

Why We Give: Loving Thy Neighbor

by Penny Winder, St. John's Parishioner

The first Sunday of every month, I leave meetings of the Faith in Action Coordinating Committee with awe at and immense gratitude for the work done by my fellow parishioners and the immeasurable impact we're having in our community and the world.

Jesus called us to "love thy neighbor as thyself." As Christians, we know that our neighbor is the person next to us in the pews, the passerby on the street, the families struggling in the Holy Land—more times than not, persons we will never meet. As we've supported our own St. John's parishioners in their times of need, we have also built numerous social justice ministries through generous volunteer efforts and financial pledges. And we have amplified our impact outside our walls by developing and maintaining strong connections to organizations serving specific communities in need: Bethesda Cares, DC Books to Prisons, Moms Demand Action, Lutheran Social Services, and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.



In 2022, 388 St. John's volunteers served approximately 7,000 people each month in our community, our country, and the Holy Land.

Loving our neighbor happens with the commitment of every member of St. John's. Together, we can fulfill God's commandment to "love thy neighbor as thyself" by participating and pledging to our best ability.