

Partners In Ministry—PIM

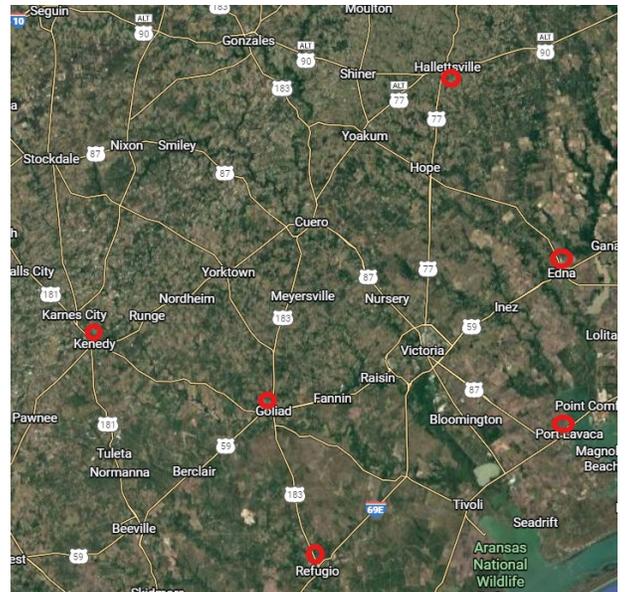
Eastern Convocation

WHO WE ARE

Six small Episcopal congregations in the Eastern Convocation of the Diocese of West Texas, living and working together in a covenant relationship to bring the healing message of Our Lord Jesus Christ to our part of His world.

PIM-East was originally organized in 1995 with 7 congregations participating in the partnership. Over the years, PIM-East grew to up to 8 congregations later to decrease to the current 6 congregations.

The congregations have 3-4 dedicated supply priests who rotate between the parishes on a weekly basis to provide spiritual leadership to each of the congregations.



EDNA, TEXAS
PORT LAVACA, TEXAS

HALLETTSVILLE, TEXAS
GOLIAD, TEXAS

KENEDY, TEXAS
REFUGIO, TEXAS

Partners In Ministry—PIM

Eastern Convocation

PORT LAVACA, TEXAS

EDNA, TEXAS

GOLIAD, TEXAS

HALLETTSVILLE, TEXAS

REFUGIO, TEXAS

KENNEDY, TEXAS



MINISTRY DESIRES

Our four most important areas of ministry which we hope our new Canon Missioner will bring strong skills to are:

- The ability to make scripture relevant to people's lives through clarity in preaching.
- The ability to lead others in the formation and development of a deeper spiritual life.
- The ability to demonstrate and impart a disciplined understanding of biblical and historical revelation and the recognition of God's activity in the world.
- The ability to care for people so they feel nurtured, including hospital, nursing home, hospice and home visitation.

OUR CHALLENGES

During our 2025 parish surveys, we identified two critical challenges across all six congregations.

- Our Critical Challenge is like that of many small-town congregations, we firmly believe that attracting new members is a long-term key to our existence.
- We believe that we need to develop opportunities to better connect to the local community.



