our best to stay connected and supportive during these unusual times. Peace and blessings.”

--**Sarah Joe LeMessurier**



Blessing of the Animals

“I am very grateful for the volunteer opportunities that St. Mark’s provides. I was privileged during the early stages of staying in place to call several members. We were checking in to see how everyone was doing and offer contact from the clergy if desired.

The first call I made was to a 97 year-old woman in an assisted living complex in Houston. While she is no longer local, she pledges each year to St. Mark’s and two other churches that were all important to her at different periods of her life. She said that they were so supportive in her time there that she wants to keep supporting them. Her upbeat attitude was beautiful.

Another call resulted in an hour long conversation with others to follow in the weeks since—a new special friend compliments of COVID 19! One other call was to a member who when I asked “How can we pray for you?” responded by asking for prayers for a grandson who has cancer. She told me he is on the church prayer list. Each time we pray together now calling the names of each individual, I add a personal prayer for him.

--**Lucy Wilson**

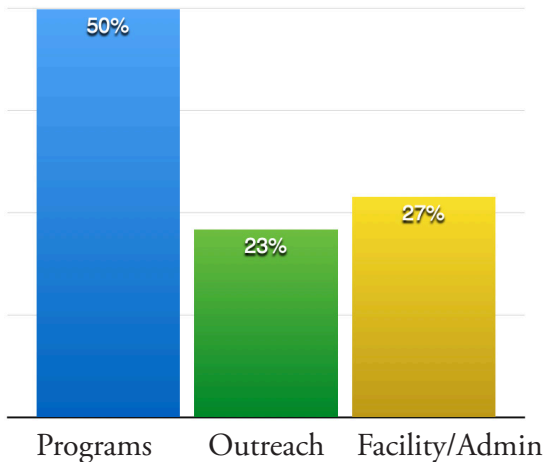


Blessing of the Animals

2019 Revenue

Giving by Households	69%
Parking Lot Revenue	13%
Endowment and Designated Funds	12%
Fees and Facility Rentals	6%

2019 Expenses



Programs

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

Outreach

Outreach Grants
 Christmas to the Street
 CAM
 SAMMinistries
 Good Sam
 St. Paul's Montessori
 Morningside Manor
 Walk-in Assistance
 Haven for Hope food
 Diocesan Support

Facility/Admin

Building & Grounds
 Security
 Insurance
 Office Equipment
 Finance
 Management

2020 Pledging By The Numbers

Average Pledge \$5,600	First Year Pledge Average Young Adults \$1,200
30% of Pledgers Give ≥ \$5,000	First Year Pledge Average All Ages \$3,200
Median Pledge \$3,000	

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 2020

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 2021 pledge
- 2 Gather with us on November 22 to offer your pledge
- 3 Give
 - Schedule your giving online at stmarks-sa.org/give
 - Text gifts to 210-399-0072 (Ex. Text 100 to give \$100)
 - Give by mail or worship service offering plate

Pledge and Give Online

stmarks-sa.org/give
or on our Ministry One app



Schedule Your Giving

To help St. Mark's experience a more even cash flow to pay expenses, consider an online schedule to fulfill your pledge. Example below: \$500/mo.

Giving Info required

FUND

AMOUNT

Make this gift recurring

Recurring Gift Details

You can edit your recurring gift anytime.

FREQUENCY required

HOW MANY GIFTS

START DATE required

Add 3% to help cover costs of processing. \$15.00

TOTAL: \$515.00

GIVE \$515.00 MONTHLY