

THE MESSENGER

NOVEMBER, 2021

From Your Stewardship Committee

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Fall has arrived and we find the church in familiar, comforting activities. Activities like Rally Sunday, Blessing of the Animals, and All Saints Day, that tell us we are on the road to normalcy. The next familiar activity is the Stewardship campaign. Stewardship is a time for parishioners to prayerfully consider their financial commitment to the church. It is through these contributions that this church is able to continue God's work. As the Parish is making its financial commitment, the Vestry is anticipating the best use of these funds. How much money will be needed for utility bills and maintaining the building? What money will there be for hiring new staff, a sexton (building manager), a music director/organist and our next Rector? The final budget is determined once the tally of the financial pledges is made. As you can see, there are many needs for these contributions. Please pledge generously to help us meet the needs of our beloved church and the work that God calls us to do.

You should have received a cover letter and the pledge card in the mail mid-October. We are asking you to please complete the pledge card and return it to the Parish Office by November 17,

2021. You may place the pledge card in the offering plate, drop it by the Office, or mail it in. You may also consider pledging electronically by signing up at

www.stpaulsduluth.org

Thank you for your financial commitment as St. Paul's continues to move forward.



*Respectfully submitted by
your Stewardship Committee:*

Kathy Leonard, Chair

Joel Bamford, Lynnea Hultkrantz, and Angie Slattery

From Your Vestry

Greetings from your wardens and Vestry! October was a whirl of activity as we welcomed a parade of generous and engaging supply priests, blessed our four-legged companions, continued to highlight committee organization and action, interviewed candidates for Music Director and a new interim rector/priest-in-charge, called and commissioned a Rector Search Team, kicked off another annual stewardship campaign, and heard back from our consultant on the results of our Faith In Our Future meetings. And thanks to initiative taken by **Kathleen Smith**, we have a revived and revitalized Worship Committee tackling the planning and scheduling for our worship services to run smoothly and continue to expand.

I want to celebrate our Rector Search Team:

Paul Almirall
Mark Brown
Rebecca Butler
Nat Constance
Mary Dragich
Ryan Erspamer
Kathy Leonard
Terry Roberts
Amber Sadowski
Angie Shambour
Nelson Thomas

These fine people will be carrying our visions and priorities into their discernment process under the guidance of Canon Karen Olson, and leading St. Paul's journey into our future. And to answer the question on everyone's mind: it will take as long as it takes. But sometime in 2022, we will know who our next rector will be, and can turn our hearts towards welcoming them to our family!

This team has a bit of a head start on their work, as the Faith In Our Future meetings gave us insights and confirmations about who we are and what we value - so important for building the parish profile. And while there is general understanding that right now, the time is not ripe for initiating a capital campaign, this input also reverberates with the values championed by the Vestry when we began to undertake our

most critical building maintenance work. We also had a vision for building our outreach to and standing within our local community, and doing more to meet the most pressing needs of the day. We will continue to work on our outreach plan, and step into the next phase of a capital campaign feasibility study when we have a clearer target and more defined mission, beyond building maintenance.



Speaking of building stewardship, **Craig Fellman**, **Eirik Rennan** and I were the proud representatives of St. Paul's in accepting a restoration recognition plaque for our bell tower project from the Duluth



Preservation Alliance at their annual awards event! We also learned that night that St. Paul's is the most-recognized recipient from the Alliance, with this being the third time our beautiful stone church has been awarded. It speaks to the commitment of generations here at St. Paul's who have stepped up in turn to care for this sacred space.

I hope by the time I sit down to write for the December Messenger, we will have shared news about our new interim rector and a new permanent Music Director! In the meantime, my next round of recruiting will be for establishing a Communications Committee. Don't be surprised if you get a phone call...and please continue to be open to our invitations to be a part of renewing the energy and excitement at St. Paul's!

