



Greetings from the St. John's Stewardship Team,

The world needs more community, more compassion, more justice and love – and that's exactly what St. John's sets out to provide each and every day.

We are a community on a mission! Following Jesus, we're called to thrive and to help our neighbors thrive, creating a beautiful, meaningful abundant life for all. Over the next three weeks, we'll explore what this "abundant life" looks like and celebrate some of the ways St. John's participates in God's all-encompassing love for the world.

**Let's start with community.** For 170 years, St. John's has been a beacon of community in Lancaster: a gathering place, a refuge, a house of joy and welcome, and a wellspring of service for neighbors down the street and around the world.

We build community by gathering and connecting in parish events, youth groups, and worship. Through contributions to our neighboring elementary school, collaborating with our partners at First Reformed Church and other Lancaster Episcopal Churches, we build community by joyfully serving where we see a need. Our choir and Martha's Ministers build community through the arts. And our children's ministries and adult education programs build community through learning, remembering that the root of the word "disciple" is the Latin word for "learner".

At the heart of St. John's community is worship. Every time we gather, pray, listen to God's good news, support, sing, and celebrate, we build up our beloved community with joy and beauty where everyone is welcome.

On the other side of this letter, you'll find a brief testimony from Liz West about the power of community at St. John's. We hope you'll read her thoughts on God, community, and the abundant life we're building together.

Enclosed you'll also find a prayer for our annual giving campaign. Put it somewhere where you'll see it every day – and when you do, pray with us for the opportunities that lie ahead and then join us on Giving Sunday, November 5, when we'll joyfully celebrate our mission of creating life-changing community in an often lonely, disheartened, fragmented world.

Thank you in advance for being a part of this important and rewarding work!

With joy in abundance,

Pam Loose, Leslie Morgan, Debbie Carter, Rosemary Coverly, Amanda Knouse, Jen Trenary

P.S. Not to worry, a pledge card and envelope will follow in a future mailing.



### **St. John's Testimonial from Liz West**



From my first encounter at St. John's, I knew that I had been led to something very special. Having relocated from a different state, my husband and I were looking for a faith community that would fulfill our need to belong, and that would give us ample opportunity to give back in gratitude for all the blessings we have received in our lives.

After our first worship experience here, we didn't need to look further. The sincere, warm welcome we were offered easily led into opportunities for us to share what we have to contribute by way of time and talent. As time went on and we made more new connections in our church community, our understanding of the many ways in which the St. John's family reaches out to benefit our surrounding community increased. That made us even more proud of the family of faith that we were fortunate enough to join.

This community of faith truly lives into the commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves. Paul and I plan to do whatever we can for as long as we can to financially support the good works at St. John's and hope that all who worship with us will consider doing the same.