

THE MESSENGER

JUNE, 2021

The Interim Rector's Corner



Alleluia, St. Paul's is open! St. Paul's is open indeed! Alleluia!

Elsewhere in The Messenger this month, you will find the second in a series of articles to help you better understand clergy transition. Accompanying it, you will find a flow chart that shows the

phases of the Transition and Search/Call process. 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.

The Holy Spirit is alive at St. Paul's and we are open at 10:00 am each Sunday for worship. If you can't join us in person, the service is live-streamed to our YouTube channel. Give it a try!

Wasn't it exciting to have Baptisms again this past May? Lennon Grace Esterholm, Johanna Marie and William Bennett Knowles, and Sophia Niedermier were baptized. Congratulations to Sophia and the children's parents, as these persons joined us as members of the Body of Christ. But that's not all! On June 13 we have more Baptisms: Eleanora Janie Bents and Elfrieda Ruth Dresbach! Please join us in welcoming them into the household of God.

With summer just around the corner, the six-month long Season after Pentecost begins. Throughout Lent and Easter, we heard Jesus' teachings. Now it is up to us to grow and mature in Jesus' teachings. The word "growth seems to sum up best the purpose of this long season – we get plenty of time to practice! We

must grow and develop in the love of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The color of this season is green, and we are to be about growing in love for God, ourselves, and others.

Throughout the summer there will continue to be one service at 10:00 am. We will most often be using Eucharistic Prayers from the Book of Common Prayer, however we might experiment from time to time. Why? So that you are exposed to many of things your new Rector might decide to try. That way, hopefully you won't recite the "seven deadly words" that make clergy cringe: "We've never done it that way before." Join in these ways of preparing for you new rector.

Check out some summer services listed below that you are not going to want to miss.

Prayerfully yours,

Mother Debra+

Graduation Sunday – June 6

More Baptisms – June 13

Our Children & Youth: Guest Preacher Sarah Barnett from ECMN, with program following worship, June 20

Lake Superior Day – July 18; LTD

Confirmation – August 21, 2:00 pm

Rally Day – September 12

From Your Vestry



Greetings from your wardens and vestry! It's been another busy month for us, doing the business of the church. Just this week we actually held our first in-person vestry meeting since last March, and it was so uplifting to be able to gather and interact (safely spaced around tables in the parish hall). We also met earlier in the month, continuing to work with Mother Debra on

the specific transition work the vestry is tackling: gaining understanding about church structure and sizing, programming, supporting the many ministries of the parish, and always mindful about how we can best prepare St. Paul's to call a new rector. Several months ago, Buffy Helstrom submitted her resignation from vestry, and as we thank her for her service, we are happy to welcome Joel Bamford to fill out the remainder of her term.

Last Sunday was such a joyous regathering to worship in the sanctuary of St. Paul's! I'm so impressed by the new livestreaming production too; it's exciting to think that not only can we bring our worship services into our members' homes, but we can also reach countless others who may one day actually walk through those red doors to join us in person.

We are actively working on bringing music into our live services, too. During the summer months, we are still looking for musicians to provide opening and sending songs ("hums" for the time being, not hymns!) for our streamlined services. Please let me or Rita know if you would like to share your musical gifts; we have about half of the summer Sundays lined up but there are still many opportunities. In the longer term, we are targeting September for having "normal" services with full service music and hopefully singing, and are seeking an organist and choir director to lead that ministry. Stay tuned for updates...

We have continued to explore alternative means for managing our church finances after Natalie's retirement.

Some of our routine tasks are being contracted for, at least temporarily (payroll, processing invoices, running financial statements) while the Bookkeeper position remains posted. Meanwhile, the Personnel Committee deliberated multiple options and recommended to vestry that we return to a more typical Episcopal model of having a parish member serve as Treasurer. This position is actually an officer of the vestry, closely tracking, managing and reporting on parish finances. And I am so pleased to announce that Rebecca Ballou-Buck answered our call to serve as our Treasurer, at least through the end of this church year! At the next annual meeting, the parish will be able to vote for the next person to fill this position along with new vestry members. But in the meantime, we have the advantage of Becky's years of experience to help us define how best to remain responsible stewards of St. Paul's financial resources.

