

# THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER, 2021

## From The Rev. Rick Swenson

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” This is the opening blessing that St. Paul uses in many of his letters as he extends his greetings to the nascent communities of faith in the very early church. It was a time of uncertainty and fear, but Paul’s greeting is one of faith and hope.

We in the church today face a period of uncertainty as well, and we may even be afraid for the future of our communities of faith. But we can take many lessons and much hope from Paul and the early churches. Despite all of the challenges faced by early Christians, they lived their lives in simple communities of love – love for each other and love of their neighbor. These were people whose lives had been profoundly changed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ being proclaimed by Paul and others. The communities of this new faith attracted other seekers, not by promotion but by example – by the example of loving God with all their heart, with all their soul, with all their mind; and loving their neighbors as themselves. It’s as simple and as challenging as that!

We are about to enter the Season of Advent, a season of vigil, of watching. Something new is coming into our lives! We must watch and listen. We must be attentive to the voice of God.

It’s interesting to note that the story of the Incarnation in the Gospels begins with fear and hope and likewise ends with fear and hope. The angel Gabriel appears to Mary, and she is “greatly troubled” by the angel’s message. But Gabriel comforts and reassures Mary saying, “Do not be afraid Mary for God has been gracious to you.”

Although varying in some respects, all of the Gospels end with the empty tomb and fear and anxiousness among Jesus’ disciples; but then that fear is transformed to hope and joy as they are told by angels, “do not be afraid” and they are given instructions to go and tell the world that the

Christ has risen. Christ himself appears to Mary Magdalene and others with this very same message of hope and the call to be disciples of the Risen Lord and apostles of the Gospel.

Ours indeed is a time of challenge and change for the church. Demographics, secularization of society, and now the Covid pandemic have all left us anxious and perhaps afraid for the future. But we know how to face these challenges. We have done it for two thousand years – with faith and love!

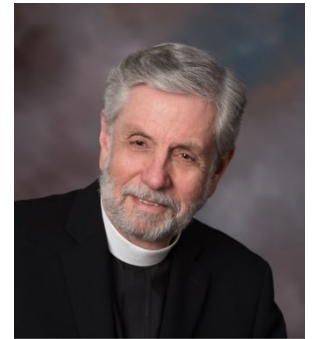
As I join your community here at St. Paul’s, I am both anxious and excited. I look forward with anticipation and hope as I begin my walk with you in this time of transition. I am anxious that I will be able to help you face the challenges ahead, and I am excited about the vitality and faith that shines forth in this community. But most importantly, I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you and hearing your thoughts, concerns, and your dreams for the future. What I have seen and heard in my brief time with you has excited me and invigorated me.

As I begin my ministry with you, I turn to the words of a favorite prayer of mine:

Almighty God, I pray that you will bless our work in mission and ministry in the world. Help us to pray fervently, labor diligently and give liberally to make known the power of your love given through your son Jesus Christ. Let us not forget the lessons from the past nor fear the challenges of the future. Anoint us with your grace and shine in our hearts as we reflect your light throughout the world. Amen.

Faithfully,

*The Rev. Rick Swenson*



## From Your Vestry

Greetings from your wardens and vestry! The busyness of October has certainly continued into November here at St. Paul's, and unfortunately, a return to alarmingly high Covid positivity rates. We will make every effort to keep our in-person worship services, but please stay vigilant with all those safety measures you can control, including masking and especially *practicing safe distancing* as we gather for worship and fellowship afterwards. Vestry returned to zoom meetings this month, which actually works pretty well (and we've had a lot of practice at it!).

Our rector search team is meeting regularly and cranking out paperwork, all of which feels very much like progress. Please take a moment, every now and then, to say a prayer for their discernment process and ask that the Holy Spirit continue to guide their important work together.

We welcomed our new Priest in Charge, Fr. Rick Swenson, to our first vestry meeting in November, where we had a lively discussion led by Deacon Pat around some amazing and exciting outreach opportunities. An Outreach Committee is now being organized to continue those discussions around what we at St. Paul's can do now and in the near future to be more engaged and supportive of the community around us.

You can learn more about the work the vestry has been tackling over the summer around the reorganization of our parish structure and revitalization of committees and ministries in the Messenger article Carol Andrews submitted to this edition. This is another piece of the transition puzzle, as we examine our operations and priorities, and prepare a foundation for a new rector to bring his or her unique skills

and perspectives to the work of our parish. We are sincerely interested in hearing your thoughts and ideas, and encourage everyone to reflect on what you are being called to participate in.

