



September 18, 2023

Dear Parish Family:

As I invite your prayerful consideration of our annual stewardship campaign, I begin with a word of thanks. God is generous and faithful. The Advent has a clear, consistent gospel message that sustains and directs all we do in addressing the needs, opportunities, and challenges in our call to serve. We seek to increase the number of those to whom we offer the life-giving word of grace.

All of our ministry begins and ends with the message of God's gracious, unmerited, extravagant love for sinners: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). This word is rephrased, presented in different images and contexts, but never changing. This true, life-giving, reconciling word of Jesus is at the center of all we do in our worship, education, care, and service.

There are multiple opportunities for worship on Sunday. They are the same in substance, but intentionally different in presentation, that the gospel net might be cast wider. We are coordinated and intentional in the excellence of our Christian education to build up the entirety of our congregation. We are actively working on our building to enable all of this to continue, but also to provide additional space for breakfast and the fellowship that we long for as a community. This investment is represented in the current renovation of the Assembly Hall and the Lower Morton Meeting Room.

Active care for our congregation is vital to who we are and is a warm witness to the world. This is demonstrated with excellence in our pastoral care in all the moments of our lives, and in our Lenten Preaching Series, our Music Ministry, our commitment to small group ministry, the ministry to our youth, our increased investment in family ministries, and our growing ministry to 20s and 30s. It is also in the ministry to the men and women of our church, and the opportunities given to all of us to serve and engage.

Care for one another sets up and flows into our care for the community. We are actively seeking ways for you to give that which you have received and to experience in giving the abundant life Jesus promised. We continue to be engaged globally, but are increasingly led to find new ways to engage and seek the well-being of our city. There is pressing need around us, and God is making clear his call for us to engage our neighbors.

We are in a great moment, gifted with numerous signs of encouragement and call, and your partnership is critical. We cannot continue the Advent's ministry without the pledges of our congregation. We are dependent upon them, God's provision for our ministries comes through you. If you have not pledged previously, I pray that you will consider pledging this year. If you have, thank you, and I join you as you prayerfully consider your pledge for the coming year. I am praying for us all as we engage this together.

The Lord be with you,

The Very Rev. R. Craig Smalley
Dean and Rector

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

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