So now the shroud and scaffolding are gone, and we have a beautifully restored bell tower! Hearing those bells ringing again last Sunday as our service began was a little overwhelming for me. That moment signified a crucial turning point on multiple levels: the completion of an arduous and complicated repair, and the first regathering of our beloved church family after more than a year of pandemic distancing. While there is still much work to be done, we are excited to be laying the groundwork for both the capital campaign to continue our physical rebuilding, and our vision for the future of St. Paul's that will draw our next rector. As always, please share your ideas and dreams, and let us know how you want to be a part of this journey!

You can reach me via email at: ncosta2799@charter.net

Peace,
Nancy Schuldt,
Senior Warden

From St. Paul's Scholarship Committee

St. Paul's Scholarship Committee is please to announce that John Butler, Ella Grim, Joseph Vos and Hannah Gustafson have been awarded new college scholarships. These scholarships are renewable annually for undergraduate education. The annual amount of the scholarship is presently \$1850.



Respectfully submitted,
Bill Dinan,
Chair

From the ECMN Council Meeting

On May 15 at our Council meeting of the Episcopal Church of Minnesota – ECMN, we were told that the Trustees have a new investment strategy for the Pooled Investment Fund. They now focused on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investing. There are 17 goals in ESG investing. With Bishop Loya's guidance the Trustees have chosen to focus on five of these goals: gender equity, affordable clean energy, racial equality, responsible consumption, and climate action. When women are raised the entire society's income is raised. When racial equity is achieved the entire society's income is higher.

And the same holds true for environmental issues. Indices that incorporate ESG factors have generally performed as well as, or better than conventional indices.

Our investments are The Spirit's work in the world.



Respectfully submitted,
Nat Constance,
Delegate

Seven Succinct Steps to Serene Seniorhood

This item is pure gold, shared with us years ago by Lloyd Mattson, who was the father of Sally Rogers.

1. Settle the past. Forget the things you left behind; let loose the baggage.
2. Seek the future. What are you hanging around for? Find purpose.
3. Set your own agenda. Don't let others program you.
4. Smell the roses. Take care of the engine; you're off the clock.
5. Sense your limitations. I'm not the man I used to be; furthermore, I never was.
6. Stretch outward. Expand your territory; it's all right to think, to dare.
7. Stretch upward. Accept mystery, wonder.

And remember: If you are still climbing , you're not over the hill.

By Lloyd Mattson

News from CHUM

Rhubarb Fun for Everyone!

Saturday, June 26, 2021

10 am to 2 pm

Hosted at First United Methodist Church (Coppertop)

230 E Skyline Pkwy, Duluth, MN 55811



Get your photo taken with **Rhubarbara**, the giant Rhubarb Stalk!

This year we will have a family fun outdoor carnival with games for the kids and adults, including:

Coloring Contest for children and adults.

Get your coloring page and instructions [here](#)

Largest Stalk and Largest Leaf Contests, Carnival games, AND MORE!

Did we mention food?

Rhubarb Brats, Rhubarb Lemonade, rhubarb crisps, and jams and scones, and so many more rhubarb treats! Get your taste buds ready to tackle the tangy tartness of every known rhubarb delicacy. This festival is sprinkled with tasty morsels for the entire family.

Activity and Food Booths open for visitors at 10 am

Credit Cards, checks, and cash will be accepted for all purchases.

Parking will be available in the west parking lot (on Central Entrance)

Please read Deacon Patricia's article on page 12 to learn about volunteer opportunities at Rhubarb Fest, and what fun and interesting activity will be held at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church booth at Rhubarb Fest.

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

Deadline for submissions to the
July issue of *The Messenger* is
8:00 am, Tuesday, June 22, 2021.

Please email items to:

office@stpaulsduluth.org

Middle School Faith Formation Update

We have finished off two years of learning, questioning, and exploring.

The first year together we had many questions about the image of God, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent, Does God love me when I do something bad, How do I love others when they do bad things, how can I love God when God does not answer my prayers.

The second year we explored faiths around the world. We walked our church neighborhood and found many different gathering spaces of different faiths. We studied Christian, Islamic, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Indigenous and others. We studied the pillars of faiths and traditions. We also studied our bodies and our development as given to us by God.

The second year was 2020 so our usual gathering upstairs on the top floor of the church changed to gathering outside. When we started in September and the sun started to set at the end of our time together. Then as the

months went on we went home in total darkness. And soon we were in darkness for our entire time.

