

# THE MESSENGER

MAY, 2021

## The Interim Rector's Corner



Elsewhere in the Messenger this month, you will find the first in a series of articles to help you better understand clergy transition. I encourage you to read it, and if you have any questions, to contact me and I'll do my best to help you gain understanding.

Congregational life has changed during this time of pandemic. When

St. Paul's reopens, we will not be reentering the building in the same way we left. Some of the ways we are used to being together as Episcopalians will not be possible at first. Worship will feel unfamiliar. Parts of the building will be off-limits. There will be no coffee hour...which is really hard because, more than anything, we long so deeply to visit and see each other face to face. What was habit or instinctual a year and a half ago will be no longer. That is very, very hard.

How will we greet our return when the old is gone and the new feels unfamiliar? I recently read an article that shared something simple yet significant. The author quoted what an unnamed woman had said about her church, "When we return, we will all be newcomers."

Some parishes, and I believe that St. Paul's is one based on my own experience, have a gift of welcoming and hospitality. When done purposely, this can be an intentional ministry with newcomers. By virtue of our baptism, we are called to nurture the practices of acceptance, respect, and welcome.

At our best, we know how to listen. We know how to help each other share our stories of heartbreak and hope. We know how to invite others into service in the

church and the world. And we know how to celebrate. This is the first way of ministering newcomers! "When we return, we will all be newcomers."

As a congregation, St. Paul's has tried its best to sustain community in difficult circumstances. Yet, there are still so many stories, so many experiences that have not been shared with each other in real time. Members and staff have moved on. Some of our loved ones have died. And we have learned some new skills and things about ourselves. There's been grief and joy that simply has gone unspoken.

In this moment, after we have missed so much, we will need to use the best of what we already know to help us find a way of being back together. We will need to listen, to share, to invite, and to celebrate in order for us to be and to become more than "newcomers" together.

In Mark 9:36-37, "Jesus took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me, welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'" May we welcome each other in this way, for we truly do not know what each other's stories have been through this challenging time. May we make good on what we know how to do, to welcome the old and new "newcomer" among us.

Prayerfully yours,

*Mother Debra+*

## From Your Vestry



Greetings from your wardens and vestry! This past month has been busy, preparing for Holy Week and marking this most important season of the church year. I'm grateful for the new energy **Deacon Pat** brings to her ministry at St. Paul's, especially in organizing the vestry members' delivery of Easter Week packages to our

parishioners without computers or homebound, so that they might wave palms, sing Alleluia and partake of Holy Communion in celebration.

I'm grateful for the energy and commitment of our "St. Paul's Sunrise Plan" team, led by **Liz Austin-Minor**, who drafted a reopening plan for our parish in record time. We are awaiting final approval from the diocese, which should come by the time you read this. **Jay Austin** and **Mark Brown** have successfully installed our livestreaming cameras and computer technology to enable us to transition to livestreaming our services once we gather again. We held a "dry run" of a live service several weeks ago, testing equipment, ushering "traffic management" for seating and communion, and generally experiencing the flow of a Sunday service with the adaptations planned to ensure everyone's safety in gathering. We're SO ready to begin this next phase, but must wait until the local COVID case positivity rate comes back down below 5%. It was disheartening to see that rate rise just as we were establishing our safe gathering protocols, but I'm going to focus on the positive side: vaccination is also rising steadily and this will help our community move safely towards more normal ways of life, including gathering for worship.

I'm grateful for the team of St. Paul's parishioners who answered my invitation to guide our capital campaign: **Ed Hall, Kathy Leonard, Christabel Grant, Jill PETERMAN, Brad Brunfelt, and Mike French**. They are just beginning this journey with our consultant, Linda Buskirk, and seeking to integrate their early planning and parish discernment work with Mother Debra's Transition Companions so that the initial information-gathering phase can efficiently serve two purposes: guiding the goals for the capital campaign and helping to set the stage for our upcoming rector search. The foundation

for both of these processes is the information that all of you, the people of St. Paul's, will bring forward: your hopes and expectations for the next chapter in the life of our parish.

