



St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church
601 Montañño Rd NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107
(505) 345-8147 stmichaelsabq.org

October 5, 2023

Dearest Siblings in Christ,

In Christ, St. Paul tells us, all things are made new, and as we begin this journey together, we remember Jesus's commandment to ***love one another as he loved us.***

What is this type of love like? Well, it feels sacrificial, whole-hearted, and meaningful. This type of love requires a commitment to and a desire for justice in our church community and the wider world. This love branches outward, embraces the wider community, and impacts all our ministries. We see this love daily in the holy hospitality offered through our day school and food pantry. This love is courageous. We see this Christ-like love as volunteers from the Landing Ministry, and former guests, stand up for migrants in our city. This love is active, vital, abiding, and diverse. When we come together for worship, we feel it as the bread and wine are held up for God's blessing and sanctified for us. Our hearts are warmed, and God's love for us strengthens us.

As we enter this harvest season of abundance and gratitude, let us search our hearts for what we can give back to God, from whom all blessings flow. We need monetary gifts for our love to flourish and our ministries to thrive. Last year, we saw significant increases in pledges at St. Michael's. We know that not every member is in a place to increase their giving each year, and we celebrate each gift. Collectively, we are investing in ministry as we seek to grow more deeply into God's call to us. As we move into this new era, we hope that that same holy generosity will guide us in giving this year. If you can increase your gift, we invite you to do so. Support the growth of vital ministries.

Over the season of Stewardship, we will seek to provide you with numbers to see our community's budget clearly. Please look them over as you discern what your commitment will be for this year. Ask questions of the committee, the vestry, and clergy. It is important to pray before you pledge. Ask for God's guidance before you promise to give. Talk with all members of your family as you decide. Open the conversation to all. Please know that no gift is too small. The vestry and stewardship ministry leaders have all agreed to pledge in good faith, and we hope that you will also give generously as we plan for our future. Help St. Michael's invest in making a love-spreading difference in 2024.

Yours in Christ's Love,

Cathy Bailey
Stewardship Chair

The Rev. Mike Angell
Rector