TRAITS OF A CANON MISSIONER

Inspirational Preacher / Teacher
Personable and Outgoing

Accessible
Deeply Spiritual

Organized
Good Listener

Partners In Ministry—PIM

Eastern Convocation

EDNA, TEXAS
PORT LAVACA, TEXAS

HALLETTSVILLE, TEXAS
GOLIAD, TEXAS

KENEDY, TEXAS
REFUGIO, TEXAS

FINANCIALS

	<u>2025</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2024</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>Actual</u>
Apportionments	\$125,436	\$128,480	\$125,702	\$102,186
Other Income	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,516	\$ 18,401	\$ 19,310
Investments	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL INCOME	\$143,436	\$146,996	\$144,103	\$121,496
CM—Salary	\$ 18,000	\$ 70,245	\$ 63,900	\$ 59,688
CM— Housing Allow	\$ 3,000	\$ 7,875	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,500
Service Pay—Supply Priests	\$ 40,680	\$ 28,636	\$ 25,965	\$ 27,011
Mileage	\$ 39,804	\$ 28,530	\$ 25,387	\$ 25,852
Insurance	\$ 23,130	\$ 15,926	\$ 5,050	\$ 5,960
Pension Funds	\$ 5,580	\$ 14,791	\$ 14,685	\$ 12,924
Telephone	\$ 1,896	\$ 1,438	\$ 1,506	\$ 1,796
PIM Business Expenses	\$ 5,706	\$ 3,296	\$ 2,284	\$ 2,235
Contingency	\$ 5,640	\$ 0	\$ 1,437	\$ 0
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$143,436	\$170,737	\$150,714	\$145,966
NET	\$ 0	(\$ 23,741)	(\$ 6,611)	(\$ 24,470)

Community Presence Distribution

(Frequency the congregation desires the CM to be present in the community)

Percent Response	<u>Kenedy</u>	<u>Goliad</u>	<u>Hallettsville</u>	<u>Edna</u>	<u>Port Lavaca</u>
Weekly	10%	0%	0%	14%	42%
Twice per Month	30%	50%	17%	29%	0%
Monthly	50%	50%	67%	29%	33%
Only on Sunday	10%	0%	17%	29%	25%

Partners In Ministry—PIM

Eastern Convocation

Position Description

The Canon Missioner is a full time position which fulfills primary leadership duties for PIM East.

Position Duties

- Provide Spiritual Leadership for 6 small congregations in Texas.
- Secure and coordinate supply priests to ensure worship leadership each week at each congregation.
- Provide care and support to individuals and families offering guidance during significant life events.
- Engage in regular preaching and teaching to foster spiritual growth within each congregation.
- Work closely with the Diocese, ensuring good communication between PIM and the diocesan leadership.
- Provide routine community visits in each town—participating in ministerial alliances, visitations to sick and affirmed, general member visitations.
- Research and recommend diverse bible study opportunities for each congregation—adult and children.
- Develop and distribute monthly worship calendars.
- Work with PIM Treasurer to ensure monthly financial statements are produced and distributed.
- Parish by parish focus on revitalizing each congregation by evaluating each parish's strengths and opportunities, developing a clear vision, implementing strategic growth initiatives, and building spiritual maturity.
 - Develop a new vision and strategic plan to address stagnation.
 - Develop and implement outreach strategies to connect with the local community and attract new members.
 - Equip and empower volunteers and leaders to support the church's mission.
- Conduct acolyte training as necessary.

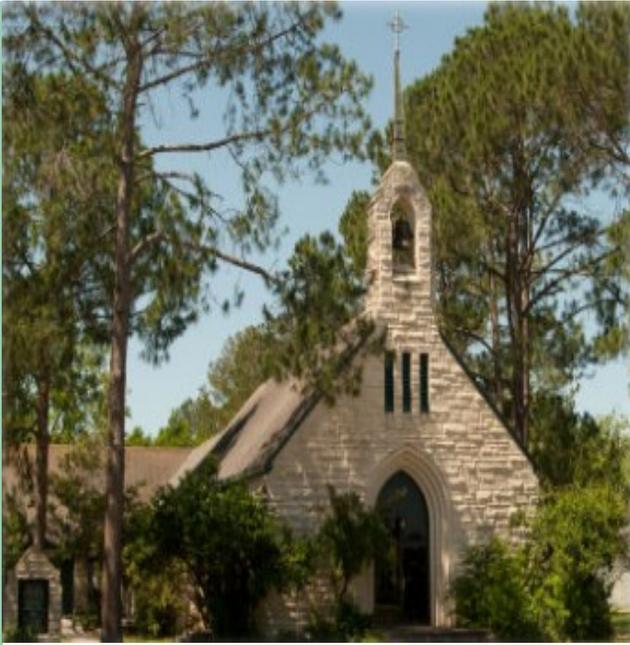
EDNA, TEXAS
PORT LAVACA, TEXAS

HALLETTVILLE, TEXAS
GOLIAD, TEXAS

KENNEDY, TEXAS
REFUGIO, TEXAS

Trinity Episcopal Church

102 West Church St.
Edna, Texas 77957



IDENTITY AND STRENGTHS

Trinity can be described as a small, dedicated congregation which honors scripture, embraces tradition, has a strong willingness to work and is unquestionably accepting of others.