I know that I enjoyed our times outside, masked and distanced, around fire pits as families offered their yards to us. The parents were troopers as they drove their kids to different spots each week. The kids were wonderful as they also enjoyed the fires, enjoyed each other and did great in focusing on the topics we covered.

We truly experienced “when two or more are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them”.

These middle school agers are your next group of adults. And this group isn’t going to wait to be adults before they lead, change and cherish St Paul’s.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nat Constance*

Evening Book Club/Bible Study

At our May 11 meeting, we enjoyed a good discussion of [A Fearless Heart: How the Courage to Be Compassionate Can Transform Our Lives](#) by Thupten Jinpa, PhD. Our consensus was that it was an important book to have read. One of the points made in the book is that our capacity for empathy and compassion is inborn and we learn “bad behavior” later. We all need greater compassion for others as well as ourselves. One of the means by which we can cultivate that greater sense of compassion is through meditation.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday June 8 at 6:30 pm and we have two agenda items. We will discuss a film by Lorna Tucker entitled [Amá](#) (mother), which was offered virtually on May 19th by UMD's Center of American Indian and Minority Health. During the rest of our time together, Marian Flammang will share quick and easy meditations for beginners.

Hope to see you on June 8. Please check your email for the Zoom link.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 8, 6:30 pm. Hope to see you then.

We will not meet in July and August and will resume in September. I look forward to our time together in June.



*Respectfully submitted,
Jane Jarnis*

How Long Will This Take?

Understanding Clergy Transition – part 2



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

Mother Debra+

The Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) shares, “We could throw in a few statistics, but the truth is that the length of the time a church is in transition is highly variable. A new Rector could walk through the doors in a year when:

- A congregation is well organized and healthy
- The leave-taking is uncomplicated
- Interim leadership is readily available
- The Search/Call Team and diocese work efficiently and well together
- The Search/Call Team is able to discern a candidate who is a good match
- The vestries’ call is accepted by the candidate and approved by the bishop
- Or the new clergy person is appointed by the bishop, instead of having a search process

Not to mention COVID, St. Paul’s is in transition on a variety of fronts and the vestry wants to address many of these “opportunities” as a way of preparing a clear way for the success of a new rector. Here are just some of the things your vestry leaders want to complete or get well-underway during the transition time.

- Look at how the larger church has changed and bring things up-to-date and into 21st century

- Look at what growing and successful Episcopal Churches are doing
- Restructure the vestry, so that it better serves the church
- Build a sustainable budget, increase financial stewardship, and get started on a Capital Campaign
- Address the deferred maintenance of the building
- Examine how a future staff could be configured, given St. Paul’s needs, resources, and imaginings about the future
- Update policies and procedures

On the next page you will see a schematic that reflects the Transition Process used in the Episcopal Church in Minnesota (ECMN). This flow chart allows for, both the work the vestry wants to address and the reality that we have been living during a time of pandemic.

The process is not truly linear. A parish can move back forth between the various phases as needed and can be in more than one phase at the same time. St. Paul’s currently has a foot in both the “Reality” and “Mission & Identity” phases.

The Transition Companions and Capital Campaign Discernment Committee are preparing to have joint Cottage Meetings (Faith in our Future) this summer that focus on “Mission & Identity.” The information gathered will be used by both groups. Because we have not been able to meet in-person, we have not been able to work on “Storytelling and Grief” from the “Reality” phase. We will be doing so sometime this fall.

Once the Transition Companions and Capital Campaign Discernment Committee have completed their work, the vestry will form a Search/Call Team. The materials from the Cottage Meetings will be given to the Search/Call Team and we will give thanks for the Transition Companions as they complete their work. The Search/Call Team will pick up with the work of the Discovery phase. They will keep you apprised of the phase they are working on. They will not be reporting anything about the Candidates in discernment; this is considered “Confidential” information.

Episcopal Church Foundation wisely states, “There are several places where a Search/Call Team can get bogged down. Sometimes there is signifi-

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cant work to do to rebuild the congregation, prepare for a shift from more than one priest to a single priest, re-structure systems where there has been dysfunction, and/or heal from anger or sorrow at the rector's departure. The Search/Call Team can become stalled at any number of critical points in the process. Top candidates may accept a call to another church. The Search/Call Team may find no suitable matches. In any of those scenarios and others, it may take up to two years or more to call a new clergy leader."

