

THE MESSENGER

AUGUST, 2021

The Interim Rector's Corner



So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17

“How do you begin each new day?” When I was first ordained, my spiritual director asked me this very question. I must have hesitated too

long, and he pronounced, “Before your feet even hit the floor, you start your day in prayer. ‘I thank you Lord for bringing me from night into day, from darkness into light, from death into life.’”

Since COVID began, this prayer has lived in me in a new way. I have also wrestled with it mightily. What would this new day bring? When would this “new normal” that everyone was talking about get here? What will our new lives and life in the Church look like?

I don't really have any answers to those questions. I just know things are different and will continue to be different. Yes, things will settle out in God's time, there will be a “new normal” and as difficult as it has been and will be, there is also gift in it.

In “Always We Begin Again: The Benedictine Way of Living” by John McQuiston II, in “The First Rule,” it is stated this way:

At the beginning of each day, after we open our eyes to receive the light of that day, as we listen to the voices and sounds that surround us, we must resolve to treat each hour as the rarest of gifts, and be grateful for the con-

sciousness that allows us to experience it, recalling in thanks that our awareness is a present from we know not where, or how, or why. When we rise from sleep let us rise for the joy of the true Work that we will be about this day, and considerately cheer one another on. Life will always provide matters for concern. Yet each day brings with it reason for joy. Each day carries the potential to bring the experience of heaven; have the courage to expect good from it. Be gentle with this life, and use the light of life to live fully in your time.

On Sunday, October 24, we will share in a service of “Lament and Thanksgiving.” It will be a time where we can mourn our losses related to COVID and those related to this time of transition, as well as give thanks for those things that we've learned and that have drawn us closer to God. Think of it as liturgically facing into what has died (Good Friday) and of giving thanks and celebrating the new life that new things (Easter) bring.

Elsewhere in The Messenger you will find the fourth in a series of articles to help you better understand the clergy transition process. I encourage you to read it and to contact me if you have any questions.

Prayerfully yours,
Mother Debra+

From Your Vestry—Senior Warden Report



Greetings from your wardens and vestry! My message to you this month is coming from the Black Hills of South Dakota, where four generations of my family (and a pack of dogs!) have gathered once again to celebrate all good things in this world: our health, our resiliency, our love for each other and our love for this incredibly beautiful, spirit-filling place. I was so glad to be

able to celebrate Lake Superior Day with my St. Paul's family before leaving town! That was the most fitting way for me to connect all those dots – my blood family and my chosen family; the Lake and the Hills – the two places on this planet where I feel closest to the Holy Spirit.

Vestry continues to meet twice a month, and we are making significant progress on examining our committees and lay ministry structure, and building in closer connections between the work you all do and the work the vestry and clergy do. The music director position is posted locally and nationally, and our next personnel move is to find a part-time staff member to support and coordinate Christian Formation programming. We plan to have a full-blown Rally Day with food, games and op-

portunities for everyone to plug into the important work of the parish – thanks to Holly Hansen for taking on the planning for this event!

I encourage ALL OF YOU to sign up and participate in a Faith in Our Future meeting! Now is our most critical moment for sharing our hopes and dreams for the future of St. Paul's, and for the teams and leadership to hear what's on your mind. YOUR ideas, concerns, and imagination are going to be the foundational information for our upcoming rector search and our plans for extraordinary stewardship through a capital campaign.

I pray that all of you are able to gather again in your sacred places with your loved ones this summer, and celebrate the abundance of life. Please keep us in your prayers, and be thinking about how you, personally would respond to "What do I want St. Paul's to be, moving forward?"

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

Peace,
Nancy Schuldt,
Senior Warden

RALLY DAY!

Join in the fun as we kick off another programming year of faith activities! Rally Day is September 12th.

Bring your backpacks! Whether you are an elementary, middle or high school student, going to college, or even a teacher, bring in those backpacks and briefcases for a special blessing.

