

Kirk in the Hills: A Full Sail Church

"Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." – Matthew 14:27



THE SHIPS OF FAITH

**STEWARDSHIP
2026**

WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear Members and Friends of the Kirk,

As we experience this year's Stewardship Season, I want to share my gratitude for the way God continues to move among us. Week after week, I see evidence of the Spirit's presence—in the sound of voices lifted in praise, in the laughter of children filling our halls, and in the compassion that flows from this congregation into the wider community.

Our theme this year, Full Sail Church: The Ships of Faith, invites us to imagine the Kirk as a vessel guided by Christ and powered by the wind of the Holy Spirit. Each sail raised and every hand at work represents the faith, generosity, and courage of our people. Together, we are moving toward God's horizon—trusting that the same Spirit who has carried us thus far will continue to lead us forward.

Stewardship is about far more than sustaining a budget; it is about sustaining a mission. Through your pledges and your participation, you make possible the ministries that touch lives, nurture faith, and extend Christ's love near and far. Every gift—of time, talent, or treasure—is a gust of wind in our sails.

This brochure outlines the vision and plan for our journey ahead. It reflects who we are as a church in motion—anchored in worship, growing in discipleship, deepening in fellowship, and sent into the world in mission and wonder. As you read, I invite you to pray about how God is calling you to be part of this voyage.

Together, let us lift our sails high, trust the wind of the Spirit, and journey in faith toward the future God has prepared.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez
Senior Pastor | Head of Staff



“ We are called to be a sailboat church — moving by the wind of the Spirit, not by our own strength. The waters may be uncertain, but Christ is at the helm. ”

SETTING SAIL WITH JESUS

Gospel of Matthew 14:22-36

²²Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

³⁴When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. ³⁵After the people of that place recognized him, they sent word throughout the region and brought all who were sick to him, ³⁶and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.



Our Vision: We envision a world where every heart experiences God's transforming love.

Our Mission: Love like Jesus.

Our Goal: Purposeful growth — not growth for its own sake, but growth in discipleship, engagement, and impact.

THE SHIPS OF FAITH:

Sailing Together by the Wind of the Spirit



SHIP	SCRIPTURE	FOCUS
WORSHIP	<i>Matthew 14:22–33</i>	Trusting Christ to guide our sails
DISCIPLESHIP	<i>Luke 5:1–11</i>	Following under the Spirit’s wind
FELLOWSHIP	<i>Acts 2:42–47</i>	Building community through love
CITIZENSHIP	<i>Philippians 3:20</i>	Living as citizens of heaven
STEWARDSHIP	<i>2 Corinthians 9:6–8</i>	Giving joyfully and faithfully
LEADERSHIP	<i>Mark 10:42–45</i>	Serving as Christ served

From its earliest days, the Church has been pictured as a ship—a vessel of salvation and community, carrying the people of God safely through the seas of life. Early Christians saw in Noah’s Ark and St. Peter’s fishing boat a symbol of refuge and mission: a place where Christ dwells and from which He sends His followers into the world. That same image continues to guide us at Kirk in the Hills.

This year’s Stewardship theme, **Full Sail Church: The Ships of Faith**, invites us to see our congregation as a vessel powered not by human effort but by the wind of the Spirit. We are a sailboat church, trusting the direction of Christ our Captain and the movement of God’s breath to carry us forward. Together, we lift our sails high—our faith, our service, our generosity—and allow the Spirit to propel us toward God’s horizon.

Each of the six “ships” that form our Stewardship journey—**Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship, Citizenship, Stewardship, and Leadership**—represents a vital part of what it means to be the Church in motion. They remind us that faith is not static; it moves, grows, and serves. As we explore these six ships, may we be inspired to lift our own sails and join in the voyage of faith, trusting that Christ remains at the helm, guiding us toward His promise and purpose.

WORSHIP – THE CAPTAIN’S SHIP

Matthew 14:22–33 — “Jesus Calms the Storm”

Worship is where we discover that Christ is at the helm—the One who commands the wind and the waves and calls us to trust. It is here that we lay down the oars of self-reliance and lift the sails of faith. In worship, our hearts are reoriented to God’s presence, our fears are calmed, and our voices join in a chorus that echoes across generations: “Truly, you are the Son of God.”

