

THE MESSENGER

APRIL, 2021

The Interim Rector's Corner



Alleluia, Christ is Risen! The Lord has risen indeed! Alleluia!

Easter is all about new beginnings. Eggs and chicks, Spring flowers and lilies that smell glorious, and most especially our new life in Christ. Alleluia!!

We have another new beginning around the corner! I am pleased to share that St. Paul's Reopening Team has submitted our reopening plan to ECMN for approval. And I look forward to meeting you face to face! *Alleluia!!* There is an article about the reopening plan elsewhere in the Messenger that I commend to your reading. Now, back to Easter!

Easter is the oldest celebration of the Christian year. It is not a single day but an entire season! Easter lasts fifty days, from Easter Day (the Sunday of the Resurrection) through the Day of Pentecost. The season also includes the feast of the Ascension, when the resurrected Jesus ascended to heaven and was seen on earth no longer.

Throughout the year, every Sunday, even during Lent, is considered a little Easter, a mini feast of the resurrection of what Christians have called the first day of the week. The primary theme of Easter is the resurrection. On this day Jesus was raised

from the dead, overcoming the power of death and the grave. We celebrate that we, too, are raised to everlasting life with him in our baptism. Alleluia!

Prayerfully yours,
Mother Debra+



Holy Week & Easter Worship

Maundy Thursday - April 1; Hybrid Virtual Agapé Meal

Meal at 6:30 pm on Zoom; Meditation, Prayers, & Music after the meal - St. Paul's website

Good Friday - April 2; Stations of the Cross - video link on St. Paul's website

Easter Vigil - April 3 at 7:30 pm; streamed from St. Mark's Cathedral, Minneapolis

Easter: The Day of the Resurrection - April 4, St. Paul's website; Drive-by Easter Eucharist Pick Up 12:00 noon-1:00 pm, Greysolon Road

Minnesota Food Share

There is still time to help our handsome young friend ensure that all in our community have enough food to eat. The Minnesota Food Share Campaign continues to run until April 11. Last March, the Food Shelf raised \$126,009 and 32,678 pounds of food during the Campaign. Your generous donation can be made in a number of ways:

- send your check directly to CHUM
- send a check payable to St. Paul's with CHUM Food Shelf in the memo line
- online offerings can be made to St. Paul's (Natalie Smith has kindly set up an "other offering option" - just put CHUM in memo line)

Let's help CHUM break last year's record! Thank you for your generosity.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Jarnis

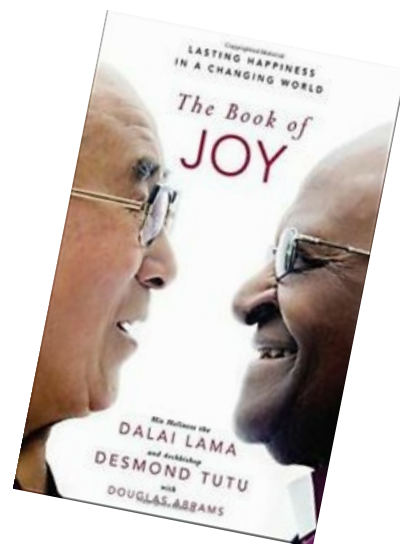


Evening Book Club/Bible Study

The next installment of the Evening Book Club/Bible Study Group will be Tuesday, April 13, starting at 6:30 pm. This month's title is The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World. It is a conversation between the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu about finding joy and happiness in the face of suffering and grief. The two old friends met in India for the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday, and they had long discussions over several days.

Our group discussion will be led by Karen D. All are welcome to join the discussion. Please check your email for the Zoom link.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Orsak



Maundy Thursday: Hybrid Virtual Home Agapé Meal

On Maundy Thursday, April 1, something from our ancient Christian tradition will take in a digital space as we share an Agapé Meal with one another from the comfort of our homes.

