

# 2017 Narrative Budget for Advent Lutheran & Madison Christian Community

You may expect things at MCC are always a bit odd, and that also includes our finances. How income from your giving contributes to Advent individually and the shared MCC and how expenses are counted can seem complex and unusual. In offering approximations of combined numbers, this narrative budget won't explain all the details, but should give you a better sense of how your offerings are important for God's work here.

## Your Staff — 60% of MCC total

We share a broad and enthusiastic body of volunteers who are committed to living out our faith. Still, most of your giving funds staff, to serve as the key operation of our ministry for each other and beyond. The biggest portion is for our pastors (34% of our total, following synod guidelines), as they offer the love of God and life of Jesus for you in Word and Sacrament, including worship, pastoral care, social justice leadership, and more. On the anniversary of their arrival, picture how you've begun to relate to Pastors Nick & Sonja this year.



But it's not just a pastor or two. We cherish the programming from Jen Streit for children, families, and music. We rely on support from Kaisa Miller (Administrative Secretary), Anthony Dispanet (Maintenance Manager), and Sue Young (Treasurer). For the first full year, in 2017 we're going to ensure that everyone employed by MCC will earn at least \$15 per hour (broadly seen as a fair minimum wage), which includes our clerical assistant, our lawn mower, and our paid nursery attendant. Our hired staff is completed by the custodial crew of five workers with developmental disabilities through Community Support Network.

## Our Building — 15% of MCC total

Mortgage and insurance and furnaces may not sound very thrilling for your giving to church. But this invests in our biggest tool for ministry. Besides "church" being the building for our largest gathering each week in worship, this structure is also a resource for support & community groups, outreach ministries, early childhood growth through Middleton Preschool, and multi-faith and multi-racial gatherings far beyond our typical identities. For worship, pianos need to be tuned. For welcome, carpets need cleaning. Even simple details like stocked bathrooms are part of ministry (after all, Jesus wore diapers, too!). Our solar panels generated over 22 MWh (megawatt hours) of electricity in 2016, saving more than a third of our total cost and environmental impact. Still, "keeping the lights on" is a vital part of our budget.





**Outreach & Communications — 6%**

We're engaged as church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, which means gizmos and gadgets to communicate God's Word far beyond the volume of your preacher's voice. That's microphones, digital recordings, and more. We share our congregation's identity and mission on our webpage and through social media. We're bringing you news in more and more impressive formats. Besides paper copies, there are computer repairs and smartphone phone bills. In these times, the world needs the good news of the church — of a place that's welcoming to all, committed to justice, making our community better.



**Programs — 3.5%**

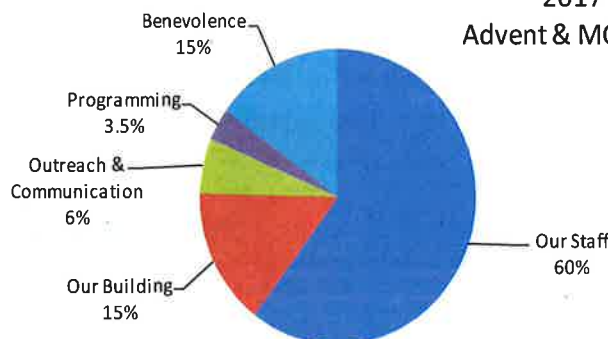
On one hand, it could look like we spend very little on program. On the other hand, pastor salaries could be in this category (just as some of the work they do and Kaisa does could be labeled as Outreach or Anthony could fit under Building). As it is, this small percentage covers worship expenses like bread & wine, pianist honorariums, licensing, and more. (Again, we could divide out utility usage on Sunday mornings and count that as Program instead of as Building. This narrative is an inexact picture.) Programming includes Sunday School curriculum, implemented by over 80 amazing volunteers on behalf of our children. This also has funds for our summer Kids in the Garden program with Lussier Center. Plus coffee, decorations, youth gatherings, and more! In whatever amount, this does big things.

**Benevolence — 15%**

Just as we invite you to tithe or percentage giving, Advent has defined that 15% of our income goes beyond our doors to other ministries we support. Half is for the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, which helps advocacy, campus ministry, seminarians, and the shared work of our bishop and her staff. Of that, more than half goes to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and includes world hunger, ending malaria, disaster relief, new church starts, and much more. The other 7.5% is shared for jail ministry, ecumenical work, helping the homeless, aiding families and refugees, and other vital projects.



2017 Proposed Advent & MCC budget



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.