

CELEBRATING OUR CALLING

STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2026



INTRODUCTION // We are grateful for the countless ways God's love transforms lives at St. John's! All who walk through our doors find welcome and belonging. When we gather for worship, fellowship, or service, we are nourished by God's grace and experience community in Christ. Through caring for one another, supporting neighbors in need, and being generous with our lives, we experience and proclaim grace and love. Whether from the sanctuary, kitchen, mission building, or picnic shelter, God's grace flows through us—a family sharing grace, serving with love!

NEEDS // In a world that is divided and broken, many yearn for deeper connections and meaningful relationships. St. John's is a community of faith where people find hope and peace as we share life's joys and support one another through struggles. Your generosity will sustain and strengthen this work.

Neighbors around us face challenges with food insecurity, medical care, and keeping a roof over their heads, while members seek opportunities for spiritual growth through retreats and transformative service learning experiences. Increased giving will increase our ability to provide for these needs.

Offering our building as a welcoming space for the ministry of our congregation and the work of our many community partners requires maintenance and care. Supporting staff as they lead requires providing appropriate compensation. Your generosity makes this possible.



INVITATION AND RESPONSE

We celebrate that God continually gifts us with grace and love, empowering us to live out our calling to welcome, care, help, and share generously. To meet our goals, we need increased weekly giving of \$1300. While this is a challenging goal, driven both by the need to replace gifts from faithful members who have died or moved and the desire to enhance ministry, together we can meet this challenge.

Sunday, October 19 will be *Commitment Sunday*. In preparation for that day, please prayerfully reflect on your response to this appeal. During worship, you will be invited to bring forward your enclosed Statement of Intent, indicating your generous commitment to St. John's for 2026. You may also deliver your Statement of Intent to the church office in person or by mail, or submit an online commitment card using this link:

www.SJBft.org/Intent2026

Following the later service, we will celebrate with our annual Oktoberfest Picnic. This is a wonderful time to invite friends. Don't miss this joyful day of fellowship!

We are excited about these opportunities to meet the needs of the church and community in the coming year.



MINISTRY INITIATIVES

As we celebrate our calling, we live out core values that deepen our relationship with God and strengthen our bonds with one another and our neighbors. Our appeal goals are:

+ WELCOMING AND CARING FOR ALL

Meaningful connections happen around tables and through shared experiences. Your increased generosity will strengthen our *Welcome Table* and *Wednesday Nights Together* ministries, enhancing opportunities for the fellowship that nourishes our community. Additional funds will provide scholarship support to send adults to retreats and mission trips that deepen faith and strengthen bonds with one another.

+ HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS

When neighbors face hardship, we respond with love in action. Increased giving will expand outreach projects that directly help those in need while supporting community organizations already serving our most vulnerable neighbors. Together, we extend God's grace beyond our walls to transform lives throughout our community.

+ GENEROUSLY SHARING

Sustaining excellence in ministry requires caring for both our people and our facilities. Your increased gifts will provide appropriate compensation for staff who lead and nurture our shared mission in a time when cost of living is on the rise. Additional funds for building maintenance and reserves ensure our facilities remain welcoming spaces where worship, fellowship, and serving others are signs of God's grace and love.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

RANGE OF GIFTS GIVEN AND HOPED FOR