Stay for some food and fun following the service. Food will be provided and there will be assorted games for the kids. Also, a Ministry Fair is planned. You can learn about different ways to serve at St. Paul's and support your church with your time and talent.

Want to help? Contact Holly Hanson at hlhansen13@gmail.com.



CHUM Update

At this time of year, I would usually be writing an article about the CHUM school backpack drive. What I learned when I reached out to Scott Van Daele at CHUM was that because the Duluth community was so generous last summer, CHUM still has enough money to cover the entire cost of supplies for this year's backpack distribution. Instead, CHUM is asking for monetary donations for the Food Shelf. Over the past year, there has been a significant increase in the number of folks in our community that are in need of



food. Please help CHUM meet those needs by giving generously to the Food Shelf.

You can make a donation directly to the CHUM Food Shelf or write a check to St. Paul's with CHUM Food Shelf in the memo line.

As always, thanks for your continued generosity.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jane Jarnis*

The Bishop's Visit – August 21, 2021

The Rt. Rev. Craig Loya, X Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota (ECMN), will be visiting St. Paul's on Saturday, August 21, 2021, to Baptize, Confirm, Receive, and Reaffirm members of St. Paul's and others from the ECMN North-east Mission Area. The service will be held at 2:00 pm with a reception following.

Among others from this Mission Area, two children and thirteen youth from St. Paul's will be baptized and confirmed respectively. Inquirer's Class will finish in late July and some participants may desire to be confirmed, received, or reaffirm their Baptismal vows as well. We encourage everyone to come out and support our members in their walk with Christ.

What is Holy Baptism?

Holy baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God.

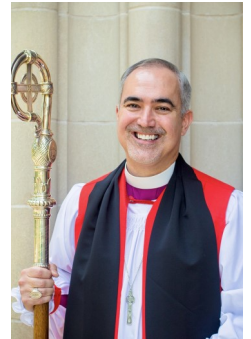
The outward and visible sign of baptism is water in which the person is baptized in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. The inward and spiritual grace of baptism is union with Christ in his death and resurrection, birth into God's family the Church, forgiveness of sins, and new life in the Holy Spirit. In baptism we are united with Christ. The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble. Our Christian life begins with our baptism.

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature com-

mitment to Christ and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer in the laying on of hands by a bishop.

Confirmation is based on Apostolic practice. The rite of confirmation is an expectation of the Church for all Christians. It is required of those to be confirmed that they have been baptized, are sufficiently instructed in the Christian Faith, are penitent of their sins, and are ready to affirm their confession of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Confirmation instruction should provide a thorough grounding in the basic beliefs as stated in the two great Creeds of the Church and the Book of Common Prayer.

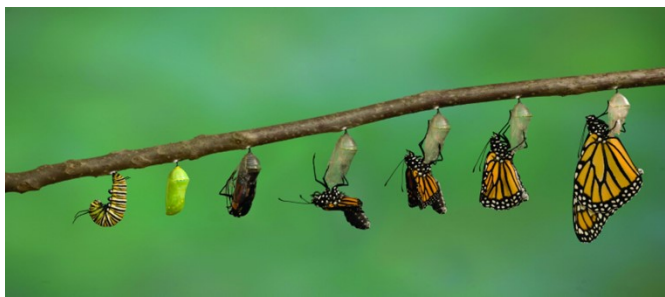


What are Reception and Reaffirmation?

A person is "Received" into the Episcopal Church when they have already been confirmed by bishops in other communions that have retained apostolic succession, such as the Roman Catholic and Orthodox communions. Those who have fallen away from the faith or have had a significant experience in their relationship with Christ or the Church may ask to "Reaffirm" the vows they made at the time of their Confirmation.

*Prayerfully yours,
Mother Debra+*

Understanding Clergy Transition



This is the fourth in a series of articles that will help you understand clergy transition. This article is “tattled” from the “Vital Practices,” published by ECF and written by Gary Gleason, former Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Minnesota, which the vestry is currently reading. If you have missed some of the previously published articles on “Understanding Clergy Transition,” you can find them in previous “Messengers” on the website.

