

**Narrative Budgets:  
Connecting your congregation's mission,  
ministry, and numbers**



**An Introductory Note**

While this resource in its thoroughness stretches to 17 pages, a final Narrative Budget as presented to the congregation would only be approximately 2-3 pages, as you can see on pages 14-16, as an example of a finished product that would be shared with a congregation.

**Common Starting Questions**

***What is a Narrative Budget?***

A Narrative Budget is a visual way to tell the story of ministry in action in your congregation. It provides a vision of ministry, often not seen or possible through just a spreadsheet of line items. It reflects how the congregation spends its time, talent, and treasure rather than paying the bills.

***What about the line-item budget?***

The financial decision makers of your congregation still need to build and use a line item budget. In fact, a line item budget completes the first step in creating your narrative budget. You also want to make copies of the approved line item budget available to members who like to see that level of detail.

***How do you create a Narrative Budget?***

Read on for more.

***Setting the stage for the Narrative Budget***

A narrative budget can be defined as the story of how your congregation practices good stewardship of the gifts entrusted to it. It provides a vision of where the church hopes to be in the coming year. While the bottom line of the financial goal of the narrative budget and the bottom line of the line item budget are equal, the approach and message are not.

If you look at the line item budget of most congregations, you notice that most the financial resources go to compensate employees and to keep a building(s) in operation. These figures by themselves do little to inspire giving or invite participation in ministry.

A narrative budget allows for a re-thinking of staff resources from salary to an investment of staff support for the mission and vision of the congregation. The expenditures for building use and administration are also necessary costs for maintaining and growing the ministries of a congregation. The narrative budget streamlines the numbers in a clear and concise way, and provides an invitation into supporting God's work.

Imagine for a minute your congregation's annual meeting. When the budget is presented each year, do the majority of people's eyes glass over, and the same handful people are the ones who ask questions about the budget, year after year? The narrative budget provides a way for the

whole faith community to engage around a conversation of ministry, stewardship, and doing God’s work as the church together.

The columns below offer a comparison between a line item budget and narrative budget:

**Line Item Budget**

- Shows paying bills
- Gives emphasis to corporation and infrastructure
- Invites the assembly to micro-manage
- Sets a dollar amount goal
- Looks like any business
- Is overwhelming
- Is used once a year for approval or if cuts need to be made
- Is just about the money
- Is usually constitutionally required to be approved annually

**Narrative Budget**

- Shows God’s work
- Gives emphasis to the Spirit at work
- Invites the assembly into ministry
- Sets a stewardship goal
- Looks different
- Is inspiring
- Is used year-round to show progress on the goals set
- Is about giving generously in time, talent and treasure to our passions
- Does not replace a line item budget, but makes it more relatable for the majority

**Implementing a Narrative Budget**

**Step 1: Present the concept of a Narrative Budget to church leadership.**

Introduce your leadership to the concept of a narrative budget to see if it is time to try this. Use the table on page 4 to offer a comparison between the two budget schemes.

**Step 2: Create a line item budget.**

The leadership (whatever this means in your context- council, board, staff, finance committee, etc.) creates and approves the line item budget.

**Step 3: Categorize ministry areas.**

Grouping ministries into five to ten larger categories organizes the budget and helps with comprehension. Common categories often include: faith formation; fellowship and community building or engagement; mission (global and local); stewardship supporting ministries; and worship and music.

It is important to note that no category should be titled “salary,” rather staff compensation should be divided proportionately in later steps according to time used in each ministry category. Additionally, no category should be titled “administration.” Rather, administrative costs should be allocated to ministry areas as proportionate based on need and usage.