At Kirk in the Hills, worship remains the heartbeat of our community—an anchor that steadies us through life’s storms. Whether through sacred music, liturgy, prayer, or sacrament, worship lifts our eyes from the waves to the One who commands them, reminding us that the Church is most alive when it worships together.



DISCIPLESHIP – THE SHIP THAT FOLLOWS

Luke 5:1–11 — “Put Out into the Deep Water”

Discipleship begins with a simple act of obedience: launching into deeper waters when Christ calls. Like Peter and the first disciples, we are invited not merely to believe in Jesus but to follow Him—to learn His way, to risk in faith, and to be transformed along the journey.

At the Kirk, discipleship takes many forms—through study and prayer, mentorship and service. It is a lifelong voyage of listening, learning, and living out the Gospel. To be a disciple is to set our course by Christ’s compass, to be shaped by His Word, and to invite others to come aboard the journey of faith.

FELLOWSHIP – THE SHIP THAT HOLDS US TOGETHER

Acts 2:42–47 — “They Devoted Themselves to Fellowship”

The early Church was built not on bricks but on relationships—hearts knit together in prayer, worship, and mutual care. Fellowship is the sacred bond that keeps the ship steady when the seas are rough. It is the space where faith becomes embodied in friendship, encouragement, and compassion.

Within our community, fellowship is the hull that holds us together. It is experienced in shared meals, small groups, pastoral care, and the countless ways we show up for one another. In fellowship, we glimpse the love of Christ made visible—a foretaste of the kingdom where all are known, valued, and embraced.

CITIZENSHIP – THE SHIP THAT BRINGS US HOME

Philippians 3:20 — “Our Citizenship Is in Heaven”

As Christians, we live with dual citizenship—rooted in the world yet belonging ultimately to the kingdom of God. Citizenship in Christ’s realm reshapes how we engage the world around us: with justice, compassion, and hope. We are called to steward our earthly responsibilities with heavenly perspective, to love our neighbors, and to seek the common good.

At Kirk in the Hills, citizenship means being faithful witnesses in every sphere—civic, social, and spiritual. We honor those who serve our nation and our community while remembering that our truest allegiance is to the One who reigns in love. Our heavenly citizenship grounds our earthly calling.

STEWARDSHIP – THE SHIP THAT MOVES US FORWARD

2 Corinthians 9:6–8 — “God Loves a Cheerful Giver”

Stewardship is the movement of the Church in full sail—a visible expression of gratitude and trust. It is not about what we give up, but about what we give toward: the flourishing of God’s mission through the Kirk. Every act of generosity becomes a gust of wind propelling the church toward new horizons of ministry and impact.

Our Stewardship Season is a time to reflect on how God has blessed us and how we, in turn, bless others. Through financial gifts, time, and talent, we sustain the ministries that touch lives, nurture faith, and bring Christ’s hope to the world. When we give faithfully, we join the divine rhythm of grace and generosity.

LEADERSHIP – THE SHIP IN FULL SAIL

Mark 10:42–45 — “The Son of Man Came Not to Be Served but to Serve”

Leadership in Christ’s church is not about command but about calling—not about power but about service. The church moves forward when its leaders, ordained and lay alike, model humility, vision, and courage. True leadership lifts others, steers with discernment, and keeps the ship aligned with the Spirit’s wind.

At the Kirk, leadership is shared across generations and ministries. It is seen in those who teach, serve, plan, give, and pray. Together, we embody Christ’s servant leadership—guiding the church toward a future of faithful witness, generous hospitality, and spiritual growth. A church in full sail is one where every member leads through love.

THE FOUR CURRENTS THAT SHAPE OUR JOURNEY

Anchored in Worship, Driven by the Spirit

WORSHIP

Anchored in Christ's Presence

In Matthew 14, the storm ceases when Jesus and Peter return to the boat, and the disciples fall down in worship. Worship is at the heart of our life together at Kirk in the Hills — the place where we encounter Christ's presence, are renewed by the Spirit, and find our true bearings.

In the years ahead, our Worship will:

- Celebrate vibrant, Spirit-filled services that renew our faith and unite generations.
- Support the Renew and Resound campaign, ensuring our sanctuary remains both beautiful and functional for generations to come.
- Deepen engagement through music, liturgy, prayer, and the sacraments.

