

# THE MESSENGER

JUNE, 2020

## Phases of Re-Gathering

On Thursday, May 14, we received directives from our bishop on the anticipated phases of regathering for churches. At this time, we are in Phase 1.5 (of 5). You can find the whole plan at: <https://episcopalmn.org/covid19-response>

Here's a summary of our current phase 1.5:

- Groups of 10 or fewer individuals may return to faith community buildings to film or live-stream services, as long as appropriate physical distancing is maintained.
- Weddings and funerals that cannot be postponed may take place outdoors, as long as they are gatherings of 10 people or less and follow the physical distancing and the wearing of masks.
- Those who are sick, those who have underlying health conditions, and those who are over the age of 65 should not re-gather in any form or fashion during this phase.
- All other groups and gatherings continue to be suspended until further notice.
- It is very likely that we will remain in this phase for quite some time.
- ECMN summer camping programs will be exclusively on-line.

This means very little will change at St. Paul's. We will continue to record the Sunday service and other offerings. Staff will work from home as much as possible. Meetings will be held on-line.

Our bishop went on to say this:

"While this season comes with great difficulty, it also comes with great opportunity to consider what the Holy Spirit is teaching us about how we sustain a life of common prayer, how we care for one another, and how we bear witness to the gospel in the world."

As church, we need to be mindful that we are called to have a Christian response to this pandemic. This means that we are always mindful of the common good, considering what is best not only for ourselves,

but for others. As I watched our neighbors to the east filling taverns and lifting a glass to cheer with unmasked faces when Wisconsin opened up, I was thinking that we must remember that our personal freedom is always subject to, and constrained by, the common good. We must always be mindful of the welfare of others.

You cannot shout "fire" in a crowded movie theater (even though we have freedom of speech). You cannot drive any speed you want (even though you might feel you are able to do so safely). You are required to have your children immunized and to pay taxes. Young women and men can be compelled to serve in the military. Our personal freedom has limits...

As the church, as Christians, we need to be setting an example for the rest of the world to follow when it comes to this pandemic and following practices that keep our neighbors safe. As folks have said over and over: staying home is loving our neighbor.

Our bishop concluded his message with this thought:

*"What is being is asked of all of us is hard, and this is a long journey. We take heart knowing we walk this road together, and in this season of Easter, that we are always held by a God whose loving embrace cannot be broken by the powers of darkness and death that so often surround us. Let us not forget that in good times and bad times, in joy and in sorrow, in life and in death, we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."*

—Rt. Rev. Brian Prior

Be Safe and Well,  
Bill Van Oss, Rector

# From ECMN: How to Participate in the Consecration of our Next Bishop

Check the ECMN webpage at <https://mnbishopsearch.org/consecration/> for some ways to participate in the consecration both now and on June 6.



We're all mourning not being able to be together on this momentous day. With that in mind, we've tried to get creative about how we can express our message of welcome to Bishop-elect Loya and feel connected to each other in the process. Here are a few ideas:

## Send the Bishop-elect a Note

We're gathering notes to be sent to Bishop-elect Loya in a creative and tangible form. Please take a few minutes and submit a short thought, hope, or prayer that you would offer to the Bishop-elect as he begins his Episcopate here in ECMN. Use the link found on the Consecration webpage above.

## Pass the Peace Videos

Please send us a video of you and anyone in your household 'passing the peace'. We'll edit these together and share them in the livestream during consecration.

If you are recording using a phone, please hold it 'landscape.' By uploading a video, you are authorizing ECMN to post it, together with other submitted videos, online on the consecration livestream.

## Send us Music for the Postlude

The Consecration and Ordination service would normally have featured a beautiful and diverse set of musical offerings from across ECMN. Because we can't gather in person, we're asking you to send us recordings of music from your faith community or ECMN affiliate organization that you'd like to share with the bishop-elect and with all of ECMN. We will take bits and pieces of these offerings and weave them together in a video that will be shared in the livestream of the consecration service during the postlude.