We pray for our parish to have health and spiritual wellbeing for our members, and that we may spur one another to love and good deeds, spreading the good word of Jesus - becoming visible to our local community. By showing this love we hope that others will wish to become part of our church family.

We believe that our greatest strengths include:

- 1) Offering a worship service that provides a meaningful experience of God and Christian tradition.
- 2) Providing fellowship opportunities for our members.

OUR HISTORY

The first reference to an Episcopal Church in Edna Texas dates to 1884. At this time, worship was conducted once per month in the Presbyterian Church – with a parish family of 26 individuals. In 1887, the “Ladies Parish Guild” was formed who promoted many fundraising social gatherings such as ice cream socials, barbeques, and dinners. With the funds raised from these gatherings the first Episcopal Church building was constructed and consecrated in 1899. The records show the church as an unnamed congregation in the Council Journal until 1903 – when it was formally recognized at Council. In 1913, the building for Trinity Episcopal Church received its first major repairs led by the rector. The congregation at this time was approximately 13. In 1953, the Trinity Church was rebuilt, following a generous gift from the Alfred Ward family. During this period, a new parish hall, kitchen and restrooms were constructed. Additionally, the building was sided with Texas limestone. Through the years, many dedicated priests served at Trinity Church. In 1995, the small parish joined in the Partners in Ministry – Eastern Convocation along with 7 additional surrounding missions/parishes.



Trinity Episcopal Church

102 West Church St.
Edna, Texas 77957



MINISTRY DESIRES

Our four most important areas of ministry which we hope our new Canon Missioner will bring strong skills to are:

- The ability to make scripture relevant to people's lives through clarity in preaching.
- The ability to lead others in the formation and development of a deeper spiritual life.
- The ability to demonstrate and impart a disciplined understanding of biblical and historical revelation and the recognition of God's activity in the world.
- The ability to care for people so they feel nurtured, including hospital, nursing home, hospice and home

OUR CHALLENGES

During our 2025 parish survey, we identified several challenges for the parish.

- Our Critical Challenge is like that of many small-town congregations, we firmly believe that attracting new members is a long-term key to our existence.
- As a second Critical Challenge, we believe that we need to develop opportunities to better connect to the local community.
- While not Critical we do believe that a Challenge is to enhance our ability to provide support in times of need for members of the congregation.
- Finally, we believe a Challenge is to Develop and Support a Christian Education Program.



TRAITS OF A CANON MISSIONER

Inspirational Preacher / Teacher
Organized

Accessible

Personable and Outgoing
Good Listener

Trinity Episcopal Church

102 West Church St.
Edna, Texas 77957



Average Sunday Attendance

2024	13
2023	12
2022	10
2021	11

FINANCIALS

	<u>2025 budget</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Pledge	\$91,251	\$118,231	\$90,180	\$78,575
Plate	\$ 2,152	\$ 3,999	\$ 2,753	\$ 5,800
Investment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL INCOME	\$93,403	\$122,230	\$92,933	\$84,375
Diocesan Assess	\$ 9,120	\$ 8,484	\$ 8,088	\$ 7,128
PIM Assess	\$ 45,300	\$ 48,000	\$ 46,116	\$ 38,664
Utilities	\$ 8,672	\$ 7,945	\$ 7,119	\$ 7,130
Staff/Organist	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,962	\$ 6,900	\$ 6,900
Insurance	\$ 12,439	\$ 8,345	\$ 9,853	\$ 8,066
Outreach	\$ 3,600	\$ 2,285	\$ 373	\$ 817
Repairs	\$ 8,640	\$ 5,571	\$ 1,493	\$ 3,175
Altar Guild	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,427	\$ 729	\$ 942
Misc	\$ 2,132	\$ 2,930	\$ 1,718	\$ 879
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$100,603	\$ 93,949	\$ 82,389	\$73,701
Checking Balance		\$151,023	\$119,834	\$109,520
Investment Balance		\$191,200	\$170,859	\$158,029
Endowment Balance		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0