Worship is our anchor — grounding us in Christ and sending us forth in faith.

FORMATION

Growing in Discipleship

When Peter falters, Jesus reaches out His hand — turning doubt into growth and fear into faith. Formation is the Church's lifelong work of becoming more like Christ.

Our Formation will:

- Cultivate spiritual growth through study, prayer, and conversation.
- Strengthen discipleship across all ages through small groups and intergenerational learning.
- Lay the foundation for a future center for theological and interfaith dialogue.

Formation is how we raise our sails higher — catching more of the Spirit's wind for the journey ahead.

MISSION

Sent Into the World

When Peter steps out of the boat, he embodies the call to mission — to risk, trust, and follow Christ into uncertain waters. Mission requires courage and compassion; it is the Church's movement toward others in love.

Our Mission will:

- Address the crises of loneliness, leadership, and meaning by extending community, service, and purpose to those in need.
- Strengthen partnerships with local and global ministries, becoming a refuge of hope in a stormy world.
- Empower disciples to serve with open hearts and willing hands.

Kirk in the Hills is a vessel of grace — sent into the world to bring healing, hope, and love in Christ's name.

WONDER

Living in Awe of God

After the storm ceases, the disciples are filled with awe, declaring, "Truly you are the Son of God." Wonder is the soul's response to God's presence — the recognition that every moment and every life is touched by grace.

Our Wonder will:

- Celebrate beauty and creativity through sacred music, art, and storytelling.
- Create spaces for reflection and prayer on our campus and beyond.
- Share testimonies of God's transforming love at work among us.

Wonder opens our eyes to see God's glory — in worship, in service, and in the world around us.

OUR THREE-YEAR VOYAGE

Hoisting the Masts:

A Vision for 2026-2029

The next three years are our shared voyage — a time to hoist the sails together. Through our Stewardship Campaign, we will raise the First Mast, the Second Mast, and the Third Mast, setting Kirk in the Hills on course for a vibrant future. Each mast lifts us further into God's mission: strengthening worship, deepening formation, expanding mission, and cultivating wonder.

This is a time for courage. The waters ahead are not always calm, but Christ is with us, calling us to take heart, to trust, and to step boldly in faith. Together, with our eyes on Jesus and our sails filled with the Spirit, we will become a church in full sail — carried forward to love like Jesus and to transform the world with God's love.



Year 1 – Launch & Lift (2025–2026)

- New staff for Children, Youth, and Families
- Facility improvements for ministry growth
- Initial sanctuary renewal planning

Year 2 – Deepen the Journey (2026–2027)

- Call two Associate Pastors
- Launch outreach at Webster Community Center
- Begin sanctuary renewal construction

Year 3 – Full Sail (2027–2028)

- Complete sanctuary renewal
- Expand global and local missions
- Integrate small group ministry churchwide

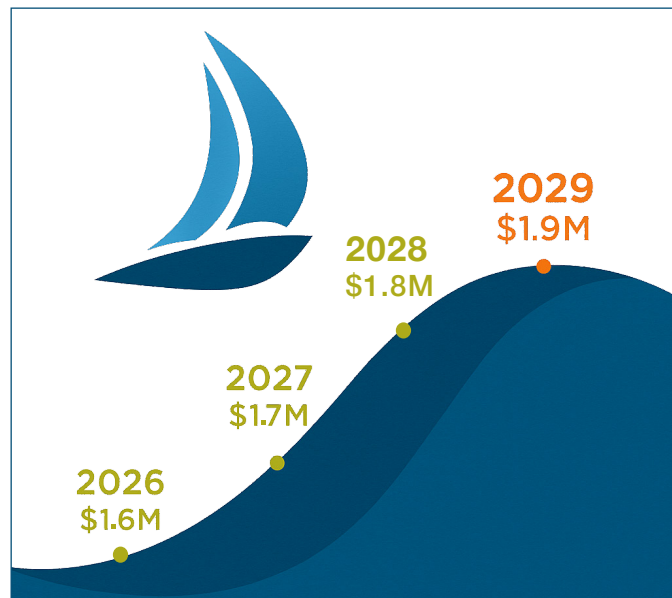
YOUR PART IN THE JOURNEY

Stewardship:

The Ship That Moves Us Forward

The voyage ahead depends on all of us. Your pledge—of time, talent, and treasure—keeps our sails filled and our mission strong.

