

THE MESSENGER

JULY, 2021

The Interim Rector's Corner



*O LORD, **how long** shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen? Or cry to you
"Violence!" and you will not save?*

Habakkuk 1:2

None of us could have imagined when the coronavirus first showed its' face in the state of Washington during January of 2020 how deeply it would impact our lives or that we would still be dealing with it today.

There has been so much loss over this past year and a half that it is incalculable: more than 603,000 deaths and 33,646,000 cases in the U.S. alone as of June 30. We all have experienced or know someone who has been ill or lost a loved one. We've been cut off and isolated from family, friends, and neighbors. We haven't been able to grieve the deaths of those we've lost or been able to celebrate their lives. Churches, synagogues, and other houses of worship shuttered their physical doors in an effort to keep their people safe. Some have lost their jobs. Businesses have been forced to close. Here at St. Paul's there was no face-to-face, personal way to say "good-bye" to a long-term rector and many beloved staff again and again. Why wouldn't we cry out, "How long, O Lord?"

Yes, there have been some silver linings. More people, including families, spent more time outside. Parents spent more time with their children, got involved in their education, and came to appreciate teachers. We embraced technology, and got pretty adept at it, in ways we hadn't imagined. We got creative and learned how to do things in different ways. Although we are tired of it, we've learned to give, worship, and hold meetings online. Grandparents learned how to Zoom or Facetime and actually see their grandchildren, who live far away, more often. Some have

even started reading to their grandkids weekly!

I've come to see the pandemic as one of those moments in history when everything changed in a moment and will never be the same again. Much like 9/11, when our lives were changed in an instant, as pilots took control of four planes and flew them into the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Life as we knew it would never be the same and our world would never operate the way it once did again. Similarly, with the coronavirus and its variants, there simply is no "going back" to the way things were before for so many things.

I have taken comfort in knowing that, while our outlooks, the world, and how we move in it have changed since 9/11, we have mostly done the psychological, emotional, and spiritual work necessary and transitioned into a new way of living, "with God's help" as we say in our Baptismal Covenant. I believe the same can be true post-COVID. I have felt God's presence through both the difficulties and opportunities the pandemic has presented, and I pray you have too.

Nevertheless, there is much loss, so I am beginning to plan a service of "Lament and Learnings" for this fall. During it we can mourn our losses and hold up what we've learned. Stay tuned to learn more. In the meantime, know that you are each in my regular prayers.

Elsewhere in *The Messenger* you will find the third in a series of articles to help you better understand clergy transition with a flow chart that shows where we are in the Transition and Search/Call 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 will be a little shorter than usual, as Eirik Rennan, our Jr. Warden, has written a broad overview of our work as a Vestry over the past many months and described our important next steps. Those next steps will involve, hopefully, all of *you* and your important per-

spectives on the future of St. Paul's parish. I encourage you to learn all you can about our plans for "Faith in Our Future", and to participate enthusiastically in the small group meetings that will be held over the next few months!

Our live and livestreamed services are gathering momentum; over the past month we've seen a new (summer-only) musician contributing to our worship, and a visit from diocesan staff offering support and ideas for rebuilding our Christian formation program.

And we have welcomed a new staff member to St. Paul's: **Christine Melone** begins work as our new parish bookkeeper on June 22! I believe it was divine intervention that she stopped by the church office one day this spring and mentioned to Rita that she had seen the job posting and was interested. She is eminently qualified for this work, and we are so happy to have her join the office team and manage the day-to-day work on parish finances. With **Becky Ballou-Buck** serving as Treasurer, we now have a strong foundation for stewardship of our resources.

Our next priority for personnel is to find an organist and choir director, and a part time staff member to support and coordinate Christian formation programming. Again, our goal is to have these positions filled by fall, as we

return to unrestricted gathering for worship, activities and fellowship. Filling these gaps will be important steps in our transition and search for a new permanent rector. We continue to work on rebuilding strong, functioning committees that are empowered to do the work and the lay ministries of the parish.

Even though we have more than enough on our plates as it is, we continue to ponder how the decisions we make today can shape our future in a positive and inclusive way. As an example, Vestry member **David Clanaugh** shared a thought-provoking online article recently (["The Hybrid Church": What Is It? Part 1 – The Living Church](#)) about the "hybrid church", recognizing that as COVID restrictions are being lifted, questions arise: Will churches return to solely in-person worship? Or will churches opt for online only? Or will a hybrid emerge that captures the essence of church and fills many needs? We are already a changed community, and this turning point is a clear opportunity to embrace our new "virtual" members and broaden the definition of "who is my community."

Please keep us in your prayers, and be thinking about how you, personally would respond to "What do we want St. Paul's to be, moving forward?"

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

Peace,
Nancy Schuldt,
Senior Warden

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

Please email items to:
office@stpaulsduluth.org

CHUM Rhubarb Festival

Thank you to all of St. Paul's for helping with the CHUM Rhubarb Festival! And please thank the local businesses that contributed greatly to the basket auction.

