



Saint Luke's Episcopal Church

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November 1, 2023

Dear Friends,

I write to thank you for your faithfulness in prayer and service in 2023. God not only gives us Saint Luke's beautiful buildings, glorious music with choir, and moving worship, but He also opens our generous hearts. Beyond our regular financial support, there are many ways this year that we demonstrated our gratitude to Him.

We sustained communal activities such as the Rummage Sale (giving free clothes for kids) and Gingerbread Players. The Lawn Brigade maintained the gardens for the church, the rectory and now a community garden. Our support for Queens Community House drives not only a food pantry, but kid's Easter baskets, back-to-school supplies and, later this year, Thanksgiving turkeys, Christmas hams and the Jesse Tree.

In 2023, we expect to spend about \$415,000 to sustain our ongoing ministry, which is being supported by various means including \$200,000 in expected pledge giving. These promises will cover about 48% of our regular expenses. The remainder will be covered by users, events, and capital.

Our buildings also required extensive maintenance – the rectory restoration, a new boiler, and basement repairs. Not only did we need to fund much of this through drawdowns on our capital reserves, but also called upon significant volunteer time and services. Thus, we are grateful for \$31,000 given to support our "Restore the Rectory" campaign which significantly offset such costs.

As we look forward to calling a priest-in-charge, 2024 will prove to be a bigger challenge. Our planned budget for 2024, which will be shared later this month, is now being prepared. Meanwhile, your pledges for regular giving in 2024 play an essential part in these preparations.

Please consider how you might support us in 2024, both financially and otherwise, using a pledge card on which you can also name the ways that God has blessed you. Then, complete and return your pledge card **on or before Sunday, November 26th**. During the service on that day, your pledge cards will be blessed, and your blessings may be shared.

Thankfully, yours in Christ,

Jonathan Wallin, Stewardship Chair