

2022 NARRATIVE BUDGET

LAINGSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Nurturing disciples of Jesus Christ in intentional Christian community through Worship, Fellowship, Outreach, Service, and Discovery since 1871.

Laingsburg United Methodist Church 2022 Narrative Budget

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Contained in the pages that follow are the amazing stories of what God is doing at Laingsburg United Methodist Church today. As with every other area in our lives, how we spend our money says a lot about who we are, what we value, and speaks volumes to our priorities.

This Narrative budget offers a story and visual description of our life together as a church family, particularly our goals and priorities, and the resources dedicated to achieve them. Together, our time and resources, be they financial or otherwise, facilitate a sacred space for worship, fellowship, discovery, service, and outreach to the world around us.

The intent of this narrative budget is to illustrate and give breath to the theological statement which is our 2022 Operating Budget passed by the Leadership Team in September/October 2021. This narrative is based on (but does not replace) the traditional line-item budget.

I would like to offer special thanks and recognition to the Leadership Team that spearheaded the development of this narrative budget. Their devotion to this project is a reflection of their desire and commitment to making the financial stewardship of Laingsburg UMC more visible to, and understood by, the congregation.

My prayer is that you will find this resource illuminating, offering you deeper insight into your home church. And may God continue to stretch and mature us as we seek to grow in greater generosity and love toward God and one another.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Tiffany Newsom

The majority of Laingsburg UMC's revenue comes from three primary sources: Giving Units, Loose Offerings, and Endowments.

Giving Units

This is the church's first and primary source of revenue. Pledge income is the money that members of the congregation commit to giving each year toward the life and ministry of the church. In the last two years, we have begun to shift our giving models and messaging away from dollars and figures toward proportionate giving. Scripture teaches us that spiritually mature giving is that of giving in proportion to one's income—which allows the whole body of the church to share equally in its ministry and mission. Laingsburg UMC's members are encouraged to move toward the 5-10% giving level as a spiritual investment and act of worship. Here is a summary of the income received from our giving units in 2020 and 2021:

Giving Ranges	Number of Units	2020			2021		
		Sum	%Total		Number of Units	Sum	% Total
≤\$100	14	\$900	0.6%		7	\$196	0.1%
\$101-250	7	\$1,217	0.8%		10	\$1,494	0.8%
\$251-500	10	\$3,720	2.4%		3	\$895	0.5%
\$501-1,000	10	\$7,190	4.6%		11	\$8,481	4.6%
\$1,001-2,500	19	\$27,845	17.8%		15	\$23,825	12.8%
\$2,501-5,000	10	\$38,964	24.9%		14	\$49,405	26.6%
\$5,001-10,000	3	\$25,496	16.3%		4	\$26,973	14.5%
>\$10,000	4	\$51,289	32.7%		4	\$74,185	40.0%
Totals	77	\$156,621	100.0%		68	\$185,454	100.0%

Endowment

In 2021, we withdrew \$17,000 from the Palmer Fund. This fund was established and bequeathed to our church by George Palmer many years ago. In years past, we have depended upon this fund to meet our operating expenses for the year. However, the fund cannot be drawn below \$40,000 and the investment has performed dismally in the first quarter of 2022, dropping from roughly \$47,000 to just \$40,000.

Loose Offering

Loose Offering includes those funds received from unidentifiable givers and accounted for 0.7% of our income in 2021.