As I walked into stores to buy a \$20 gift certificate, business after business turned the \$20 into \$25, \$30, \$40, \$50, \$60.

Please mention your appreciation as you shop at

- 3rd Street Bakery
- Sammy's Pizza
- Marshall Hardware
- Yarn Harbor
- Hannah's Fabric
- New London Cafe
- Spooners
- Bent Paddle
- Duluth Grill
- OMC
- Corktown Deli and Brews



- Dovetail Cafe & Marketplace
- Duluth Pottery
- Duluth Coffee
- AICHO Indigenous First Art & Gift Shop
- Wussow's Concert Café
- Zenith Bookstore

With almost \$400 collected from St. Pauls, we contributed \$800 of certificates and merchandise to the CHUM Basket Auction. That \$400 will most likely become \$1000 as bidders purchase the baskets.

ACTS 24:3 And for this we are very, very grateful.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nat Constance*

Lake Superior Day—Sunday, July 18

It has been a long year plus. This year, more than ever, we need to get together and have a good time. So come celebrate our Great Lake Superior and enjoy each other's company. Meet on the front church lawn on July 18th for 10:00 am worship. We can sing with full voice outside! Bring your own lawn chair or picnic blanket. And bring a picnic lunch and stay after. Lemonade will be provided. We'll eat what we've

brought, reconnect, and talk up a storm. Families bring your kids. There will be games for children, teens and adventurous adults! Come on, we dare you! Unfortunately, local beaches are not available this year due to continuing pandemic related precautions.

Livestream Ministry Volunteers Needed

St. Paul's needs some volunteers to help with our livestreaming. No experience necessary. This would be an excellent opportunity for teens (i.e. confirmands) who need service hours. Open to anyone who is comfortable with computers. Would be responsible for occasionally directing the livestream for Sunday services, and would receive training prior. Volunteers can contact me directly at jaustin@d.umn.edu

*Respectfully submitted,
Jay Austin*

Middle School Faith Formation Update

The Middle Schoolers are continuing to meet through the summer. And through the summer we are welcoming parents, siblings, friends, neighbors, and you. We have no lesson plans, we have no theme, except to gather and have fun. That theme is very similar to what we did with our lesson plans through the past year.

We have played Frisbee Golf at UMD. We enjoyed hospitality at the Helstrom's new home.

We plan on meeting every other Wednesday. If you have a yard or beach to welcome us, please contact Amber Sadowski 218-393-6952 or Nat Constance 218-940-1366.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nat Constance*

The future of health begins with you



The *All of Us* Research Program is inviting one million people across the U.S. to help build one of the most diverse health databases in history. We welcome participants from all backgrounds. Researchers will use the data to learn how our biology, lifestyle, and environment affect health. This may one day help them find ways to treat and prevent disease. You will receive a map showing where from where your ancestors come. <https://participant.joinallofus.org/#/register>

*Respectfully submitted,
Joel Bamford*

Faith Milestones and More

Please contact the Parish Office to request/schedule a baptism, wedding, or funeral. On Saturday, August 21, 2021, the Bishop will visit St. Paul's for a service of Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation, at 2:00 pm. 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

From Your Vestry—Junior Warden Report



As Junior Warden, I would like to take the time to properly thank those who I like to call The World's Hardest Working Vestry. Usually in July, the Vestry takes the month off and re-charges for the fall. But since we have been

meeting twice a month since the pandemic started, not counting all the separate committee meetings and phone calls, I don't see us slowing down anytime soon. This is a very committed group that has great faith in our future.

You may have heard what we have been working on so far, such as:

- The bell tower tuck pointing project.
- Securing financing and hiring a capital campaign coordinator so that we may pay for the work but also build on our investment reserve and invest in outreach.
- Live streaming Sunday services and recording others.
- Implementing a safe church reopening after Covid.
- Currently, we are discussing church committee structure so that there is good communication to the staff, Vestry, and parish.
- We have hired a bookkeeper and we are working on music ministry and Christian Formation.
- We are updating our hiring policy and best practices. But as we look to replace previous staff who served St. Paul's so admirably, we are doing so with an eye to the future that meets our ministry needs, but in a way that is sustainable under our budget.

We all realize that the main concern from the parish is the rector search and where we are in the process. I am sure many wish we could just put off all the above and work solely on calling a permanent rector. Some remember the last two times we had a rector search and thought it went much quicker. It may have, but looking back on the past year, we know we have overcome unique obstacles. But what we have been working on so far helps to pave the way for us to attract the best possible candidates.

If we can initiate a capital campaign, demonstrate responsible stewardship of our 100-year-old building on our own, show initiative in helping our financial future and invest in outreach, have a sound and active committee infrastructure with healthy participation, care for each other through a safe reopening, hire a great staff dedicated to supporting our music and Christian Formation, then all this work will bring us another great rector like we have always come to expect and embolden us to do God's work in our community.