“Why should we spend a year trying to get a new minister? I could fill this job in about a week!” the vestry member proclaimed. “Yes,” I replied, “but it’s not a good idea.”

Experience consistently shows that calling a new rector too soon may result in a shorter, and often unhappy, tenure for the priest, and a focus on immediate needs rather than a long-term strategy for the congregation. 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 of the parish. That doesn’t happen in a week.

When a rector or priest leaves, reactions are varied. Some are glad and can’t wait to see the moving van pull out of town. Some are outraged that the vestry didn’t do more to keep the priest happy and in place. Others are shocked because the only person they have ever experienced as their rector is gone. Still others think they now have the opportunity to fix what needs fixing. And sometimes ghosts from the past swoop in with unresolved issues and hurts from years ago.

Healing unresolved hurts

One diocesan search consultant and former senior warden in Minnesota, who started out strongly against the idea of an interim, became a convert after he saw what happened in his own parish. “We had lived with the negative image of our priest who, back in 1982, was removed under a cloud. During the search process, our interim rector helped us understand how that episode was still defining our image as a parish family. Now that we have faced into that and have a new rector, we are making progress in ways we never did for twenty-five years!”

It is important to discuss the varying viewpoints about the previous rector, because a parish’s experience and reaction to the departing rector is instructive about what to seek in a new priest. However tempting it is to overlook this — “It’s in the past, it’s over with, let’s just move on” — such an approach leaves unresolved issues.

Sharing collective wisdom

In dealing with all of this, the bishop or a diocesan representative can be helpful to a congregation. They have recent experience assisting other congregations and can share that collective wisdom with the vestry or search committee. With the assistance of an interim rector, the parish community develops a clear vision and a sense of spiritual leadership needed for the future — while helping the regular and ongoing work of the congregation to continue so that an intentional, deliberate, search process will identify the next rector.

The Spirit is at work

During the interim the congregation is asked to help the vestry and search committee describe itself, often by means of a parish gathering, small group discussions, a questionnaire, or all three. This discernment helps create a parish profile describing priestly skills the congregation needs. It also helps potential candidates understand the parish, its hopes and desires. Sometimes parishioners feel like nothing is happening or that “it is taking too long to get a new priest,” but this is when the Spirit is at work. Confidential interviewing, background and reference checks occur, and the search committee narrows the field of candidates. Details and specifics are not appropriate to share, yet the search committee and vestry must ensure that communication with the con-