Age Demographics

Less than 18	0%
20 to 30 years	0%
31 to 50 years	0%
51 to 70 years	43%
71 and over	57%

Membership

> 1 year	0%
1-5 years	22%
6-10 years	22%
11-15 years	21%
16-30 years	14%
>30 years	21%

St. Stephen's Church

152 South Chilton Ave
Goliad, Texas 77963



IDENTITY AND STRENGTHS

St. Stephen's Church can be described as a small, welcoming congregation who are open to all, encouraging a questioning attitude and with strong hopes for growth.

We pray for our parish to expand our worship influence and continue to be a relevant presence in the community.

We believe that our greatest strength is:

- 1) Offering a worship service that provides a meaningful experience of God and Christian tradition.

OUR HISTORY

Twenty-four years after the 1836 surrender and massacre of the Texian forces at Presidio la Bahia, an Episcopal mission was started in Goliad.

Part of the early Spanish mission chain in Texas, Goliad was founded in 1749 and in 1829 Presidio la Bahia was granted the name of Goliad.

In 1860 – An Episcopal Church mission was temporarily organized in Goliad with services held more regularly beginning in 1861.

1882 – first Goliad church building

1885 – The first Church Building in Goliad was consecrated.

1886 – Church building destroyed by hurricane

1890 – new church dedicated – the cornerstone contains a Holy Bible, A Church Hymnal, a copy of the deed, plan of the church

40's – the sanctuary modified to create a sacristy and to install a reredo with retable, the only major modification to the historic structure

1995 – entered into the first Partners in Ministry Covenant

2012 – Celebration of 150th anniversary

Throughout its history, St. Stephen's number of congregants has fluctuated, very much as its history describes. St. Stephen's was served at times by a rector and frequently visiting clergy. In the past 25 years attendance has varied between 5 and 30. An early rector's remembrance about the fluctuations in attendance rings true for today.

"The 20-member congregation has been reduced by death and removal to 8".

The first priority of St Stephen's is to maintain the availability of liturgical Episcopal worship and sacraments.

St. Stephen's Church

152 South Chilton Ave
Golliad, Texas 77963

MINISTRY DESIRES

Our four most important areas of ministry which we hope our new Canon Missioner will bring strong skills to are:

- The ability to make scripture relevant to people's lives through clarity in preaching.
- The ability to lead others in the formation and development of a deeper spiritual life.
- The ability to manage the affairs of the parish including managing staff and volunteers.
- The ability to demonstrate and impart a disciplined understanding of biblical and historical revelation and the recognition of Gods activity in the world.



OUR CHALLENGES

During our 2025 parish survey, we identified several challenges for the parish.

- Our Critical Challenge is like that of many small-town congregations, we firmly believe that attracting new members is a long-term key to our existence.
- We see our primary non-critical challenge to be developing opportunities to better connect to the local community.
- Finally, we believe a Challenge is to improve our ability to provide support in times of need for the members of the congregation.