To help see how this might look in your context, here is how this might look in one hypothetical congregation, we will call Second Lutheran Church. Second Lutheran discerned that it had these ministry categories: faith formation; fellowship and community; mission engagement; pastoral care; stewardship; supporting ministries; and worship and music. Within these categories, Second Lutheran discerned that these different ministry groups fit within these categories:

### **Faith Formation**

- Adult Study Circles
- Bible Studies
- Confirmation
- Confirmation Camp
- ELCA Youth Gathering
- Faith Formation Team
- High School Ministries
- Sunday School
- Wednesday Night Church Night
- Youth Group

### **Fellowship and Community**

- Community Cruising Events (and Scavenger Hunts)
- Fun Runs
- Parade Planners
- Sunday Fellowship Hour
- Tractor and Harvest Ministry
- Wednesday Night Suppers

### **Mission Engagement**

- Health Cabinet
- Lutheran Family Services
- Lutheran World Relief
- Meals on Wheels
- Mission Share (or ELCA Mission Support)
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Serving Arms Support (other social ministries in relationship with the congregation)
- Quilters Ministry

### **Pastoral Care**

- Cancer Support Group
- Funeral Care Support
- Stephen Ministry
- Visitation

### **Supporting Ministries**

- Church Council
- Endowment Board
- Executive Committee
- Finance Team

### **Stewardship**

- Mission Share (or ELCA Mission Support)
- Property Team
- Stewardship Team
- “Thank You” Ministry
- Volunteer Coordination

### **Worship and Music**

- Celebration Singers (Adult Choir)
- Joyful Ringers (Youth Handbell Choir)
- Joyful Singers (Youth Choir)
- Jubilant Ringers (Adult Handbell Choir)
- Lectors and Readers
- Ushers Group
- Worship and Music Team

## **Step Four: Adjusting Figures from the Line Item Budget to the Narrative Budget Format**

On your congregation’s line-item budget you should clearly see revenues (usually congregational giving), and expenses broken down by categories and items. Some of these categories and items will easily correspond with the categories for your narrative budget, like sheet music would fit under worship and music. Other categories or items will take more work. The most work in this step will be regarding pastor/staff compensation figures. On a line-item budget, compensation for staff may be detailed or not, but it will appear to be among the larger values on the expense side of the budget. The narrative budget connects these “costs” with the actual ministry that these assets help create and make happen.

In our hypothetical situation, imagine that Second Lutheran Church has one full-time pastor, a part-time church administrator, and a part-time church musician. Their benefits and compensation might look something like this:

Pastor Salary	\$49,000
Pastor Insurance and Benefits	\$15,000
Pastor Housing Allowance	\$8,000
Other Pastoral Benefits	\$2,000
Church Administrator Salary	\$25,000
Music Director Compensation	\$20,000

Total Pastoral Benefits & Compensation:	\$74,000
Other Staff Benefits & Compensation:	\$45,000
Total Staff Benefits & Compensation:	\$119,000

*\*These are hypothetical figures, which may not represent fair values, nor synod guidelines. Please refer to synod guidelines for fair and equitable compensation in your context.*

Now, with the figures, whatever they are, they must be allocated to the categories of ministry determined in step 3. For our hypothetical situation, we will refer to the seven categories of Second Lutheran Church.

First, let's allocate the musician compensation. Second Lutheran's Music Director is receiving \$20,000. When the music director considers their time and scope of work, the vast majority of it occurs in worship and music related functions. However, they also lead music for Sunday School for about 15 minutes per week. To account for this, Second Lutheran's narrative budget committee has decided to estimate a fair amount of the \$20,000 for Faith Formation, and then place the remainder in Worship & Music. Based on a couple quick numbers, they will estimate that the Music Director should receive about \$20.00 per week for the Sunday School work, which would amount to: \$1,040 per year. The remainder of the \$20,000 compensation then would be: \$18,960, and allocated to worship and music.