Operating Budget Investments

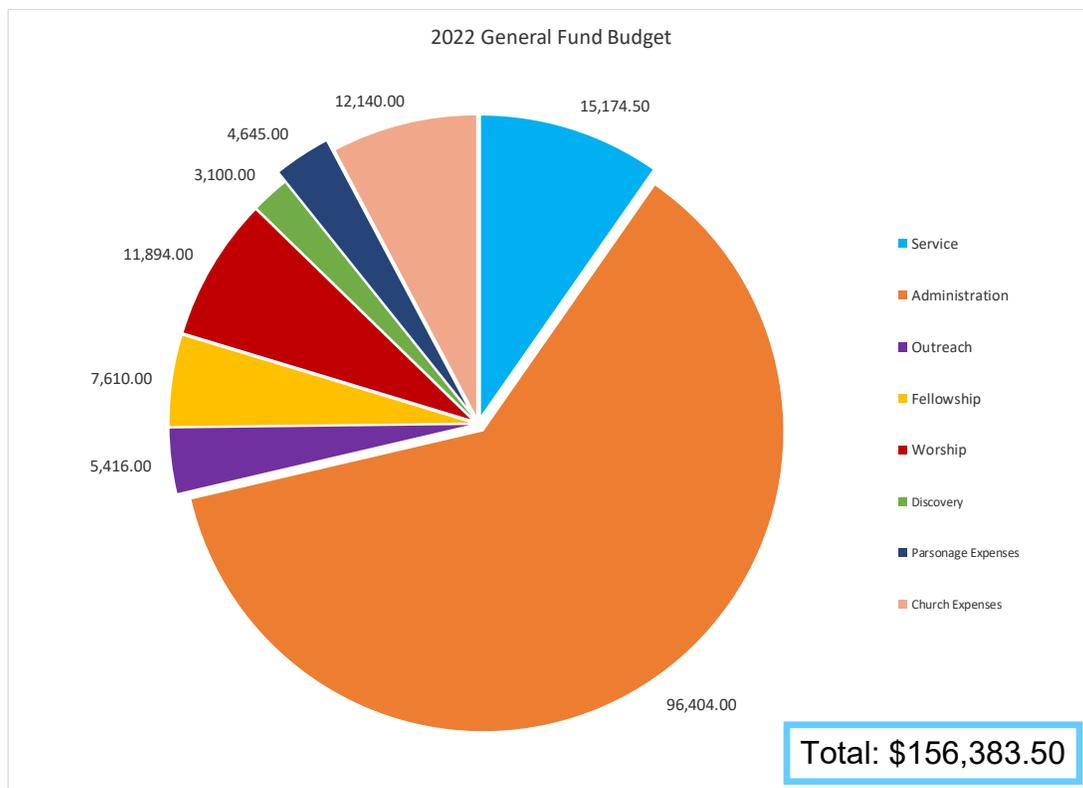
2022 GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

Our Mission here at Laingsburg United Methodist Church is to nurture disciples of Jesus Christ in intentional Christian community through WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, OUTREACH, SERVICE, and DISCOVERY.

These missional focus areas are supported and enabled by LUMC's "ADMINISTRATION, PARSONAGE EXPENSE, and CHURCH EXPENSE" funds which are essential for day-to-day functioning of LUMC.

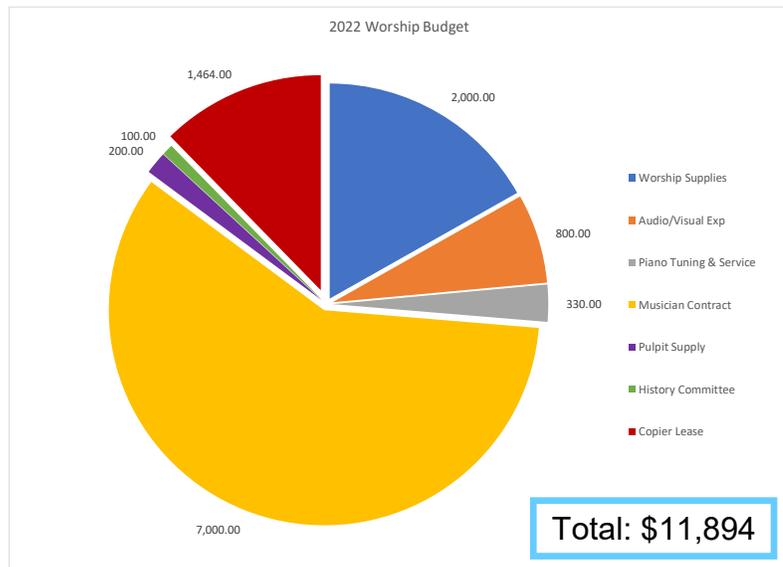
All of our spending, the entirety of LUMC's operating budget, is an investment towards these five missional focus areas.