Over the next weeks, we will be focusing on establishing next year's operating budget, finding candidates to fill vestry vacancies, and developing a communications team to facilitate not only general parish-wide information exchange, but also to support the work of the search team. Our website will be critically important for any interested rector candidates, by telling the stories of St. Paul's and offering a welcoming portal to the parish. If you have ideas and experience, including social media use and content, we could use your help!

We are blessed to have Fr. Rick with us for the remainder of our transition! He is already hard at work getting to know our staff and our church, and bringing his wisdom and spiritual guidance into the life of our parish. I hope you will take a moment to introduce yourselves to him after a service, or during his office hours here on Thursdays and Fridays for the next several months before he shifts to full time.

Watch for coming information about special Advent seasonal activities, and may you all have a safe, healthy and joyous Christmas!

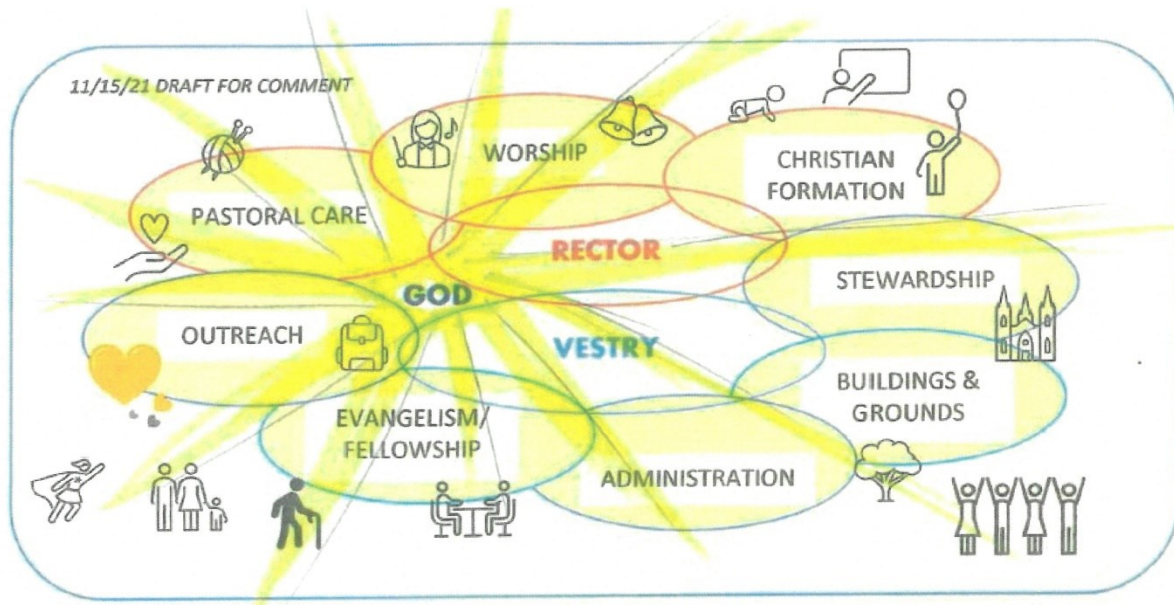
Peace,  
Nancy Schuldt,  
Senior Warden




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## Coffee Hour Suspended

Until the Covid transmission numbers decrease, we are prioritizing safety and suspending our usual coffee hour after Sunday services. Thank you for your understanding.



One of the things your Vestry worked on in 2021 is creating a “church structure.” We reviewed the myriad of church activities, including work by large groups, such as Altar Guild, as well as work by individuals, like the Church Archivist, and organized them into groups of related activities called ministries.

Goals of this effort include improving communication as well as creating something we can share with church members and prospective priests. Our goal is to maximize organization and flow of information, not to create silos.