Second, let's allocate for the church administrator. Second Lutheran's Church Administrator is receiving \$25,000. As the church administrator considers their time and scope of work, they see that their work covers a number of ministry categories, including: Faith Formation, Fellowship and Community, Mission Engagement, Supporting Ministries, Stewardship, and Worship and Music. To fairly allocate their compensation, they must estimate how much time they spend in relation to each category of ministry. In conversation between the church administrator, pastor, and narrative budget committee of Second Lutheran, they decide to approximate the church administrator's time as follows with the greatest time needs per each category:

Faith Formation: 20% of the time- handouts, technology, announcements, communication, volunteer coordination

Fellowship and Community: 10% of the time- communication, volunteer coordination

Mission Engagement: 15% of the time- communication, volunteer coordination

Supporting Ministries: 25% of the time- administrative support, communication, volunteer coordination

Stewardship: 15% of the time- property management, communication, volunteer coordination

Worship and Music: 15% of the time- bulletin/order or service preparation, volunteer coordination

With these percentages, the administrator's compensation can be easily divided from their \$25,000, with the resulting allocations:

Faith Formation:  $\$25,000 * .2 = \$5,000$   
Fellowship & Community:  $\$25,000 * .1 = \$2,500$   
Mission Engagement:  $\$25,000 * .15 = \$3,750$   
Supporting Ministries:  $\$25,000 * .25 = \$6,250$   
Stewardship:  $\$25,000 * .15 = \$3,750$   
Worship & Music:  $\$25,000 * .15 = \$3,750$

Remember these are approximations, and will also be approximations. But in reviewing calendars as a group, you can make more accurate estimations to more fairly show the related costs and results of ministry in these related categories.

Finally, the pastor's compensation must be allocated. Second Lutheran's pastoral compensation package totals \$74,000. The pastor then in reviewing their planner and calendar, and in conversation with the church administrator, and the narrative budget planning committee, decide to estimate the pastor's time related to the ministry categories as follows:

Faith Formation: 25% for Bible Study and confirmation leadership and preparation; volunteer coordination; pastoral presence  
Fellowship & Community: 5% primarily for pastoral presence  
Mission Engagement: 10% primarily for pastoral presence  
Pastoral Care: 25% for pastoral visitation, funeral planning and leadership, one-on-one's with parishioners, phone calls, counseling, etc.  
Supporting Ministries: 10% for committee meetings, volunteer coordination, communication  
Stewardship: 5% for thank you ministry, committee meetings, volunteer coordination  
Worship & Music: 20% for worship leadership, sermon writing, preparation, worship design, volunteer coordination

*\*Remember these are approximations and estimates, and may not completely reflect or resemble your context.*

With these time estimates, it is easy to allocate the pastoral compensation fairly for each ministry category as follows:

Faith Formation:  $\$74,000 * .25 = \$18,500$   
Fellowship & Community:  $\$74,000 * .05 = \$3,700$   
Mission Engagement:  $\$74,000 * .10 = \$7,400$   
Pastoral Care:  $\$74,000 * .25 = \$18,500$   
Supporting Ministries:  $\$74,000 * .10 = \$7,400$   
Stewardship:  $\$74,000 * .05 = \$3,700$   
Worship & Music:  $\$74,000 * .20 = \$14,800$

The total line-item budget expenses for the year for Second Lutheran were \$190,000. When removing staff compensation from that figure, that leaves \$71,000 to be allocated to the seven ministry areas.

Now that staff compensation has been allocated, it is usually straight forward to take other figures and expenses from the line-item budget, and assign them to the narrative budget. As you look at the line-item budget, note any figures that would be reflective of more than one ministry category. Note these, and save them for last.

#### **STEP FIVE: CALCULATE MINISTRY CATEGORY TOTALS AND PERCENTAGES**

After assigning ministry expenses to their proper categories, Second Lutheran discovered a few items on the line-item budget, which needed to be broken down into a few categories- like computers, copiers, internet and phone service, technology, utilities, property care, etc. After some estimation, they made the adjustments, and came up with the following totals:

##### Faith Formation:

- \$1,040 – Sunday School music (music director/organist)
- \$5,000 – Administrative Resources
- \$18,500 – Pastoral Resources
- \$5,000 – Supplies & Curriculum
- \$8,000 – Scholarships to attend camp, ELCA youth gathering, etc.
- \$1,400 – Utilities, technology, internet, etc.

