

Dear People of Trinity,

It is thanks to the generosity of our community that we enjoy all that Trinity offers: growing ministries, opportunities for support and fellowship, engaging and meaningful worship. We are writing in gratitude for that generosity, and with confidence that we can continue to count on it.

This year's Trinity theme, *Strengthening Community: Building up the Body of Christ*, is taken from Ephesians 4:7, 12-13, in which St. Paul affirms that "[e]ach of us has been given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift" and invites us to use that gift of grace collectively "for building up the body of Christ", which is Christ's church. Although the gift of grace is individual, its intended use is communal.

You may notice that the 2019 Stewardship Pledge Packet is larger than usual. In the interests of efficiency and transparency, it was decided to combine two solicitations into one mailing. The first is the annual invitation from the Stewardship Commission for pledges to support Trinity's operating budget. The second is an additional, separate appeal on behalf of the Trinity Campus Campaign to address much-needed, larger infrastructure projects beyond the scope of the operating budget.

Trinity's annual operating budget provides for our rich life of worship, marvelous music programs, and extraordinary opportunities for spiritual formation at all ages. Vibrant child, family and youth ministries ever more meaningfully engage younger – and older – members of our community. Outreach initiatives are expanding to provide new and relevant service to our broader community. Our life at Trinity is a gift we give to ourselves, to each other, and to the community beyond our campus. As the costs of our shared life at Trinity increase, so must our ability to meet them. It is imperative that pledged income keep pace with rising expenses.

While the operating funds are directed to Trinity's usual expenses, the Campus Campaign was created for a single limited purpose – to raise specific funds to address urgent needs of Trinity's facilities, without adversely impacting the annual operating budget. A set of projects has been identified as necessary to ensure that our campus continues to be a thriving home for Trinity's ministries and mission. The costs of those projects far exceed the capacities of annual routine maintenance allocations in the operating budget.

The Stewardship Campaign and Campus Campaign offer two distinct endeavors by which we seek to build up the body of Christ at Trinity Church. Both are crucial. Please review the information accompanying this letter as you prayerfully contemplate your giving decisions. Of course, we hope that you will give generously to each campaign. That said, your annual pledge to the operating budget is absolutely essential to Trinity's on-going ministries, and therefore it should be given priority by matching, or increasing (if possible), your last year's pledge.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for your support.

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***But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. [T]o equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. (Ephesians 4:7, 12-13)***