While an Agapé Meal in its origins is closely interconnected with that of the Holy Communion, the two should not be confused with each other. An Agapé Meal is a fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with his disciples during his ministry. Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist on the night before he suffered with the words “do this in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19)

After Jesus gave new meaning to the sharing of bread and wine, an ancient Jewish custom, the Agapé Meal appeared only at certain times and most often when celebrations of Holy Communion were not appropriate or possible. Today, with COVID, we find ourselves in one of these “impossible” times.



The Episcopal Church includes the Maundy Thursday Agapé in *The Book of Occasional Services*. A great advantage of it is that any Christian may conduct it, and children are easily incorporated as participants. Our Agapé Meal will do just that! Join us on Zoom for the prayers and blessings before we sign off to

eat. Then click on the link on our website for the remainder of the service including scripture, a reflection, and prayers.

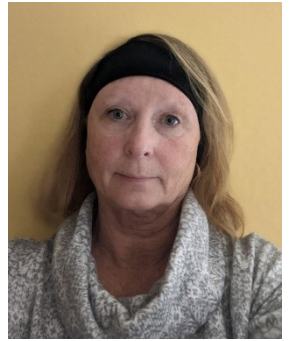
We recommend a simple meal of soup, bread, and wine or juice, although you may wish to add cheese, olives, and dry fruit, as found at meals during Jesus' time. Keeping it simple helps to have everything ready when it is time to share the meal. You will find a traditional Agapé bread recipe on our website if you would like to bake a loaf by yourself or with your family.



Altar Guild Meeting
Saturday, April 17, 2021
9:00 am
Parish Hall

Please wear a face mask and follow safety protocols

From Your Treasurer



Dear Parishioners,

February financials were presented at the March 16, 2021 Vestry meeting. Here is a summary of the February **General Fund** Statement of Activities.

February update of 2021 pledges:

YTD 2021 pledge income as of February 28, 2021	\$ 76,632
YTD budgeted pledge income as of February 28, 2021	\$ 76,592
Variance of actual to budget pledge income as of February 28, 2021	\$ 40
YTD 2020 pledges as of February 29, 2020	\$ 79,040
YTD income as of February 28, 2021	\$132,935
YTD expense as of February 28, 2021	<u>\$ 86,835</u>
YTD income over expense February 28, 2021	<u>\$ 46,835</u>

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please call the office or email me at natalie@stpaulsduluth.org.

*Respectfully submitted,
Natalie Smith, Treasurer*

Natalie Smith to Retire



Natalie Smith, our faithful treasurer, will retire as of April 15. Natalie has served St. Paul's for fifteen years and she will be missed. We will host a special Zoom Coffee Hour for her on April 18. Please plan to come. If you would like to **share a personal "thank you" or special memory** with Natalie, please send it to the church office or email it to office@stpaulsduluth.org **by April 5**. Terry Roberts will put together a memory gift for Natalie. If you would like to make a financial gift in thanksgiving for her work, Natalie requests that you contribute it to Life House, one of our ministry partners.

St. Paul's Reopening Plan

St. Paul's Reopening Team recently submitted our Reopening Plan to ECMN for approval. Once approved, here are some things you can expect. Things won't be quite the same as the last time we worshiped in person. When St. Paul's closed, we were in the middle of Lent. When we return, it will be in the midst of the Easter season. Our reopening will be a new beginning for us and for so many, who have called this time "the longest Lent" of their lives.

Our goal is to reopen for worship on May 2. As when COVID-19 began, there will be restrictions. We live into them because we love each other and want everyone to stay safe and healthy. Here are some things you can expect:

- There will be one Sunday service, a shortened version of the Holy Eucharist.
- Mask wearing is required, social distancing and contact tracing will be in place.
- We will open at partial capacity and you will need to register in advance to attend.
- There will be no singing, but you are invited to hum behind your mask.
- We encourage you to continue to give online.
- Prefer to give in person? We are adding a touch-free collection box.
- Ushers will be trained with new COVID protocols.

We understand that you may wish to wait before returning to worshipping in person. We support you in that de-

cision. We will also be live streaming worship and we encourage you to join us that way. Our first concern is providing a safe environment where everyone can feel as safe and worshipful as possible.

Thank you for your patience. There are many things that need to be done to reopen St. Paul's safely. More information will become available as we move forward. Please stay tuned.