Total Faith Formation: **\$38,940**

- $\$38,940 / \$190,000$  total budget = **20.50% of church budget\***

##### Fellowship & Community:

- \$2,500 – Administrative Resources
- \$3,700 – Pastoral Resources
- \$5,000 – Supplies (paper products, etc.)
- \$480 – Utilities, technology, internet, etc.

Total Fellowship & Community: **\$11,680**

- $\$11,680 / \$190,000$  total budget = **6.15% of church budget**

Mission Engagement:

\$3,750 – Administrative Resources

\$7,400 – Pastoral Resources

\$9,500 – Mission Share

Note: Second Lutheran gives 10% of its budget to mission share, which is \$19,000 annually. The narrative budget committee has decided to divide mission share evenly between mission engagement & stewardship)

\$10,000 – Other allocated benevolences

\$5,200 – Gifts to particular serving arms and needs

\$480 – Utilities, technology, internet, etc.

Total Mission Engagement: **\$36,330**

- $\$36,330 / \$190,000$  total budget = **19.13% of church budget\***

Pastoral Care:

\$18,500 – Pastoral Resources

\$2,000 – Resources for Groups

\$480 – Utilities, technology, internet, etc.

Total Pastoral Care: **\$20,980**

- $\$20,980 / \$190,000$  = **11.05% of church budget\***

Supporting Ministries:

\$6,250 – Administrative Resources

\$7,400 – Pastoral Resources

\$3,000 – Assembly, Synod, Meetings, Preparation, Education for leaders

\$480 – Utilities, technology, internet, etc.

\$0 – Mowing, Snow Removal, Maintenance (Second Lutheran receives custodial, ground and property support by volunteers from the congregation. Maintenance costs are covered by an endowment outside of the budget.)

*NOTE:* This is not normal for all congregations. If these were paid for = services, they would likely be allocated between supporting and stewardship ministries.

Total Supporting Ministries: **\$17,130**

- $\$17,130 / \$190,000$  total budget = **9.02% of total church budget**

Stewardship:

\$3,750 – Administrative Resources

\$3,700 – Pastoral Resources

\$9,500 – Mission Share

Note: See note regarding mission share under mission engagement above.

\$1,000 – Stewardship resources

\$240 – Utilities, technology, internet, etc.

Total Stewardship: **\$18,190**

- o \$18,190 / \$190,000 total budget = **9.57% of total church budget**

Worship and Music:

\$18,960 – Music Director/organist

\$3,750 – Administrative Resources

\$14,800 – Pastoral Resources

\$4,000 – Instruments & sheet music, etc.

\$4,000 – Sound equipment

\$1,200 – Other technology, utilities, copyrights, etc.

Total Worship & Music: **\$46,710**

- o \$46,710 / \$190,000 total budget = **24.58% of total church budget**

*\*figure rounded up by .01 to make sure percentages totaled to 100%*

The above numbers are obviously simplistic, and may well ignore some budget areas for your congregation or include other assumptions that do not apply in your context. You are not yet ready to present your narrative budget yet, because you do not have one. The next step is to create the starting presentation of your narrative budget.