I'm grateful for this hard-working vestry! Like everyone else, we are reaching the limits of our patience for online working meetings. It will be a blessing for us to be able to gather again in person to carry out the routine church business, but especially the work we are doing with Mother Debra's guidance to examine our organizational structure, our policies and procedures, our ways of doing business. This too is a critical element in St. Paul's transition process, and we have committed to a period of additional monthly meetings to accomplish our goals.

I'm grateful for the fourteen years of service that dear **Natalie Smith** has given St. Paul's as our Treasurer. Her deep knowledge of our finances and quiet competence has been a blessing during this past year of tumult, more than ever. As she was wrapping up her tenure with us, she made sure that many "loose ends" were wrapped up: our COVID grant was fully forgiven, our construction loan from the Episcopal Church Building Fund was finalized and funds made available, and she facilitated our rapid transition to outsourcing payroll services so that there would be no gaps in that critical activity. I'm also grateful for the work of our Personnel Committee who is hard at work seeking to fill that position as soon as possible, while open to alternative ways of tracking and managing our finances.

I'm grateful for the beautiful organ music **Rachael Kre-sha** has brought to our sanctuary and recorded services these past five months! But I will be sad to see that end when we begin live services soon; she has another Sunday service commitment that precedes her time with us as interim organist. We will be trying some new approaches for service music over the summer, particularly because the services themselves will be somewhat streamlined and we will not be singing, yet. Our goal is to have a more permanent solution for organ and choir by the time fall rolls around and we will (hopefully) be moving into a less restrictive way of worship.

I'm grateful for all of you at St. Paul's who have answered calls to work on

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committees, come up with creative ideas for reaching out during our COVID-restricted year, raised questions and concerns that (hopefully!) lead to solutions and better ways of caring for our community of faith. Please keep us in your prayers, and be thinking about how you, personally, would respond to "What do we want St. Paul's to be, moving forward?"

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

Peace,  
Nancy Schuldt,  
Senior Warden

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## Transition and the Broken Pot

*I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind;  
I am as useless as a broken pot. (Psalm 31:12)*

Most of us probably think of a broken pot as one that has been dropped and shatters into a thousand pieces, but on my Sabbatical at a convent in Tiffin, Ohio, potter Sister Jane helped me come to understand another meaning to this phrase.

Throwing a pot on the wheel is much harder than it looks. Only experienced potters make pots with ease that are truly functional and look beautiful. New potter's mistakes, including making a base that is much too thick or pulling up the sides or wall too quickly, result in a twist that renders the pot useless - called a "broken pot." At this point the potter has a choice: re-center the clay and start over or allow it to dry and hope for the best when it is tested by the fire of the kiln.

At any point up until a pot is put into the kiln (even when it has totally dried out) it can be reconstituted and turned back into useful clay. But once a pot is offered to the fire, its shape is set, and the clay cannot be used again. In the fire a "broken pot" may crack, split, or shatter. And if it makes it through the fire, it will be destined to be a "second" or hidden in the corner, out of potter's concern to display it as part of his/her work.

I have one such pot that I made. It was one of my first and I couldn't let go of it. Its unique shape intrigued me. I tried to patch it up. I even glazed it, but it would never be usable. It is truly



broken. I brought it home but would never give it as a gift.

Churches can be like this, holding on to things that are beyond their useful life or are broken. Whether it's a curriculum from 1973 that drew big crowds and might "do it again" even though it is now out of date, or the pottery paten that Mrs. Smith gave in memory of her husband. It had been accidentally dropped and glued back together but is never used, or a vestry structure, or budget, that had not been examined in light of changing times. Church leaders need to scrutinize and discern what will serve their church best as they look to the future. A time of transition is the perfect time to do so.

When I went back to the pottery, for some time of retreat, I made a second "broken" pot. I pondered it as it sat on the wheel when I was finished shaping it. Sister Jane asked me what I was going to do with it. I sighed deeply and collapsed it. "I am proud of you" she said, "few new potters can let go of a broken pot. Now it can become what it was created to be."

I kept my first "broken pot" as a reminder that I often need to let go of things to learn and be open to what God has in store for me. What "pots" will St. Paul's leadership and you collapse to create what God intended? When will you turn over what is broken in your life to hear God's voice?