Very soon, you are going to hear of invitations to participate in small group meetings to discuss our future. Please attend! The Vestry has worked hard to get to this point, and recruited a strong campaign team so that it is not only our small group deciding what lies ahead, but all of us together.

Your Vestry members are: Carol Andrews, Joel Bamford, Leslie Brunfelt, Rebecca Butler, David Clanaugh, Judy Harvey, Mary Helf, Rick Lyle, Gary Olson, Jim Ransom, Bob Silverness, Angie Slattery, Cris Levenduski - Clerk, Becky Ballou-Buck - Treasurer, Eirik Rennan - Junior Warden, and Nancy Schuldt - Senior Warden

*Respectfully submitted,
Eirik Rennan, Junior Warden*

Understanding Clergy Transition – part 3



This is the fourth in a series of articles that will help you understand clergy transition. These articles are “tattled” from the Vestry Leadership Guide, published by ECF, which the vestry is currently reading. Some of the original text may be changed to reflect the process in the Episcopal Church in Minnesota (ECMN). If you have missed some of the previously published articles on “Understanding Clergy Transition,” you can find them in previous “Messengers” on the website.

Lay & Clergy Responsibilities during Clergy Transition

During the search for a new rector, the vestry, wardens, and interim clergy manage the daily life and worship of the church, care for its people, and prepare for the next clergy leader. Here are some of the ways the vestry, working with the wardens and interim priest, can help the congregation make its way through a clergy transition.

It is essential to continue paying careful attention to what you’ve been doing all along. The responsibilities of the vestry and wardens: (ongoing discernment of God’s call, raising up new leaders, and care for stewardship and development of the church’s resources) are perhaps even more important during this time.

If there is grief, anger, or conflict in the congregation’s history, vestry members need to be part of the healing process. Support efforts to help your faith community let go of the past. Participate in what is offered; strive to be a visible and hopeful presence.

Interim clergy and lay leaders walk a fine line between

reassuring the congregation that what they love about the church will remain and encouraging members to be open to the possibilities that change can bring. Small adjustments to worship and programming, help prepare the way for the new rector, and may help members see the positive aspects of change.

Likewise, remember that stability matters to the congregation in transition. Now is not the time to lower or stop your pledge or support of your church, or to wait to pledge until you see who the new rector is. Remember this is your church; interims and rectors come and go. You will remain and it is important to support the church you love. Rector candidates are attracted to churches that demonstrate committed financial giving and active lay participation and ministry. It is important to remember that rector candidates have many choices before them to choose from. Use the transition time to your benefit.

The transition period is a good time to look at your organizational structure and committees, to review the church’s bylaws, policies, and staffing. Update what is outdated or not working and fix whatever you can. St. Paul’s vestry is undertaking all these things, as well as addressing deferred maintenance of the building and planning for a Capital Campaign.

Care for each other. Listen and speak directly to your vestry and interim. They will have the answers. “Murmuring,” like the Israelites, is not helpful and may, unintentionally, be the cause of misinformation. Your leaders are doing their best to be diligent and transparent in their work for you. Let them care for you, too. Keep prayer, corporate and private, a priority.