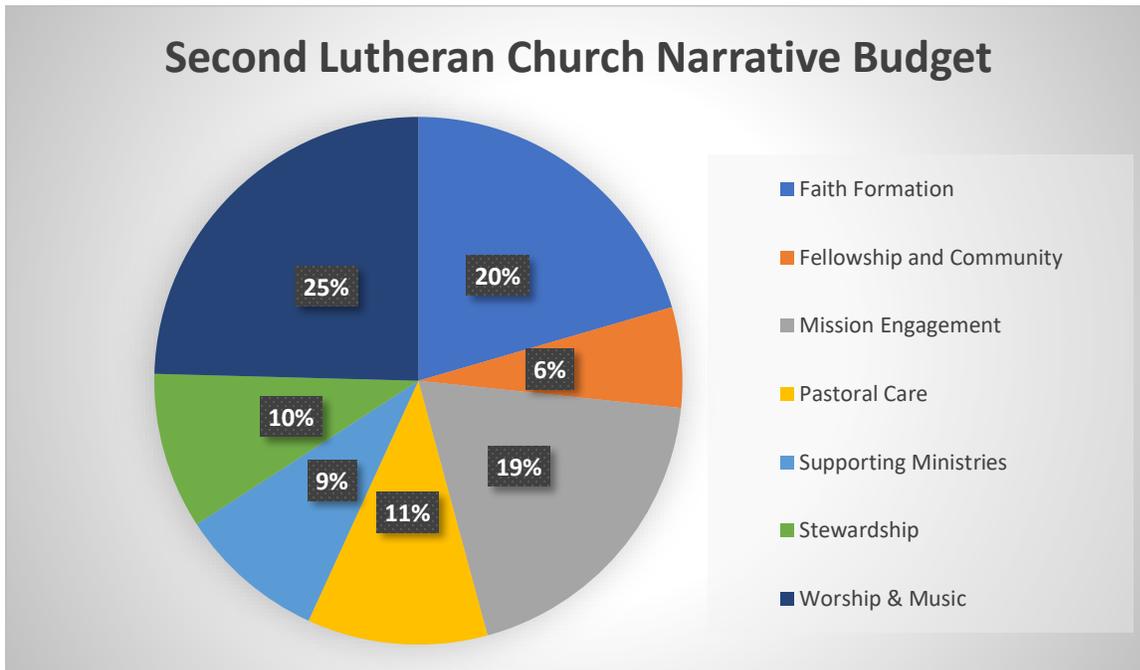
**STEP SIX: REVIEW AND SUMMARIZE**

Using basic software like Microsoft Word or Excel, you can easily view the budget by category. Simply create a basic spreadsheet or data set like the following:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Total Category Budget</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Budget</b>
Faith Formation	\$38,940	20.50%
Fellowship and Community	\$11,680	6.15%
Mission Engagement	\$36,330	19.13%
Pastoral Care	\$20,980	11.05%
Supporting Ministries	\$17,130	9.02%
Stewardship	\$18,190	9.57%
Worship and Music	\$46,710	24.58%

If using Microsoft Word for example, review the tool bar at the top of your screen. Click on Insert, then click on Chart, and it will give you all sorts of options, including the pie chart option, which is included here for reference for Second Lutheran Church.

Using the Pie Chart, allows you to visually see how the budget breaks down for each ministry area. If this seems appropriate, and reflective of reality, you are ready to connect the mission and story with the numbers. Or, as Martin Luther asked, you too can now ask of this, “What does this mean?”



### **STEP SEVEN: What does this Mean? – Connecting the Narrative/Mission to Tell the Story**

Second Lutheran Church’s tag line is “Complex World, Thoughtful Church.” This is the mantra that shapes ministry for this congregation. It’s stated mission is: Second Lutheran Church is a living and welcoming community of faith, centered in God’s grace and called to show and embody God’s love for the world.

Whatever the mission, slogan, or vision of your congregation is, it is most effective to connect that statement to the budget, and better yet, to allow the mission to shape the narrative and budget. To connect the narrative, an effective way can be to take each budget category, compile one or two pictures reflective of ministry that happens from that area, and share a one or two paragraph or story about what is possible and what has happened related to that ministry, connected to the budgeted percentage and category total. Here’s an example for Second Lutheran Church:

**Second Lutheran Church**  
***Complex World. Thoughtful Church.***

*Second Lutheran Church is a living and welcoming community of faith, centered in God's grace and called to show and embody God's love for the world.*

***Faith Formation- \$38,940***

***20.50% of total budget***

Second Lutheran Church believes that to engage our complex world thoughtfully, biblical study, education, faith and spiritual practices matter. These matter for all ages, from birth to baptismal waters, from affirmation to the ultimate claiming of one's baptismal promises. This past year, eleven young adults affirmed their faith in confirmation, while all confirmands were also sent on scholarships from the congregation to confirmation camp. In 2018, a large contingent of the congregation's middle and high schoolers will be sent to the ELCA Youth Gathering. Additionally, Bible Studies for all ages have taken on questions of spiritual identity, questions related to our Reformation heritage, and wonderings about our faith in relation to other faiths-including visits to a neighboring mosque and synagogue. From these groups and gatherings, we have strived to humbly and directly engage our complex world, thoughtfully as God's church.