"The Transition Time is meant to be a time of taking a realistic look at a church's present situation and future needs." ECF asks you to "Promise yourselves that you won't hurry or delay the Transition process and be intentional about taking full advantage of this opportunity to hold congregation wide conversations about what you love and hope for in your church, the challenges it faces, and your expectations for your next clergy leader. These conversations are especially important when transitioning from multiple clergy to a single rector. What's essential in this process is that the position offered is both realistic and matches the congregation's expectations."

"How long will this take?" It is truly hard to say. COVID has slowed everything down. The vestry asked that the Transition and Capital Campaign dovetail their work. Un-

til a Capital Campaign consultant was chosen, little could move forward. The staff now consists of one full-time, one part-time, and one 12-hour non-stipendiary (unpaid) deacon, not seven individual staff members sharing the load of ministry. These are simply realities. Things take more time with fewer hands and not everything can be accomplished as they once were. Now is especially a time for patience and kindness with your staff.

St. Paul's leadership is committed to doing their best to prepare a clear path for your new rector. As members, you also are part of this process. Participating in the Cottage Meetings and other events that will be held, answering surveys, and saying "yes!" when called upon to serve are just some of the ways you can help prepare the way for your new rector.

If you would like to learn more about the Transition/Search Process or the Vestry's goals, please speak with Mother Debra (Interim.Rector@stpaulsduluth.org) or Nancy Schuldt (ncosta2799@charter.net) accordingly.

Prayerfully yours,

Mother Debra+

June Weekly Worship & Formation Opportunities

W=Worship; Z=Zoom; FB=Facebook

Sundays

10:00 am Sunday Worship - W

Mondays

9:00 am Reflection & Announcements - FB

Tuesdays

9:00 am Bible Study - Z

(only on the last Tuesday of June, July and August)

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

(will be on hiatus July and August)