There have been some blessings that have come out of the pandemic; we have learned some new things that we intend to hold onto. Let's give thanks for these silver linings:

- Virtual Worship: We will be live streaming our worship services too! It's Evangelism!
- Virtual Meetings: Traveling, stuck at home in the snow, etc., you can attend via Zoom!
- Virtual Formation: Are you a snowbird, moved away? Zoom in to join live formation and learn without being in the building!
- Virtual Giving: Giving online is a simple and convenient way to contribute regularly. And you don't have to worry about forgetting your check-book!

Respectfully submitted,
*Liz Austin-Minor, Reopening Team Chair
 and Mother Debra+, Interim Rector*

Duluth City-Wide Neighborhood Clean-Up

Saturday, April 10

10:00 am

17th Avenue East and Greysolon Road

Our friends at Loaves & Fishes are organizing a group of volunteers for a neighborhood clean-up! All St. Paul's parishioners are invited to participate. Just meet up on the corner of 17th Avenue East and Greysolon Road, at 10:00 am, Saturday, April 10. Please come dressed for any weather and wear comfortable shoes. The City of Duluth will provide garbage bags and tools for picking up garbage. You are asked to wear a face mask and maintain social distance.



The Deacon's Stoop



On Tuesday of Holy Week clergy in ECMN share a virtual meeting with Bishop Craig Loya to renew our vows. As I dwell on the promises I made at ordination, a few phrases have captured my attention as I begin serving among you at St. Paul's. A deacon is called by the bishop to "interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. ... your life and

teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself." (BCP, Ordination of a Deacon)

My diaconal covenant with St Paul's primarily addresses Pastoral Care and Outreach. Our most immediate need is to form a team of people offering pastoral care, and we have adopted the BeFriender Ministry for training and shaping the pastoral care ministry team for offering a listening presence. I know St Paul's had a vibrant team some years ago, and here offer a reminder of what this ministry entails.

GOD IS PRESENT: BeFrienders are aware that they are in God's presence when befriending someone and that the time shared is a blessing to both the person befriended and the BeFriender.

CARING, NOT CURING: BeFrienders accept people as they are without telling them how they should be, listen with compassion without giving advice, and allow others to make their own decisions without trying to decide for them. The care offered by BeFrienders provides an opportunity for those they befriend to make choices and grow.

NONJUDGEMENTAL PRESENCE: BeFrienders pro-

vide a sacred and safe space for someone to talk about their experiences, thoughts, and feelings without being judged or criticized.

ACTIVE LISTENING: The value and healing potential of having one's story heard is profound. BeFrienders actively listen by using communication skills that create an environment of respect and dignity. A BeFriender is someone who listens with compassion, accepts people as they are, respects another's spiritual journey, and embodies the caring presence of God.

BeFrienders provide pastoral care for people in all kinds of difficult and transitional situations. They are trained volunteers who extend the care of our faith community. BeFriender Ministry is aptly named, because more than anything else it is intentionally reaching out to someone as a caring, listening, loving friend. ECMN guidelines for ordination advise clergy that we serve in a triage role, and BeFrienders act as a friend supporting others as they seek any professional care they may need.

I invite you to prayerfully listen to the Holy Spirit, to discern if this ministry is God is calling you to serve as if you are serving Christ himself.

*Respectfully submitted,
Deacon Patricia Benson*

Email: Deacon@stpaulsduluth.org

Phone: 218-724-3535

Deadline for submissions to the May issue of *The Messenger* is
8:00 am, Thursday, April 22, 2021.

Please email items to: office@stpaulsduluth.org

The Tridium and the Day of the Resurrection

Due to the pandemic and not being able to gather in the church, we will be exploring a variety of virtual offerings to most fully walk with Jesus throughout Holy Week. You will find links on our website closer to the dates.

Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, March 28, the Distribution of the Palms will take place in a COVID-19 safe manner following the Sunday service from 12:00 noon until 1:00 pm at the McGiffert entrance, weather cooperating. Please turn onto 18th Avenue East from Superior and exit by 17th Avenue East, so that we can keep the traffic flowing.

