



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

22 South 6th Street
Lebanon, PA 17042



BEGIN AGAIN!
Annual Membership
Campaign 2021

*Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.*

Isaiah 43:19

Dear Friends of St. Luke's,

No one can doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives. This is true not only for us individually but also for the communities that play an important role in our lives: schools, commerce, civic life, and, certainly, our church. For months after the onset of the pandemic, we experience a total shutdown of the ministries we often take for granted: worship, fellowship, Christian education and spiritual formation, and social outreach. None was so shocking as the need to transform our prayer life by turning to the digital world of YouTube and Facebook as we yearned to hear familiar phrases: "The gospel of the Lord", "Take, eat . . .", "The peace of the Lord be with you always." Gradually, we have begun to emerge from a kind of suspended animation by discovering new ways to restore the energy and support that our life together as Christ's own provides.

We continue this process with our 2021 Annual Membership Campaign *BEGIN AGAIN!*

Our campaign seeks to provide the resources necessary to meet several challenges that lie ahead:

- *To Gather Differently and Better*
- *To Seize Opportunities to Reach the Digital World*
- *To Reconnect with the Wider Community in Lebanon County*
- *To Take Prayer to a New and Powerful Level*
- *To Rethink Our Facilities for Emerging Opportunities*
- *To Make Lasting Changes That Will Make a Difference*

As stewards of the mission and ministry of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, we are all entrusted with the work needed to nurture and build on the legacy of our community, so that future generations may benefit from our rich religious heritage. This work is only made possible through giving of our time, our talents, and our financial resources.

Our individual generosity is multiplied when we give together.

Our **2021 Annual Membership Campaign *BEGIN AGAIN!*** is your opportunity to declare your financial intentions for the 2021 fiscal year. By banding together, we will be better able to meet the challenges before us. St. Luke's celebrates the great diversity among its members and friends, including the diversity of financial situations. Your gift, regardless of the amount, is vital to ***Beginning Again.***

This year, our Annual Membership Campaign (AMC) will begin on **Sunday, October 11th** and culminate with our official "in-gathering" on **Sunday, October 25th**. During that time, we will explore how stewardship of our resources can help us to answer the challenges that lie ahead.

I ask you to reflect on the blessings we have received from God during these difficult times. I know in my life, these include spending more time in quiet and prayer, opportunities to learn new technologies to enhance ministry, and drawing closer to immediate family to name but a few. My faith has been strengthened as God transforms dark and difficult days into opportunities to grow and nurture my life with God. Even as Jesus

emerged from the tomb that first Easter morning, changed and transformed, so we can emerge from our confinements with new horizons for our mission and ministry as a parish community. Truly, this is the mystery of our life in God.

I ask that you pray to discern how best you can help us begin to live out our mission and ministry in new ways. This year you can view information about the AMC on our website at the page dedicated to stewardship. You can register your pledge online or, if you prefer, submit the enclosed pledge card in the envelope provided by our ingathering on October 25th.

As a companion with you on The Way, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David +". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a plus sign at the end.

The Rev'd Dr. David A. Zwifka
Rector