If you have a digital file of this recording, you can upload it. If you have a URL of a recording that can be downloaded, please email it to [kelsey.s@episcopalmn.org](mailto:kelsey.s@episcopalmn.org) with the subject line: Postlude

## Send us a picture of your Watch Party

Having photos of your beautiful faces would have been a great take-away from consecration. In lieu of being able to see any of you, please take a minute to take a picture of whatever your 'watch party' looks like on June 6th and send it to us at [news@episcopalmn.org](mailto:news@episcopalmn.org).

By sending us a photo, you are authorizing ECMN to post it, together with other submitted photos, online on the consecration livestream and social media.

## St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff Directory Phone: 218-724-3535

### Clergy

The Rev. William Van Oss, Rector  
The Rev. Dr. Barbara Elliott, Assisting Priest  
The Rev. Margaret W. Thomas, Priest Emerita

[billvanoss@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:billvanoss@stpaulsduluth.org)  
[belliottd@d.umn.edu](mailto:belliottd@d.umn.edu)  
[tmsnelmw@cpinternet.com](mailto:tmsnelmw@cpinternet.com)

### Parish Staff

Dr. Tom Hamilton, Director of Music  
Rita Rosenberger Parish Secretary  
Natalie Smith, Parish Treasurer  
Sue Van Oss, Director of Christian Formation

[tomhamilton@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:tomhamilton@stpaulsduluth.org)  
[office@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:office@stpaulsduluth.org)  
[natalie@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:natalie@stpaulsduluth.org)  
[suevanoss@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:suevanoss@stpaulsduluth.org)

## From the Rector



Messages from me are sent out via email every Monday and posted on our website and Facebook page at 9:00 am. You can join me live Mondays at 9:00 am. If you aren't receiving the emails, please send your email address to [office@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:office@stpaulsduluth.org).

Here are some highlights from my messages:

Please note that our Weekend service is available Saturdays at noon, both on our website and YouTube. It premieres Sunday at 10:00 am on Facebook.

- \* Sunday 10 am Worship on Facebook and on the website, followed by Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom
- \* Monday Message from me at 9 am on Facebook and website
- \* Tuesday – Bible Study at 9 am via Zoom
- \* Wednesday – Morning Prayer at 9 am on Facebook
- \* Thursday – Compline at 9 pm via Zoom or Facebook
- \* Friday – “St. Paul’s Sings” at 9 am on Facebook
- \* Saturday – Community Connections 9 am on Facebook Live, Sunday service is available anytime after noon on our website and YouTube.

Thank you for your **ongoing giving** to St. Paul’s! You can give by sending in a check, online, through bill pay at your bank or by texting “give” to 218-394-3535

If you are a frontline worker and you’d like us to **pray for you** by name, please let us know. You’ll be prayed for during the prayers of the people.

Please let us know if you need a **mask** or other **essentials** like groceries, prescriptions, etc. We have volunteers willing to make deliveries.

### Bishop Loya Ordination and Consecration

The Ordination and Consecration of the Very Rev. Craig Loya as the 10th Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota will take place at 10 am on Saturday, June 6. Please see page 2 for ways to virtually represent Duluth at the Consecration.

You are invited to join virtually to celebrate this new ministry and new chapter in the life of ECMN. The livestream for the service can be found at [mnbishopsearch.org/consecration](http://mnbishopsearch.org/consecration), or on the [ECMN Facebook page](#) on June 6. An in-person Celebration of New Ministry will be planned for a future date when it is safe to gather again.

On Sunday, June 7, we will **not** be having our regular recorded Sunday service. Instead, we will have Bishop Loya’s ordination service and the link to Washington National Cathedral available on our website. There will not be Zoom coffee hour on June 7. Then...

### June 21 – Bishop Loya will be with us!

On Sunday, June 21, Bishop Craig Loya will deliver the sermon during our online service. He will then join us for Zoom coffee hour immediately following the service. Make plans now to be part of this special opportunity to meet our new bishop.

*Peace & Blessings,  
Bill*

Deadline for submissions to the July  
issue of *The Messenger* is  
8:00 am, Monday, June 22, 2020.  
Please email items to:  
[office@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:office@stpaulsduluth.org)

## From Rev. Margaret



May 19

Our governor has designated the 19th as a monthly day to fly all flags at half mast in memory of those who died in this pandemic.