Maundy Thursday: Home Agapé Meal

On Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 6:30 pm, we will share an Agapé Meal with one another from the comfort of our homes. An Agapé Meal is a Christian recalling of the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry. Although its origins in the early church are closely interconnected with the origins of Holy Communion, the two are not to be confused.

The Episcopal Church includes the Agapé for Maundy Thursday in *The Book of Occasional Services*. The Agapé Meal has appeared only at certain times and has often been held when celebrations of Holy Communion are not appropriate, or in our case in these days, impossible.

The Agapé service will include music, scripture reading, reflection, foot washing (for those who choose), prayer, and the sharing of the Agapé Meal. We recommend preparing a simple meal of soup, bread, and wine or juice. That way, when it is time to share the meal, everything will be ready. You will find a traditional Agapé bread recipe elsewhere in the Messenger, if you would like to bake a loaf. To join in the foot or hand washing, you will need a pitcher with water, a basin, and a towel.

Good Friday: The Way of the Cross

On Good Friday, April 2 at 7:00 am, a video devotion known as the Way of the Cross will take the place of our normal Good Friday Liturgy. Due to the pandemic and not being able to gather in the church, this year we see the Stations of the Cross as one of the ways to most fully walk with Jesus.

The Way of the Cross is a custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem. The offering includes Margaret Adams Parker's Stations of the Cross Paintings (2019) and mu-

sic composed by Marty Wheeler Burnett which invite us to walk with Christians of every generation on a virtual pilgrimage, meditating on our Lord's passion and death.

The liturgy comes from the *Book of Occasional Services* of The Episcopal Church. The Department of Lifelong Learning at Virginia Theological Seminary offers this version of The Way of the Cross, with a reflection guide, for us during this time when we are not able to gather together.

The Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil this year will be hosted by St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Minneapolis on April 3 at 7:30 pm. Look for the link on our website closer to the date.

Easter: The Day of the Resurrection with Holy Communion!

On Easter, April 4 at 10:00 am we will return to the main church for our festal celebration. Our service will include inspiring music and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. This year, even though we remain in pandemic mode, the Holy Communion will be distributed in a COVID-19 safe manner in individual servings. Worship virtually and then come share in your first Holy Eucharist since the pandemic close-down began. The elements of the Holy Eucharist will be distributed at the McGiffert entrance from 12:00 noon until 1:00 pm weather cooperating. Please turn onto 18th Avenue East from Superior and exit by 17th Avenue East so that we can keep the traffic flowing.



From Your Vestry



Greetings from your wardens and vestry! The vestry spent significant time in late February interviewing candidates to support our upcoming capital campaign, and after a lengthy discernment facilitated by Mother Debra, we are happy to report that we unanimously selected Linda Buskirk with the Core Capital Campaigns collaborative as our consultant. Linda comes from an Epis-

copical tradition and is excited to begin working with us; in fact, some of her early Discernment Phase work will dovetail with Mother Debra's transition ministry to take full advantage of St. Paul's parishioners' expressing our knowledge, concerns, and visions for the future as we continue to move forward.

On the last Sunday in February, we presented the third installment of our annual meeting: updating the parish on the bell tower tuckpointing project and detailing our plans for financing this critical building maintenance. Our decision last spring to move forward with soliciting bids and selecting a construction firm to do the work has been more than validated by the state of the bell tower, as it has been revealed during this intensive repair project. Not only was the mortar in poor shape, but the project has exposed major voids behind the visible stone — clearly providing points of entry for wind-driven rain and the subsequent freeze/thaw forces to do their damage. Many of the actual bluestones themselves were compromised by cracking — more than anticipated — which led to delays in procuring replacements. But the work is wrapping up, and we are confident that it will provide a long-term solution to the water infiltration problem. We have secured a loan through the Episcopal Church Building Fund which will enable us to pay for the portion of project invoicing that went above and beyond the funds we had readily available through our dedicated investment reserves. Earned interest from those reserves will continue to provide the money we need to service this loan, without affecting our general operating fund or diminishing our reserve funds. We wrapped up this meeting with the announcement of our newly approved capital campaign consultant, and a hint of opportunities to come.