Prayerfully yours,  
Mother Debra+

## News from CHUM

Lee Stuart, who has served as CHUM’s Executive Director for eight years, will be re-tiring on June 30. CHUM’s new Executive Director will be John Cole, who is currently the interim Director of Align Minneapolis, formerly known as Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness. Mr. Cole will begin at CHUM on June 1, 2021.

CHUM’s May Assembly will be held on Thursday, May 13 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Come learn about the important work that CHUM continues to do in our community as well as the Executive Director Transition. The meeting will be held via Zoom. Here is the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89713508542>

You can pre-register for the May Assembly here <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qduqtrjMvHtYb3ga591ef2NBszzddvh6r>

**Many thanks from our Hunger Hero! With your help, CHUM raised \$220,271.99 and collected 56,099 pounds of food this year.**

Well done!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Jane Jarnis*



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## Confirmation Update



*Karen Allison, Confirmation Faith Guide for six years*

Karen Allison recently sent an email to all of our Confirmation Mentors to say thank you one more time for working with the confirmation class on their faith projects. She says she has had such fun (and shed a few tears!) over what the confirmands are sharing. She believes it is a testament to our faith community that we are raising such faithful, wonderful kids – and each of you play a big part in that. Thank you,

thank you, thank you!

Confirmation Mentors for our 2021 class:

**Carol Andrews, Liz Austin-Minor, Sue Brown, Nancy Diener, Linda Erspamer, Susan Furo, Trish Johnson, Diane Kolquist, Diane Morin, Charlie Orsak, Heath Ransom, Jim Ransom, Terry Roberts, Bob Silverness, and Karen Swanson.**

All of the confirmands have completed a digital Faith Journey project, which will be posted to the St. Paul’s website in May.

Karen is very excited to welcome this group into our community through the confirmation service in August! And bountiful thanks to **Karen Allison** for SIX years of facilitating our Confirmation classes! What a gem.

As you know, Karen notified us that this is her last Confirmation group, and she is ready to hand this ministry over to a new volunteer. St. Paul’s is seeking someone to accept this role. Would all of you please pray about this potential new calling and consider it yourself? Karen always told me it was fun and not difficult at all. I’m sure she would be happy to answer your questions about what was required of her.

Thank you everyone!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Rita Rosenberger,*  
*parent of a soon-to-be confirmed teenager*

## 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.

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

## Evening Book Club/Bible Study

We had a nice discussion of The Book of Joy in April. We also welcomed Holly, who recently moved to Duluth. We thought it would be nice to read a book by the Thupten Jinpa, Ph.D. who has been the Dalai Lama's principal translator since 1985. The title of the book is A Fearless Heart: How the Courage to be Compassionate Can Transform Our Lives. The book is available at the Zenith Bookstore in Duluth: [www.zenithbookstore.com](http://www.zenithbookstore.com) Here is description of the book:

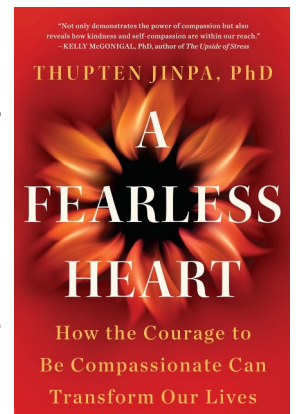
The highly acclaimed thought leader and English translator of the Dalai Lama shows us how compassion works as a powerful inner resource that can yield surprising and compelling benefits—not just for others, but for ourselves.

The Buddhist practice of mindfulness first caught on in the West when we began to understand its many practical benefits. Now Thupten Jinpa, Ph.D., introduces a practice with even greater life-changing power: compassion. Based on the revolutionary course in Compassion Cultivation Training at Stanford that Jinpa helped to create, *A Fearless Heart* shows us that compassion can be a path through suffering, a key to robust health, and even an effective way to reach our goals.