Every dollar given, every hour volunteered, and every prayer offered strengthens our ministry and helps the Kirk reach farther in love and service.



MAKE YOUR 2026 PLEDGE

To move faithfully into the future, we must invest in the ministry God is calling us to. Our Stewardship goals strengthen the Kirk's foundation—supporting dedicated staff, expanding vibrant ministries, and ensuring that our witness and impact endure for generations to come.

These goals are not only financial; they are spiritual commitments. Each pledge and subscription represents faith, courage, and a commitment to sail together into God's future.

WAYS TO PLEDGE:

- Submit your pledge card by mail:

Kirk in the Hills
1340 W. Long Lake Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

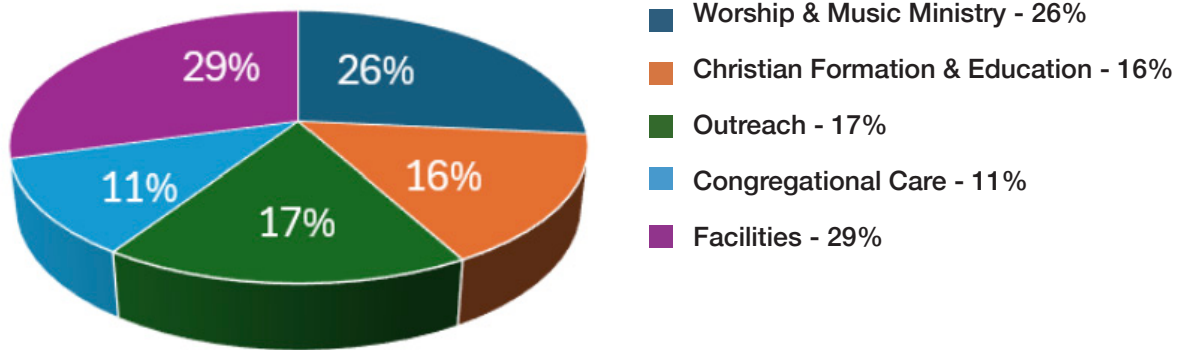
- Pledge online at kirkinthehills.org/pledge

- Scan the QR code:

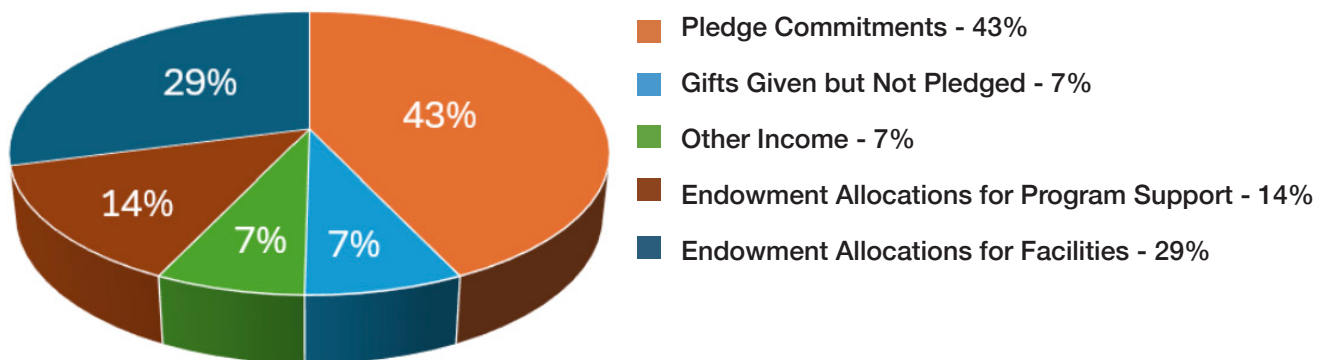


Your generosity is the wind that carries us forward.

2026 MINISTRY INVESTMENTS



2026 MINISTRY INCOME



Stewardship Committee

Jayne Dodge, Trustee, Chair
Noreen Markley, Trustee
Ford Meiser, Trustee
Leslie Schneider, Elder
Ryan True, Elder
Jayne Zellers, Business Manager
Rev. Dr. Edwin Estevez, Pastor



Kirk in the Hills
A FULL SAIL CHURCH
THE SHIPS OF FAITH