



Love In Action

St. Thomas Episcopal Church Stewardship Campaign 2026



“LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE
IN LOVE.” – 1 CORINTHIANS 16:14

A life of faith is a life of action.

When we love, we give—of our time, talent, and treasure.

Our annual fall campaign is an invitation to deepen your
relationship with Jesus Christ through intentional giving and
prayerful generosity.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church



St. Thomas Strives to Be a Tithing Church

What does it mean to tithe?

It means giving back to God—faithfully, joyfully, intentionally. Biblically, it is described as *one tenth* of what God has provided you.

At St. Thomas, we define our Church Tithe as **5% of household income.**

Tithing is a **spiritual practice**, not just a financial one.

Spiritually, tithing can also be a prayer, a statement of unity, and a proclamation of hope.



Why Tithe?

We ask that each household consider *trying on* tithing. Our goal is 5% of annual income. For anyone not in a position to tithe at this time, please consider increasing your pledge by 1% annually, or as you are able, until you reach 5%.



Why? Tithing is a way to **put God first**. Tithing is more than an act of giving—it is an act of faith, obedience, and trust in God. Parishioners who already tithe have experienced:

- God's abundant blessings
- a deeper relationship with God
- strengthened faith
- an attitude of gratitude and humility

Tithing truly transforms lives!

Tithing is also the **fairest way to give**. The percentage allows for everyone to give the same... not in amount, but in proportion to what they have been blessed with.

Lastly, tithing leads to **eternal rewards** because investing in God's Kingdom brings rewards beyond this life.

Please join us on this spiritual journey to build up St. Thomas, the Kingdom of God, and our community!

From Scripture...

“Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.”

Deuteronomy 16:17

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy... But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”

Matthew 6:19-20

Breaking It Down

Here's how to begin:

- Pray intentionally about your giving
- Reflect on what God is calling you to do
- Start by increasing your gift by 1%



Giving Chart



ANNUAL INCOME	1%	3%	5%	7%	10%	15%
\$10,000	\$100	\$300	\$500	\$700	\$1,000	\$1,500
\$15,000	\$150	\$450	\$750	\$1,050	\$1,500	\$2,250
\$20,000	\$200	\$600	\$1,000	\$1,400	\$2,000	\$3,000
\$30,000	\$300	\$900	\$1,500	\$2,100	\$3,000	\$4,500
\$40,000	\$400	\$1,200	\$2,000	\$2,800	\$4,000	\$6,000
\$50,000	\$500	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$7,500
\$75,000	\$750	\$2,250	\$3,750	\$5,250	\$7,500	\$11,250
\$100,000	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$10,000	\$15,000

We Understand...

“Money is tight.”

“I live paycheck to paycheck.”

“I’m carrying debt.”

“I’m not sure my spouse agrees.”

You are not alone.

Not ready for 5%? Start with 1%. Let your pledge be a journey of faith, not a burden.

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7

How to Make a Pledge

Reminder: Pledging is simply stating the amount you intend to give to God and to St. Thomas in the year 2026. You will make arrangements to pay your pledge later.

Option A: Fill out and submit a paper Pledge Card.

Please fill out the pledge card below, detach, and return to the church office or place in the offering plate any Sunday.

Option B: Fill out the online pledge form by scanning the QR code below.

You will be prompted to choose a weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual payment schedule. You will also select an option to either pay your pledge online or not.

Please note: Selecting a payment schedule and method at this stage is not actually making your payment; you will do that later. This simply lets us know how you intend to give.

Why Pledge by October 26?

Pledging in the fall helps us build an accurate budget and determine how we'll resource our different ministries throughout the year. It also allows time for the vestry and Finance Committee to review and approve the budget before the first of the year. You may adjust your pledge at any time if need be.



Go to stthomaschesapeake.org/pledge



St. Thomas Episcopal Church

With a grateful heart for all of God's blessings, I/we pledge to financially support the mission and ministry of St. Thomas in the amount of:

\$

Per Week

Per Month

Per Year

Name

Email

Address

Phone



What is a pledge?

It's an estimate of what you expect to give to support St. Thomas. If you would like to know what you pledged last year or to adjust your pledge, you can email Donna Holub at membership@stthomaschesapeake.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is my pledge so important?

92% of our income to operate St. Thomas comes from your pledges.

What does it cost, per household, to run St. Thomas?

The average cost to operate St. Thomas in 2025 is \$4,000 per household. Our current average pledge is \$3,335.

What is our pledge goal for 2026?

Our goal is \$576,000 in total pledge income to support the operating budget and ministries.

What is our “real cost” of ministry now?

Based off of actual and projected expenses, the cost of ministry in 2025 was \$595,000. Expenses are expected to be \$625,000 in 2026.

What accounts for the anticipated increase in expenses for 2026?

St. Thomas is growing: **in the past two years, our congregation has doubled**. With this growth, we need additional resources to support our strategic plan.

We anticipate needing to:

- resource growing demands on our campus (maintenance, repairs, replacements, utilities, and supplies)
- sustain and support staff
- tithe to Diocese, property insurance, and more

How do I pay my pledge?

First, submit a pledge card stating the amount you intend to give to God and to St. Thomas in 2026. Then set up a payment schedule. You may:

- Set up automatic payments via Tithely using your credit card.
- Send monthly checks from your online check-writing account. Write a check and place it in the offering plate on Sunday; be sure to write “pledge” in the memo line. Cash is also welcome; please place cash in an envelope, marked with your household name and the word “pledge.”

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Prefer to Pledge Online?



OR

stthomaschesapeake.org/pledge

Contact Me About: (circle all applicable)

- Setting up an automatic debit
- Paying my pledge with stock or securities
- Remembering St. Thomas in my will or estate plans