



***“Reimagining Thanksgiving”***

**Tuesday, November 22, 2022  
St. Mark’s Lutheran Church**

Remarks by Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director

*For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven!* These profound words from the Hebrew sacred text, immortalized in contemporary music, are an invitation to us today to reimagine this season of Thanksgiving, not as a time to commemorate colonial oppression of this land's indigenous people, for that we should repent, but rather as a time when people of all faiths can pause, take stock, reflect and in the midst of all of our personal problems, societal inequities and national divisions, give thanks for our oftentimes overlooked blessings. This was President Lincoln's great hope and intent when

establishing this day of observance, amidst the violence the Civil War, to unite and heal a divided nation.

*For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven!* In this season of Thanksgiving, these profound words should be a reminder that there is a place at every table for the hungry, the homeless, the lonely and the rejected. Today, as spiritual siblings, we gather and take respite in the beauty and comfort of this historic and magnificent sanctuary; a community of faith which shortly will reimagine and transfigure its own property, to create sorely needed housing for our City's vulnerable and aging residents...a community of faith which, along with its neighboring congregations here on Cathedral Hill will, for the 34th year open its doors during this rainy and cold season and, with the partnership of over 50 religiously affiliated congregations and organizations, provide shelter, meals and kindness to those who otherwise call the streets their home.

*For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven!* We heard these words so graciously spoken this week by our beloved member of Congress, in a historic address to her peers and the Nation, when she announced a new beginning for herself and the House of Representatives, which she has so faithfully served these past 35 years, fifteen of which making history in the leadership roles which she has so adeptly stewarded, in order to provide for the least of our brethren, ensure social justice, human and civil rights. Madam Speaker, you have brought great pride to our City and the Nation that you love. We've rejoiced with you in your triumphs and suffered with you in your moments of trial. At this Thanksgiving, in particular, with warm hearts, we welcome you home and continue to keep you and your family fervently in prayer. On this Thanksgiving, we express our deep thanks to you for your steadfast support of our mission and interfaith efforts to actualize the aspirations of our City's patron, St. Francis.

At this time I would invite all in the congregation to join me in welcoming to this pulpit, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, our Member of Congress, the Honorable Nancy Pelosi.