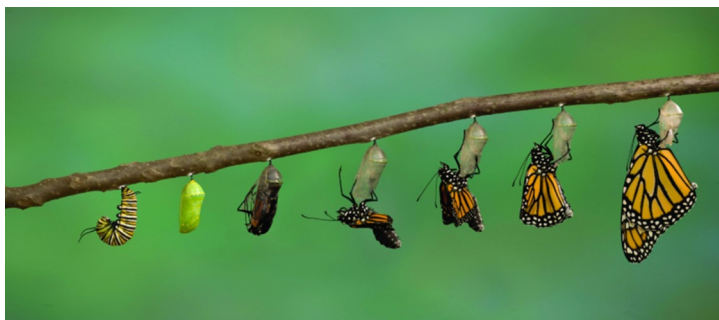
Yet we fear compassion. We worry that if we are too compassionate with others, they will take advantage of us, and too much self-compassion will make us slackers. Pulling from the latest Western research as well as traditional Buddhist psychology, Jinpa offers simple daily practices that will help readers train their compassion muscle for a greater meaning, connection, and fulfillment.

Please check your email for the Zoom link. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 11, 6:30 pm. Hope to see you then.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Jarnis



# Understanding Clergy Transition – part 1



This will be the first in a series of articles that will help you understand clergy transition. These articles are “tattled” from the Vestry Leadership Guide, which your vestry is currently reading. The Vestry Leadership Guide is published by the Episcopal Church Foundation. Some of the original text has been changed to reflect the process in the Episcopal Church in Minnesota.

*While choosing leadership for a church is similar to secular search processes in some ways, it is also vastly different. It is a spiritual process. It is a prime time for renewal in the congregation. It is a time when new leadership comes forth and new connections are made with the bishop and the wider diocesan community. It is also a time to review and restate the hopes and dreams about the parish.*

—Gary Gleason, “I could fill this job in about a week!”

Your rector is leaving, perhaps he has accepted a call to serve another congregation, or she is retiring. Maybe your faith community is moving from a full-time clergy position to part-time or joining with another church to create a new congregation and calling a new rector. It may be that the rector’s departure is the result of conflict or a poor fit with your faith community.

Whatever the reason, clergy transitions shake things up and places particular demands on wardens and vestries. Clergy transitions challenge congregations and leaders to reflect deeply and prayerfully on who they are, what they have been in the past, and where God is leading them.

These transitions offer a rich opportunity for your vestry and entire congregation to focus on vision and mission and to think even more deeply about what Jesus is calling your church to do and to become.

Things like ongoing discernment of mission and vision, a strong and vital vestry team, active recruitment of new leaders, responsible stewardship and development, and consistent communication are parts of the time of transition for the church’s growth and renewal.

## Transition overview

The vestries and wardens play a vital role in navigating the transition process. At the departure the rector’s canonical responsibilities for communication with the diocese, worship, vestry leadership, administration, and maintenance of the congregation’s property transfer to the senior warden. During the transition, the wardens and vestry also work with the diocese to direct the process that will bring in a new clergy leader. Steps in the process include:

- Saying goodbye to the departing Rector and providing for interim clergy leadership
- Establishing a search or calling committee
- Conducting a parish self-study and preparing a parish profile
- Exploring potential candidates for rector and recommending a final candidate to the vestry
- Calling the Rector
- Welcoming the new Rector and beginning to work together

*Next month we will focus on how long this process takes.*

Prayerfully yours,

*Mother Debra+*

# ECMN is Working for You

Beloved in Christ,

There is nothing more important in God's economy than what happens in a local community of faith on an ordinary Sunday morning. That's where people meet Jesus, where lives are healed and transformed by love, where people are empowered by the Spirit to participate in God's mission of love and justice in their own lives.

Because of that, a Bishop and a diocesan staff exist primarily for the purpose of supporting and nurturing the vitality of local congregations. I find that my weekly visitations form some of the most important work I do as Bishop. In an attempt to better support that vital work, several Missioners will now be undertaking their own visitation schedules, the better to be present with faith communities across the diocese. Karen Olson, Susan Daughtry, Sarah Barnett, and Rachel Babbitt will begin reaching out to faith communities in the next few weeks to find a time to visit, either in person or virtually. These visitations are, at their core, about stepping closer into relationship to one another.

If Karen, Susan, Sarah, or Rachel reaches out to you, I hope that you welcome them in the ways you've welcomed me. I hope that you'll share with them the richness of your community, as well as your struggles and your hopes. Each of them has unique skills and gifts to offer, including preaching a sermon or, in Susan's case, presiding at a Eucharist. I also hope you will give me feedback about these visits: what worked, what can be done differently, and how we as a team can best support your congregation.