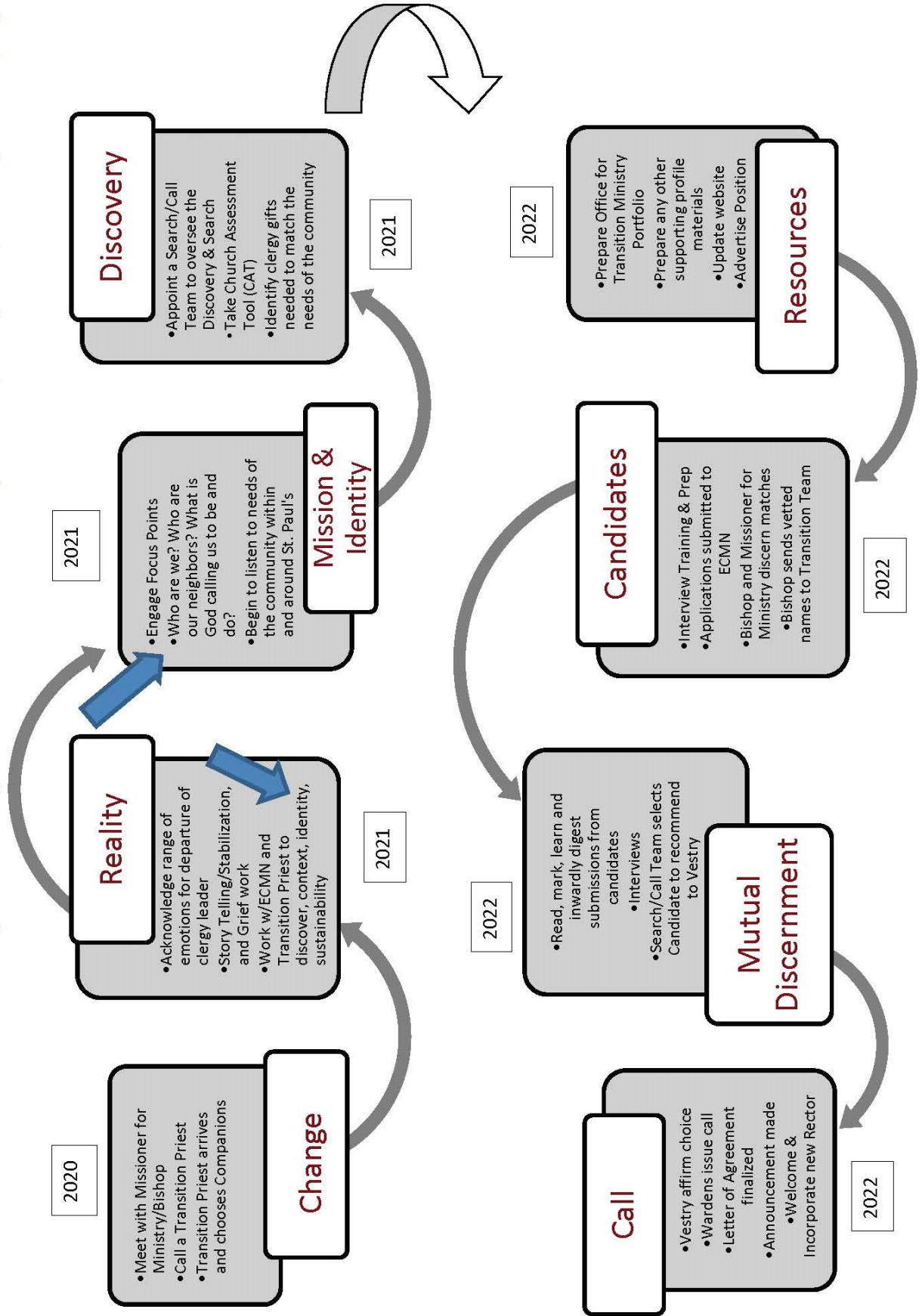
Prayerfully yours,

Mother Debra+

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Transition – St. Paul’s, Duluth

Blue arrows show where we are in process. Diagram takes into account: the pandemic, vestry work, and Capital Campaign.



Faith In Our Future Opportunities are Almost Here!

St. Paul's is quickly moving forward towards our future! To support our Vestry's work during our transition to a new rector as well as tending to pressing needs at St. Paul's, we are asking for your input about what our faith community values and what we hope for our future. We invite you to participate in discussing "**Faith in Our Future**" this summer.

We are organizing and scheduling these *Faith in Our Future* opportunities for small groups of us to gather and share our thoughts, feelings, and stories about what we treasure at St. Paul's and what we wish to see going forward. Several of your fellow parishioners are opening their homes for small gatherings of 8-10 people. There will also be **Faith in Our Future** get-togethers held at St. Paul's.

Because so many Vestry members and others have agreed to host **Faith in Our Future** sessions there will be ample opportunity for you to find a group to join. The sessions

will be held during July and August.

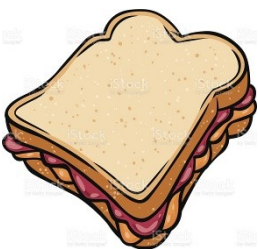
Once the sessions for July have been finalized, we will be posting the host's name, the date and time, as well as the location for each **Faith in Our Future** session scheduled. You will be able to find these postings at church and on St. Paul's website. We will continue to post new **Faith in Our Future** sessions as they are scheduled.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate, so please watch for more details coming about how you can select the **Faith in Our Future** session you wish to attend. Know that we will also be making accommodations for those who cannot attend any of the scheduled sessions.

*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 summer are all Wednesdays —July 7 and July 21, 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”

Office angels: Greet visitors and answer the phone during regular business hours, 9 am to 12 noon. Choose your day each week! Contact Rita at 218-724-3535 or office@stpaulsduluth.org

Messenger mailers: fold and prepare the Messenger and other mailings as needed. Contact Rita at 218-724-3535 or office@stpaulsduluth.org

Livestream camera operators: we have the bugs worked out and are ready to train others to operate the live streaming cameras for Sunday morning worship. It’s not hard and it’s fun! Contact Jay at jaustin@d.umn.edu

Musician: Yes, we are working on finding a permanent Organist/Choir Director. In the meantime, we are looking for individuals to play the piano, organ, or other instrument for Sunday worship. Dates to fill: August 1 and August 29. Contact Nancy Schuldt at ncosta2799@charter.net