Over this past year, the vestry has carefully considered every decision that has led us to this point: beginning a capital campaign that will enable us to take care of our building for the next generation, and help move St. Paul's

into the future. If we set an appropriately ambitious goal, we can not only take care of the bricks and mortar, we can also rebuild our reserves (larger investment funds create larger gains, which help abate chronic budget shortfalls) and reinvest sustainably in outreach to the community and needs that St. Paul's has historically supported. Our decision to bring on a professional consultant was rooted in the advice and counsel of our own parish finance and budget experts. It was also strongly advised by the diocese when we engaged with the bishop and staff at the onset of our transition, and again soon afterwards when we sought their necessary approval for securing a loan. We recognized that our parish demographics have changed significantly since the last — very successful — capital campaign, which was planned and implemented by parish members. We wanted to build the best possible foundation for another successful campaign. By bringing Linda and her skills and expertise to St. Paul's, we believe we are not only maximizing our chances of accomplishing that, but also building our own capacity for future stewardship. Linda approaches this work truly as her ministry, and she will be ably supported by a steering committee from St. Paul's who answered this call: **Ed Hall, Kathy Leonard, Mike French, Brad Brunfelt, Susan Anderson, Christabel Grant, and Jill Peterman.**

Our newest vestry members joined us for their first meeting in late February, then two more meetings in March, as we work diligently to both address ongoing parish business and engage in the kind of close examination of our parish processes, policies and procedures required in this time of transition. We established a Safe Reopening Plan team (led by **Liz Austin-Minor**, with **Joel Bamford, Gary Olson, Angie Shambour, Beth Fait, Rita Rosenberger, and Carrie Miller**) who worked quickly to draft a plan for St. Paul's to open its doors again, in accordance with the diocesan recommendations for safeguarding everyone's well-being. We are also working quickly to fill the major gap that **Natalie Smith** will leave as our long-time treasurer upon her retirement in April. **Mary Helf** stepped up to review and update our hiring/contracting policies, so that as we endeavor to fill positions or secure professional services, we can do so in a clear and transparent fashion. After a year of so much change and upheaval, it feels like we are at long last turning a corner and catching a glimpse of what lies ahead...and I am grateful to all of

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you who have answered the call to play a part in this! This year promises to be interesting and exciting as we plan for the next chapter in our ministries.

Questions, concerns, or ideas for St. Paul's? You can reach me via email at: ncosta2799@charter.net

Peace,
Nancy Schuldt,
Senior Warden

Spiritual Clay & Transition

In last month's transition article, I left you at the potter's wheel, struggling to pull up the clay to make walls for my pot. Once the potters finish "pulling up" and achieve the chosen height of the pot, they move on to shaping the piece.

Practiced potters make shaping the clay look easy. I didn't find that to be the case at all. Sister Jane reminded me that God is the potter, and we are the clay. "We must be attuned to the clay," she said, "the clay already knows what it will be. We need to pay attention to the Spirit."

When we watch a seasoned potter shape a pot, we observe what is happening on the outside. But the pot is shaped by working with one hand on the outside and the other on the inside. We can't observe what is happening on the inside. What is taking place on the outside is important, but without the resistance or pressure of the hand on the inside, the pot does not take shape, or it collapses. So too it is with us and for churches in transition.

Being open to the Spirit draws us into the molding process of our very lives and the church is essential. Just as the clay finds its shape, so too will we, as a church in transition, be shaped by the One who has known us before we came into being...if we listen. Many churches want to rush the transition and get right to their search process. They want a list of things to do and steps to take, to move through the process as quickly as possible and "get back to normal."

The truth is that there is no going back, only going for-



ward. And to go forward hastily is not God's way: "For your thoughts are not my thoughts, nor are your ways my ways," says the Lord." No, God is interested in us taking the time to center, listen, discern, and be open to God's movement in our lives and in the life of the church, before we step out and take action in any outward expression. And taking one's time is even more important after a long rectorate.