DESIRED TRAITS OF A CANON MISSIONER

Organized

Personal and Outgoing

Deeply Spiritual

Sense of Humor

Inspirational Speaker/Preacher

Good Listener

St. Stephen's Church

152 South Chilton Ave
Goliad, Texas 77963



FINANCIALS

	2025	2024	2023	2022
Pledge	\$ 15,224	\$ 24,136	\$ 14,452	\$ 12,378
Plate	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,200	\$ 135	\$ 160
Other Income (*insurance)	\$	\$	\$ 51,680	\$ 0
Investment	\$	\$	\$ (4,091)	\$ (7,454)
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 16,574	\$ 25,336	\$ 62,176	\$ 5,084
Diocesan/PIM Assess	\$ 9,004	\$ 8,340	\$ 7,728	\$ 11,499
Utilities	\$ 5,047	\$ 4,785	\$ 4,625	\$ 4,393
Staff/Organist	\$ 150	\$ 170	\$ 160	\$ 1,060
Insurance	\$ 9,871	\$ 7,073	\$ 4,214	\$ 4,863
Outreach	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Repairs	\$ 115	\$ 7,183	\$ 166	\$ 1,645
Altar Guild	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Misc	\$ 2,164	\$ 1,984	\$ 2,118	\$ 2,312
Capital	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 26,351	\$ 29,535	\$ 19,011	\$ 25,772
Checking Balance	\$29,630	\$ 41,386	\$ 41,386	\$ 6,357
Investment Balance	\$61,580	\$ 55,987	\$ 54,979	\$ 54,979



Age Demographics

Less than 18	20%
20 to 30 years	0%
31 to 50 years	20%
51 to 70 years	0%
71 and over	60%

Membership

> 1 year	0%
1-5 years	66%
6-10 years	0%
11-15 years	0%
16-30 years	0%
>30 years	33%

St. James Church

1103 East 4th St.
Hallettsville, TX 77964



IDENTITY AND STRENGTHS

St. James can be described as a small, dedicated congregation who have diverse religious backgrounds and are eager to grow, thrilled with new comers and visitors, and who are always willing to help when the need arises.

We pray for our parish to have growth, especially families. We pray for increasing our parish activities including Bible Studies and Sunday schools. Finally, we would love to enhance our Sunday music programs.

We believe that our greatest strengths include:

- 1) Offering a worship service that provides a meaningful experience of God and Christian tradition.
- 2) Providing fellowship opportunities for our members.



OUR HISTORY

The congregation of St. James, Episcopal Church was organized in 1875 when General Arthur Pendleton Bagby and his wife, Frances asked the missionary clergyman, Rev. Thomas J. Morris of Columbus, TX to come and baptize their six children.

1876 the congregation was accepted into the Diocese of West Texas.

In 1880 they purchased property on East Third Street, and through the efforts of Mary Kroschel, Jane Viser, and the Bagby family, constructed its first sanctuary. Many of the early members are commemorated in the beautiful stained-glass windows which were moved to our new sanctuary in 1962.

A new larger sanctuary, made possible largely by generous bequests, was built at our present location in March 1967. The windows as well as the baptismal font and bell were all salvaged and are still in use today.

Throughout its history, the congregation has been a mission church sharing ministers with other Episcopal churches in the region. In 1995 we joined with seven small congregations to form Diocese of West Texas Eastern Convocation Partners in Ministry. Our goal is working together in a covenant relationship to bring the healing message of Our Lord Jesus Christ to our part of His world.

Community service activities including MANA food pantry, youth sports, Volunteer Fire Department, Ministerial Alliance, Hospice, and Meals on Wheels. . We have hosted Youth Hunter's education class, Community Thanksgiving Services and 5th Sunday PIM services as well as contributing to Diocese World Mission and relief projects.

St. James Church

1103 East 4th St.
Hallettsville, TX 77964



MINISTRY DESIRES

Our three most important areas of ministry which we hope our new Canon Missioner will bring strong skills to are:

- The ability to make scripture relevant to people's lives through clarity in preaching.
- The ability to lead others in the formation and development of a deeper spiritual life.
- The ability to manage the affairs of the parish including managing staff and volunteers.

OUR CHALLENGES

During our 2025 parish survey, we identified several challenges for the parish.

- Our Critical Challenge is like that of many small-town congregations, we firmly believe that attracting new members is a long-term key to our existence.
- Our second Critical Challenge is developing a plan to enhance our financial well being.
- We see our primary non-critical challenge to be developing opportunities to better connect to the local community.
- Finally, we believe a Challenge is to Develop and Support a Christian Education Program.