The Vestry is looking for input on our first public draft of our results. What is missing? What should be moved/ removed? We are open to new ideas for how to best graphically capture these ideas. Feel free to discuss your thoughts with any Vestry member or email [vestry@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:vestry@stpaulsduluth.org)

The specific activities associated with each ministry are listed here:

### **WORSHIP**

- Daily offices: Compline, Evening Prayer, Morning Prayer
- Altar Guild
- Acolytes
- Lectors (Readers)
- Chalice Bearers
- Nursery

- Prayer Station
- Ushers
- Music Ministry: Music Director, Adult Choir and Musicians, Kids Choir, Bell Choir

### **EVANGELISM/FELLOWSHIP**

- Reception and Hospitality
- Greeters
- Newcomers

### **PASTORAL CARE**

- BeFriends
- Food Care
- Lay Eucharistic Visitors
- Prayer Shawl Makers

### **CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

- Adult Formation: Book and Bible Studies, Library, Wednesday evening presentations and discussions
- Children and Youth: Sunday School, Confirmation, Intergenerational Faith Outdoor Ministries, Vacation Bible School, Youth Group

### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

- Building repair and maintenance
- Creation Care
- Interior Design
- Landscape Planning and Garden

Maintenance

- Safety Team

### **OUTREACH**

- Social Justice
- Financial outreach (various)
- Hands-on outreach (various)
- Neighborhood partnerships
- Damiano Soup Kitchen volunteers
- CHUM, including Rhubarb Fest , assigned liaisons and more

### **ADMINISTRATION**

- Archivist
- Communications Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Technology Committee

### **STEWARDSHIP**

- Finance and Budget
- Fundraisers: Annual pledge campaign, year-round giving; Fundraiser dinner; Planned giving/endowment; Rummage Sale
- Investments
- Memorials
- Scholarships: College, JR McGiffert

*Respectfully submitted by Carol Andrews*

## Outreach Ministry

Outreach to the community has and continues to be a high priority of St. Paul's members. Are you interested in getting involved, have new ideas, related experience or just want to learn more? Please join Deacon Pat and **Outreach Ministry** Vestry liaisons Carol Andrews and Leslie Brunfelt for a virtual meeting **noon to 1:00 pm on Thursday, December 2**. We will discuss what is needed to support outreach already going on and start discussing our hopes and dreams for 2022.

Great thanks to all who helped the sandwich brigade to provide bag lunches to our neighbors at Steve O'Neil apartments last year, especially Sue Brown who continued this work in 2021 and all the others who have done what they can to keep outreach afloat during the pandemic disruption.

Zoom invitation:

Topic: Outreach at St. Paul's

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7701953671?pwd=cUthdzZpcEtXeGozTmZnckFqUG91UT09>

Meeting ID: 770 195 3671

Passcode: 1710

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Carol Andrews

## Lost Treasures from the Archives

From the Duluth  
News Tribune,  
December 24, 1905

**ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.**

Among all the programs of Christmas music prepared by the various church choirs, one of the most attractive is the Christmas Eve Carol service at St. Paul's church. The choir will give a number of the really old English hymns and carols, those songs of the people, wherein is expressed in quaint but forceful language the popular joy in the great "tidings of good things." One of the most interesting is the "Carol for Christmas Eve," set to a characteristic minor melody, both words and tune dating from the Sixteenth century. Another beautiful carol is Dr. Dyke's setting of the words "On the Birthday of the Lord." According to ancient custom the verses will be sung by individual singers and the refrains by the full choir. Those carols have a beauty all their own and for one of the strongest links in the chain that binds Christmas present to Christmas past.

*Respectfully submitted by*  
Bob Silverness

# From Your Bookkeeper

Dear Parishioners,

October financials were presented at the November 2021 Vestry meeting. Here is a summary of the October **General Fund** Statement of Activities.

October update of 2021 pledges:

Pledge income received in October 2021	\$ 26,000
YTD 2021 pledge income as of October 31, 2021	\$301,410
YTD budgeted pledge income as of October 31, 2021	\$283,826
Variance of actual to budget pledge income as of October 31, 2021	\$17,854



Actual Income over Expenses to date:

YTD income as of October 31, 2021	\$375,174
YTD expense as of October 31, 2021	<u>\$380,205</u>
YTD income over expense October 31, 2021	\$ -5,031
YTD <i>budgeted</i> income over expenses through October 31	\$ -38,037

This means we are essentially \$25K better than we expected.