There is much happening at St. Paul's that will prepare the way for a new rector! The vestry is reorganizing and will be reassessing how to best staff St. Paul's for the future. With the finance committee, they will examine how to move toward a balanced budget. A Capital Campaign will soon be underway to address essential building repairs, grow the investment reserves, and recommit to mission and outreach in the future.

All of this is inside work and it is spiritual work. It is about getting God's house in order on the inside and making tough decisions now about the outside, so that the new rector can focus on ministry at St. Paul's and beyond when s/he arrives. This is part of the transition. Make no mistake about it, we will get to searching. But first, we need to get started on a number of large, "inside" things, to assure that the pot holds its shape and doesn't collapse. I look forward to working on all of this with you.

Prayerfully yours,
Mother Debra+

April Weekly Worship & Formation Opportunities

W=Worship; Z=Zoom; FB=Facebook

Sundays

10:00 am Sunday Worship - W

10:45 am Virtual Coffee Hour - Z

Mondays

9:00 am Reflection & Announcements - FB

Tuesdays

9:00 am Bible Study - Z

6:30 pm Book Study (2nd Tuesdays only) - Z

Wednesdays

6:00 pm Children & Family Formation - FB/W

6:30 pm Adult Formation: April 7 only: See article below.

Thursdays

9:00 pm Compline - FB

9:15 pm Post-Compline Chat - Z

Fridays

9:00 am Morning Prayer - FB

Saturdays

9:00 am Community Connections (2nd Saturdays) via FB/W

All Zoom links, Meeting ID, and Passwords may be found online.

How to Talk to Kids about Climate Change: Informed by Faith and Science

April 7, 6:30 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87874919058?pwd=c2NMN1NNQy9WeDJhNVpNTEE1aGVZUT09>

Meeting ID: 878 7491 9058

Passcode: 1710

We all love our children and want what is best for their future. Come hear Charlie Orsak, a local parent, member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and a volunteer with the Citizens' Climate Lobby, present ***How to Talk to Kids About Climate Change: Informed by Faith and Science***.

He will address faith and science perspectives on caring for creation, how to best talk to kids about the urgent problem of climate change, and actions families and individuals can take to make a meaningful difference. There will also be time for questions and discussion. He hopes to see you there.

What's all the hype about the Episcopal Church?

LOVE
 Eucharist
 Inclusive
 Acceptance
 Faithful
 Via media

Reason
 welcoming
 Tradition
 Choice
 Diversity

home
 loving
 Inclusion
 Inclusivity
 Equality
 Justice
 Liberal
 Liturgical
 Anointing
 Calming

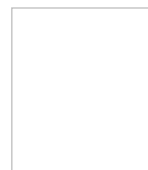
Liturgy
 Grace
 Peace
 Open
 Holy
 Freedom
 presence
 acceptable
 Alleluia
 Calling
 Forgiving
 Journey

thoughtful nonjudgmental Family All welcome

This is why you should consider it.

Please contact the Parish Office to request/schedule a baptism, wedding, or funeral. In August of 2021, the Bishop will visit St. Paul's for a service of Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation. This is a perfect opportunity to be received as an Episcopalian! Call Rita in the Parish Office 218-724-3535, or office@stpaulsduluth.org

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1710 E. Superior St.
Duluth, MN 55812



To remove yourself from our list or to receive an electronic copy, email us at office@stpaulsduluth.org or call 218-724-3535

Visit our website:
www.stpaulsduluth.org

St. Paul's Outreach Ministry



As an outreach to the community, St. Paul's continues to contribute a meal to the CHUM children's programming at the Steve O'Neil apartments. This occurs on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Cooking in St. Paul's kitchen occurs on Tuesday with delivery of food on Wednesday by 10:30 am. Donations of time for cooking or delivery and financial support are greatly appreciated. We will cook on April 6 for two meals. We need someone to pull soup from freezer on April 19 and we need delivery help on April 7 and April 21.

Please contact Sue Brown if you would like to help with this ongoing ministry. Just ask Rita in the Parish Office and she will provide Sue's contact information.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Brown