Christian formation teachers: 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 will be provided. Are creative crafts more your thing or leading our youth in Mission? Would you rather assist? We need you, too! Sign up for a one-time event, a month or two here and there, substitute, or the whole year. This ministry is rewarding

and you’ll grow in spirit. Contact Joanne Erspamer at joanneerspamer@gmail.com

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

Ushers: provide a welcome to all who attend Sunday services, help everyone find a seat, etc. Training provided. Please contact Diane Kolquist at dianekolquist55804@gmail.com



Another Surgery for Mother Debra

Mother Debra will be having another surgery on July 7th. She does not have additional cancer. Her out-patient procedure is a post mastectomy excision of excess subcutaneous tissue that is painful for her. A resection may be necessary for a wide variety of reasons, including the need to remove tissue that was not previously removed or tissue that has developed after surgery.

Clergy will be on call for emergencies, including for end of life, and deaths. Please call the church office and leave a message with Rita. On July 11, Deacon Pat will lead Morning Prayer and Vestry member David Clanaugh will provide the morning message.

The Lord's Prayer: Traditional and Common Language Versions & How It Has Changed Over Time

Lately we have been using the “contemporary” version of The Lord’s Prayer. Why?

Lately we have been using the *Common Language* forms of Morning Prayer and the Eucharistic service partially to stay within the parameters of succinct timed worship, especially as we regather for worship. Both are *Common Language* or “contemporary” services.

In 1979 (now 42 years ago!) the *Common Language* version of the Lord's Prayer was added to the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Rather than just replacing the form that many of us are so fond of, it was left as a form of compromise. The liturgical scholars expected that over time, the “new” form would become the standard for worship.

The Anglican (Episcopal) Church, from its very beginning, sought to offer the liturgy in the *common language* of the people (thus, “Common Prayer”). No more Latin, but English, even though the liturgy was brought to England in Latin! The *common language* for The Lord's Prayer that the first Anglican services used was what they found in their Bibles at the time: “Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

Throughout the years, the church reviewed the order of the service, and the language used in the liturgy including The Lord's Prayer. One of those times, “trespasses” and “trespass against us” were chosen to replace “debts” and “debtors,” in an effort to bring the text into the *common language* of the day.

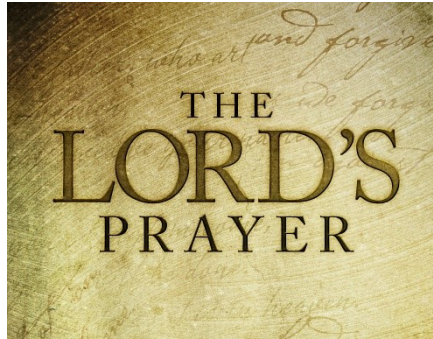
This was the idea behind the 1979 BCP, to once again, set our liturgy in the *common language* of the people, while also being true to the ancient forms of liturgy found in the early church. The best of the Liturgical Scholars of our church went back to the original language that Jesus’ “teaching prayer” was written and

found that the truest meaning was “sins.” Jesus talked a lot about “sins.” This was a win-win for the scholars, as sin is not only consistent with the ancient text, but also is a word in our *common language*, where trespass is no longer. “Sin” is also a word that the unchurched, young families, and children understand. These are the people we seek to pass our great faith on to.

Additional Eucharistic settings have been added to those authorized in our church, some of which St. Paul's has experienced and others that have not. They are geared to the *common language* of the day. Your new rector will have the full authority to select from a great variety of services to use. S/he may choose to use one of these *common language* services as a way of reaching the unchurched, young families, and children. We will do some more experimenting as we go along, but not all the time.

Throughout the summer we will be using Rite II Eucharistic Prayers, Forms A & C from the 1979 BCP and the more familiar Lord's Prayer. In September we will worship using Rite One on the first Sunday of the month. There will be other occasional services that lend themselves to more contemporary rites and the *common language* Lord's Prayer, like Lake Superior Day!

Prayerfully yours,
Mother Debra+



Lost Treasures from the Archives...

