



Dear St. Paul's Family,

Happy Thanksgiving! What a great time of year when the whole country pauses for a day and takes a moment to thank God for the many blessings we enjoy here in America. We are so blessed to live in a time when there are so many new and wonderful things being done to make our country and world a better place to live. There are advancements in science, medicine, health care, and yes, even economic improvements. We have much to celebrate; giving thanks to God. We are learning every day to use the amazing talents we have been given for good. So I hope you have a thankful Thanksgiving.

Here at St. Paul's we have much to be thankful for as well. We are thankful that Andrea Langhoff has taken on the position of Director of Youth Ministry and Amy Heitman has become our Director of Children's Ministry. We are excited to have been able to find such qualified educators to join our staff.

We are also thankful for the generous response to this year's Every Member Commitment time. We have been challenged to increase our giving next year by 3-5%. What a wonderful response! All of you have responded to God's blessings by promising over one million dollars already for next year's ministries. We still hope to receive estimate of giving cards back from many other of our St. Paul's family. When that happens, we are on track to exceed that 3-5% increase.

Thanks and praise is filling our church this season because of all the ways God has blessed us. This Sunday, we will receive a new member class of more than 25 people; one of the largest we have had in the past 10 years. It's a great group of people; I hope you will be at worship to welcome them into the fellowship of St. Paul's. We have also been excited about the challenge our Mission Council has put before us to increase the number of Christmas Baskets we provide in our community from 100 to 130. We know that is a large increase, but we know the need has increased. We also know how our

church has always responded in faith to a great need. It may be difficult, but that's what makes it so very special. These are the times we see faith at work in a powerful way.

I have one final personal thanksgiving. Last year we developed a plan to be able to fully pay our United Methodist Apportionment. We haven't been able to get all the way there in the last couple of years. This year, because of your faithful giving and God's grace, our Finance Committee believes that we will reach our goal an entire year ahead of our plan. Thank you so very much.

I hope as you gather around the Thanksgiving table you will pause a moment and do what I have just done in this Clergy Connector ... count your blessings and thank God for each and every one. May your Thanksgiving celebration be a happy thanks-filled day.

Thankfully,

*Pastor Jeff Regan*