The Narrative Budget describes our spending, and thereby our investments, in these five areas, and every individual line-item in our 2022 General Operating Budget is reflected in this Narrative Budget.



Worship is...

... an experience in which we offer ourselves, our praise, and our thanksgiving to God. Worship can take many forms, keeping God at the center of the experience through elements such as word, sacrament, reflection, prayer, song, and thanksgiving.



The Worship Team is...

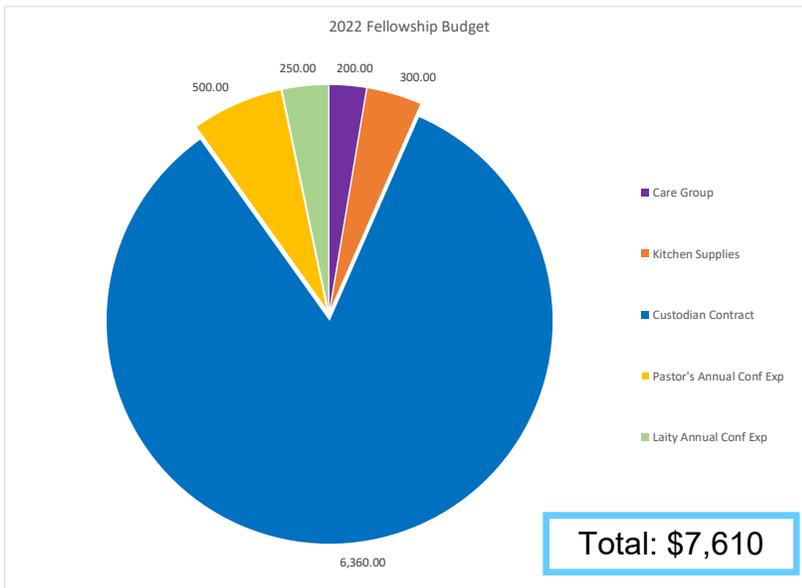
... dedicated to providing you all with a passionate worship experience each week that is engaging for people of all ages.

The Worship Team...

- Assists in planning weekly worship services by selecting hymns, scheduling lay readers, building weekly screen presentations, running the audio and video, and decorating the sanctuary.
- Established a “playground” in the sanctuary to provide a space for young families to worship with us together.
- Incorporates the visual aids on the screens.
- Replaced our hearing assistive device earlier this year.
- Assists the Discovery Team with Messy Church planning.

In the year ahead, the Worship Team hopes to...

- Make significant updates to the lighting in the sanctuary.
- Offer a greater variety of music and special music in worship.
- Train more technicians to run the audio and visual enhancements on Sunday mornings, so that a regular rotation can be established.
- Replace our piano, which is malfunctioning, in the coming months.



Fellowship is...

... about drawing one another together for the purpose of building new relationships and strengthening old. It's about praying for each other and creating a family of faith that will provide accountability, support, love, and compassion.

The Fellowship Team is...

... dedicated to providing you with a variety of opportunities and ways of drawing one another together to strengthen old relationships and build new ones.

The Fellowship Team...

- Works with the Care Group to send out birthday and anniversary cards to all the church members for whom we have that information, along with get-well cards and the monthly "Home Touch" to our homebound members.
- Coordinates the schedule of hosts for our weekly Fellowship Time after Sunday worship.
- Coordinates other potlucks and special celebrations.
- Participates in and helps facilitate the fellowship and hospitality components of Messy Church.

During the year ahead, the Fellowship Team hopes to...

- Establish the team.
- Nominate a team coordinator.
- Establish coffee time prior to church, in addition to the coffee and snacks afterwards.
- Establish a congregational care team to visit with our homebound members.
- Establish a variety of other opportunities to congregation members to gather and nurture their relationships with one another.

Outreach is...