This is just one way that we're stepping towards each other in relationship and in community, and I look forward to the fruit that these relationships will bear as we continue on this journey together.

Grace and Peace,

**The Right Reverend Craig Loya**  
X Bishop  
Episcopal Church in Minnesota




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## RentHelpMN COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance



**GET RENT HELP MN TODAY**

Visit [renthelpmn.org](https://renthelpmn.org) or call **211**



COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance

RentHelpMN is Now Open for Applications

## The Deacon's Stoop



Deacons are by definition bivocational. Like the Apostle Paul, who made tents to subsidize his ministry, I rely on a day job to make a living while covenanted for 12 hours a week to St. Paul's as my service to God. I've been recording services, offering pastoral care, and organizing a Be-Friender Ministry and training

with our leadership team this final week in April.

Covid has impacted each of us in one way or another with so many losses. Temporary changes to our social activities, school or work environments, cutting us off from gathering with extended family or friends, have lasted for more than a year now. Some losses are forever, family and friends who have died, lost jobs or businesses or homes or health.

If you or anyone you know is struggling to meet rent or utility payments, [RentHelpMN.org](https://renthelpmn.org) is a place to apply for help. The program is designed to support renters and landlords avoid evictions by providing rent and utility support from April 2020 through July 2021 for those who have suffered economically during the pandemic, and the screening process is available online.

My position at Episcopal House of Prayer was eliminated due to Covid, but I had enough in savings to buffer the six months I've spent looking for employment. On April 7<sup>th</sup> I started as the Congregational Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator for CHUM. What a perfect job for a deacon, who is called to present the world to the church, and the church to the world. St. Paul's has a long history of solidarity and service among people who suffer from poverty issues, hunger, homelessness, lacking basic necessities and healthcare, working for a just and compassionate community. What we do to feed and clothe and shelter and care for our neighbors is us living out our baptismal covenant. At the end of the service when I exhort you to "go forth to love and serve the Lord," it is knowing that we all are the hands and feet and voice and heart of Jesus in the world. Love one another. Know that I will present the world to the church, and the church to the world. Know that I will

ask you to respond, to learn, to pray, to act, and to advocate for systemic change as we become Beloved Community.

We have been watching and listening, waiting, and praying during the trial of Derek Chauvin. As I write this, the verdict has just been announced and our Bishop has responded.

"The Hebrew word *ruach* means both spirit and breath. At times like these, when our breath is stopped in fear, anxiety, grief, and anticipation, we are called to return again to the God that holds and sustains each and everyone one of us simply by breathing in. In a year in which so many have felt their breath become labored due to COVID, in a year when protesters have felt their lungs burn with tear gas, in a year in which George Floyd's words 'I can't breathe' became a renewed cry for justice, to consciously breathe in is a radical act of solidarity with those who suffer and a profound act of trust in the God who loves each one of us beyond imagining."

Breathe. Breathe. Breathe. Know you are beloved beyond imagining.

Go forth to love and serve the Lord. You are not alone. If you *feel* alone, please call me. What we do as individuals is significant, but not sufficient without working for deep, systemic change. We don't do this in isolation, but by working together in community. Let us go forth together to love and serve the Lord!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Deacon Patricia Benson*

Email: [Deacon@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:Deacon@stpaulsduluth.org)

Phone: 218-724-3535



## Bishop Craig Loya's Response to the Chauvin Verdict

Today's verdict in the trial of Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd will undoubtedly bring a sense of justice, and even relief, to many, many people in Minnesota and around the nation. Our history is full of examples of the legal system's failure to hold public servants accountable for violence against Black, brown, and Indigenous bodies, so today is an important step in the direction of a more just society.

At the same time, Mr. Floyd's murder is a symptom of a deep sickness that infects every one of us, and every institution that makes up the fabric of our common life. One verdict, however momentous, will not heal this sickness that lies deep inside us. If we are to be faithful to the call of the gospel, joining the Spirit's work of healing and liberation must now form a core part of how we spend the rest of our lives. As we move forward together, there are several things to bear in mind about what it means for us as disciples of Jesus to join this work.