DESIRED TRAITS OF A CANON MISSIONER

- Organized
- Energetic
- Good Listener
- Sense of Humor
- Experienced at implementing new ideas



St. James Church

1103 East 4th St.
Hallettsville, TX 77964



<u>Average Sunday Attendance</u>	
2024	..... 8
2023	..... 7
2022	..... 7
2021	..... 8

FINANCIALS				
	<u>2025 (budget)</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Pledge	\$ 4,700	\$ 4,148	\$ 3,621	\$ 3,675
Plate	\$ 2,800	\$ 4,816	\$ 3,824	\$ 3,696
Other Income (*insurance)	\$ 1,000	\$59,056*	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,400
Investment	\$ 6,583	\$14,709	\$33,080	\$ 1,425
TOTAL INCOME	\$15,083	\$82,729	\$41,525	\$10,196
Diocesan Assess	\$ 1,236	\$ 1,452	\$ 1,704	\$ 2,004
PIM Assess	\$ 5,376	\$ 5,400	\$ 5,064	\$ 8,244
Utilities	\$ 4,136	\$ 4,039	\$ 3,696	\$ 3,765
Staff/Organist	\$ 3,980	\$ 3,430	\$ 3,620	\$ 3,680
Insurance	\$ 9,500	\$ 6,381	\$ 3,658	\$ 4,130
Outreach	\$ 400	\$ 740	\$ 1,287	\$ 2,577
Repairs	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,280	\$ 623	\$ 555
Altar Guild	\$ 750	\$ 868	\$ 868	\$ 686
Misc	\$ 1,552	\$ 2,146	\$ 7,838	\$ 1,767
Capital	\$ 0	\$54,656	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$28,430	\$80,392	\$28,358	\$27,408
Checking Balance		\$ 22,773	\$ 17,184	\$30,680
Investment Balance		\$123,098	\$114,407	\$97,937
Foundation Balance		\$ 74,332	\$ 84,311	\$76,193



<u>Age Demographics</u>	
Less than 18	..... 0%
20 to 30 years	..... 0%
31 to 50 years	..... 0%
51 to 70 years	..... 17%
71 and over	..... 83%

<u>Membership</u>	
> 1 year	..... 0%
1-5 years	..... 0%
6-10 years	..... 0%
11-15 years	..... 0%
16-30 years	..... 67%
>30 years	..... 33%

St. Matthew's Church

309 South 5th Street
Kenedy, Texas 78119



OUR HISTORY

The first services of St. Matthew Episcopal Church, Kenedy, Texas were held in 1899 in the Methodist Church. There were 7 communicants and two non-communicants. By 1905 there were "some thirty communicants". In September of 1913, Kenedy and Beeville were made Associate Missions. On Easter Sunday, April 25, 1916, the first services were held in the new church building. It was blessed by Bishop Capers. The congregation consisted of 44 communicants and 60 baptized persons.

The congregation of the Methodist Church held services in St. Matthew from 1940 to 1942 while their present building was being built. On September 7, 1942, a hurricane damaged to the crenelated bell tower of the church so badly that it was torn down and the roof was rebuilt in its present gabled form.

From 1947 to 1950, the Lutheran congregation met in the church while its first church in Kenedy was being built. In 1952, a Parish Hall was built and dedicated. In January 29, 1956, St. Matthew was elevated to Parish status at Annual Council.

By 1960, St. Matthew no longer functioned as a Parish and could no longer afford a full-time Rector. In 1962, St. Matthew once again became a full-time Mission of the Diocese. From 1980 to 1982, the Church and Hall were used by the congregation of the Word Fellowship while their facilities were being built. In 1984, a program from Trinity Church in Victoria provided clergy on a part-time basis. In 1986, St. Matthew received an historical marker to landmark the building. Throughout this period, St. Matthew, was served by numerous Supply Priests for monthly Communion and Lay Leaders for Morning Prayer for the remaining Sunday services.

St. Matthew was a founding member of the Partners-in-Ministry of the Eastern Convocation in 1995. In the early 2010's, in the glow of the Eagle Ford Shale boom, the Diocese offered St. Matthew a full-time Priest. The congregation declined the offer to maintain the Partnership.