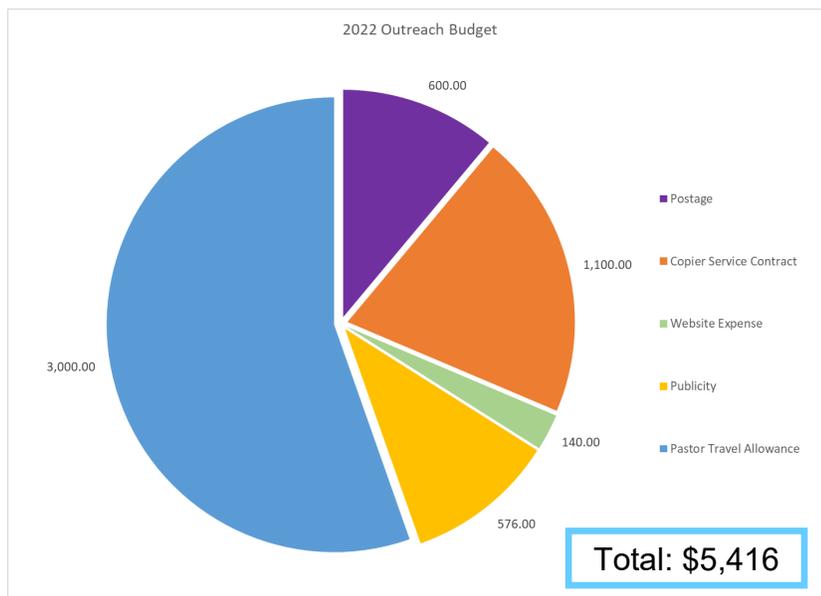
... the extension of grace, invitation, and love with the hope that others will come to experience God's amazing love through us. It is about building relationships, telling our stories, sharing the good news, and discovering how God is already at work in the hearts, minds, and lives of those we meet.

Outreach is...

... an often overlooked aspect of Christian ministry and mission. When times get tough, it is often the first ministry area to experience cuts. Yet, it is vital to the continuation of our life together.

The Outreach Team...

- Produces and distributes fliers and other mailings about church and community events and gatherings.
- Explores and initiates new outreach initiatives in the community, like Tuesdays at Twilliger's.
- Organizes our annual Trunk-or-Treat event—one of our primary outreach ministries.
- Maintains the church website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel.
- Promotes and widely publishes the “Conversations with D ‘n T” Podcast produced by Diana Carpenter and Pastor Tiffany.
- Facilitates other publicity including advertising in The Weekly, on Facebook, and in other area newspapers.



During the year ahead, the Outreach Team hopes to...

- Establish the team.
- Nominate a team coordinator.
- Establish a cohesive vision and path forward for the Outreach of the congregation.
- Prepare the congregation to better receive visitors and encourage a practice of inviting others to participate in a variety of church events.

Service is...

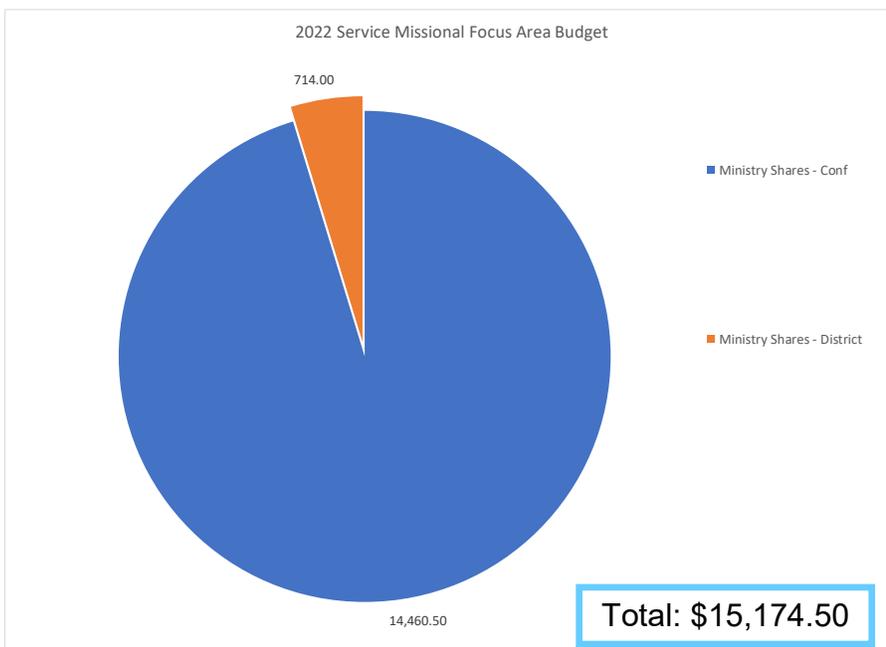
... a Christian demonstration of Jesus' love and compassion for all of God's children and creation. Through service, we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world and community around us. through mission, giving, and attending to the needs of others, we meet God where God is already present.

