



October 31, 2023

Dear Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church,

There's an old story about a pastor who stood up before his congregation one Sunday morning and said, "Folks, I have some bad news. The city inspector came by a couple of weeks ago, and we have to replace the church roof. It's going to cost \$500,000." A ripple of concern went through the congregation. He continued, "The good news is we already have all the money we need." The ripple of concern turned into an excited buzz. "There's only one problem," the pastor said. "The money is still in your pockets." For many of us, this illustration remains relevant.

We are in the midst of our "**Bridge the Gap: Two Years of Renewed Mission and Ministry Appeal and Celebration**" which includes four primary goals. One of them being a 5% increase in our General Fund offering received between now and September 2025. That would be about a \$22,000 increase. Such an increase, along with the \$30,000 over and above matching funds that we are sure to receive in response to our anonymous donor's generous gift, will put us in a very good position to move beyond redevelopment and into the future God has been preparing us for.

But to get there we must begin now with intentional and purposeful giving. God has provided for us (it may still be in our pockets!). We're confident that you will continue to give generously per your usual amount, but even so, encourage you to increase your giving amount by a step (if able) per the **Guide to Proportionate Giving** included with this letter. More will be said about this act of giving our offering and why we do it on **Stewardship Sunday, November 12**, during worship. This is also our next monthly ENGAGE: Worship Sunday with The Offering as our theme for the day.

Please consider and pray about the financial commitment you (and your family) might be able to pledge this year using the enclosed **Statement of Intent card**. These completed cards will be brought forward and blessed on **Commitment Sunday, November 19**, as part of a processional offering.

In addition to your treasure (financial), your time and your talents are equally important to share among, and are valued by, our community of faith. That said, please also fill out the enclosed **Art of Giving: A Time & Talent Response Form** and return with your Statement of Intent cards on November 19. With everyone's shared time, talents, and treasures, there will be no limit to what God can use us to accomplish within our individual lives, our church life, the life of our local community, and in the life of the world.

Thank you, in advance, for you heartfelt generosity.

P. Dale Pastor Carrie

Pastor Dale and Pastor Carrie