Thursdays

9:00 pm Compline - FB

9:15 pm Post-Compline Chat - Z

Fridays

9:00 am Morning Prayer - FB

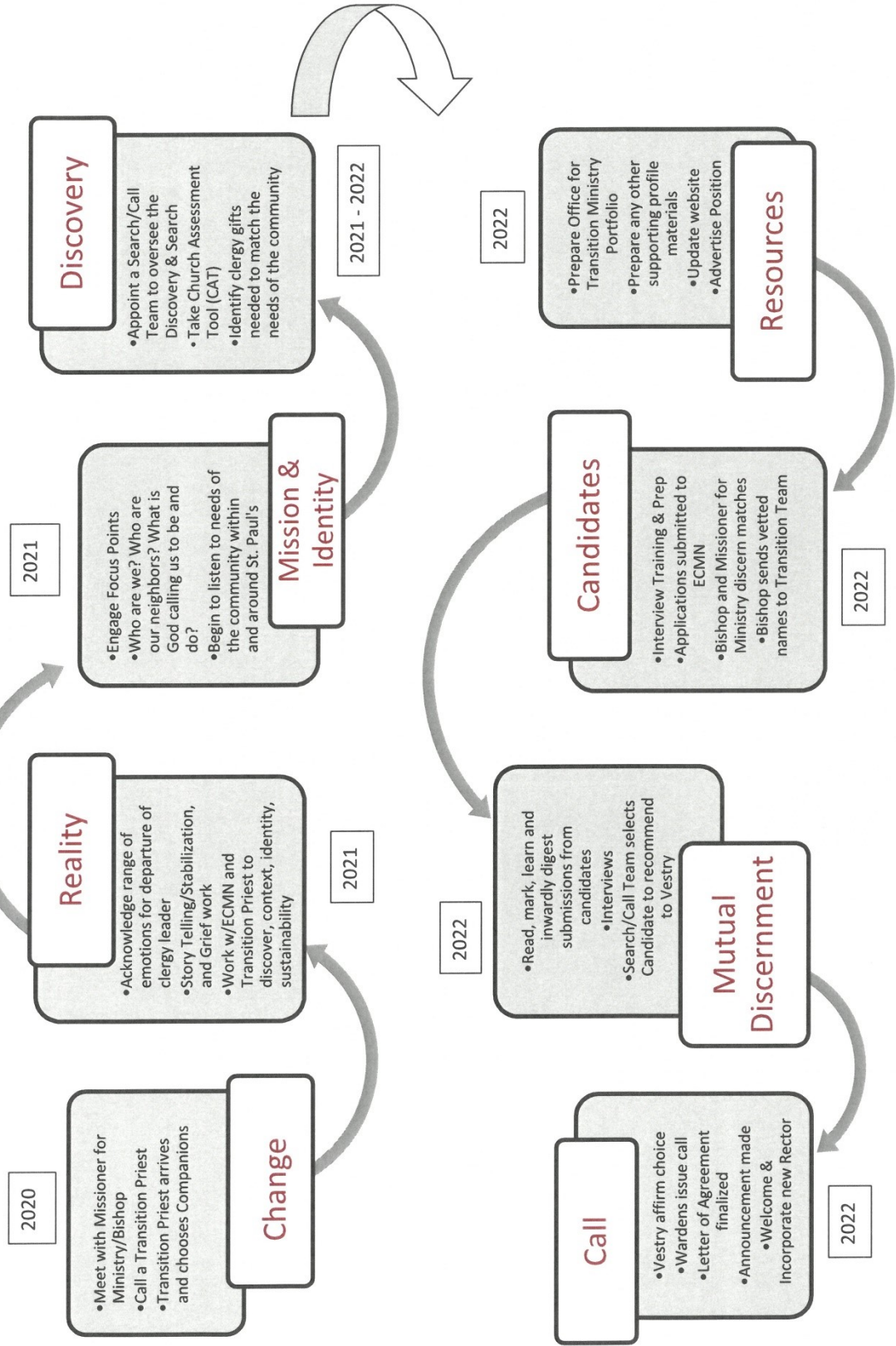
Saturdays

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

All Zoom links, Meeting IDs, and Passwords may be found on the website

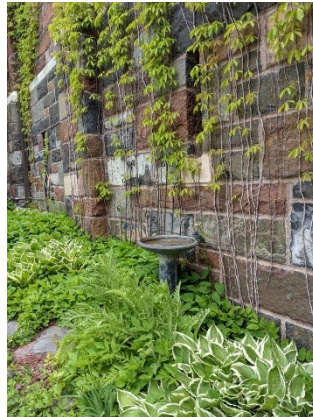
Transition – St. Paul’s, Duluth

Plan takes into account time of pandemic and work vestry wants to do prior to new Rector’s arrival



Gardens at St. Paul's Episcopal

Many people have helped beautify the church grounds through the ministry of gardening over the years. In recent years one of our parishioners and bee-keepers, **John Pastor**, has tended and improved the Celtic Garden, located near the office doors. Last year he added some Lady's Mantle from Marilyn Bamford's garden. We are so grateful to John for his ministry of gardening. Here are some photos of St. Paul's Celtic Garden:



There are a few more gardens (and weed patches), too. I recently looked at the small garden patch near the parking lot on Greysolon Road. Peter told me that Diana used to tend that one, so I reached out to her and she shared this bit of background on it:

A brief history of the garden: Many years ago work on the curbing on Greysolon Road was done. The workmen threw much of the debris into that small area. I had some day lilies to rehome, so my daughter and I dug out the debris and planted them. Over the next few years, Kay Coventry added good soil and pavers all around. More perennials came to live there. I remember Jen Fellman working and planting there too. But the demands of children and jobs and other commitments pulled all the gardeners away. Now I'm in my late 70s and find I just can't anymore. Please put this on the list of church needs. It looks small, but is quite a large project.

Thank you for your help with this!

Love,

Diana Hill

There is one more garden of peonies and more on the 17th Avenue East side of the church. It could really use some tending. And there are quite a few spots around the building and the carriage house that could use some dramatic weed-pulling. It would be great exercise and stress relief for sure! It could be a fun group project or a relaxing solo project. Are you interested? Call Rita in the Parish Office, 218-724-3535. Thanks!

