



*And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...”*

Luke 1:46-47, NRSV

Dear Holy Trinity,

As Christians we are story tellers. We have an ancient narrative, one that describes the beginning of time and the relationship between God and God’s Creation. We see this story grow through the prophetic tradition until our story recounts the life and gifts of the Son of God. But the story doesn’t end with the Resurrection just as it did not end with the Cross, it continues on in each of us today as we encounter and are transformed by the Good News.

Luke’s Gospel is bookended by the animated story-telling of two women named Mary. Early in the Gospel, Mary the mother of Jesus, tells us of her encounter with the Divine who informs her that she will bear a child who will change the world. She proclaims her joy: “Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!” At the end of the Gospel, another Mary, Mary Magdalene, visits the tomb to discover it empty and receives instructions from the Risen Christ to go tell the others. She carries this Good News with jubilation to the Disciples.

This has been another exciting year at Holy Trinity, and we have much to ‘Tell out the Greatness of the Lord!’ Our faith community continues to grow and thrive despite the doom and gloom statistics surrounding the wider church. Fellowship events are at the highest level since my arrival in 2020. Outreach projects fill our calendar and continue to be the heart and soul of this parish. With skyrocketing healthcare costs and the loss of assistance programs, our Thrift Shop is a beacon of hope for those who desperately need inexpensive and necessary items for life. The memorial garden renovation has been a spectacular upgrade to the church campus. We hired Lisa Collier as our new church administrator. In October, we contracted with a new cleaning company and promoted “Z” to be our Sexton. And before this year concludes, we may have another exciting staff announcement to deliver; so stay tuned!

(OVER)

Needless to say, we have so much story to tell and even more of which to be grateful. Now it's your turn. What is your Good News; the ideas, dreams, and challenges placed in your heart by God, that needs to be shared? What is the ministry to which you are called which will change the world, sharing your talents, gifts, and love with your neighbors?

Our Stewardship Campaign this year focuses on these stories – the ones inside you, the ones you are still writing, the ones we tell about those who have gone before us. We are all a part of this ongoing narrative – the ongoing Creation. As you pray about how you will share your gifts with us this year, think about how God is calling you to tell out your soul, to spread the Good News far and wide.

Included with this correspondence is our updated pledge form. I invite you to receive this with grace as you consider how you will share with our church what you have received from God. It is our goal to collect everyone's pledge forms by **Sunday, November 30th**, where all pledges will be blessed, and our entire stewardship campaign will be prayerfully offered to God as part of our Holy Eucharist. In addition, all our stewardship materials can be found on our website: <https://holytrinityclw.org/stewardship/> May our stories of thankfulness, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, bring forth inspiration as we “Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!”

In Christ+

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. J. Lemley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "J".

The Very Rev. Daniel J. Lemley