Peace,
Nancy Schuldt,
 Senior Warden

From Your Bookkeeper

Dear Parishioners,

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

September update of 2021 pledges:

Pledge income received in September 2021	\$ 25,474
YTD 2021 pledge income as of September 30, 2021	\$275,409
YTD budgeted pledge income as of September 30, 2021	\$269,994
Variance of actual to budget pledge income as of September 30, 2021	\$ 5,415



Actual Income over Expenses to date:

YTD income as of September 30, 2021	\$341,833
YTD expense as of September 30, 2021	<u>\$339,285</u>
YTD income over expense September 30, 2021	\$ 2,548
YTD <i>budgeted</i> income over expenses through September 30	\$ -19,923

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

Christine Melone,
Bookkeeper

From the Youth Faith Formation Team

The confirmation age and the middle school age members are meeting two Wednesdays a month, the first and third Wednesdays. The confirmation members go up to their meeting space, with Jason Butcher and Carol Andrews.



The middle school members take a moment to view a quick video, and then go outside to share their thoughts. They meet with Nat Constance and Amber Sadowski.

At this point the middle schoolers are gathering outside around a fire pit in the St. Paul's yard. We will use battery lights or candles. Perhaps, in the future, if it is okay, we will use firewood. The firepit has a name: we call her "Wild Woman Margaret" to inspire these wonderful middle schoolers to voice their ideas and insights.



Respectfully submitted by Natalie Constance

The Deacon's Stoop

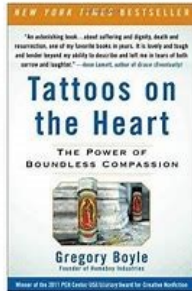


**Where true love is found,
God himself is there.**

—“*Ubi Caritas*” Medieval Hymn

On October 13th we read and discussed the preface and introduction of Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Bound-

less Compassion. This book is made up of a series of essays Fr. Gregory Boyle has compiled from his sermons over the years he worked with youth in Los Angeles, many of whom were members of gangs. It started with an alternative school, the Delores Mission Alternative, where “fights were daily occurrences and keeping staff was a challenge.” Father Boyle notes a shift that emerged in the parish attitude, where the doors were opened to all. He speaks of making disciples in the Christian Base Communities, primarily women, who “reflected on the gospel as it impacted their real lives” and of parish leaders who declared, “We help gang members at this parish because it is what Jesus would do.” In doing so, they developed relationship and discovered that what most of the gang members actually wanted was a job, and when that alternative was made available everything changed.



Homeboy Bakery was opened in 1992, the first of many small businesses collectively known as Homeboy Industries, where, in the words of Father Greg, “we only hire hoodlums.” Meet Luis, one of the biggest and savviest drug dealers in the community who firmly declined any job offer made by Father Greg for over a decade. He was smart, and never got



caught. But when his daughter was born he wanted a better life for her, and took a job at the bakery. He worked his way up to foreman, supervising former gang rivals. A few years later Father Greg visited Luis at home, and told him, “You’ve never had a home in your life – and now you have one. You did this. You were the biggest drug dealer in town, and you stopped and baked

bread instead. You did this. You’ve never had a father in your life – and now you are one.”

Luis was preparing for a camping trip with friends on the day he died. He was a random victim of a gang shooting. At his funeral, Father Greg was asked, “What’s the point of doing good...if this can happen to ya?” He responded, “I told a packed church that Luis was a human being who came to know the truth about himself, and liked what he found there.” Julian of Norwich described life as the struggle to discover that we are “clothed in God’s goodness.” Presiding Bishop Michael Curry speaks of listening to our own lives, to pay attention, to “journey into the holy and hidden heart of my own life” because life itself is grace. “And we can find peace and joy in our hearts in the interim, even as we carry on the struggle for a humane, just, and peaceful world ruled by love.” (Love is the Way). No bullet could destroy who Luis had become for his daughter, and also uncovered in himself.

“Being a Christian is not essentially about joining a church or being a nice person, but about following in the footsteps of Jesus, taking his teachings seriously, letting his Spirit take the lead in our lives, and in so doing helping to change the world from our nightmare into God’s dream.”