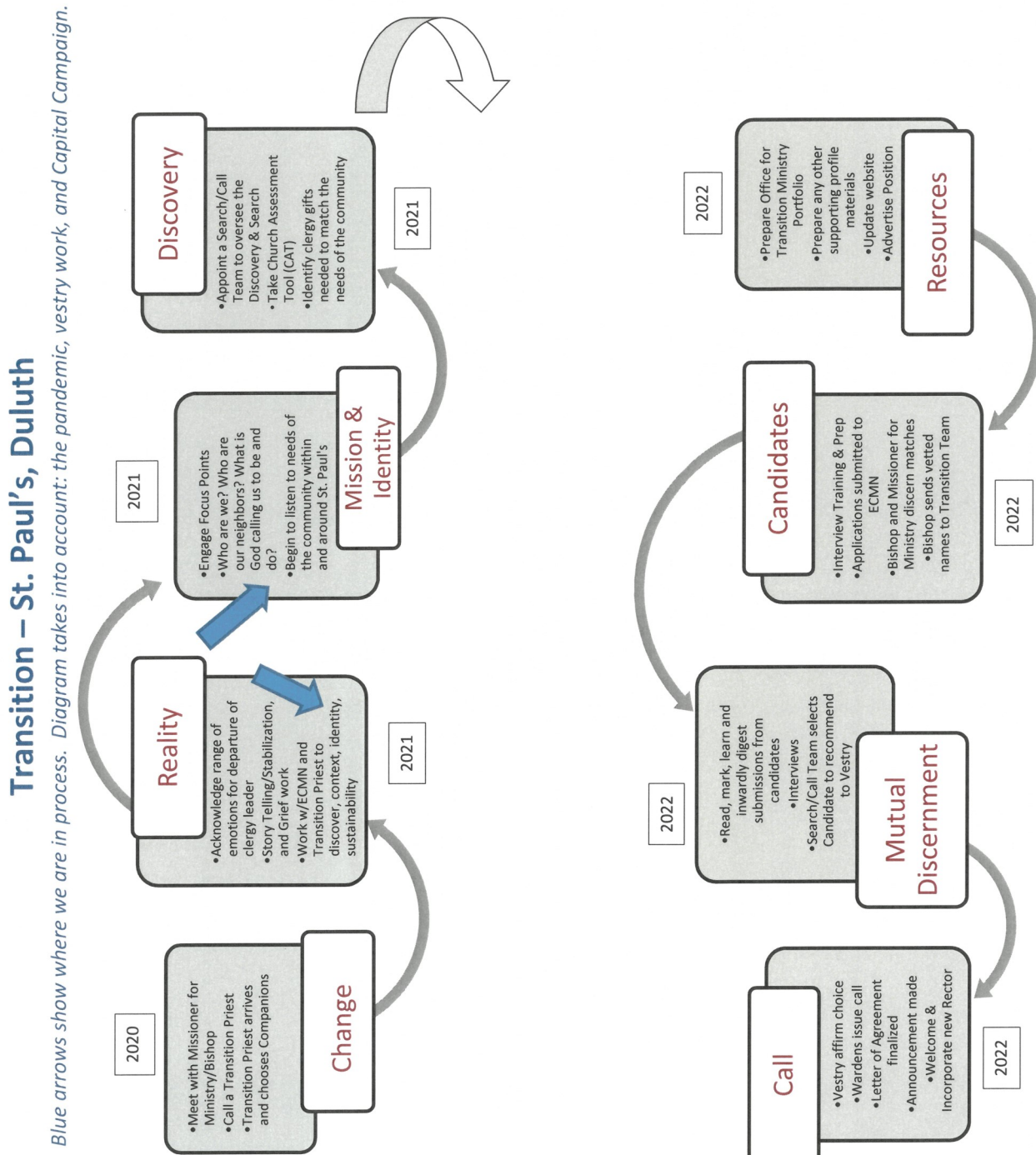
Continued on next page

gregation happens during this time.

In the end the search committee recommends to the vestry the candidate selected to become the next rector. The vestry then issues the call and preparations begin for welcoming the new rector and continuing the good ministry underway in the congregation. When the vestry issues a call to the next rector, new leaders have come forth. There is a new understanding of being a parish of the diocese, the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. An interim rector has helped make

some adjustments in the daily rhythm of parish life, allowing a new rector to hit the ground running. The congregation has clarity about how the new priest is well qualified and has been prayerfully selected. The new rector can commit to this new trust and responsibility and the congregation can agree to support and uphold the new priest in their ministry.

Could that happen in a week? No way.



Faith In Our Future Session Schedule

Here are the upcoming Faith in Our Future get-togethers scheduled for August:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------|
| ◆ Tuesday, August 3 rd at 7:00 PM | Mike French | Hidden Valley |
| ◆ Thursday, August 5 th at 9:30 AM | Mary Helf | St. Paul's Olcott Room* |
| ◆ Thursday, August 5 th at 6:00 PM | Leslie Brunfelt | Upper Skyline |
| ◆ Sunday, August 8 th at 7:00 PM | Terry Roberts | East Duluth |
| ◆ Wednesday, August 18 th at 5:00 PM | Angie Slattery | St. Paul's Olcott Room* |
| ◆ Tuesday, August 24 th at 6:00 PM | Leslie Brunfelt | Upper Skyline |

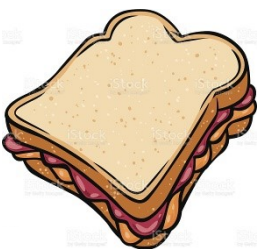
**Faith in Our Future events held at St. Paul's may require masks.*