First, this work does not happen quickly. Over the last several centuries, racism has so thoroughly informed how we live together in the world that it is programmed into every public and private institution, every education, criminal justice, banking, and housing policy, and indeed, even the very cells that make up our bodies. Every aspect of our life as a nation is engineered to advantage some and disadvantage others based on the race they appear to belong to. It took several centuries for us to reach this moment, dismantling and rebuilding a new future will be work that consumes the rest of all of our lives.

Second, this work must be empowered by the Holy Spirit, and rooted in the transformation of our own hearts. Racism is part of the web of interlocking sin we are all trapped in. In my forty-four years of living, all the pain I have both inflicted and endured has convinced me beyond any doubt that by ourselves, we are incapable of escaping that sin, and that we can only be liberated by the power of God's almighty love. It will not do for us to say we need action instead of prayer. Regular, intentional, disciplined practices of anchoring my body, mind, and soul to the living God is the only way I have a chance of acting in a way that is faithful. If I act in the world before my own heart has been taken over by the power of God then I have misplaced my faith in my own abilities, and it's people like me that have made such a mess of things to begin with. This is not about our own good intentions, or noble efforts, or performative wokeness. The healing our world so desperately cries out

for can only be done by God, and we can only be on board with what God is doing if we are offering our hearts up for healing moment by moment.

Here in the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, this work will need to start with telling the truth about how our own church has been complicit in building systems, both in and outside of the church, that privilege some at the expense of others based on race. This will ask us to take a fearless moral inventory of how we have functioned, and then begin to discern what we might look like on the other side. Even as I write this, this work is beginning, and as this year unfolds, there will be invitations to our whole diocese to engage with it.

We will also need to join what the Spirit is doing outside the institution of the church. Our society is being invited to reimagine how we understand and approach policing and public safety, how might we imagine new approaches to our lending, housing, employment, and educational policies, and on and on. If we are to be faithful, we as Spirit-soaked disciples of Jesus will need to be fully present to all of that work.

To confess that God is Trinity is to confess that God's very heart is unity without uniformity, and difference without division, that God's very heart is a relationship of perfect mutual love, and that Christian life is always about making room inside ourselves for the reality of another, and to be transformed by that encounter into something that is holy, and altogether closer to the heart of God. That is what God in Jesus has done for us, and that's what we are called to do with, in, and for one another and the world.

The question for us after the trial is: who shall we become? Can we learn to see ourselves, not as people competing for rungs on a ladder, but as members of the crowd pressing in on Jesus, diverse and different and broken, but united by our faith that Jesus alone has the power to heal the sickness inside us, in the assurance that his power, like that of God our mother, is an inexhaustible well of love, of healing, of joy? Can we give up ourselves, and our whole lives, as an offering to that love, until it is gloriously done, on earth as it is in heaven?

**The Right Reverend Craig Loya**

X Bishop

Episcopal Church in Minnesota

# In Honor of Memorial Day

Duluth News Tribune reported on a December 8, 1918 sermon by St. Paul's Dr. A. W. Ryan, in a special memorial service for the departed members of the Congregation.

*"Our patriotic soldiery, our self-sacrificing nurses, our singers in God's services, our pillars in the church who accomplish so much, are guides to us and examples to us of the important and honorable part we can play in life. And here and now we should consecrate ourselves to such loving ministries for good as shall honor them and preserve our country and make the name of man not a by-word, but an inspiration for right, for love and for helpfulness, until God shall call us too unto His gracious and eternal kingdom."*

## In Memoriam

Russell M. Amundson  
 John J. Boland  
 R. John Boshart  
 H. Robert Burns  
 J. Terry Cash  
 Robert Heimbach  
 James Leithhead  
 Thomas J. Merritt  
 Clifford V. Munslow  
 Merritt Ring  
 George Robson Jr.

*"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."  
 John 15:13*

### Missing in Action

Donald Radford                      William J. Rodney

## Roll of Honor

Of the members of St. Paul's Church who have entered the armed forces of our country.

