Now faith is confidence in what we hope for, and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1
We celebrate the gift of Christian community and welcome all, without distinction, to share the joy and pain of life’s passages. We commit ourselves to personal and spiritual maturity, both traditional and innovative worship, the healthy nurturing of children, and reaching out, beyond the Church, seeking Christ in all persons.

Almighty God, you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses, and you have blessed us with the legacy of their light in this community. Grant that we, encouraged by the good example of all your saints, may persevere in running the race that is set before us. Further us with your guidance and strength that we may honor the service and faith of our forebears; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Message from The Rector

Dear ones,

As we celebrate the centennial of our Tower and Sanctuary, we thank God for our many blessings. One of these is the Sanctuary building itself, where generations have worshiped, studied, and celebrated the gift of community. The lower level houses Sunday school classes that nurture the spiritual lives of our children. Our Tower stands as a salient symbol of faith in the Linden Hills neighborhood. We are called to maintain this historic place while we continue to serve others.

After prayerful study and deliberation, we have decided to proceed with a capital campaign, *Keeping Faith*, to care for our building and to serve in our community.

We will honor our past by restoring our landmark Tower, whose structure has been imperiled by a century of harsh weather.

We will care in the present day by renovating the lower level: to serve our children; to meet the demand for adult gathering spaces; and to allow our Child Care tenant to expand—serving our neighborhood and bringing vital funds into our capital reserve.

Finally, with a tithe (10%) of the campaign we will create a new social justice opportunity: a Centennial Fund for Social Justice.

By joining together in this campaign, we will grow in unity, faith, and service while we preserve the church of our forebears for many generations to come.

In faith, hope, and love,

The Reverend Susan Barnes
A Legacy of Faith and Service

For 100 years, St. John’s red doors have welcomed, sheltered, and nurtured generations of members. Our forebears left us a legacy of service, generosity, and faith. We are honored to continue this tradition. As we celebrate our Centennial, we are grateful for the many blessings bestowed upon us. We look toward the future while continuing our mission to grow in faith and service.

1903
St. John’s was established as a mission.

1917
St. John’s was welcomed as a Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota, and construction was completed on the Sanctuary.

1930s
Women in the parish fundraised to keep the church open during the Depression.

1980s
St. John’s continued to be a welcoming community, and membership steadily increased.

1960s-1970s
St. John’s stood up for Civil Rights, peace, nuclear disarmament, and women’s ordination.

1997
As construction began for renovations, a fire destroyed the kitchen and parish hall.

2007
St. John’s parishioners joined together to fund an expansion to accommodate the growing church.

2017
St. John’s embarks on a new campaign to honor the past, celebrate the present and serve in the future.
Our Goal

During the early weeks of January, we conducted a feasibility study to test reaction to our plans and offer guidance on next steps. Based on the endorsement of the parishioners, St. John’s is now moving forward with a capital campaign, with a goal of $1.7 million. The campaign has three main objectives:

- **Restore our Landmark Tower**
- **Renovate the Sanctuary Lower Level**
- **Create a Centennial Fund for Social Justice**

### Allocation of Funds (Estimated Costs)

- **Tower Restoration**: $350,000
- **Lower Level & 42nd St. Renovations**: $950,000
- **Centennial Fund for Social Justice**: $170,000
- **Financing & Professional Fees**: $230,000

*Let us rise up, and build…*

*Nehemiah 2:18*
St. John’s Centennial concludes with the anniversary of the first service celebrated in our Sanctuary on September 17, 1917. One hundred years ago, workers completed construction on our iconic Tower. Since then, it has stood as a steadfast symbol of hospitality and faith in our community.

Today our beloved Tower suffers extensive damage from the effects of weather and time. As a result, the parapet stones must be replaced and many others secured. This is an urgent deferred maintenance matter. Further delay will lead to more deterioration and to prohibitively costly repairs.
While worship is at the heart of all that we do, St. John’s is so much more. We are a parish that is vibrant in fellowship and in mission. We gather together for Sunday school and throughout the week to learn and act out God’s love for us. We have maximized the efficiency of our main level and created a welcoming and inviting atmosphere that reflects the tone of our congregation. The spaces are completely booked during the week.

This is not the case for the Sanctuary’s lower level. Although it is used for Sunday school classes, it is empty during the week. The lower level lacks fire sprinklers, has poor lighting, and suffers from inadequate air circulation. Furthermore, there is water damage that needs to be remediated. Simply put, it does not meet our standards for health and hospitality.

This remodel will give us something we have never had before—flexible space for ministry to children and adults. It will address current space shortage, safety concerns, and ensure our faith home is one where all who desire to learn and gather have the room, and comfortable space, to do so!

We want to turn our basement into a safe, welcoming place that will be used efficiently—truly maximizing its potential. To do that we must:

- Gut and rehab the entire lower level
- Install new HVAC system
- Remediate water damage
- Install new lighting throughout
- Install a fire suppression system
- Replace carpeting, furniture, and other finishes
Caring in the Present: Lower Level Renovation: Extending Our Welcome

Renovation will radically improve the form and function of the Sanctuary building.

Excavating the hillside on 42nd Street will create a brand-new, central entrance directly to the lower level with a ramp that makes it accessible to all and fully ADA compliant. It will also allow natural light to come flooding in with newly-enlarged windows. This project is critical if we are to continue to be a parish that truly welcomes all.

The lower level upgrades, which further include a new kitchenette and children’s bathrooms, have the added benefit of allowing the Linden Hills Child Care Center to expand to accommodate thirty-five more children, providing additional rental income for our long-term capital needs.

It is prudent to do this work now. When the Child Care Center eventually changes ownership, code requirements will impose these renovations, forcing us to raise a large sum of money in a short amount of time.
Caring in the Present: Lower Level Renovation

Renovation Details

- Important safety upgrades throughout
- New meeting space for adults
- Kitchenette and children’s bathrooms
- Multi-purpose classrooms

Let the *children* come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

Mark 10:14
Keeping Faith looks to the future with an expanded vision for St. John’s service to the community. The Centennial Fund for Social Justice, a tithe (10%) of the total campaign, is designated for new, local initiatives. By its very size, the Fund will stimulate and challenge St. John’s to innovate—to imagine what might be.

During the time that money comes into the Fund, we will make new alliances, discover new opportunities, and plan for more ambitious engagement in the wellbeing of our community.

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.
Matthew 25:40
How You Can Help

First of all, please pray that our efforts will be in accord with God’s will and will allow us to share our abundant blessings with our neighbors in the present and future.

Then pray for God’s guidance in how your participation can help us achieve our goals and fulfill our vision. Success will depend on the generosity of many, rather than a few.

Each member of the St. John’s family has a unique financial situation, and we know that these change over time. Though we are not all able to offer equal gifts, we can offer equal sacrifice to God and each other.

*Keeping Faith* allows every member of our community to contribute—making a gift that is prayerfully discerned, personally significant, and appropriate. We hope that making pledges payable over five years will allow everyone to participate generously.

Your support of St. John’s through your love, dedication, and service is a blessing to our community. Your leadership and commitment to care for our church home, improve its potential, and expand our mission to serve others will impact our parish and the wider community for generations to come.

Thank you for your generosity to date. We pray that you will lead the way in *Keeping Faith*, making a sacrificial donation over a five-year period.

The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped.

Proverbs 11:25
Architectural rendering of completed exterior, viewed from 42nd Street