To sign-up for a session please email **Jack Jarnis** at jjarnis@gmail.com or call Jack at **218-341-0859**. You can also sign-up after church on Sundays. We are limiting the number of participants at each session to **8 participants**, so everyone has time to share and discuss.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Jack Jarnis, co-chair Discernment Steering Committee*

FAITH
IN OUR FUTURE

Sandwich Ministry



St. Paul's continues its Outreach Ministry this summer with the Steve O'Neil youth program. We make 30 sandwiches every other Wednesday morning at 9:00 am and bag them with chips and granola bar for delivery by 10:30 am. If you're interested in

helping, please let Rita know. The dates for this month are all Wednesdays — August 4 and August 18.

Donations of time and/or money to help fund this are much appreciated.

*Thank You,
Sue Brown*

Ministry Opportunities — a.k.a. “Help Wanted”

Acolytes: Being an Acolyte is fun and it’s a great way to get to know other people. We hope to start having Acolytes on Rally Day. If you’d like to carry the Cross or Torches, please contact Matt Gustafson, Acolyte Director at gustafsonsu@aol.com.

Buildings & Grounds: We are stewards of a beautiful building and lovely grounds. This takes work and it is great knowing that everything we accomplish not only lifts our member’s spirits, but also has an impact on the neighborhood. If you would like to serve on the committee or help out with small projects, please contact Craig Fellman at craigfellman05@gmail.com.

Choir: Love to sing? Want to ring some bells? It’s been said that those who sing, pray twice. It is our hope that the Choir will start up again in the Fall. If you feel called to this important ministry of leading St. Paul’s in song, please contact: Liz Austin eminor@d.umn.edu, Jack Jarnis jjarnis@charter.net, or Pat Kruschke kruschkep@outlook.com. We have posted a position description for an Organist/Choir Director. Please add that to your prayer list!

Christian Formation Teachers, Assistants &

Crafts: The new Sunday School year is around the corner. If you have the heart for our children and youth, this ministry is for you. Training and Curriculum provided. Are creative crafts your thing or leading our youth in mission? Would you rather help? We need you too! Signup for a one-time event, a month or two here and there, substitute, or the whole year. It is rewarding and you will grow in Spirit. Contact Joanne Erspamer at joanneerspamer@gmail.com

Eucharistic Visitors (EV): are lay persons authorized to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity,

were unable to be present at the Celebration. EVs serve under the direction of a member of the clergy. Training will occur this fall. If you feel called to engage in this holy ministry, please contact Mother Debra at interim.rector@stpaulsduluth.org

Livestream Camera Operators: We have the bugs worked out and are ready to train others to operate the livestreaming cameras for Sunday morning worship. It’s not hard and it is fun! Contact Jay at jaustin@d.umn.edu

Ushers & Greeters: are the first people to meet newcomers and members when they walk through St. Paul’s doors each Sunday. A friendly welcome and good-bye make all the difference to visitors and potential newcomers who just might be looking for a church home. This ministry is not just about handing out the bulletin and collecting the offering; it is about sharing holy hospitality. To learn more contact Diane Kolquist at dianekolquist55804@gmail.com.



Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class will start up shortly after Rally Day this year. Jason Butcher will facilitate the class and Carol Andrews will assist him. If you or your high school student is ready to begin contemplating making a mature profession of faith, then Confirmation Class is the place to get ready! Teens please know that Confirmation Class is a great place to discover more about yourself and what you believe. You may complete the class and decide to get confirmed or not. Ask one of this year's class and you'll find out just how fun it is. Contact Jason Butcher at jasonbutch@gmail.com to sign up!

Pray for Our Confirmands

St. Paul's is proud of the following youth who will be confirmed by The Rt. Rev. Craig Loya, on Saturday, August 21, 2021.

