



June 19, 2022

Dear St. Mark's Member,

Thank you for your support and patience as we have pursued options for our Narthex Project. We now have an opportunity to bring our plans to life, at a somewhat smaller scale than the original project. The congregation has approved the Narthex Core Project which includes the top priorities of the congregation – bathrooms, a redesigned courtyard, kitchenette and other renovations as marked on the enclosed drawing. The Congregation has approved a fundraising effort with a goal of raising additional pledges of \$250,000, and our target is to reach that pledge amount by August 31, 2022.

St. Mark's members have shown outstanding generosity over the years for our priority initiatives. We can only bring this important project to life through our collective enthusiasm. Your regular generous giving to the annual budget will help finance the loan payments, but we need donations up front to keep the loan payments affordable.

- For those who have already pledged and given to the renovation project, we ask you to prayerfully consider pledging an additional amount. Can you match or extend your previously given donations?
- If you have pledged previously, but not completed your pledged support, please fill out the pledge form to indicate the total amount you pledge to donate moving forward.
- If you have not yet pledged or donated to the Narthex Project, please consider making a pledge now to the Narthex Core Project. Your participation is an important signal to other members that you share in their enthusiasm for the vision of the project.

A fundraising campaign finds success by the amount of participation. Larger donations are often the foundation for a project, while the collective smaller donations bring it over the top. **Everyone's contribution matters.** Now comes the part where *you* can express your enthusiasm for this project by making a financial pledge to support.

While actual contributions are welcome immediately, we realize that many members need some additional time to plan their donations in 2022 and 2023. Also, we understand that some members might want to hold off on making Narthex donations until you are assured that a contract will be awarded. We need to know how our financial resources stand before we issue the request for proposals, and again before awarding the construction contract. This drives our August 31, 2021 timeline to receive pledges. Once we have bids, the time to accept and award a contract will be short, leaving no time to undertake significant new fundraising activities. In other words, we need to hear from you now.

Finally, our projections for realizing this project include the prospect for financing at least part of the debt through loans from our members. We followed a similar process when we retired our old mortgage through interest-bearing notes financed by members. If you are interested in further communications about underwriting such a loan to the church, please indicate so on the pledge form.

Thank you for your continued support and for your patience in this extraordinary process. We look forward to hearing from you soon, and to moving ahead with this exciting, long-anticipated project.

Peace be with you,

Erik Long
President, Congregation Council