



October 23, 2022

Dear Member of St Paul's,

First, I want to thank you for your steadfast loyalty these past two years. Despite considerable disruption to the workings and activities of our church, you held steady and continued to pledge your financial support. For that, I am most grateful. Your commitment saw us through a very difficult period. Thank you.

However, the pandemic did have a financial impact on St. Paul's. The Montessori school continued to pay rent and The Main Liners continued to practice in Getman Hall. These are important sources of income for the church. But other clubs and businesses that rented Getman Hall disappeared. And AngelFest has been cancelled for three years. In addition, inflation has affected the church as well as your pocketbooks. We operate on a very tight budget and any loss of income or increase in expenses has a significant impact.

That's why I am asking you to increase your pledge this year. To maintain our mission, our programs and a healthy financial situation, we need more income.

I am uncomfortable asking for a larger pledge even though I am Stewardship chair. I don't want you to feel pressured into giving. I hope you will increase your pledge because you want to and because St. Paul's is important to you. I believe that each of us is an essential part of our community and each of us has an obligation to support our church, as best we can. An increase in each pledge may be a challenge but I believe we can do it!

But that's not all. In the last couple of years, many of us have simply gotten out of the habit of coming to church and participating in church activities. We have resumed most of our former parish activities and have some new ones in the wings. If you have not been coming to services, please come back. If you have come back, but are less involved, please spend more time with your fellow parishioners. Sign up to be lectors or ushers or a Sunday school teacher. Volunteer to weed in our garden or sign up for a Saturday work crew. We miss you and you are missing out Stewardship is more than pledging money. It's being involved. It's giving of yourself, too.

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 pandemic. I look forward to a bright future for St. Paul's.

God's Peace,

Art Christensen
Stewardship Chair



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