Respectfully submitted,

Rita, Parish Secretary

Ministry with Children & Youth in the Fall



As St. Paul's heads into a new season of ministry, I'd love to facilitate conversations about your community's vision for faith formation with your young people. Building a values-driven ministry that fosters meaningful community is exciting and important work. From here, the particulars of program design and curriculum can be flexible and guided by the participants and leaders themselves. On June 20th I'll be visiting St. Paul's to preach and get to know many parents and leaders. Afterwards, I hope to begin supporting a small cohort for 6-12 months as St. Paul's starts this new chapter.

The image below captures what is at the heart of ECMN's statewide camps and retreats. Every young person who is part of an Episcopal church in Minnesota deserves to hear the four following things often: they are uniquely gifted and God thinks their life was one of his best ideas, they are surrounded by a community of faith with even more gifts to support them, they are resilient and God's joy and light are with them always, and they are always able to choose love wherever they go.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Barnett, ECMN Missioner for Children, Youth, Camp, and Young Adults*



“Come hear Sarah preach, and participate in her follow-up meeting. You’ll be glad you did.”

— Nat Constance

Lost Treasures from the Archives...

This item was published in the Duluth News-Tribune on July 22, 1906.

PLAN MERRY DAY FOR THE CHILDREN

Episcopal Sunday Schools Will
Have Big Picnic Next
Wednesday.

If it rains next Wednesday there will be a large number of disappointed Sunday school children, for the Sunday schools of the different Episcopal churches are planning the annual united picnic for that date. St. Paul's Trinity Chapel, St. John's and Park Point churches will take part in the excursion.

A chartered train will leave the Union depot at 10 in the morning and proceed to Two Harbors, where the children will be allowed to play on the beach and see the sights of the town until 12:30. Then they will be taken back to Wakelin's farm.

Will Have Athletic Program.

It is planned to spend the rest of the day at that place, where the picnic dinner will be served and the

day's athletic sports enjoyed.

The picnickers will return to the city at 7:30. Stops will be made each way at Endlon, Lakeside and Lester Park in order that the pupils from the different schools may not have far to go. It has been arranged to carry every child belonging to the Sunday schools free.

Rev. Arthur H. Wurtele, W. E. Magner, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Close Mrs. Traphagen and Mrs. Harrington are the committee in charge.

W. E. A. Lequesne and Dr. C. E. Catherall are the committee on sports and the program of the day is as follows:

Program of Sports.

Pie-eating contest for the boys, apple-eating contest for girls, house-building in the sand for the primary departments, flipping pebbles in the lake for the little boys, throwing ball for boys and girls, obstacle race, sack race, tug-of-war between the Trinity and St. Paul schools, fat men's race, pretty ladies' race, 100-yard dash, 50-yard dash for boys under 14, running broad jump, standing jump, high jump, backward jump, and boys' hare-and-hound race. The girls will elect the queen of the day and will decorate her fittingly. The boys of the West End schools will meet the boys of the East End schools in a baseball game.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Silverness

The Deacon's Stoop



Welcome back!

We are gathering together again *in person* around the table of the Lord, and it is so good to meet so many of you there! While it is challenging for Mother Debra and I to get to know you over zoom, it also must be challenging for you to return with social

distancing and new faces at the altar. This year has brought so much change, so much loss, so many new things. Like the first followers of Jesus, Easter changed everything. But Jesus promised to remain with us and to send the Holy Spirit to be with us, to empower us, to comfort us, to lead us into all truth, and to pray with us when we are so broken we cannot find the words. May the Spirit breathe new life into us and restore our hearts so that we, like those early disciples, discover the joy and courage to share the Good News. Come, Holy Spirit!

Times of change are great times for reflection and evaluation. What does St Paul's do well? How can we improve on what we're already doing? Coming with fresh eyes into this community, I can see that **St. Paul's cares**. From the way you've connected with each other, the way you cared for Mother Debra as she experienced cancer, the way you showed up to appreciate Tom, Barbara, and Natalie as they relocated or retired, the way you express concerns about who isn't at the table, it is evident that you hold much love for one another.

How can we improve upon that? It's easy to drift apart socially when we are restricted from gathering physically. We miss out on daily (or weekly) connections we used to have at coffee hour to keep up with life happenings. We will get to coffee hours again, but we need to explore new ways of keeping in touch. Your vestry is contacting folks to let everyone know we are open for worship, and they support the formation of BeFriends here at St. Paul's. We all have stories to tell, stories that need to be told; stories that, once spoken, can release us to understand ourselves and others more.