- Agnes Barthel
- Ella Brisbois
- Calvin Butcher
- Michael Butler
- Audrey Dodge
- Evan Erspamer
- Lucy Fellman
- Gabe French
- Tanis Halvorson
- Lizzie Hartlieb
- Arna Rennan
- Alicia Shambour
- Charlie Sutherland

Please take a moment to pray for them. Here is a simple and appropriate prayer from page 819 of The Book of Common Prayer.

“O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of the Spirit through the teaching of your Son Jesus Christ: Make the hearts and minds of your servants ready to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit, that they may be filled with the strength of his presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Office Hours and Hospital Visitation

St. Paul's office is now open from 9:00 am to 12 noon to receive members and visitors. Please enter through the McGiffert entrance and ring the bell. Staff members are also available by appointment at other times. Thank you.

If you or another member of St. Paul's you know ends up in the hospital, please call the church office. Due to HIPAA rules hospitals no longer call churches or release information about patients when clergy call to inquire if any patients are from St. Paul's. Thank you.

Prayerfully yours,
Mother Debra+

Lost Treasures from the Archives...

From the Duluth News Tribune, May 5, 1913:

LAST SERVICES IN ST. PAUL'S

Rev. Ryan Pays Eloquent Tribute
to Memories of City's Oldest
Religious Institution.

GIVES CHURCH HISTORY
SINCE ERECTION IN 1869

Former Ministers Have Been
Prominent and Accomplished
Much in Chosen Fields.



REV. A. W. RYAN.

"But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers who were ancient men that had seen the first house when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy": Ezra III:12.

Choosing the foregoing for his text, Rev. A.W. Ryan, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, yesterday morning paid an eloquent tribute to the memory of those who have made church history of St. Paul's, to its traditions and to its career from the time it was erected 44 years ago.

His remarks were apropos of the last services then being held in the pioneer religious institution of Duluth. Next Sunday the congregation will assemble for worship at the handsome new building at Seventeenth avenue East and Superior street.

Mr. Ryan spoke feelingly of the history of St. Paul's, its work in their community, and the men and women members who have accomplished so much in the work of uplift.

"The Memories of Old St. Paul's," was the subject of his discourse. He compared the abandonment of the old edifice and the emotions of its members with those of the ancient priests and Levites referred to in the text. The rector then gave a brief history of the church. The building was erected in 1869 and the first service held on Christmas day of the same year. Tracing the work of the church, Mr. Ryan said in part:

"As we glance backward, we see a long and for this city a notable history. This church building was erected in 1869, and the first service therein was held on Christmas day of that year, almost 44 years ago. Think of that! Forty-four years in a community like this means a great deal, for there was no other church building here then, and this one that we worship in today contains the old building and an addition on every side. That original church was denominated "The First Episcopal Church of Duluth," and this title was later changed to "St. Paul's."

"The ministers of this church have been an important body of men. Bishop Whipple was the original overseer of this field and came here as early as 1866 for a service. He for long years had the care of this church. Then came Bishop Gilbert, whose tender sympathy and abiding interest are a fresh memory with us. After Bishop Gilbert came our own present Bishop Morrison, whose scholarly attainments are known to all who can appreciate them. Two bishops have gone out from this church, one of them being alive at this time. One rector was instrumental in laying the foundations of our great charity, St. Luke's hospital. Some were notable preachers, one is a professor of divinity in the divinity school of this state. One clergyman had descendants in the city who are members of St. Paul's today.

"Do you wonder that we love the old place, crumbling — as we meet today — into its final extinction? Memories cling about every corner of

the edifice, along the aisles, at the font and altar rail, in the very atmosphere. Let us keep in love what we have experienced, but let us have the joy that is rightfully ours in that better way which is surely to be."