***Fellowship and Community- \$11,680***

***6.15% of total budget***

Second Lutheran Church believes that to embody God's love for the world, the church must truly be present in it. This happens both inside and outside the walls of this congregation. This past year, there have been two community "Crusin'" events, where nearly 1/3-1/2 of the congregation participated in scavenger hunts driving through our local communities, and then gathering for lunch as a congregation at local establishments. The congregation has been present in the local communities by walking in parades, welcoming regional tractor rides with refreshments, a harvest festival, and more. Nearly 200 people participated in the congregation's sponsored fun-run for fellowship and stewardship, and each week between 75-200 people have enjoyed a free dinner, a mixture of congregation and larger community members together in fellowship on Wednesday evenings. These ways and more, are examples of the people of Second Lutheran gathering in God's grace, and sharing in God's abundant love together.

***Mission Engagement- \$36,330***

***19.13% of total budget***

Second Lutheran Church recognizes that our world is complex. Likewise, the needs of our neighbors are complex too, but our call to love and serve is not. Pure and simply we are called to love and serve, without reservation. As we respond to God's call and serve as part of God's work in the world, we do so through the provision of our congregational health cabinet and prayer shawl and quilting ministries; our partnership with serving arm organizations including Lutheran Family Services, Lutheran World Relief; through our larger community's meals on wheels program; and even our support of the synod and larger church our mission share participation.

***Pastoral Care- \$20,980***

***11.05% of total budget***

Second Lutheran Church is a thoughtful church, a living community of faith grounded in God's grace and bearing God's love. Often this is most easily seen through the way sisters and brothers are in relationship with one another. As a congregation, this is realized through a cancer support group; funeral care; the Stephen Ministry which trains and allows for members of the community to bring the sacrament and visit members of the community who are sick or unable to regularly

come to worship, and through pastoral visitation. This is done in visits in homes, at the hospital, coffee shops, at church. It also can be done virtually, digitally, and electronically. God is with us, Emmanuel. God is present in the good, bad, and ugly moments of life in this complex world. We are bearers of this presence through our care.

***Supporting Ministries- \$17,130***

***9.02% of total budget***

Second Lutheran Church is engaged in this complex world, locally and in the larger community. To do these ministries, takes support and guidance through participation in the larger synod and church, continuing education and training, and especially through leadership training and the leadership and service of the: church council, endowment board, executive committee, and finance team. Together, these groups help guide the decision making of the congregation, reflecting on opportunities for ministry and how they are responses to the congregation's mission and vision.

***Stewardship- \$18,190***

***9.57% of total budget***

Second Lutheran Church is a thoughtful church in a complex world, living out its response to the Good News of the gospel through the way it stewards that which God has entrusted to it. Second Lutheran supports the ministry of the larger church and synod through its mission share participation which enables the congregation to do ministry that literally spans the globe-supporting missionaries, new and renewing ministries, serving arms, and even the support and development of new leaders, pastors, and deacons of the church. Locally, Second Lutheran is stewards of its property through the service and leadership of the property team, enabling countless ministries to be able to happen safely, cleanly, and effectively. Second Lutheran's stewardship team reflects regularly on the mission and vision of the congregation, and how the congregation is and can be even more so, faithfully living out its calling as stewards. Additionally, as is a primary point of emphasis for the congregation as one that is thoughtful, this has also helped develop a volunteer coordination team but also a "Thank You" ministry, cultivating stories of ministry in action, and sharing words of gratitude with those who have helped make God's work and ministry in the world possible.

***Worship and Music- \$46,710***

***24.58% of total budget***

Second Lutheran Church is a living community of faith that is centered in God's grace. This is experienced in many forms, but especially in word and sacrament that is experienced in worship on weekends and Wednesday evenings. We praise God through our music and worship, and we do so in many ways through choirs, bell choirs, worship leadership, serving as lectors and ushers, and even on the larger worship and music team. Worship is cross-generational in its participation and leadership, and we believe that we grow, serve, and worship together regardless of age, experience, perspectives, etc. All are welcome, and all are invited to the table of God's mercy and grace.