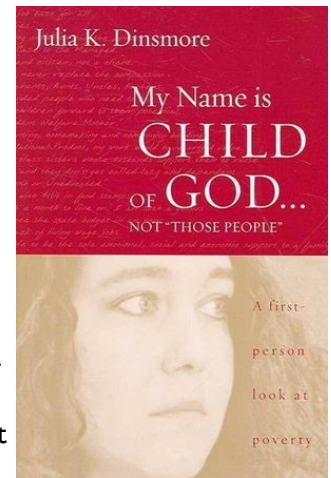
BeFriends is about people prepared to go further than what coffee hour, whether remote or in person, can offer as they share



the love of St Paul's by *listening*. The principles that guide BeFriends: God is present, caring not curing, nonjudgmental presence, and active listening. I invite you to listen as the Holy Spirit flows through you: Is this a way you might share God's love in our community? Our BeFrierder coordinators are Deacon Pat, Nat Constance and Brad Brunfelt. Don't be surprised if you hear from one of us, inviting you to consider becoming a BeFrierder!

Book Study

You'll hear me say often that a deacon is here to share God's church with the world and the world with God's church. In June I'll begin a book study group on Julia Dinsmore's *My Name is Child of God, not "Those People."* Julia lived for a time in the Hillside neighborhood, and knows firsthand what it means to live in poverty in Duluth. "While many books are written *about* people in poverty, not many have been written *by* people in poverty" (Books Make a Difference). Julia is a Minnesota poet, singer, and educator, and I'm hoping we can have her join us for a session as we finish her book. It is a great choice for a summer read because you can miss a session without losing the sense of her message. Pick the time that works for you! Tuesday at 7-8 pm or Wednesday 12-1 pm. Email pbenson@chumduluth.org to sign up.



Rhubarb Festival is back!

It will be a bit different this year. Due to Covid, the event has moved to the parking lot of Copertop. St. Paul's is taking this year off from baking scones, and instead are inviting you to contribute an auction basket (\$50 total value) for the online auction, sign up to help with our booth, or gather some friends and sign up on the Chum website to grill brats, sell baked goods, staff the merchandise table, etc. on Saturday, June 26th for a shift. Set up begins at 7 am, and the live event runs from 10 am – 2 pm. We need several volunteers for St. Paul's booth as well:



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- A team (2-3) to pick up the tent and resin banquet table, and the 4' wheel for our Wheel of Fortune carnival game - haul from St Paul's and set up at Cop-pertop.
- Two teams (2-3) to work the booth from either 10-12 or 12-2.
- A team to take down and return the tent, resin banquet table and wheel back to St. Paul's.
- Prep team: folks willing to help work out the game details with Nat Constance.

Go forth into the world to serve the Risen Christ!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Respectfully submitted,

Deacon Patricia Benson

Email: Deacon@stpaulsduluth.org

Phone: 218-724-3535

Please contact me for more information, to share your ideas, and to sign up.

Attending Church in Person

We encourage those of you who are fully vaccinated to come to Sunday service. If you are not ready to come back to church for any reason, we support you in that decision. We are now live-streaming the Sunday service on YouTube and we encourage you to join us online.

Please sign in each week at the desk in the rear of the church or at the table at the side entrance. This is necessary for contact tracing. Should you feel ill, please get a COVID test. If your test comes back positive, please call the church office so that we may inform all attendees that they may have been exposed. Per HIPAA guidelines your name will not be disclosed.

We will continue masking for services and events, as well as all multi-generational and youth activities both inside and outside. This prevents the exclusion of families with children not yet eligible to be vaccinated. Congregational singing, both indoors and outdoors is still prohibited.

We may gather outside while maintaining social distance. No food or drink may be served inside the church building. We are not yet able to have inside in-person Coffee Hour, however during June, July, and August we may gather on the front lawn, as weather allows, for conversation while remaining masked and maintaining appropriate distance.

If we need to stop gathering for worship due to a resurgence of cases, you will receive an email from the parish office. Per ECMN guidelines, we may meet indoors when the case rate is BELOW 25 cases/100,000 (this can be found at that at <http://covidactnow.org>.) as this is a better measure of disease spread in the community now that people are being vaccinated.