Please help us carry out your wishes. If you will note in the memo section of your check the fund to which your donation should be credited, we will be able to determine where your gift should go. Unless otherwise noted, pledge payments will first be applied to 2021, until paid in full, and then to 2022. If you would like your gifts included on your 2021 year end statement, please have them in the office by 9:00 am, Thursday, December 30, 2021 or in the December 26, 2021 Sunday offering plate. Here is a chart that outlines the IRS guidelines we need to follow to determine the tax year credited for your contribution.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please call the office 218-724-3535 or email me at [bookkeeper@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stpaulsduluth.org)

Christine Melone,  
Bookkeeper

TYPE OF CONTRIBUTION	REPORT FOR 2021	REPORT FOR 2022
Checks written in December 2021 and deposited in church offering in January 2022		X
Checks written and deposited in church offering in January 2022, but "backdated" to December 2021		X
Checks written and deposited in church offering in December 2021, but "postdated" to January 2022		X
Checks written in December 2021 and deposited in the mail and postmarked in December 2021, but not received by the church until January 2022	X	
Checks written in December 2021 and deposited in the mail in December 2021 but not postmarked until January 2022, and not received by the church until January 2022		X

## Live Nativity Returns



Live Nativity  
All are Invited  
Sunday, December 19  
3:00 pm  
in the front yard of church

Families can adorn themselves with available costumes, enjoy hot cider, marshmallows and donut holes as we assemble in the front of the church.

All will be socially distanced (and perhaps masked depending on guidelines).

Donations of hats, scarves and mittens to give away will be welcomed. Clothes pins will be available and we can add any donations to the Giving Warmth Line hung up in the yard at St. Paul's.

The Middle School and Confirmation kids are inviting all to gather around the fire pit or stop for a moment at the curb. We will greet all with smiles and donut holes.

*Respectfully submitted by Nat Constance*

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## Confirmation

We are delighted to announce that Charlie Sutherland was confirmed in St. Mark's Cathedral, Minneapolis on Saturday, October 16, 2021. Here he is pictured with his parents, Steve and Peg Sutherland, and also with his sponsor, Karen Allison. Karen reported that it was a beautiful service and she felt blessed to have been there.

Because of his grandfather's funeral in August, he was unable to attend the St. Paul's confirmation service with his peers, so this was the next available day for him to receive this sacrament. Congratulations to Charlie and his family!



# From Your Stewardship Committee

I hope all of you received the cover letter and pledge card for the 2022 campaign. Our team asked you to prayerfully consider your annual giving as a commitment to God and an investment in your faith.

The last 22 months we have all been forced to do an inordinate amount of lifting that would normally take years. It is heavy and hard; we get tired and sometimes angry. We are marked and wounded BUT we are still here. Our one map and guide is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Right now, we have the opportunity to make a statement that we are St. Paul's Strong. We can embrace our future and ensure that this next year we are in a position to do God's work and practice our faith with love, vitality, enthusiasm and commitment. True nourishment comes from giving.

If you have not already sent in your pledge, we would appreciate if you would return the pledge card as soon as possible so the Vestry can start working on next year's budget. There is an option for electronic pledging on the back of the card.

I would like to thank St. Paul's Stewardship Committee members for their hard work and dedication: Joel Bamford, Lynnea Hultkrantz, and Angie Shambour.



*Respectfully submitted by your Stewardship Committee:*

*Kathy Leonard, Chair and*

*Joel Bamford, Lynnea Hultkrantz, and Angie Shambour*

## Greening of St. Paul's Church

**Sunday, December 19, after the 10:00 am service**

The Altar Guild invites everyone to help decorate the church for Christmas. Fresh evergreen wreaths and garlands will be delivered to the Superior Street entrance at 11:15 am. Help is needed to attach bows to the wreaths, and then hang the wreaths and garlands throughout the church.

Please come to the back of the church at 11:15 am if you are able to help. Come enjoy the fellowship and festive atmosphere of a wonderful St. Paul's tradition!



## The Deacon's Stoop



In our book club text, Father Greg Boyle asked a class held at Folsom Prison for the definitions of sympathy, empathy, and compassion. While they hit the mark fairly well and quickly on the first two, the definition of compassion took more time and thought. Eventually, one of the men said, “That what

Jesus did. I mean, Compassion...IS...God.”

Reading these stories has changed us from thinking of *Tattoos* as “a really good book” to “a really hard book”, one that calls us to become compassion. It is, frankly, exhausting. We talked about a growing tendency to use changes in geography to deal with challenging relationships. How many of us have heard we should “unfriend” those who don’t love us, support us, think like us, be like us? We can easily use geographical distance to exclude people, or to include people. Father Greg talks about the Beatitudes as a geographical practice, not a spiritual practice. It’s about placing ourselves in places of vulnerability, or as one of our book club members described it, as a place “where the walls around my heart crumble down.” We compared distancing ourselves from those who have wounded us, or victimized us, as our self-defense mechanism. Betrayal, mistrust, and brokenness emerge in us following such experiences, and we need healing. Father Greg reminds us that the person who victimized us is also broken and in need of healing. He shares his relationship with Betito, a 12-year-old boy who hung around Homeboy Industries all the time, greeting people at the door, seeking companionship in a safe place so different from the place he called home. This boy was shot while standing out on the steps, his normal perch, not because of anything he did or even for who he was. He was just a kid in the wrong place at the wrong time, and it cost him his life. This is what followed:

*“When they (the shooters) were caught and I found I knew them, it was excruciating not to be able to hate them. Sheep without a shepherd...But for lack of someone to reveal the truth to them, they had evaded healing, and the task of returning them to themselves got more hardened and difficult. But are they less worthy of compassion than Betito? I will admit that the degree of difficulty here is exceedingly high. Kids I love killing kids I love”*

*“Jesus says if you love those who love you, big wow (which I believe is the original Greek). He doesn’t suggest that we cease to love those who love us when he nudges us to love our enemies. Nor does Jesus think the harder thing is the better thing. He knows it’s just the harder thing. But to love the enemy and to find some spaciousness for the victimizer, as well as the victim, resembles more the expansive compassion of God. That’s why you do it. To be in the world who God is.”*

I’ve witnessed a lot of Beatitudes geography among the members of St Paul’s, and I’m pretty sure I’ve just caught glimpses during these days of Covid. I’ve listened to your wardens and vestry, the results of last summer’s Faith in Our Future gatherings and the report of the consultant. I’ve heard enough to know that outreach is wired into the DNA of this faith community, and I’m eager to follow you into the world as together we join in God’s project to heal the whole world with love; to be in the world who God is.



### A Thanksgiving Reflection

God of seed and growth and harvest You have gifted us with life, and for this we are deeply thankful.

Each one of us is uniquely beautiful, with gifts and talents and love to share,

If only we are offered a safe place to be ourselves.

Like the farmer who scatters wheat,

Not all were brought forth into fertile fields with the perfect balance of light and nourishment.

Some have landed in thorny places where love and nurture are sorely lacking (often for generations),

And lives lived are less than lives dreamed,

*Continued on next page*



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Choked by illness or addiction, starved by persistent struggle to merely survive.

Others have landed on hard ground, where the work available isn't sufficient to the need;  
Where multiple jobs and extreme labor go only as far as good luck;  
Where even a car repair or a sick day can result in threat of eviction.

Yet we all share in this gift of life and each day brings appreciation of the goodness of being part of this community

As we see your glory in the sunrise and and sense your majesty in the waves on the shore;

As we meet with friends, whether that be under the bridge, at the shelter, at the coffeeshop,

In our neighborhoods or congregations or homes.

Giver of the present, hope for the future,  
We know it isn't some fault of the seed that caused it to land in a place of prosperity or a place of scarcity  
Or among the myriad places in between.

It is both humbling and freeing to recognize this.  
Humbling, because any one of us could be walking in another's shoes,  
And it is not by any effort of mine that determined what I was born to, or who I was born of.

Freeing, because knowing none of what I enjoy is actually mine takes away the transaction, the sense of earned reward,  
And somehow makes it easier to share the abundance of that which is not mine, but given for all.

It is freeing, because the same is true of those born to scarcity.

It is not a transaction, it removes the sense of earned punishment.

If only we come to see each other as you see us.

You welcome us with joy, as your beloved.  
Thanksgiving for life, for love, for joy.

Grant that we may behold each other as you behold us,  
And weed away the thorns and till the hard ground  
Until all of our lives lived are as our lives dreamed,  
Each one uniquely beautiful, with gifts and talents and love to share  
In a safe place, a home, where we can be ourselves.

**Amen.**

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Mark your calendar: JRLC Housing Webinar Series

- December 14 at 6:30 pm Zoom: Racial Equity and Housing
  - January 11 at 6:30 pm Zoom: Special Challenges and Opportunities for Inclusion
  - February 8 at 6:30 pm Zoom: Legislative Solutions and Advocacy for the 2022 Session
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## **CHUM Christmas Eve Vigil at noon in front of Duluth City Hall**

There was no room in the inn for Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, and they found shelter in a stable. For thousands of years we have heard this story and together journey through Advent to celebrate the birth of Christ. Over 600 people live homeless in Duluth, where there are 155 shelter beds available in the entire city. These people are part of CHUM's family; join us at noon on December 24, to remember those who have



experienced "no room in the inn" during their lives, and who have died this year. Please come to honor them, and to remember.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Deacon Patricia Benson*

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

Phone: 218-724-3535



FRIENDS OF THE FELGEMAKER PRESENTS

# A FELGEMAKER CHRISTMAS



Featuring organists: Brian Kapp, Velda Graham Bell, Samuel Black, Karen Hanson Sande, Rachael Kresha, David Tryggstad (not pictured), and the historic Felgemaker pipe organ.

