



Christ & St. Luke's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



October 4th, 2025

Dear Parishioners,

The story of Christ & St. Luke's Episcopal Church is almost 400 years old. It includes thousands of characters who have come to this community and discovered how their story and God's even larger story intertwine. It has twists and turns, ups and downs, but through it all our story is one of faith nurtured and faith enacted as this church community has sought to live and love like Jesus.

As current members of Christ & St. Luke's we are the inheritors and stewards of this story. But by the grace of God, we also have the chance to be its authors. We are a part of this parish at a time when we have the opportunity to choose what its next chapter will be. We have a higher level of physical and financial stability than ever before; we have a growing number of members eager to live out their faith as a part of this church; and we have a superb staff team working in concert to make it all happen. The wind of the Spirit is at our backs giving us direction and energy and joy. **That means we are well-positioned to write a powerful and important next chapter in the story of Christ & St. Luke's.** Which is good, because we also have a world that is floundering, fighting, and fracturing due to stories which do not encourage our better angels and which question the timeless truths of God's story: love, peace, justice, mercy, generosity, and grace. We need to refute these stories, in word and deed, by embodying the story of God's love as shown in Jesus Christ.

This is already happening. Not only is our Sunday morning worship overflowing with life, with more and more people encountering God's story every week, but we also see that blossoming into an abundance of opportunities to expand our faith and life in other ways. From spiritual formation classes to faith in action opportunities to friendly fellowship and meaningful pastoral care we are feeding the souls and bodies of people inside and outside our walls. I'm particularly excited for the work that has begun in our Holy Listening-discerned missional areas of Homelessness and Food Insecurity, Health, Education, and Environmental Stewardship. Leadership teams have started coming up with ways for us to engage more fully with those topics and help us connect with local organizations and leaders who we can support and partner with, expanding our efforts and impact. **The next chapter of our church is about loving and serving those beyond our walls as much as we do those within them.**



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That makes this a pivotal moment in the life of our church. Not many people get the chance to determine what the next chapter will be in an institution with as much history as ours. **That is why your financial support for our parish in the coming year is as important as it has ever been.** As I hope you are aware, annual parishioner contributions make up the vast majority of our operating revenues. We need your support so we can follow through on all the good work God has begun in this place and actually write that next chapter in our parish story. We need the money to help keep up with increased fixed costs like utility bills and health insurance premiums that have gone up exponentially in today's inflationary environment. We need it to be able to adequately compensate our staff for their tireless efforts. We need it to expand our influence and impact in the world around us. We need it to continue to be able to open our doors to all people, offering them a spiritual home.

Our 2027 Annual Stewardship goal is \$1.45 million. With everyone's participation, we firmly believe we can achieve it. If you have pledged to Christ & St. Luke's in the past, would you consider increasing your gift by 8–10%? And if you have never pledged to Christ & St. Luke's, please prayerfully consider making a financial commitment to help us meet our goals for ministry and mission. To make a pledge you can fill out a physical **pledge card** and return it to the church or you can visit **christandstlukes.org/pledge** to pledge online and set up your payments.

Please make your pledge by Ingathering Sunday, November 8th.

Pledging promptly is important. The sooner you show your commitment, the better and more responsibly we can plan our budget for 2027. If you have any questions about pledging you are welcome to reach out to me or to Luisa A. Vázquez-López our Chief Operating Officer. You can also refer to the helpful Pledging FAQ at our website.

By supporting Christ & St. Luke's with your financial gifts, you are ensuring that this family of faith continues to be a place where people find their stories are celebrated and shared and where they come to know and show how that story embodies the story of God's love for them and for the world. There is no more important story to tell, especially now. Which means there are few better ways for our money to be spent. Thank you, as always, for all the ways you are a part of our story and for supporting our church with all that you are able.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Noah Van Niel
Rector, Christ & St. Luke's Episcopal Church