



September 18, 2025

Dear Saint Mary's Episcopal Church Community,

When you were a kid, was there a friend, neighbor, or family member's house you felt totally at peace in? Maybe it felt like your home away from home, a sanctuary with comfy couches and good food. A place you were safe to be yourself, a place you were always greeted with love and acceptance. That's the feeling inspiring a Stewardship Campaign for 2026: ***"Strengthening Our Spiritual Home."***

This last year, we've welcomed many new people. Some folks have moved to Minnesota to protect themselves and their families from dehumanizing laws and actions spreading throughout much of our country. Others are identifying their spiritual, liturgical, and communal needs and seeking out safe harbors of resistance at church. And you're the one making sure this can happen.

Your presence, time, and annual pledge make Saint Mary's Episcopal Church what it is. 2026 in the second year of our three-year financial plan, where we seek to increase our annual budget by 80-100 thousand dollars over three years. We created this goal in light of our annual budget deficit. We are using bequests to cover our deficits for three years as we create stable and healthy systems, structures, and staffing. And we are on track! Between 2024 and 2025 we increased our annual income with pledges and space rental by 28,000 dollars.

At Saint Mary's we do the hard work of creating a beautiful ecology where **we nurture people at every age and strengthen our communal bonds amidst a fraying society.**

Some of the work we've accomplished so far, thanks to your support, include:

- Hiring our fabulous music director
- Improving financial transparency and records organization
- Creating small group and intergeneration events to build community
- Using our Age-to-Age training to run excellent children's programming that is budget-friendly

And your support makes everything happen! **Our pledges fund 70% of our annual budget.** Through your financial gifts, you fuel the work of our church and invest in our communal care.

We know many of you are likely to be giving to multiple causes and organizations. **This year we are asking if you would prioritize St. Mary's in your giving. We are also asking that you think about increasing your pledge this year.**

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Saint Mary's is a spiritual home that blends innovation and sacred tradition. In our nurturing community people can be themselves. We welcome questions and doubts. We challenge one another to partner with God to work for justice and peace.

Here are our three goals for our campaign:

- Our Stewardship Goal for 2026 is \$165,000 (10k increase)
- Stretch Goal: 175k (20k increase)
- The “I believe in Miracles” Goal 180k (25k increase)

Last year we had so much fun gamifying the campaign that the Stewardship Committee has also decided to continue in the spirit of **joy and playfulness**. Stay tuned in on Sunday morning to encounter our Unlocking Map!

***Please pledge today*** to help the Maverick’s friend experience Minnesota!

10 New and Increased Pledges: 🗳️ Pick a name & Unlock the Story

20 New and Increased Pledges: ❤️🔓 Unlock the Story

40 New and Increased Pledges: 🍷 Root beer floats! 🔓 Unlock the Story!

25% Goal! - 🎉 Unlock the story

50% way - 🕺 Unlock the Story! Dance Party!

75% way - 🔥 Unlock the Story!

Completed! – 🍕 Pizza Party! Unlock the Story!

Stretch Goal! – 🎤 We’ll add the karaoke machine to a second Saint Mary’s event!

The “I believe in miracles” Goal! – Bonus chapter unlocked!

With love,

The Rev. Lindsey R. Briggs  
Rector of Saint Mary’s Episcopal Church

*Please use the QR code to pledge online, or return the included pledge card at church or in the mail.*