**Sunday, December 5th, 3:00 pm**

Sacred Heart Music Center  
201 W. 4th Street, Duluth, MN  
\$15 Suggested Donation

Sacred Heart  
music center

## THE WARMING CENTER IS OPEN

**8pm- 8am**

**Sunday-Saturday**

**From Nov.1- March 31**

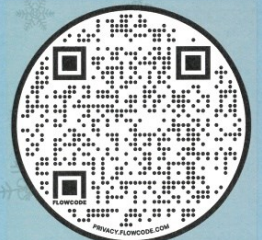
**At The Rainbow Center**

**211 N 3rd Avenue East**

**The CHUM Drop-In Center is also open**

**FREE DTA rides to and  
from the Warming Center**

If you would like to volunteer  
or donate please go to  
[www.chumduluth.org](http://www.chumduluth.org) or scan  
the QR Code



The Warming Center is a partnership between CHUM, St Louis County, the City of Duluth, Duluth HRA, and Loaves & Fishes.



# ECMIN Dwelling in Scripture

## Dwelling in Scripture Together as a Diocesan Household 2021-2022

You are invited to join together with the whole diocesan household to dwell in scripture together this year. We have selected a text for each season and ask that every meeting or other gathering in the diocese begin with either Dwelling in the Word or Gospel-Based Discipleship using the text for that season.

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*As we move through this year of dwelling in scripture together, may God form us more fully into the image of God's son Jesus, so that everything we do together might point to God's dream of Beloved Community, and so that we might witness boldly that there is no greater force for change and healing in the heavens or earth than the fountain of God's endless love.*

### Gospel-Based Discipleship Instructions

1. One person reads the entire passage appointed for the current season out loud. Consider and discuss the question: *What word(s), idea(s), or sentence(s) stand out to you?*
2. Read the passage again. Consider and discuss the question: *What is Jesus/the passage saying to you?*
3. Read the passage a third time. Consider and discuss the question: *What is Jesus/the passage calling you to do?*

*Adapted from: A Disciple's Prayer Book*

Learn more at [episcopalmn.org/discipleship](https://episcopalmn.org/discipleship)

