

October 18, 2021

Dear Loved Ones of Nativity,

Over the past year, our community has persisted in all of the things that matter. We have praised God in weekly worship. We have studied Scripture. We have cared for one another and prayed for one another. We have loved our neighbors and served them. And we have had fun together. As Dick Heine, our junior warden put it, “This is the amazing thing. We kept going. We didn’t stop doing anything.” He is right.

We have transformed our way of being church —meeting virtually and then outside with a virtual livestream. We kept in touch by phone, we met in twos or threes. We gathered by zoom. Now small groups are meeting inside during the week and our outdoor worship is growing on Sundays. We expect to move our Sunday worship indoors later this fall when the weather makes outdoor worship uncomfortable while continuing to broadcast online.

I believe that with God’s help and your support, 2022 will be a year of growth and innovation at Nativity. I know all of you who make Nativity a vibrant community will continue to find ways individually and together to praise and serve God—participating in the Street Chaplaincy and other outreach activities; supporting one another in prayer groups; meeting as altar guild, office volunteers, Eucharistic ministers and readers.

My own ministry has deepened as I shift from the early pandemic challenges of virtual worship to the more satisfying ministries of pastoral care and formation work. I will continue to support our prayer groups, study groups and our outreach ministries. I am looking forward to more virtual and in person fellowship opportunities with small Nativity groups. In the wider church, I have been appointed to serve on the Executive Council of the Diocese and I look forward to that new role.

Your pledges and our PPP loan allowed all this work to continue. I am happy to report we are on track to meet our 2021 budget of \$181,000.

As we open our 2022 Stewardship Campaign, I invite you to consider three areas of need in our church:

1. I ask you to maintain and, if you can manage financially, to increase your pledge for 2022. Please consider increasing your pledge by 10%. This increase will allow us to meet the increased cost of living, my salary increase set by the Diocese and the additional expenses for technology to support virtual activities and the maintenance of our church building and grounds. Please know that in 2022 we will no longer have the support of PPP loans that we have had throughout the pandemic.

2. The Vestry is planning a capital campaign for two building priorities—a clergy apartment in the upper rooms and a memorial garden by the outdoor cross. Offering clergy housing is an investment in future priests and deacons who will serve Nativity (and a source of rental income). The memorial garden will honor our members who have died and acknowledge the life of Nativity that will continue after all of us are gone. The campaign, currently in a “quiet phase”, has already received some significant donations. The congregation-wide phase will launch after Thanksgiving and construction will start in January. I expect that these will make us even more sustainable.
3. Consider a Legacy Gift to Nativity in your long-term financial planning. Indeed, legacy gifts are already providing the foundation for our Capital Campaign. Putting Nativity in your will or as a beneficiary on your insurance or investment accounts is a gift that will support the next generation of faithful people here.

I invite you to prayerfully consider your pledge to Nativity today. The pandemic has taught us how deeply interconnected we are as a global community. Pledging is a way to express your faith in God who sustains us through all trials, your commitment to building God’s church here in Marin, and your hope that together we can do God’s work of bringing healing, justice and peace to this broken world.

You will see that the pledge card invites you to consider all three areas of gifts to Nativity. Your annual pledge is the number one priority. The information on the Capital Campaign will help the Vestry plan the scope of work and your consideration of Legacy giving will support Nativity as we move into the future.

Thank you for all you do for Nativity. I am looking forward this next year in our life together.

With God’s blessing and my prayers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kirsten Snow Spalding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Rev. Kirsten

2022 Nativity Pledge Card

Please return to 333 Ellen Dr., San Rafael, CA 94903 by November 21, 2021.

Name(s): _____

My pledge last year was: _____

This year I pledge towards Nativity's operations and ministries:

_____ (last year plus 10%)

_____ (other amount)

As I think about Nativity's upcoming capital campaign: I hope to be able to contribute in the following range. This is not a binding commitment and will help us prepare for the capital campaign.

over \$25,000

between \$10,000 and \$25,000

between \$1000 and \$10,000

under \$1000

I don't know yet, I'll wait to hear more about the capital campaign.

I would like to make a legacy gift to Nativity.

I have already included Nativity in my will.

I have made Nativity a beneficiary on one or more of my accounts.

I would like more information about how to include Nativity in my estate plans.

Address (please update for our records): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____