NOTE: Depending on your context, a second paragraph for each category might be helpful to help capture even more unique examples of these ministries in action. Perhaps ask someone who was touched by one ministry from each category in the past year to write two or three sentences describing their experience. This could be immensely powerful and moving.

Once you have compiled these category descriptions, you are ready to present them to congregational leadership and the larger congregation.

### **STEP EIGHT: PRESENT AND RECEIVE FEEDBACK**

Now that you have crafted the story, it's time to present the budget and receive feedback as appropriate. First present the narrative budget to the congregational leadership- staff, council, etc., as appropriate in your congregational context.

Once presented to these groups, take any feedback received and make adjustments as needed and necessary. It may be useful to ask leadership the following questions:

1. Does this narrative budget tie the story and the numbers?
2. Does it tell some of the story of who we are, and why we do what we do?
3. What, if anything, are we missing?
4. What would you add, or consider adjusting? Why?
5. What way(s) would you present this information to the larger congregation?

After making any needed adjustments, it's now time to share the narrative budget with the larger congregation. Ways that you might present the narrative budget to the larger congregation could include:

- In church newsletters, through a complete capturing of each category with paragraph(s) and picture(s).
- Broken up by category area, you might tell a category story once or twice a week for a month or two via the church's social media platforms.
- Broken up by category area, tell a story weekly (one story per week) tied to a particular category reflected in the budget, of what has been made possible or what sort of God's work has happened through the congregation's stewardship, support, and participation. Tell the story in worship. This can be particularly effective if done during the offering time, to connect giving directly with its impact.
- Present the entire narrative budget at the annual meeting as appropriate. Provide copies of both the narrative form, and the line-item budget for the congregation in order to prepare to vote and approve the budget for the upcoming year.
- Tell the stories represented in the narrative budget in video form if helpful or possible in your context too, to engage people on social media or in worship.

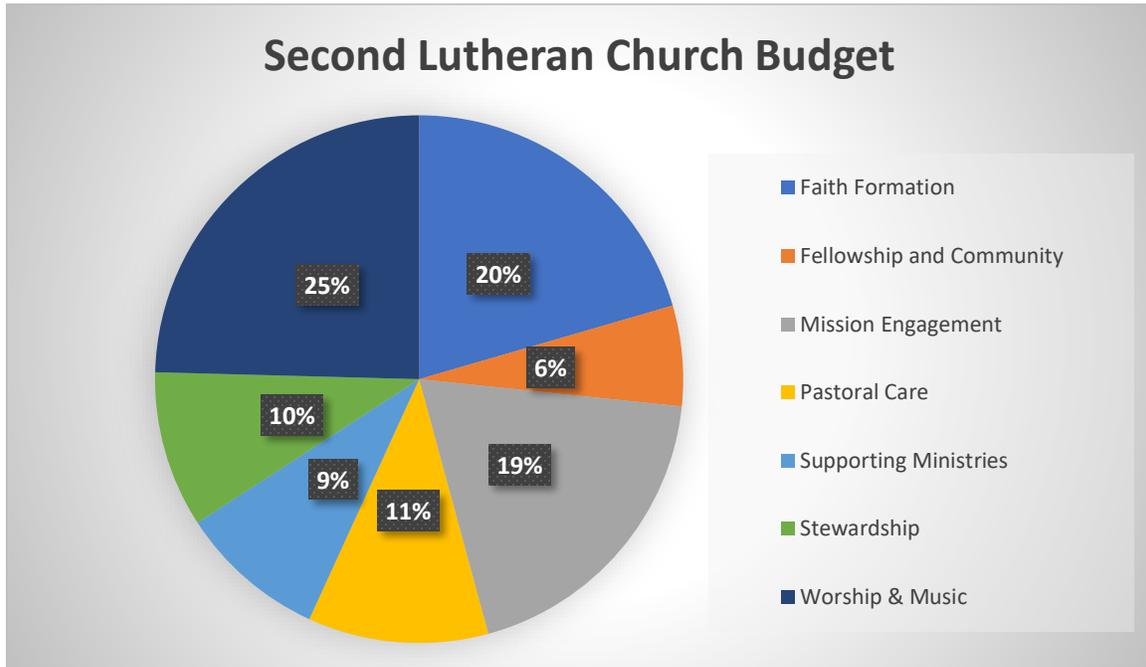
After presenting the budget, take questions and feedback as needed. Also, be sure and reflect on the experience of creating this narrative budget. Any learning and insights will be useful to track and keep in mind when creating or adjusting the budget going forward in the months and years ahead.