### Advent

Matthew 4:17-22

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

# ADVENT CALENDAR 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>28 Worship</b> <b>Advent 1</b></p> <p>Read Luke 21:25-36. How do the symbols of the Advent season help you understand the story of Jesus? Where do you see them in your worship today?</p>	<p><b>29 Go</b></p> <p>Go out of your way to have a conversation with someone you might not normally visit with today. Ask God to open your heart to hear this person as God does.</p>	<p><b>30 Learn</b></p> <p>Read Matthew 4:18-22. How do these verses from Matthew inspire you to read Scripture with new eyes? Try reading several different translations of this passage. See how the language might change your reading of it.</p>	<p><b>1 Pray</b></p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 1, found on page 211 of The Book of Common Prayer. Set a timer for three minutes to sit in silence and hear what God might be saying back to you.</p>	<p><b>2 Bless</b></p> <p>We know that angels are God's special messengers to us, and that Gabriel spent intentional time with Mary, helping her to understand her part in God's story. Who has shared an important lesson or their presence with you this week? Thank them today with a call or note.</p>	<p><b>3 Turn</b></p> <p>Read Isaiah 58. How does this reading challenge you to think about feasts and festivals differently? How might this lesson change the way you celebrate or recognize this holy season?</p>	<p><b>4 Rest</b></p> <p>Put your phone on airplane mode and leave it in a dresser drawer for an hour or two. Whatever happens in that time, you can handle later. Give this time to yourself and Jesus, to rest and recharge for the week ahead.</p>
<p><b>5 Worship</b> <b>Advent 2</b></p> <p>Read Luke 3:1-6. How does the story of John the Baptist fill your heart with hope?</p>	<p><b>6 Go</b></p> <p>Read or watch your local news. Ask God to open your heart and eyes to ways you can promote reconciliation and healing in your community.</p>	<p><b>7 Learn</b></p> <p>Read Luke 1:45. Share your faith story with one new person this week. It can be someone you have known for a while who has not heard the faith part of your story.</p>	<p><b>8 Pray</b></p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 2, found on page 211 of The Book of Common Prayer. As you are out and about for the rest of this week, notice the people you pass. Ask God to bless them in their lives and work. See how this changes the way you go about your week.</p>	<p><b>9 Bless</b></p> <p>Call or write a letter to a family member with whom you would like to have a closer relationship. Make plans in the new year to chat on the phone or meet over Zoom or in person. Let them know how much you love them and look forward to knowing them better.</p>	<p><b>10 Turn</b></p> <p>Where did you struggle this week? Do you have amends or apologies or adjustments you need to make? Ask God to open your heart and mind to those opportunities for reconciliation and growth. Thank God for the gifts of mercy and love, and the courage to make the changes necessary. And then do your best, with God's help, to make those changes.</p>	<p><b>11 Rest</b></p> <p>Set aside 30 minutes to spend in silence with your best friend today. Sure, it may feel a little weird to be silent on the phone or while sitting next to each other on the couch or across the table. Just give it a try. Make sure to set aside time after your silence to pray for each other and to say thanks for the time of rest.</p>
<p><b>12 Worship</b> <b>Advent 3</b></p> <p>Imagine the faces you'd like to see at church — an all-star list of folks you want to worship with. This could be people you know from summer camp when you were a kid, people who might have already died, people you work with — all your favorites. Commit to pray for those folks this week. And make a commitment to ask one of your all-stars to come to church with you in the next month.</p>	<p><b>13 Go</b></p> <p>Take a new or different route to work, or school, or out to run errands. See how using a different route requires you to see the world differently — to pay a different kind of attention. What do you notice along the way that makes you stop and take a second look? Does anything on this new route inspire your faith journey or remind you of lessons learned?</p>	<p><b>14 Learn</b></p> <p>Read Luke 1:59-80. When Zechariah's speech returns, he praises God. If you lost the power to speak for nine months like Zechariah did, what would be your first word of praise? Share this with your family, friends, and on social media.</p>	<p><b>15 Pray</b></p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 3, found on page 212 in The Book of Common Prayer. How will prayer guide you through the rest of the week? Set aside special time today to focus your intentions on stirring up peace and spreading joy.</p>	<p><b>16 Bless</b></p> <p>Spend a significant amount of time today discerning if there is a special blessing or gift you can share with your church, a local ministry, or with your community. Ask God to inspire and equip you with the fortitude and tools to make this gift something truly memorable and heartfelt.</p>	<p><b>17 Turn</b></p> <p>Turn away from the busyness of the world right now. Turn your heart and mind toward giving thanks for this time of reflection, refreshment, and renewal. Turn your attention toward how you will be resting tomorrow, and put things in place so you can make the most of your sabbath time.</p>	<p><b>18 Rest</b></p> <p>Spend at least 45 minutes outside today, without doing yard work or fixing lights or redoing bows on the garland. Take some time to just sit outside and let the air wash over you, taking away the stress and worry of the moment. Read Psalm 100 before and after your outside time. See how this psalm may help you rest and recharge your spirit.</p>
<p><b>19 Worship</b> <b>Advent 4</b></p> <p>Linger before leaving your worship time today. How is God calling you to hear and sing along with Mary's Song? Read Luke 1:39-55.</p>	<p><b>20 Go</b></p> <p>Go out into your neighborhood today. Where is God at work? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate that good work and name God's presence in your community.</p>	<p><b>21 Learn</b></p> <p>Read Habakkuk 2:1-4. Does this reading remind you of Thomas the disciple? Why do you think the folks who organized the lectionary picked this reading from the Old Testament for this friend of Jesus?</p>	<p><b>22 Pray</b></p> <p>Pray along with the Collect for Advent 4, found on page 212 in The Book of Common Prayer. Pick three or four of your beloveds to focus your prayers on today. Make sure to leave some silent space for God to offer you some wisdom about what they may need right now.</p>	<p><b>23 Bless</b></p> <p>Make sure to pick up an extra present or two — a nice candy sampler or a warm pair of slippers or pajama pants, just in case you have extra friends or guests drop by. Ask God to bless those who travel and those who may be alone in the coming days. Take some bottled water and sports drinks over to your local community cold weather shelter. They will be extra glad to have that during the winter months.</p>	<p><b>24 Turn</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b></p> <p>If you are gathering with friends and family today, consider taking time during the meal to turn to the folks on your right, and then on your left, to thank them for their love in your life. See how this might spread some joy and comfort around the table — or maybe even ease some potentially prickly guests.</p>	<p><b>25 Rest</b> <b>Christmas Day</b></p> <p>The conventional wisdom is that new parents should rest when the baby is resting. Make sure you take some time out to rest with Baby Jesus — and marvel in the wonder of a fresh, new, clean, shiny, tiny, precious start. Take a nap and thank God for the gift of Jesus and for peace at Christmas.</p>