– Bishop Michael B. Curry,

Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus

Here at St. Paul’s we live in a city where 600 people have no place to lay their heads. I’m getting calls from people begging for our assistance with food, with gas, a bus ticket, shelter. St. Paul’s has responded to the needs of the community dating back to the founding of St Luke’s Hospital, refugee resettlement, and in collaboration with other congregations in CHUM and the Gabriel Fund, in Damiano Center, in Loaves and Fishes. You have not held yourselves separate from those in the neighborhood, but have moved among them, gotten to know them, shared a table together.

What does this outreach look like in 2021-2022? Covid has required creativity in how to engage in outreach ministry in ways that look like love, continuing to do whatever we can, where ever we can, when ever we can while also loving our neighbors through restricted contact to slow the spread of the virus. But the virus itself has increased the need, increased

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the calls for help. It has also increased the tension and stress, increased overdoses, increased suicide rates, increased domestic violence, increased financial pressure, evictions, triggering episodes of mental illness. This past summer the City of Duluth began enforcing an ordinance against tent encampments, while also complaining about the increased presence of people without homes hanging around downtown, none of whom could legally find a place of refuge. In mid October our Covid numbers looked like last March, and our local hospitals were sending patients to nursing homes just to find an available bed. A week later and our numbers are coming down again, but the fallout from this pandemic will be with us for a long time. People have lost jobs, businesses, homes. Federal funds to the states take a long time to trickle down, as legislators determine how best to allocate those funds. In the meantime, the need is so great. How can we respond? How would Jesus respond? The Rt. Rev. Craig Loya reminds us that you cannot give what you do not have:

“While the lingering pandemic, political divisions that continue to burn red hot, struggles to find the best ways to re-shape racist systems and structures, and the daily demands of family and professional life make everything feel so heavy and complex, the passage invites us to the simple clarity of abiding daily and deeply in God’s love, and bearing fruits of joy, justice, and life from that dwelling. In a world where all of us are tired from carrying so much, the passage is an invitation to remember we don’t carry it on our own, and that we can draw from the nourishing power of Jesus who is the true vine.

The best way to keep up and renew our strength, and guard against exhaustion and burnout, is to commit to rooting ourselves, day in and day out, in the vine who alone can sustain us. Whatever that practice is for you, guard it as you would your most precious possession. Commit to it over and

over again. We will only be of true use to God, we will only bear authentic and faithful fruits, and we will only keep up our strength, if we soften, and let go, and make spacious room for God’s love to grab hold of us, and through us, to embrace the hurting world around us.”

To join me in any of the following, please send a note with your interest to deacon@stpaulsduluth.org

- Wednesdays at noon for a zoom discussion of Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion
- November 9, 6:30 pm zoom: The Big Picture of Minnesota Housing: Stability and Affordability
- November 30, 6:30 pm zoom: Homelessness: Understanding Impact, Creating Opportunities
- December 14, 6:30 pm zoom: Racial Equity and Housing
- January 11, 6:30 pm zoom: Special Challenges and Opportunities for Inclusion
- February 8, 6:30 pm zoom: Legislative Solutions and Advocacy for the 2022 Session

Mother Teresa taught us that we can solve global problems if we each take care of those around us. As your deacon, I’m asking you to remain alert, become informed, respond to direct needs as you are able and advocate for policy change for a more just and compassionate community. As disciples, we are bound together by our commitment to follow the Way of Jesus, joining God in God’s project to heal the whole world with love. Abide in God’s love, and go forth into the world to love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Respectfully submitted,

Deacon Patricia Benson

Email: Deacon@stpaulsduluth.org

Phone: 218-724-3535

I’d like to start or join a group of stringed instrument players to learn in the coming dark of winter. I play a guitar at chord level, only with the sheet music in front of me. Please contact me, Joel Bamford, at joeltmbamford@icloud.com 218-390-9025.

COME AND SEE ...

We are becoming a new and *re-formed* church, the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement—individuals, small gathered communities and congregations whose way of life is the way of Jesus and his way of love, *no longer* centered on empire and establishment, *no longer* fixated on preserving institutions, *no longer* shoring up white supremacy or anything else that hurts or harms any child of God.