Prayerfully yours,
Mother Debra+

Transition: Being Cast into the Fire

“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.” When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” (Ex. 3:1-5)



Fire in ancient times was symbolic of the presence of God. Think of the tongues of flames at Pentecost alighting on each of the apostles! Just as fire possesses the properties of cleansing, purification, passion, creativity, illumination, and transformation, so, it is with the fire of the kiln.



When I went on my pottery Sabbatical, I learned that pots are fired first to be cleansed and purified. The moisture is removed, the form hardens, which allows the pots to be serviceable and useful, though not necessarily attractive. Pots are offered to the kiln a second time after the potter paints glaze on them. The glazes change the pots from simply serviceable pots to items that are not only useful but also almost always attractive.



Glazes can be hard to work with. Each glaze is different and has a different response to the other as you overlay one color over the other. Experimenting may get great results if you can just be playful, or you might simply end up with a mess on your hands. It is hard to tell. When you paint a glaze on a pot, it looks nothing like what it will after it has been fired. And firing itself is a touchy thing. Slight variations in temperature can end up with very different results. “One can just never be sure,” says Sister Jane, “so we offer a prayer as we surrender our pots to the fire.”

My pots were fired for over 18 hours! It was more of a vigil than I was prepared for. Once fired, the heat must be allowed to dissipate from the kiln very slowly or the pots will crack. After many hours the kiln is first cracked, then after more hours the kiln’s lid is lifted several inches.

This is repeated several times until the kiln’s lid is fully open. It takes about eight hours for the pots to be cool enough to be removed from the kiln.

There is a moment however, when the kiln’s lid can be lifted about three-quarters of the way when you can peek inside and see what the second firing has produced. The glazes that looked plain and dusty now burst forth with stunning color. What was is no longer, the pots are changed from something that was simply serviceable to something that is beautiful. The fire of the kiln’s transformation rests before your eyes and it is amazing.

Transition is about that sort of transformation, being willing to fully risk offering yourself to the fire. In transition times, we have the opportunity to cleanse away those things that are no longer useful, to explore our passions, to get creative, so that God becomes the center of our lives and of the parish. God takes what is serviceable and makes it beautiful, and God accepts us just as we are and makes us beautiful. That’s what it means to be transformed in Jesus Christ and children of the Resurrection. So, it is with God.

Mother Debra+

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE –JUNE 2021

Please find a sub if you are unavailable for your scheduled date.

	June 6	June 13	June 20	June 27	July 4
ALTAR GUILD	K LEONARD	C CONRAD	J MARINAC	J JARNIS	K LEONARD
	J Harvey	S Hall	J Elliott	D Kolquist	J Harvey
	L Hultkrantz	S Hartley	P Markert	A Schliep	L Hultkrantz
		A Sadowski	C Miller	R Ballou-Buck	
LECTOR 10:00 AM	Z Stodola	J Pastor	K Smith	S Stromquist	M Gustafson
LOCK UP	C Fellman	J Austin	M Brown	R Rosenberger	C Fellman

Altar Guild Other Duties for June:

June Linens:

R Thelen, E Killen

Team Alternates:

G Bouschor, E Killen

Other Lay Ministry Opportunities

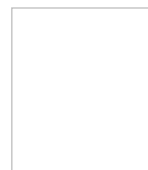
We are delighted that Diane Kolquist has accepted the role of Usher Coordinator! Thank you, Diane! A few of our **Ushers** have retired from this service, and we are looking to add to the roster. If you are interested, please contact Diane K: 218-390-3806

The **Altar Guild** is always ready and willing to train in a volunteer, too! Please call Carrie Miller if you are interested: 218-216-5591

Music: we are seeking parishioners to share their musical talents for Sunday worship. Please consider this prayerfully and contact Nancy Schuldt to express your interest or ask questions. 218-525-2799



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



To receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, email us at office@stpaulsduluth.org or call 218-724-3535

Visit our website:
www.stpaulsduluth.org

June 6 - Celebration & Graduating Seniors Sunday!

All adults who have been praying for our children/youth this year along with all the children and youth in Sunday school, high school graduates, and their families are invited and encouraged to come to the 10:00 am June 6th worship service.



We will recognize and celebrate with our graduating seniors and show appreciation and thanks for all our faith guides who have helped in our Christian formation programs throughout the pandemic.