- |                          |                           |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| † Russell M. Amundson    | J. Robert MacNaughton     | Donald Harries            |
| † John J. Boland         | Robert E. Miller          | J. VanVleck Heimbach      |
| Robert Eklund            | Donald E. Nicholson       | G. Sandilands Lewis       |
| Alfred Hartley           | Keith G. Hood             | William Abernathy         |
| David Hartley            | Deane K. Hood             | John A. Ringsred          |
| Ronald W. Lange          | Donald N. Ringsred        | † Thomas J. Merritt       |
| Thomas A. Paulson        | Walker O. Dundas, Jr.     | George Hood               |
| Samuel G. Radford        | Willis J. Tyson           | † Robert Heimbach         |
| Jack S. Sneve            | Milton Wakefield          | Carnot W. Evans           |
| Charles F. Highfield     | William D. Coventry       | James Abernathy           |
| Arthur W. Highfield, Jr. | James H. Claypool         | Arthur C. Smythe          |
| Earl W. Foizie           | Edward W. Hartley         | Palmer Harbison           |
| James S. Tretten         | Murdoch A. Nicholson, Jr. | Salisbury Adams           |
| Robert Jaques            | Frederic T. Becker        | C. D. Peter MacDonald     |
| Duaine Killam            | Arthur W. King, Jr.       | Pierre O. Evans           |
| Robert W. Steinke        | Raymond B. Frenzel        | Robert E. Koyiol          |
| William J. Steinke       | Patrick Boland            | John S. Paine             |
| Edward F. Adams          | Robert H. Johnson         | Virginia Sandin Whitehead |
| Daniel Cash              | Lloyd Nelson              | Lois Grew                 |
| Herbert J. Coleman       | Edward Nichols            | Wm. Philip Heimbach       |
| Richard B. Coleman       | Bert Sharpe               | William K. Deighton       |
| John I. Dion             | David J. Wood             | William Hibbard           |
| Louis D. Frenzel         | Herbert M. Amundson       | Robert S. Mars, Jr.       |
| Louis Evans              | Robert James              | Richard J. Syverston      |
| † R. John Boshart        | James R. Manley, Jr.      | Donald Henriksen          |
| Robert McKenzie          | Roger M. Bowman           | Clifford Munslow          |
| John F. Bergstrom        | Robert M. Adams, Jr.      | † John B. Adams           |
| John R. Pearson          | Richard B. Heimbach       | George Stevenson          |
| William G. Rolf          | David R. Roberts          | Robert W. Stevenson       |
| Robert H. Egan           | Philip M. Hanft, Jr.      | Jane C. Hood              |
| William Alan Mars        | M. Darwin Nobis           | Haney M. Robertson        |
| Stanley N. Naslund       | Donald W. Pearson         | Vernon T. E. Pearson      |
| Julius Naslund           | Robert C. Hood            | Betty F. Fuller           |
| † George Robson, Jr.     | R. Rex Hambly             | Arthur Fuller             |
| Donald G. Wood           | Fred G. Wood              | William Faust             |
| † J. Terry Cash          | James C. Cole             | Donald F. Sharpe          |
| Walter R. Nichols        | Robert F. Tretten         | Roland G. Priley          |
| Donald E. Drewett        | Harry H. Nasburg          | Jack W. Priley            |
| Andrew C. McGiffert      | William I. Dion           | George Priley             |
| Charles E. Gardner       | Donald H. Radford         | Jack Wood                 |
| John H. Swain            | Robert W. Hanft           | Gordon Nye                |
| Wells Hugo Smith         | Meredith H. Fuller        | James Turnquist           |
| Stephen Y. McGiffert     | Munro Braden              | John N. Dahle             |
| Philip R. Beckjord       | John W. Shields           | James Gray                |
| Chester Congdon          | Worthington S. Telford    | Chester K. Hughes, Jr.    |
| John Congdon             | Thomas E. Fuller          | Douglas Cargill           |
| Edward Kennedy           | Forrest E. Sandberg       | Edward C. Egan            |
| Carleton Merritt         | Richard deC. Chapman      | Donald Green              |
| Ivan Northfield          | Earl Parke, Jr.           | Jack Coleman              |
| Hamilton Peyton          | Wallace Rodney            | Raymond Oman              |
| H. Stewart Peyton        | Richard S. Bowman         | Norton Jamar              |
| Lewis R. Peyton          | Cavour Hartley            | John Hartley              |
| Thomas S. Wood           | Leroy Nelson              | Barbara M. Nelson         |
| Winston W. Frenzel       | Thomas Fiege              | Eric Sandin               |
| John Evans               | Lloyd O. Haskins          | Lester H. Dundas          |
| George B. Gifford, Jr.   | Herbert Spencer           | David Harbison            |
| Robert L. Eacobacci      | David W. Claypool         | Robert Henry Turnquist    |
| J. Hebdon Willox         | Robert Rolf               | Helen Gerth Turnquist     |
| Robert G. Thibodeau      | F. Marshall Farmer        | Robert Gordon Donaldson   |
| John A. Hanft            | Charles Abernathy         | Mary Ellen Johnson        |
| Daniel Jones             | John R. Butcher           | † Robert Burns            |
| John E. Moerke           | Gerard Spencer            | Guilford H. Congdon       |
| James R. Drewett         | John Blackmarr            | Ralph H. Moore            |
| † James W. Leithhead     | A. Wayne Hambly           | C. Hughes A. Grady        |
| Frederick C. Lewis       | Morgan M. McCool          | James H. Wakefield        |
| Stewart McKissick        | Thomas Abernathy          | Elizabeth S. Kelly        |
| James F. O'Mara          | Raymond Parke             | Robert J. Kreidler        |
| R. Trevor Pollock        | Walker Jamar, Jr.         | † Merritt Ring            |
| Stanley R. Arbingast     | Richard W. Ringsred       | Robert E. Ring            |
| Elenore E. DiMarco       | Mildred Stirratt          | Jay N. Gamble             |

