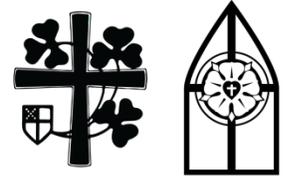


St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
4800 Old Dawson Road
Albany, GA 31721



Beloved,

2020 has been a challenging year for our world, and somehow that is still an understatement. We are experiencing a global pandemic that has raised new and big questions about the providence of God and the suffering of humanity. When we pray *hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done... on earth as it is in heaven*, we wonder when relief will come. We remember stories from near and ancient times of struggling and strife, of suffering and sorrow. And yet, in these times of trial, people of faith have held on to one consistent refrain: look to God for a prophetic word of hope. Hear the faithfulness of God **in, through, and beyond** whatever has befallen humanity and creation. "Trust in God and do not be afraid." "For I will be with you unto the end of the age."

At St. Patrick's and Our Saviour, many of us have experienced the despair of this year. Albany was hit very hard and very early in the pandemic with many of us losing someone we knew or loved. Albany has been hit hard in times past, and the response has been #AlbanyStrong. Perhaps #StPatricksStrong #OurSaviourStrong could be added to this list. We pulled together as a community, even when we couldn't be together. For some of us, we hadn't realized how much we relied upon our faith community for nurture, fellowship, friendship, and family in addition to forming and shaping our lives in Christ. And so we adapted, we gave ourselves permission to *take new risks* because living the old ways was more risky. Like the generations of God's people who wandered in one way or another, we found a way to be faithful together.

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your wellbeing and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

- Jeremiah 29:11

As we look to 2021, there is much still unknown about our common life. And yet, we've witnessed the benefits of abiding in the Lord, in one another, and in *a future with hope*. As we continue to adapt and hold each other, 2021 will be an especially important year to resource the church's ministry. We've welcomed Deacon Joy back with renewed vigor and focus on the needs in our greater community. We also look to the preferred future with hope, widening the circle of our impact and building the ministries that will serve in the next chapter beyond this pandemic. For the 2021 Pledge Campaign, we have adopted the theme of "**A Future with Hope**", words given to us through the prophet Jeremiah.

On Sunday, November 1st, All Saints' Sunday, we will consecrate our pledges for the coming year. I'm asking you to take another risk. A *risk* that God's plans are for our wellbeing and not for harm. A *risk* that God wants to give us *a future with hope*. A *risk* that giving yourself to this future more and more fully will help it to come...*on earth as it is in heaven*.

Yours in Christ,

Nick†

A Future with Hope

St. Patrick's and Our Saviour 2021 Pledge Campaign



Cardboard Testimonials | Sharing Your Story

Instead of hearing from a few people about their stewardship stories, this year we wanted to invite **everyone** to share your stories using Cardboard Testimonials. This is how it works. On a piece of poster or cardboard (which the church can provide or you can use your own), respond to the following “before and after” prompt by writing in big letters with a marker:

Side One: At the start of the Pandemic, I was concerned about _____.

Side Two: Now, by faith, I find hope in _____.



Sample of Cardboard Testimonial "How has your life been changed in Christ?"

In the next couple of weeks, you will be contacted by our Interim Parish Administrator, Kelly Rowe, to schedule a time to come by the church and share your Cardboard Testimonial. It will take about 5-10 minutes. When completed, Kelly will put your testimonial into our Campaign Video.

Mid-October | Pledge Card | Senior Warden

As we approach the middle of the month of October, you will receive another mailing with a letter from the Senior Warden and an enclosed Pledge Card. We will also close in on our time of premiering the Campaign Video with your Cardboard Testimonials.

November 1st | Pledge Sunday | All Saints' Day

Bring in or mail your pledge card to the church so it can be blessed on the Altar, Sunday, November 1st