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Silverness

From Your Deacon



It's August *already??* Rally Day is just around the corner, and there's so much to *do!* In the midst of our busy-ness, take time to re-create, to spend time with the Holy One for rest and renewal. Like the disciples, we can become so focused on the activity that fills our daily lives that we can skimp on that which nourishes our souls. St Paul's has a

lengthy list of ministry opportunities, and you are invited to consider how you might serve. As we approach Rally Day, I want to remind you that vocation is the place where your greatest passion meets the world's deepest needs. You can't give what you don't have, so please take care of yourself, stay grounded in prayer, rest, vacation, and consider the many opportunities to be the hands and feet and heart of Jesus through St Paul's. Explore this invitation with the question, "What makes my heart sing?" and join in the song of bringing Jesus' love to those around you!

My second-born son, Nick, left for Japan right after he graduated from St John's, to teach English in the JET program for a year. Six years later, and he's finally moving back to the US with his lovely fiancé, April. This mother's heart has ached to be near them for years, and I'm heading out mid-month to assist with their international relocation. Your BeFrienders Leadership Team (Nat Constance, Brad Brunfelt, and me) will be holding small group gatherings on the 15th and 18th of August to provide more information on the program and answer any questions you might have. If you got a letter, it's because someone in the congregation suggested you would make a great BeFriender, and you'll be getting a call. Coming to a meeting or doing the training

doesn't commit you to anything, but rather helps you to discern if this is the ministry God is calling you to do. Let your heart sing!

Outreach has a long history at St Paul's, and it is part of the diaconal vocation to be a bridge from the church to the world and the world to the church. On August 9th you have the opportunity to join the broader community as St Paul's and CHUM host a legislative recap to learn of progress made in 2021 and hopes for 2022 legislative sessions as we together work for a more just and compassionate community. Anne Krisnik from the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, Sarah Miller from the Minnesota Asset Building Coalition, and Matt Traynor from the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless will join us to share what we've accomplished, what we've learned, and what we hope to do in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Deacon Patricia Benson

Email: Deacon@stpaulsduluth.org

Phone: 218-724-3535

Deadline for submissions to the
September issue of *The Messenger* is
8:00 am, Tuesday, August 17, 2021.

Please email items to:
office@stpaulsduluth.org

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE –AUGUST 2021

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

	August 1	August 8	August 15	August 22	August 29
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	C Miller	A Schliep	L Hultkrantz
		A Sadowski		R Ballou-Buck	
LECTOR	S Stromquist	J Pastor	M Gustafson	N Diener	Z Stodola
USHERS	C & B Dinan	M & S Brown	R Lyle	D Morin	C & B Dinan
	G Olson	D Kolquist	P Waite	K Swanson	G Olson
	P Enenbach		M Gustafson	D Barthel	P Enenbach
LOCK UP	G Maloney	J Austin	M Brown	C Fellman	G Maloney
LEMONADE	M Helf			Erspamer Family	

Altar Guild Other Duties for August:

August Linens:

B Thelen, K Leonard

July/August Brass Cleaning:

C Miller, S Hall, K Buck, M Fegley

Substitutes:

Weekly Teams—G Bouschor, E Killen; Linens — C Conrad, C Miller; Brass — J Sederberg, C Miller

Message from Our New Bookkeeper



In the last Messenger you were introduced to me—My name is Christine Melone and I would like say hello to everyone here at St. Paul's!

I am very happy to be a part of the staff here and this wonderful parish community. During the last month,

I have been learning the financial details and processes specific to St. Paul's, as well as participating in intensive soft-

ware training. My next goal is to get the data entry caught up. It is currently behind several months, since there was no one employed in this position. So, please be patient—I hope to have updated financial information in the next couple of months.

You can reach Christine at 218-724-3535 or bookkeeper@stpaulsduluth.org.

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 667
Duluth, MN

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Save the Date!!

Saturday, August 21, 2:00 pm: Bishop's Visitation - Baptism & Confirmation

Sunday, September 12, 10:00 am: Rally Day, Backpack Blessing & more!

Sunday, September 26, 10:00 am: Guest Preacher, John Cole, Executive Director of CHUM

Sunday, October 3, 10:00 am: St. Francis & the Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 24, 10:00 am: Service of Lament & Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 7, 10:00 am: All Saints Day

Sunday, November 28, 10:00 am: 1st Advent