## May 16: New Target to Reopen St. Paul's for Worship

The Episcopal Church in Minnesota (ECMN) has issued updated guidelines for reopening and the bishop has encouraged us to closely monitor the number of new COVID cases, the positive test rate, and other measures in our specific area. ECMN churches need to remain below the 5% threshold of new cases in order for a church to remain open. We are following the diocesan recommended website: <https://covidactnow.org/> as we make local decisions. Best practices encourage us to wait until 2-3 weeks have passed with a positive test rate at less than 5% before opening or reopening.

Cases and positive test rates have been consistently trending upward in our county. The leadership of St. Paul's recently made the decision that our new target to reopen for worship will be May 16, 2021. At that time (mid-April) the COVID positive test rate for St. Louis County was 7.2% and the daily new cases was over 30/100k and rapidly climbing. When positive test rates and new daily cases are this high it falls in the "very high risk" category, just below the risk level that closed everything down.

We know that not opening will come as a disappointment to some, as it for us. ECMN's and our first concern is the health and welfare of our members. We continue to seek to walk faithfully together, discerning the movement of the spirit, offering and receiving grace, and recognizing that God is leading and guiding us through it all.

It has been a long journey. We are a strong and thriving church. We will continue to worship online for the time being. And we will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed of future decisions as they come. We are a strong and resilient church. God is with us.

The Rev. Debra J. Kissinger, Interim Rector  
Nancy Schuldt, Senior Warden

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## May Weekly Worship & Formation Opportunities

W=Worship; Z=Zoom; FB=Facebook

### Sundays

10:00 am Sunday Worship - W  
10:45 am Virtual Coffee Hour - Z  
(until we reopen)

### Mondays

9:00 am Reflection & Announcements - FB

### Tuesdays

9:00 am Bible Study - Z  
6:30 pm Book Study (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays only) - Z

### Wednesdays

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

### 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays) via FB/W

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

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](mailto:office@stpaulsduluth.org) or call 218-724-3535

**Visit our website:**  
[www.stpaulsduluth.org](http://www.stpaulsduluth.org)

## Faith Milestones and More

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! I can tell you from personal experience that being received in 2005 was a wonderful milestone in my own faith journey. Call Rita in the Parish Office 218-724-3535, or [office@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:office@stpaulsduluth.org)

## Music Ministry Opportunities!

Please see the article on Page 2 for a thorough update on everything at St. Paul's. Of special note, we are seeking parishioners to share their musical talents when in-person worship resumes. Please consider this prayerfully and contact Nancy Schuldt to express your interest or ask questions.



Deadline for submissions to the June issue of *The Messenger* is 8:00 am, Thursday, May 20, 2021. Please email items to: [office@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:office@stpaulsduluth.org)