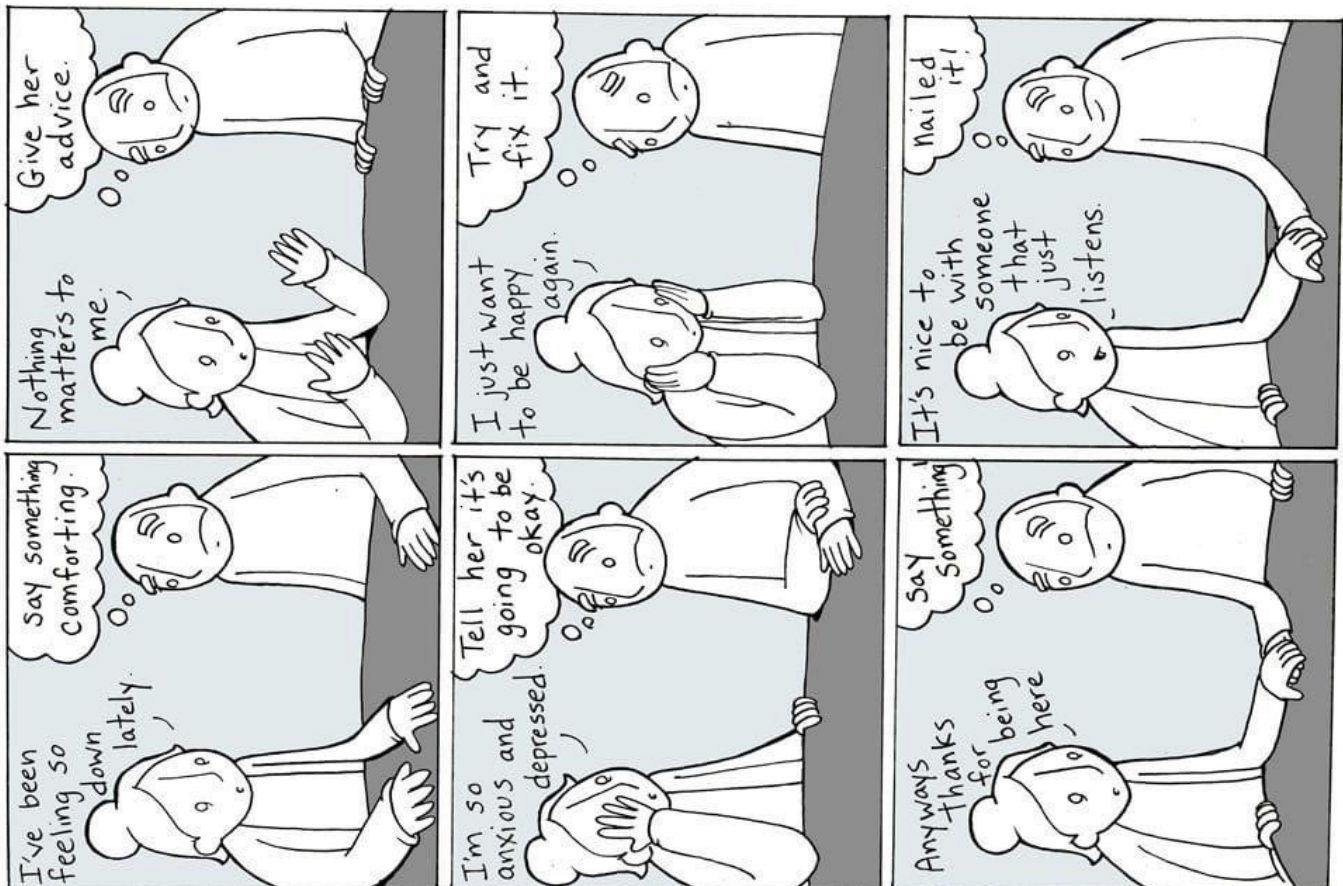
From the Duluth News Tribune, November 21, 1916

Never Had a Bell.

Rev. A. W. Ryan, who has been pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal church for the past 23 years, said that not even during his residence here had his church had a bell.

"They did have in the old church some time before I came to the city," he said. "But a bell was not deemed necessary in the new edifice, and we have never felt the need of one. The manner in which Duluth is built has, I think, had a great deal to do with this fact. The real use of a bell is to call the congregation to services. In Duluth this would be impractical because of the scattered condition of the homes. Of course, I should favor the installation of a set of chimes. They are very appropriate and beautiful."

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Silverness



The Deacon's Stoop



Welcome back!

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1

Oh, how good it is to see so many of you gathered again at St. Paul's! I've met some of you on Zoom, and am grateful it has carried us through

this pandemic. But I've met so many more of you in person, have experienced your gracious welcome, have come to know you a bit through our contact on Sunday mornings, or chance meetings during the week. It makes my heart glad to be with you!

And yet....

While many of us celebrate together, our numbers now are yet so few. From pre-Covid days, we have come back together at about 30%. I long to meet the rest of St. Paul's, to meet you at Wednesday night church, to sit at table with you during coffee hour, and imagine my desire doesn't hold a candle to the longings you must experience as you search for familiar faces. Like coming out of a fast, we hunger but must begin slowly this return to safe and healthy community gatherings.

You have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting.

A Prayer of St Chrysostom



Amber Sadowski told me about a small group she experienced for several years at St. Paul's. It was multi-generational, met once a month, involved a meal, and members took turns hosting it. Amber treasured this experience of a smaller gathering within

the church community, and asked if we could start them up again. This sounds to me like the early Church as described in Acts, small groups of believers coming together to know and love each other, to share meals and joys and concerns with people who care and will pray for you and beside you on this journey of life!