By God’s grace ...

... WE ARE BECOMING A CHURCH THAT LOOKS AND ACTS LIKE JESUS.

What does this *re-formation* look like in practice? We’ll know we’re moving forward when we ...

Center on Jesus Christ.

His teachings, his example, his Spirit, his way of love and his way of life are the key to having loving, liberating and life-giving relationships with God, our neighbors, all of creation, and ourselves.

Practice the selfless, self-giving way of the cross.

The way of “cruciform love”—Jesus’ act of unselfish, sacrificial, self-offering love, or losing one’s life in order to gain it—is our way to authentic life.

Unite around the practice of a rule of life in small gathered communities.

These kinds of groups—small circles of people who support each other in following Jesus with intention and accountability—are necessary for cultivating Christ-centered life.

Reclaim our Christian identity as a Spirit-driven, countercultural, underground movement.

We must break free of the church’s identification with domination systems, empire, establishment, privilege, and social and cultural traditions that have held us captive—and get back in touch with the risk-taking, liberating ways of Jesus.

Live and bear bold witness to the vision and values of Jesus.

We point to the reality of the kingdom (the peaceable reign) of God, and we seek to embody the beloved community, where each person strives for and celebrates the dignity and flourishing of every beloved child of God as much as we do for ourselves.

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE –NOVEMBER 2021

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

	November 7	November 14	November 21	November 28	December 7
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	Z Stodola	M Gustafson	J Pastor	S Stromquist	P Kruschke
LIVESTREAM	D Clanaugh	D Clanaugh	J Austin	J Austin	J Austin
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	D Pederson	J Austin	M Brown	T Diener	C Fellman
COFFEE HOUR	M Gustafson	Erspamer Family	R Silverness	Sub needed	French Family

Altar Guild Other Duties for November:

November Linens:

C Conrad, A Sadowski; Sub: C Miller

Nov/Dec Brass Cleaning:

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

Deadline for submissions to the
December issue of *The Messenger* is
8:00 am, Tuesday, November 16, 2021.

Please email items to:
office@stpaulsduluth.org

Save the Date!

Friday-Saturday, November 5-6: ECMN Convention, (virtual)

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

Tuesday, November 23, 7:00 pm: Thanksgiving Worship, at First Lutheran Church

Thursday-Friday, November 25-26: Parish Offices closed for Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 28, 10:00 am: First Sunday of Advent





St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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www.stpaulsduluth.org

Lost Treasures from the Archives

From the Duluth News Tribune, November 27, 1908

PAST OF PARISH CAUSE FOR PRIDE

Rev. Frank Coolbaugh Refers Feelingly to Splendid History of St. Paul's Church

At the union services of the Episcopal churches yesterday in which the congregations from St. Luke's, St. Peter's, Holy Apostles, and St. Paul's, took part at St. Paul's church, Rev. Frank Coolbaugh of Cloquet delivered the Thanksgiving sermon. He is the oldest minister in years and service in the Episcopal diocese, it being exactly 35 years since he preached his first sermon in St. Paul's church.

The text chosen for the day was "Let Everything That Hath Breath Praise the Lord." In concluding his sermon Mr. Coolbaugh referred to the history of

the church in Minnesota. "St. Paul's church has reasons to rejoice and be exceedingly glad today... I know something of your history. The first time I lifted my voice in divine services in this church was 35 years ago. Let me say that there is not a scrap of early history of the church of Minnesota to which St. Paul's parish is not more or less related."

"For almost 50 years this parish has stood on its rocky heights, a beacon light to the mariner on your inland sea and to the landsman along its shores. It was the representative of the church for long years from the Mississippi to Lake Superior, and was the only light shining in the darkness between Fond du Lac and the British dominions. To [all] it held aloft the cross of Christ. Brave and virtuous priests ever ministered at this altar, and a happy flock has ever fed of the bread of life at this communion rail."

Respectfully submitted by Bob Silverness