Since then, a lot next door to the Church was purchased, and the dilapidated mobile home located on the lot was removed, providing off-street parking. Later, the Youth Building of the former Methodist Church was purchased. It serves as an outreach space for the community and as well as for our congregation. We call it H.O.P.E. Hall. (Helping Other People Everyday). New ramps and sidewalks have been built to the church and fellowship hall providing easy access. In 2025 the Sacristy was remodeled and the church was reroofed. The average attendance is 8 to 16 communicants.

Though the years, the congregation of St. Matthew has never been large in number, but it has always worshipped together as a family with deep reverence and love. St. Matthew looks forward to the brightness of the future with love and enthusiasm.

St. Matthew's Church

309 South 5th Street
Kenedy, Texas 78119



IDENTITY AND STRENGTHS

St. Matthew's can be described as a fun loving friendly church in which all members work together to accomplish the needs of the church. We are tight in our adherence to the gospel and liturgy but loose enough to adapt to anything else.

We pray for the church that we can continue to support our current members and create a church community where new members would like to attend.

We believe that our greatest strengths include:

- 1) Offering a worship service that provides a meaningful experience of God and Christian tradition.
- 2) Engaging in acts of charity and service to persons in need.
- 3) Helping members deepen their personal, spiritual relationship with God.

MINISTRY DESIRES

Our four most important areas of ministry which we hope our new Canon Missioner will bring strong skills to are:

- The ability to make scripture relevant to people's lives through clarity in preaching.
- The ability to better engage both existing and new members in the life of the church community.
- The ability to lead others in the formation and development of a deeper spiritual life.
- The ability to manage the affairs of the parish including managing staff and volunteers.

OUR CHALLENGES

During our 2025 parish survey, we identified several challenges for the parish.

- Our Critical Challenge is like that of many small-town congregations, we firmly believe that attracting new members is a long-term key to our existence.
- As a second Critical Challenge, we believe that we need to develop and support a Christian Education Program.
- While not Critical we do believe that a Challenge is to enhance our connection to the local community.
- Finally, we see challenges in continuing to improve the financial well being for the church.

St. Matthew's Church

309 South 5th Street
Kenedy, Texas 78119

TRAITS OF A CANON MISSIONER

Inspirational Preacher / Teacher
Open to involve others and delegate

Sense of Humor

Personable and Outgoing
Deeply Spiritual

FINANCIALS

	<u>2024</u>
Pledge	\$ 71,071
Plate	\$ 2,667
Restricted	\$ 10,220
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 83,958
Non-Capital Expense	\$ 68,835
Capital Expense	\$ 85,649
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$154,484
Checking Balance	\$26,145
Investment Balance	\$102,329

Membership

> 1 year	0%
1-5 years	20%
6-10 years	40%
11-15 years	20%
16-30 years	0%
>30 years	20%

Age

Demographics

Less than 18	11%
20 to 30 years	11%
31 to 50 years	11%
51 to 70 years	22%
71 and over	44%



Grace Episcopal Church

213 East Austin St.
Port Lavaca, Texas 77979



IDENTITY AND STRENGTHS

Grace is a community which focuses on bringing people together in worship in any language. We focus on peace, love, and understanding. Willing and wanting to help those in need with a strong desire to share our close knit family with our community.

We pray for our parish to help everyone grow spiritually in a way which make all yearn to spread the love of Christ outside the church walls so that we grow both the church and kingdom.

We believe that our greatest strength is:

- 1) Offering a worship service that provides a meaningful experience of God and Christian tradition.



OUR HISTORY

While the Rev. Henry Niles Pierce was serving as rector of Christ Church, Matagorda, the first Episcopal Church in Texas, he reached out beyond his own parish to officiate in Port Lavaca and Indianola. It was under his guidance that small congregations in both towns were organized in 1853. Due to financial hardships, shrinking population and a yellow fever epidemic, the two congregations remained without a minister for a number of years.

In 1867, Grace was again reorganized and a church building erected. The small congregation continued to struggle through fever epidemics and the loss of the shipping industry.