CDC guidelines are to begin gathering and start small. I checked with ECMN to learn what we might consider to safely offer this during Covid, and Rachel Babbitt offered the following:

- ♦ *Communication if someone tests positive,*
- ♦ *Expectations if folks are NOT vaccinated and they have come into contact with some with COVID,*
- ♦ *Masking*
- ♦ *Distancing*

Addressing all of this ahead of time and then providing these clear expectations can help once people start participating.

This morning our county Covid rate is 1.3%, and Duluth metro is 1.7%. We came through Memorial Day gatherings without a spike, and Duluth is 56% vaccinated. While the vaccine has become available to all adults and expanded to include some youth, there are still young children and others who do not have protection against the virus. But an outdoor gathering in a small group setting with a shared picnic meal that includes shared *company* but a bring-your-own food and beverage picnic is a safe way to get started! Contact me if you would like to join or host a small group gathering – deacon@stpaulsduluth.org.

BeFrienders is coming to St. Paul's!



Your leadership team has formed and completed 32 hours of training with the national BeFriender Ministry director, and we are ready to take this to the next step! Nat Constance and Brad Brunfelt have joined me to become co-ordinators at St. Paul's. Mother Debra has been inviting you for weeks to think about who you know that might be a

good BeFriender, and we have compiled quite a list of names! The people who have been suggested will receive a letter of invitation in July. If you feel an urging from the Holy Spirit to inquire into this, please contact one of us. Here's what we want you to know:

- Responding to this invitation to *discernment* means you would like to learn more, to come to a small group information meeting where you can raise questions and explore what a commitment involves in terms of training and time. Vocation is often described as the place where your greatest passion meets the world's greatest needs. Spiritual discernment in BeFrienders involves asking the Holy Spirit to guide us into awareness of finding the right "fit" as each of us live out our baptismal covenant in how we spend the time allotted to us.
- ALL are welcome to experience the training, which we've found helps us in

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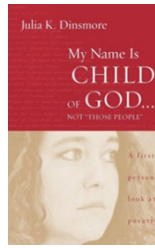
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communication in work and personal relationships as well as ministry. Participating in the training does not necessarily mean you are committing to the BeFriender team. It will help you to discern whether this is a way you are called to serve the community of St. Paul's.

- There are two ways we envision BeFrienders at St. Paul's, and you can do either or both:
 1. Serve on the pastoral care team and offer a caring, non-judgmental, listening presence to people going through transition or needing a safe place to share what's happening in life. It can stem from struggling with a demanding toddler to an empty nest, job gain or job loss, loneliness or the demands of a crazy busy schedule. BeFrienders is *not* counseling, and any deeper needs you might uncover are referred to clergy who may refer to professional caregivers as appropriate. Team members commit to an hour a week to BeFriend someone for a specific period of time, and make an annual commitment.
 2. Participating in a small group gathering as a BeFriender involves a level of awareness of the needs that arise in the group and (with permission of those involved) to bring needs to the pastoral care team or clergy as appropriate. Often in life we just need someone to listen to our story, and active listening involves asking questions not to satisfy my own curiosity, but to help *you* to reach clarity in the situation. Within the small group gatherings, having a BeFriender present can support the people of St. Paul's and enable us to provide greater care when and where it is needed. Team members commit to two hours per month during the small group gathering.

Save the date! Author Julia Dinsmore will Zoom into our book club gathering on Monday, August 2nd at 7 pm. Join us in the book study and discussion with the au-

thor, either in person in the Parish Hall or contact me for the Zoom link.



We are reading Julia's book, [My Name is Child of God, Not "Those People" A First Person Look at Poverty](#). Join us Mondays at 7 pm.

This book is a series of poems and stories, and you can come for one or all of the discussions because each section stands alone. We meet in-person at St. Paul's, use the McGiffert entrance and knock on the inner door for access. I hope to see you there!

So much gratitude!

I'm struggling to find the words to express how deeply grateful I am to you, the people of St. Paul's, for the warmest of welcomes, the immediate responsiveness, the notes and calls and smiles I've experienced here. An announcement about Rhubarb Festival during the service and suddenly I'm holding over \$100 in cash following the service. A request for BeFrienders and I have a *nomination list of 66 people* your community thinks would be a great fit for this team. People calling to let us know someone is in need of pastoral care. People cheerfully introducing themselves to me time and again as I begin to connect names with faces, people with life stories and family connections and events. Just in case you haven't heard it lately, you are beloved of God and you are AMAZING!!

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1

Respectfully submitted,

Deacon Patricia Benson

Email: Deacon@stpaulsduluth.org

Phone: 218-724-3535

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Inquirer's Class: (Episcopal 101)

Are you curious about Episcopal liturgy, beliefs, or tradition? Are you feeling called to create a deeper commitment with God? Maybe you are new to Christianity and curious about what makes this spiritual way of being in the world unique. If so, this series may be for you. *Inquirer's Class (aka Episcopal 101)* is especially designed for newcomers, seekers, and those who want to buff up on what's unique about being an Episcopalian.

