

RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

2025 BUDGET – QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

We want to start by saying THANK YOU to our members, guests, staff and pastors for your dedication over the past year. We are growing and thriving and look forward to another exceptional year.

Q1. What is the overview of the 2025 budget?

The budget plans for a 9% increase in current fund revenue from 2024 to 2025, and expenses equal to revenue, for a break-even bottom line.

Q2. What is the status of our mortgage?

We have been informed that we will receive \$125,000 from an estate, earmarked to reduce the mortgage. With this money, plus ongoing member contributions, we expect to be able to retire the mortgage close to calendar year-end. This means, without a \$18,263 monthly mortgage payment, we will be able to invest more in facilities and equipment. We continue to request that you divide your contributions between the General Fund and the Building Fund/Mortgage. Major maintenance and improvement expenditures are critical for all of us. For example, in an average year, we expect to spend \$50,000 to replace two air conditioners. We also need to upgrade our technology investments for such things as sound systems and cameras for streaming our services. (On an average weekend, over 400 members take advantage of our streaming.) Up until now, we have not had a dedicated fund to support these investments. We would like to create such a fund for current needs, and also to build a reserve for a future major expansion or improvement. We ask you to continue to support the Building Fund/Mortgage to help solidify our financial future. Thank you for your continued support!

Q3. How many new members have we added this year?

We have added 73 new members in 2024, slightly lower than the 84 additions in 2023, but still very strong growth.

Q4. Are we planning to add staff?

We have two on-going positions that are open; we expect to fill both by year-end. We do not have any new positions in the 2025 budget.

Q5. What were some of the significant expense increases?

We increased Property Projects by over \$115,000 over the 2024 budget. These are monies expected to be raised through contributions to the building/mortgage fund. These expenditures will only be made if we have the revenue to support them. We also increased fellowship spending by over \$22,000 over last year's budget to support an expanded list of events.

Q6. Will we continue to support various causes with our volunteers?

Yes, we plan to provide volunteer support for food banks, Feed My Starving Children, Prime Time Lunches, Casas Por Cristo, and the Fall Festival, among others.

Q7. How many people watch our services with remote streaming?

On average, over 400 people take advantage of our streaming services each week.

Q8. Does the budget meet the needs of the SaddleBrooke congregation?

Yes. The budget includes line items for advertising, room rental, music and worship supplies. We also added a full-time Associate Pastor of SaddleBrooke and Senior Ministry in 2024.

Q9. Were our pastors involved in all phases of this budget, and do they support it?

Yes. The pastors have been very involved. This is their budget, and it reflects their priorities. The pastors recommend approval by the congregation.

Q10. Does the budget meet the needs of the ministries of RLC?

Yes. There are budgets to support music, children, youth and families, and media.

Q11. If an expense is budgeted, does that mean it is approved?

In general, yes, however the Finance Committee and the Church Council meet at least monthly, more often if necessary. Large or unusual expenditures are reviewed at those times and must be approved in advance.

Q12. Question: What was the Generosity and Endowment Committee up to this year?

Your Generosity and Endowment Committee had a productive second year. Led by an incredibly generous couple, RLC made its first investment in the ELCA Ministry Growth Fund and has now raised a total of **\$63,710** from 19 donors.

Q13: Where can members go if they want to learn more about the Committee, and the RLC endowment?

To the Giving Resources Page at our Church Website, www.ovalley.org. There, you will find the Committee Charter, the RLC Gift Acceptance and Investment Policies, and a link to the ELCA Ministry Growth Fund page where you can find current performance and asset allocation information. The Committee works with the Church Council to update the Charter and Policies annually.

Q 14: I would like to make a gift to the Endowment, but I am reliant on income from my investments. Is there anything I can do?

Yes! Please reach out to Lisa Higginbotham, our ELCA Regional Gift Planner at lisa.higginbotham@elca.org. A Charitable Remainder Unitrust or a Charitable Gift Annuity may be the perfect way for you to accomplish your philanthropic goal of supporting the RLC Endowment while receiving current income throughout your lifetime.

Q15: Who are the members of the Committee, in case I would like to speak with any of them directly?

Dave Amble, Bob Asbell, Craig Barker, Pam Brandt, Lorene Faulkner (Council Representative), Pastor Tim Nybrotten, and Barry Robinson.

Q16: I would love to serve God as a member of the Generosity and Endowment Committee. Is there room for me?

Absolutely! The Committee currently has openings. Please reach out to any of our committee members to learn more!

Q17. What is our cash position? What are our reserves?

As of the end of September 2024, we had cash and reserves of over \$1 million. These are very solid numbers for a church of our size and will allow us to take care of unexpected expenditures if the need arises.

Q18. How do we project that the church and the CDC will end the year 2024 financially?

The church budgeted for break-even for 2024. Our current projection is that we will end the year with a small surplus. The CDC budgeted for break-even for the year and expects to meet that goal.

Q19. What were the results of the audit of 2023?

Due in part to turnover in the bookkeeper position, we had more audit findings than last year. All of the findings have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Finance Committee.

Q20. Will there be an audit of 2024 financials?

Yes. The audit for 2024 will occur in the first quarter of 2025, and the results will be presented to the Finance Committee by the Audit Committee.

Q21. What's new at the CDC?

At RLCDC, we remain committed to providing excellent early childhood experiences for the children in our community. This has become more difficult post covid as all costs associated with providing care have risen dramatically. Because of this, the RLCC Board has determined that we must develop other sources of revenue to help us maintain our level of excellence without burdening young families with exorbitant childcare tuition rates. We are currently creating a detailed plan of action that includes updating our web presence, creating a Leadership Institute for parents and educators in our community and sourcing applicable grant opportunities.