



All Saints Sunday **November 2, 2025**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus! As Thanksgiving approaches, we find our hearts overflowing with gratitude for the people of St. John in the Wilderness. Our people are praying and growing and serving, and the Spirit of God is flowing powerfully in our parish community. We are supporting each other in our lives of faith, and we are witnessing to the love of God in so many ways in the larger White Bear Lake community.

Of course, this is nothing new. The people of St. John's have been praying and growing and serving in White Bear Lake since 1861 when Bishop Whipple, the first Bishop of Minnesota, dedicated the original church building at the site which is now the church cemetery. The cornerstone for our current church building was laid on November 14, 1925, and we have been celebrating 100 years of worship in this beautiful building all year long with a variety of educational programs and service opportunities. We hope that as many of you as possible can join us in a special Centennial Cornerstone Celebration on November 16th.

We have been so proud of the people of St. John's as they have faithfully continued the long tradition of ministry in this place. Each and every week, there are opportunities for people to connect with each other and with God. The clergy and staff do their part, of course, but truly the heart of the ministry at St. John's is accomplished by our lay people. You are serving in powerful ways as Vestry members, worship leaders, pastoral visitors, teachers, Connect group leaders, Altar Guild members, committee members, outreach workers, and a whole host of other ways. St. John's is a busy place with people committed to serving God and others in big and small ways. Further, you have continued to faithfully support this parish financially. As a result, St. John's is in a strong position to continue the work God has set before us.

We are writing this letter to request your continued support for 2026. We are living in immensely challenging times, and the opportunities for our parish to extend God's love into our community have never been greater. As Jesus reminds us, "the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few," and we at St. John's are honored to be counted among those laboring saints of God sent into the fields! But we really do need your help.

St. John in the Wilderness is blessed with a healthy endowment. While the principal of our endowment may not be touched, our annual budget does allocate a significant portion of the interest toward operating expenses. Many thanks to all of you who have been part of the Heritage Society at St. John's for this endowment; it really is a blessing. Almost all other revenue for our operating expenses comes from your generous *annual* contributions. And so, we are earnestly asking you to continue to support St. John in the Wilderness by pledging your financial support for 2026.

For over 160 years, the faithful people of St. John in the Wilderness Church have risen to the occasion to support the work of God through this parish. We are confident that you will understand the vital need for the Church to continue its witness to God's love in these current challenging days. Please consider giving generously to St. John's in 2026, completing and submitting the enclosed 2026 Pledge Card.

May God continue to bless you and your loved ones!



Jim Demay, Warden



Mike Carpenter, Warden



Arthur Hancock, Rector