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*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.
(1 Corinthians 12:12)*

Dear Siblings in Christ,

In 2026, we want to live even bigger into our theme of **Many and One, in the Spirit**. Christian stewardship is the faithful management of God's gifts—time, talents, treasure, and creation—offered in gratitude to serve God, neighbor, and the world.

Together, we offer these gifts to: seek justice, seek resilience, manifest joy and live in love.

As we enter 2026, **St. Michael's has new momentum**. Early next year, we will complete our visioning process clarify our values and priorities. We are eager to see God's guidance to live our values into the future. We now have a full staff to support our life and ministry together. We are ready to launch into the work of re-invigorating our ministries. When we fund our full budget, we are able to focus on new things, beyond making up gaps for the things we have already done. This is a vital time for us.

Thank you for your support of St. Michael's in 2025. For 2026, we aim to **raise \$700,000** from **200 pledgers**, including **50 increased** and **40 new**. Why the increase? This supports our new priest, and new efforts in formation and outreach. It also offsets rising costs due to inflation and growth in the parish. This number moves us toward a sustainable budget, without drawing significantly on reserves.

New directions mean new needs. Your support is crucial. Will you consider a percentage increase in your pledge for next year, as you are able? Look at the pledge card for options. We invite you to prayerfully try a step up at any level you feel led to. Even small steps matter. Not everyone will be able. And that's ok. Do what you can. Others will be able to step forward in even greater support so we can keep walking together.

What's most important is that everyone contributes at whatever level they can. ALL gifts help us do our ministry together. Your support matters.

We've had a great year loving, connecting, and dreaming together. St. Michael's has momentum and a full staff to boost our work. **Your gifts help empower our ministry.**

May our pledges be our **YES** to God and each other.

One in the Spirit, with YOU,

Margaret Marcuson
Stewardship Chair

The Rev. R. Scott Painter
Rector