



St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, Breckenridge, CO

Dear St. John's community,

October 9, 2023

Ahh, autumn in Summit County—aspen trees releasing leaves of crisping gold, mountains amassing patches of snow. Such realities of our landscape in this season signal the winding down of our current year, a completion, and at the same time a newness that's yet to begin.

This is the time of year when the building up of household wood piles wraps up around the county, when we make sure our hats and gloves are near to hand—just in case, and when we are naturally compelled to gather ourselves and our resources inward for the seasons to come. It is tough not to think of the third of the three feasts God commands of Israel in Exodus 23:14-17 and in Leviticus. Especially as this is the time of year when we at St. John the Baptist reflect on the year that's been while envisioning our ministry and parish life in the year to come in the context of our annual stewardship campaign. There is an undeniable annual rhythm in the very names of the feasts God sets forth: the Feast of Unleavened bread, the Feast of the Harvest, the Feast of Ingathering. For we northern hemisphere Episcopalians the biblical timeline of these feasts aligns with the changing seasons in our environment. We can feel these times in body and in soul.

And so, as is our custom during this time when the grasses brown and the leaves fall around us, during these days that our daily highs drop, we at St. John the Baptist begin our own ingathering. This is the time when we identify what of our individual treasure we will pledge to set aside to support our ministry and worship.

We ask that you begin prayerful consideration of how you will participate in this season of ingathering. During these cooler days and lengthening nights, search your hearts, listen for the spirit, ask of God—in what way will you be called or drawn to give of your resources to support St. John's in the transformative year ahead?

Though we're beginning our Every Member Canvass while the leaves are falling from the trees around us, this year, in the spirit of the inevitable re-greening outside, we will track our pledge participation with a tree. We look forward to the branches and the bark growing over with green "leaves" as pledges are gathered.

There are three ways to complete your 2024 Pledge:

- Fill out the enclosed Pledge card and return it in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible.
- Visit Stjohnsbreck.org. Mouse over the word "Give" at the top right of the page to reveal the "Give" menu options. Click "[Pledge Form](#)" to complete the pledge form online.
- Send an e-mail to Natalie at Stjohnsbreck@gmail.com with your 2024 Pledge amount.

Thanks to all of you for joining this ingathering, and thanks be to God!

Liv Syptak, Junior Warden, on behalf of the Vestry