The first chapel of Grace Church, Port Lavaca, became the first chapel of Grace Church, Cuero when it was moved in 1874 after a yellow fever epidemic left only a handful of parishioners in Port Lavaca. Thirteen years later, in 1887, the building that was to become the second chapel for Grace Church, Port Lavaca, was built. A hurricane in 1945 completely destroyed the building.

A third edifice for Grace Church, Port Lavaca, was completed in 1949 and dedicated on February 6, 1949 by the Right Reverend Everett H. Jones, Bishop of West Texas. It was in this building that the Reverend George H. Dettman was ordained to the priesthood on February 2, 1962. On November 24, 1963, the Right Reverend R. Earl Dicus, Suffragan Bishop of West Texas, consecrated Grace Church. With the construction of a new parish hall came an addition to the church of a narthex and the connecting of the two buildings with a cloister.

After serving Grace Church longer than any priest in its history, Dettman retired in 1979. He was named Rector Emeritus in December of that year.

Alice Wasserman, lifelong member of Grace Episcopal Church, contributed funds for the construction of a church library in memory of her sister, Bennie Mae Wasserman and their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben G. Wasserman. The library was dedicated by The Rt. Rev. James Folts on December 11, 1996.

Grace, Port Lavaca had dedicated priests and interim priests until 2005, when the parish joined the Partners in Ministry.

Grace Episcopal Church

213 East Austin St.
Port Lavaca, Texas 77979

MINISTRY DESIRES

Our five most important areas of ministry which we hope our new Canon Missioner will bring strong skills to are:

- The ability to make scripture relevant to people's lives through clarity in preaching.
- The ability to lead others in the formation and development of a deeper spiritual life.
- The ability to better engage both existing and new members in the life of the church community.
- The ability to care for people so they feel nurtured, including hospital, nursing home, hospice and home visitation.
- The ability to manage the affairs of the parish including managing staff and volunteers.



OUR CHALLENGES

During our 2025 parish survey, we identified several challenges for the parish.

- Our Critical Challenge is like that of many small-town congregations, we firmly believe that attracting new members is a long-term key to our existence.
- As a second Critical Challenge, we believe that we need to develop and execute plans which will enhance our financial wellbeing.
- Additional challenges include.
 - Enhancing our ability to provide support in times of need for members of the congregation.
 - Developing methodologies to help us better connect to the local community.
 - Developing opportunities and encouraging participation from current members.



TRAITS OF A CANON MISSIONER

Inspirational Preacher / Teacher

Personable and Outgoing

Deeply Spiritual

Organized

Good Listener

Grace Episcopal Church

213 East Austin St.
Port Lavaca, Texas 77979



FINANCIALS

	<u>2025 budget</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Pledge	\$33,500	\$ 28,315	\$28,710	\$26,010
Plate	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,638	\$ 6,077	\$ 6,560
Investment	\$19,880	\$ 27,918	\$25,866	\$37,800
TOTAL INCOME	\$57,380	\$ 60,871	\$60,653	\$70,370
Diocesan Assess	\$ 8,256	\$ 9,084	\$ 7,449	\$ 7,104
PIM Assess	\$ 28,200	\$ 25,632	\$ 21,658	\$ 16,440
Utilities	\$ 13,320	\$ 11,437	\$ 12,600	\$ 13,364
Insurance	\$ 21,747	\$ 15,819	\$ 13,325	\$ 7,390
Outreach	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,074	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,785
Repairs	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,504	\$ 5,000	\$ 19,314
Misc	\$ 11,100	\$ 7,413	\$ 9,320	\$ 7,459
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 91,533	\$ 72,963	\$ 72,352	\$ 73,856
Checking Balance		\$ 42,348	\$ 24,679	\$ 41,348
Investment Balance		\$504,951	\$471,857	\$544,955



Age Demographics

Less than 13	.....	13%
13 to 17 years	.....	5%
18 to 34 years	.....	12%
35 to 64 years	.....	20%
65 and over	.....	50%

Average Sunday Attendance

2024	.....	22
2023	.....	25
2022	.....	24
2021	.....	19