It is also a way to make lasting connections within our community, share some of your own journey, and learn more about the faith and tradition of the Episcopal Church and the community life here at St. Paul's.

No matter where you are on your journey, consider attending this multi-week series, facilitated by parishioner, Liza Anderson, as she explores the basics of the Christian faith through the Episcopal lens. Whether you are new to St. Paul's, or just interested in sharing and learning, you are welcome!

The series will begin on Wednesday, July 7 and continues each Wednesday evening weekly through July 28 from 6:30–7:30 pm in the Parish Hall and via Zoom.

After completing the series, many people often decide to receive the sacrament of baptism or be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church or renew their vows taken long ago. Others take the class just to learn and refresh. All are welcome, wherever you are on your journey! Interested? Contact Rita in the church office to register at 218-724-3535 or office@stpaulsduluth.org.

Format:

- **Read:** *What Episcopalians Believe: An Introduction* by Samuel Wells
- **Watch:** Short video lectures will be provided each week.

Discuss: Group discussion on Wednesday nights from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. (Hybrid option available.)

July 7: The Faith

- *What Episcopalians Believe: An Introduction* by Samuel Wells chapter 1

Topics: Believing and belonging, the Creed, the Trinity, Christ, the church

July 14: The Sources of the Faith

- *What Episcopalians Believe: An Introduction* by Samuel Wells chapter 2

Topics: Anglican/Episcopal theology: Scripture, Tradition, Reason, (Experience?)

July 21: The Order of the Faith

- *What Episcopalians Believe: An Introduction* by Samuel Wells chapter 3

Topics: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Ministry

July 28: The Character of the Faith

- *What Episcopalians Believe: An Introduction* by Samuel Wells chapter 4

Topics: Anglican/Episcopal church history, the Book of Common Prayer



About the instructor: Liza Anderson received her PhD in theology from Yale University in 2016 and has taught historical theology and spirituality at several seminaries and colleges. She has been an Episcopalian since her baptism as a col-

lege student, and now serves the Episcopal Church in a variety of lay leadership roles, including the Executive Council (board of directors), Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, and General Board of Examining Chaplains. She has been at St. Paul's since 2019, but will soon be moving to Collegetown, MN to be a resident scholar of the Collegetown Institute. You can reach Liza with any questions at

liza.anderson@gmail.com

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE –JULY 2021

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

	July 4	July 11	July 18	July 25	August 1
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	M Gustafson	N Diener	N Diener, Z Stodola	K Smith	S Stromquist
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	C Fellman	J Austin	M Brown	C Fellman	G Maloney
LEMONADE		L & B Brunfelt	Erspamer Family		M Helf

Altar Guild Other Duties for July:

July Linens:

L Hultkrantz, Z Stodola; Subs: C Conrad, C Miller

July/August Brass Cleaning:

C Miller, S Hall, K Buck, M Fegley

Welcome Christine Melone, Bookkeeper

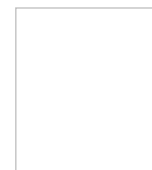


We have a new staff member, Christine Melone, who will serve as our bookkeeper. Christine recently moved from Illinois, where she worshiped at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Barrington Hills. Christine has worked and volunteered for numerous for-profit and not-for-

profit businesses over the years, balancing budgets, preparing financial reports, and more. Christine also served in a variety of leadership positions at her recent church, including senior warden and treasurer. Christine and her husband now live in Duluth and their adult children live in upstate New York. You can reach Christine at 218-724-3535 or bookkeeper@stpaulsduluth.org.

As part of the transition, St. Paul's Vestry is looking at each staff position and asking the questions: "How else might this work be accomplished? Would this be financially beneficial to St. Paul's? In what ways could this change provide more volunteer opportunities for our members?" Christine will be doing many of the things which Natalie did as treasurer, but not all. Some have been outsourced and others will be accomplished by the newly elected Vestry treasurer, Rebecca Ballou-Buck. Most Episcopal churches have four officers: senior and junior warden, clerk/secretary, and treasurer. Having a volunteer treasurer as an officer is not new to St. Paul's. In fact, for most of the last 150+ years we've had one!

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



Save the Date!

July 18: Lake Superior Day Celebration – 10:00 am on the church front lawn

August 21: Bishop's Visitation & Confirmation – 2:00 pm

It's a Saturday and 13 St. Paul's youth will be confirmed; don't miss it!

August 29: Guest Priest, Ken Toven+

September 5: Guest Priest, Carolyn Schmidt+

September 12: Rally Day, Backpack Blessing & more!

September 26: Guest Preacher, John Cole, CHUM's new Executive Director