



October 8th, 2024

Dear St. Lawrence Family,

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

Ephesians 5:2

I say these words almost every Sunday, as our service transitions from the announcements to the beginning of Communion. In Church jargon, they are called the offertory sentence and they orient us to how God longs for us to live in the word as people of faith. It is fitting, then, that the theme for our 2025 stewardship campaign is: "Walk in love."

These words, taken from the letter to the Ephesians, remind us that words are not enough when it comes to living our faith. We have to walk the walk, too. Our faith is not meant to be contained within the walls of our beloved building, but to be carried out into the world by each of us. When we dare to walk in love, to set aside the temptations of division and bitterness, then the Reign of God begins to be born here on earth.

To walk in love in 2024 is an act of tremendous courage. The world around us is rife with division, bitterness, and fear. Walking in love can feel like whistling in the dark. But the truth is, the world needs the message of the Gospel more than ever - which means that the world needs us more than ever. At St. Lawrence, we remain committed to walking in love, whatever the cost. Walking in love is not easy - but, as Christians, we never do it alone. That is why we are embarking on this stewardship campaign together. Every person matters. Every person has something to contribute and every contribution is honored and celebrated.

Now, more than ever, we need your generosity. In just a few months, we will formally launch our long- awaited capital campaign. The projects for which we will be raising funds (new roof, new HVAC system, part time staff position) are undertakings that fall outside the scope of our annual budget. Our operating budget has always been covered first and foremost by your generous pledges and the fact that we are conducting a capital campaign does not change that reality. Please do not reduce your annual pledge in anticipation of the capital campaign. Both are vital to the flourishing of our beloved community. We are profoundly grateful for every gift - just as we are profoundly grateful for each of you. May God guide our steps as we walk in love together.

With abundant gratitude,



The Rev. Kristin L. Saylor, Rector

If you would like to pledge online please use the QR code



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