

Good morning. My name is Mark Lindberg, and my family and I have been attending St. John's since 2000, and I am honored to be here this morning.

In 2016, shortly after the election, when many people were in despair, I heard a commentator say: in moments like these, it is time to create. Whatever your skills and interests, do something that is generative and forward looking. I really liked that, and for some reason, that popped into my head as I prepared for this talk – I thought about the many inspiring things our faith community has helped create or contribute to in substantial ways. Here are but a few examples that come to mind.

Recently, I had the honor of sitting with Lisa and others and Ritchie Two Bulls, the co-director of First Nations Kitchen, the humble church-based feeding programming that is an essential pipeline of nutrition for folks in need in the Phillips neighborhood. (We support the meal on a bi-monthly basis.) Ritchie reminded us of the historic link between FNK and St. John's. It was about 10 years ago that Mariann Budde, our former rector, reached out and asked how we could help get First Nation's Kitchen off the ground. If I ever knew that, I'd definitely forgotten that, and was amazed to learn or relearn that history.

St. John's was also one of the early supporters of the Peace Foundation, which, in turn, became the Northside Achievement Zone, or "NAZ." As some of you may know, NAZ is a collaboration of schools and nonprofit partners that work together on the single goal to end multigenerational poverty in North Minneapolis through education. Though we can't take credit for that remarkable evolution, our support for the Peace Foundation was a way for our community to express the ideal that what happens in other parts of the city and the region matter to us too – an ideal that Don Samuels reminded us, only last week, remains as vital as ever to a more just and safe community.

More recently, we all [gesture] created a Centennial Fund, not just as a way to fund projects, but as another tool for us to start, or deepen, relationships in the broader community. The Fund, and the

very energizing youth-led component of the Fund, is creating pathways for engagement we haven't imagined in the past. (Let's talk afterwards if you would like to hear more.)

Inside our four walls, I feel another kind of creativity emerging in our midst – the Way of Love – the seven intentional practices that help us pay attention and respond to the presence of God. Even if this isn't new, per se, Lisa's vision and encouragement feel different, energizing. Against that backdrop, we and our talented staff are poised to care for each other, act, reflect – and create some more. Those are just some of the thoughts that inspire Jenny and me about St. John's, and I hope you will join us in supporting St. John's during this stewardship season. Thank you.