After you have presented and made any adjustments, congratulations on completing your narrative budget. Thank you for your time, energy, and attention to this. And thank you for faithfully serving, and telling your story of ministry in action, which is part of God's on-going story of redemption, hope, reconciliation, love, grace, and promise in the world.

## APPENDIX 1: WHAT THE FINAL PRODUCT MIGHT LOOK LIKE

### Second Lutheran Church *Complex World. Thoughtful Church.*

*Second Lutheran Church is a living and welcoming community of faith, centered in God's grace and called to show and embody God's love for the world.*



#### ***Faith Formation- \$38,940***

Second Lutheran Church believes that to engage our complex world thoughtfully, biblical study, education, faith and spiritual practices matter. These matter for all ages, from birth to baptismal waters, from affirmation to the ultimate claiming of one's baptismal promises. This past year, eleven young adults affirmed their faith in confirmation, while all confirmands were also sent on scholarships from the congregation to confirmation camp. In 2018, a large contingent of the congregation's middle and high schoolers will be sent to the ELCA Youth Gathering. Additionally, Bible Studies for all ages have taken on questions of spiritual identity, questions related to our Reformation heritage, and wonderings about our faith in relation to other faiths- including visits to a neighboring mosque and synagogue. From these groups and gatherings, we have strived to humbly and directly engage our complex world, thoughtfully as God's church.

#### ***20.50% of total budget***



***Fellowship and Community- \$11,680***

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***6.15% of total budget***

***Mission Engagement- \$36,330***

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***19.13% of total budget***

***Pastoral Care- \$20,980***

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***11.05% of total budget***

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***9.02% of total budget***

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***Stewardship- \$18,190***

***9.57% of total budget***

Second Lutheran Church is a thoughtful church in a complex world, living out its response to the Good News of the gospel through the way it stewards that which God has entrusted to it. Second Lutheran supports the ministry of the larger church and synod through its mission share participation which enables the congregation to do ministry that literally spans the globe—supporting missionaries, new and renewing ministries, serving arms, and even the support and development of new leaders, pastors, and deacons of the church. Locally, Second Lutheran is stewards of its property through the service and leadership of the property team, enabling countless ministries to be able to happen safely, cleanly, and effectively. Second Lutheran’s stewardship team reflects regularly on the mission and vision of the congregation, and how the congregation is and can be even more so, faithfully living out its calling as stewards. Additionally, as is a primary point of emphasis for the congregation as one that is thoughtful, this has also helped develop a volunteer coordination team but also a “Thank You” ministry, cultivating stories of ministry in action, and sharing words of gratitude with those who have helped make God’s work and ministry in the world possible.

***Worship and Music- \$46,710***

***24.58% of total budget***

Second Lutheran Church is a living community of faith that is centered in God’s grace. This is experienced in many forms, but especially in word and sacrament that is experienced in worship on weekends and Wednesday evenings. We praise God through our music and worship, and we do so in many ways through choirs, bell choirs, worship leadership, serving as lectors and ushers, and even on the larger worship and music team. Worship is cross-generational in its participation and leadership, and we believe that we grow, serve, and worship together regardless of age, experience, perspectives, etc. All are welcome, and all are invited to the table of God’s mercy and grace.



***Sources, References, and Further Resources***

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