



October 23, 2024

Dear Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church,

We are halfway through our “Bridge the Gap: Two Years of Renewed Mission and Ministry Appeal and Celebration,” focused on growth and sustainability for St. Paul Lutheran Church. This appeal seeks to increase membership, grow financial offerings, meet a matching gift challenge, and pay off our church mortgage.

Our first goal is to increase membership by 30%, welcoming 50 new members by September 2025. We are thrilled to report that we have already received 28 new members in 2024! We are confident we will meet or exceed this goal!

With our growing membership, we also aim for a 5% increase in general fund offerings by September 2025, which will be vital for supporting our ministries and operations. We expect continued growth towards this goal, as well.

We continue to be grateful for our anonymous donor’s \$30,000 matching gift challenge. Only a year into the appeal we’ve raised \$25,618 (86% of the goal) and expect to meet the full amount soon.

One of our most exciting goals is becoming debt-free. To date, we only owe \$160,000 on our mortgage with two and a half years remaining. Paying this off will free up \$64,000 annually, giving us financial flexibility to reinvest in ministries. At the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26, 2025, the Church Council plans to introduce a special mortgage payoff plan and appeal. More to come!

Despite mortgage challenges, St. Paul Lutheran Church remains financially healthy from an assets and liabilities standpoint. However, while our 2024 approved budget expected (and will show) a net loss, we are able to cover it with savings. This will not be an option for us in 2025, so with careful planning and continued generosity, we trust we can overcome this challenge, too! That’s where you come in!

We ask you again, to prayerfully consider increasing your financial contributions this year. Enclosed is a “Guide to Proportionate Giving” to inspire your next step in giving. On **Stewardship Sunday, November 10**, we’ll reflect on the importance of our offerings. Please fill out your “Intent of Giving” and “Art of Giving: Time & Talent Response Form” and bring them to worship on **Commitment Sunday, November 17**.

God has blessed us abundantly, and we believe there are enough resources to meet our needs. With continued generosity in time, talents, and treasures, there’s no limit to what we can achieve together. Let us trust in God’s provision as we move closer to financial freedom and new ministry opportunities.

P. Dale Pastor Carrie

Pastor Dale and Pastor Carrie