The Service Team is...

... dedicated to providing our congregation with a variety of opportunities to serve the people of God in the community around us, our state, our nation, and around the world through opportunities to Learn, Give, and Act.

The Service Team...

- Planned our "Noisy Change" offering during the month of May for Heifer International and the educational videos about the organization during worship.



- Planned to take up "Change for Change" offering each month through the rest of the year for other organizations we plan to support.
- Partnered with the CORE Youth Group on their Mission Trip to the United Methodist Committee of Relief's Midwest Distribution Center.
- Facilitates our annual breakfast for the Carnival workers and the collection of hygiene and snack items to provide them.
- Facilitated the collection of Hygiene Kit items earlier in the year.

- Assists the day to day operations of the Money4Meals program here in Laingsburg.
- Has planted a garden plot at the Moon Lake Community Garden, through Looking Glass Community Outreach and hopes to provide some fresh produce for those who work our plot, members of the congregation, and clients of the food bank.

In the year ahead, the Service Team hopes to...

- Continue to explore the needs and opportunities that are out there while discerning where we can make the greatest impact in our community, state, nation, and world.

Discovery is...

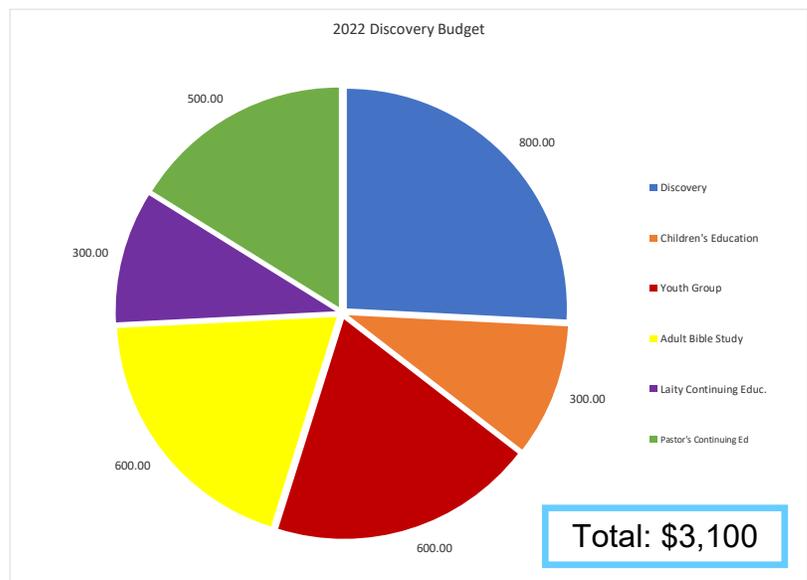
... about participating in, and even sharing with others, enriching and creative opportunities for us to learn more about God, our relationship with God, the world, and with one another.

Discovery is...

... an essential part of our growth and development as disciples of Jesus Christ. Learning and exploring our faith alongside one another empowers us to live more fully into our mission and into people God created us to be.

The Discovery Team...

- Produces the “Conversations with D ‘n T” podcast developed and produced by Diana Carpenter and Pastor Tiffany.
- Selects curriculum and facilitates Bible Studies.
- Establishes the themes for the monthly Messy Church gatherings and facilitates the faith based conversations held during Messy Church.



During the year ahead, the Discovery Team hopes to...

- Offer a greater variety of Bible Study opportunities.
- Encourage greater involvement in those Bible Study opportunities.

Our MINISTRY SHARES are LUMC's tithe and investment in the life and ministry of the broader United Methodist Church within our Conference and around the world.