



November 7, 2021

Dear Member of St Paul's,

It's been a year and a half since our church doors closed due to this pandemic COVID 19. Then we thought it would be over by Memorial Day. But summer came and went and still we weren't gathering together but struggling with some new realities.

We should take great pride in how St. Paul's responded to the crisis. We may have had to close our doors, but our pastor never missed offering Sunday worship. We watched services through our balcony camera and then with more sophisticated video and sound equipment and a YouTube uplink. People from as far as Tennessee joined us in worship. Outdoor services were offered until the cold of October. We celebrated Easter and Christmas as best we could. As a little church we did something big by offering everyone an opportunity to worship.

Another year passed before we enjoyed some degree of normalcy. More of us are feeling safe enough to come together yet careful to keep some distance, our masks close at hand. We remember the illness, death, and financial burdens this pandemic has brought, and we are wise in our knowledge it is not over. We look forward to a time when we all will be able to worship in our pews, and we can dip our bread in the common cup. That time will come. When, I don't know. But I do know that we should all make a commitment to see that a stronger and more vital St. Paul's emerges from this crisis.

It is to your great credit that pledge payments never stopped coming in. Weekly, monthly, or quarterly pledge funds arrived on schedule and in full. However, we lost revenue from renting Getman Hall and not being able to hold fund raising activities. By carefully managing our resources, and with the assistance of forgivable government loans, our church has remained on a sound financial footing. But challenges lay ahead, and we should be prepared to deal with an uncertain future. To that end, I call on each of you to make a financial pledge to the future of St. Paul's Church for 2022.

Please complete the enclosed pledge form carefully and return it in the enclosed envelope. If you prefer you can complete and submit the same form using the church's website. I ask everyone to complete a pledge form even if you are simply renewing last year's pledge.

Let us give thanks for successfully coming this far through the crisis and hope and pray that we come out of it stronger and wiser.

God's Peace,

Art Christensen
Stewardship Chair



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