# Giving Tree

During this season of Christmas, St. Paul's will continue the tradition of outreach to the community, by sponsoring the "Giving Tree." You will find tags on the tree with needed items. Please take a tag and return your purchase to the church by December 16. If it is more convenient, you can have an item shipped directly to the church.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our community. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Brown.



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## Wish List for CHUM This Season

### CHUM Needs:

- Warm socks, lip balm and underwear (adults) - CHUM Shelter
- House slippers with nonskid soles - 37 women, 15 men - Steve O'Neil Apartments
- 52 Bus Passes - Steve O'Neil apartments
- A Holiday meal for 25 persons served sometime during the season - St. Francis Apartments
- Move In Cleaning Basket/Bucket for residents - St. Francis Apartments
- Holiday Hygiene Packet (14 males; 11 females) - St. Francis Apartments

### Suggested Hygiene Packet Contents

- Broom
- Mop
- Dish washing liquid
- Kitchen Towels
- Microwaveable Dish set for 2
- Household cleaner
- Laundry supplies
- Paper Towel,
- Toilet paper
- Kleenex

*Respectfully submitted by Deacon Pat*

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## New Christmas Floral Memorials

The Altar Guild is responsible for the Christmas season floral decorations with the poinsettias and greens. This is possible with the monetary donations given in memory of or in thanksgiving for loved ones. The names are printed in the Christmas bulletins and referred to during the services.

You can add a NEW name(s) to the listing by submitting the memorial name with your monetary donation to the Altar Guild **before December 15**. Contributions are

accepted in any amount with a suggested minimum of \$20, payable to St. Paul's Altar Guild with Floral Fund noted on the memo line. Please mail to the Parish Office.

Donors will be sent an acknowledgment and name listings with much appreciation. Thank you.

*Respectfully submitted by Joanne Marinac,  
Floral Memorial Coordinator*



## LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE –DECEMBER 2021

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

	December 5	December 12	December 19	December 26	January 2
ALTAR GUILD	K LEONARD	C CONRAD	J MARINAC	J JARNIS	K LEONARD
	S Cox	S Hall	J Elliott	D Kolquist	J Harvey
	J Harvey	S Hartley	A Gustafson	A Schliep	L Hultkrantz
	L Hultkrantz	A Sadowski	C Miller	R Ballou-Buck	
LECTOR	P Kruschke	N Diener	Z Stodola	S Stromquist	K Smith
LIVESTREAM	J Austin	J Austin	J Austin	D Clanaugh	R & H Lyle
USHERS	M & S Brown	R Lyle	D Morin	C & B Dinan	M & S Brown
	D Kolquist	P Waite	K Swanson	G Olson	D Kolquist
		M Gustafson	D Barthel	P Enenbach	
LOCK UP	C Fellman	G Maloney	D Pederson	T Diener	J Austin

### Altar Guild Other Duties for December:

#### **December Linens:**

E Killen, J Harvey; Sub: C Miller

#### **Dec Brass Cleaning:**

C Conrad, P Markert, J Sederberg, J Marinac;  
Brass Sub: C Miller

	4:00 pm, Christmas Eve, December 24	10:00 pm, Christmas Eve, December 24	10:00 am, Christmas Day, December 25
ALTAR GUILD	C CONRAD	C CONRAD	C CONRAD
	S Hall	S Hall	S Hall
	S Hartley	S Hartley	S Hartley
	A Sadowski	A Sadowski	A Sadowski
LECTOR	M Gustafson	J Pastor	P Kruschke
LIVESTREAM	D Clanaugh	D Clanaugh	R & H Lyle
USHERS	Volunteers needed!	Please call Parish Office	
LOCK UP	C Fellman	G Maloney	D Pederson



St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
1710 E. Superior St.  
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To receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, 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)

## Holiday Services

### Friday, December 24

- 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service with pageant
- 10:00 pm Christmas Eve service with candles and choir

### Saturday, December 25

- 10:00 am Christmas service

Please join us! Our presider will be The Rev. Rick Swenson for all three services.