Today is sunny and breezy. The fire danger is acute. We need rain.

An ore boat is headed into the choppy waves. Lake levels are extremely high and shore erosion continues along the Scenic 61 where the Grandmas' Marathon usually runs. There are now several acute cliffs biting into the pavement and bike trail. This spring season has usual and unusual portents ahead.

Human cultures seem to organize life around themes and events commemorating time passing. The lunar movements are often natural markers.

Islam's Ramadan ends with the close of this phase. Next year the whole cycle advances by one phase. For Christian and Jewish folk Passover and Easter depend on Full moon and Equinox phases. For Ojibway people the moons are named on the natural events of plants and animals. We are about to enter into the Strawberry moon, followed by the Raspberry and Blueberry moons.

The Episcopal Church in Minnesota is about to enter a new season with a new bishop. We have rituals of hopes and dreams, for us, and for him and his family. We will all face both usual and unusual times. May we trust our Creator and stay hopeful and faithful.

*Faithfully,*

*Margaret Warren Thomas,  
Priest Emerita*

## Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial

*A truth that is hard to speak, but one we know must be spoken*



These words are engraved at the lynching site memorial on the corner of East First Street and North Second Avenue East.

A wide variety of events was planned to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the June 15 lynchings. The events are now delayed until 2021. We can still take time on June 15, 2020 to look back at June 15, 1920. On that day Elias, Elmer and Isaac were falsely accused and jailed. A mob of Duluthians broke into the jail and lynched the three young men.

To know more about that day, you can reference:

- [www.claytonjacksonmcghie.org](http://www.claytonjacksonmcghie.org)
- [The Lynchings in Duluth](#), a book by Michael Fedo,
- The Duluth News-Tribune six-part podcast available at [www.duluthnewstribune.com](http://www.duluthnewstribune.com)

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Nat Constance*

## Evening Bible Study



The Evening Bible Study group is continuing to meet using zoom. Our group has been discussing Marcus Borg's Reading the Bible Again for the First Time. We will finish our reading and conversations about the book at our upcoming session. Bring your ideas for our continuing readings (and your calendar) with you, too.

The date for our next meeting via Zoom is **June 9**, 6:30-8:00 pm—you are welcome to join us! I will email the electronic email connection information on that Tuesday—you will just need to click on it to join in (like our other zoom invitations for services). If you don't get it, email me so I can invite you!

Call the office to learn about the sessions or email me about it ([belliott@d.umn.edu](mailto:belliott@d.umn.edu)).

*God's blessings... --Reverend Barb*

## From Your Vestry

Greetings from your safe-at-home wardens and vestry! This past week we held our monthly vestry meeting via Zoom again. We continue to note concerns about being under budget for income without the weekly plate collections, but our online (and now text!) giving has seen the highest ever totals in March and April of this year, since we began that option. We approved a service contract with Buffy Helstrom to provide weekly cleaning and sanitizing of the building spaces being used by staff, as COVID-19 gathering restrictions have not changed our protocols yet for building access. Natalie's application for the payroll assistance was approved, and fortunately will help us cover payroll expenses for the next several months; this was a virtual lifesaver!

St. Paul's online offerings have continued to reach large audiences, and a work group is beginning to research the technology we would need to transition to livestreaming services and events (as opposed to the video recording we are currently doing). As it becomes increasingly apparent that our physical gathering will continue to be limited, not just in the immediate future but also considering how to minimize risks for our vulnerable members, we recognize that our online presence will be an ever more significant element in how we engage with each other and reach out beyond the walls of St. Paul's church building.

Yet the building must still be cared for. The vestry spent considerable time listening to Craig Fellman's presentation on the bids received for the tuckpointing project, and asking probing questions about the costs, need and timing for this expensive but critical maintenance and long-term protection project. Craig has worked diligently with our architectural consultant and several parish members with specific expertise, to define the most critical aspects and incorporate substantial 'value engineering' (i.e., safely reducing construction costs) so that we can best evaluate the factors for reaching a decision. Given the immensity of this decision, both for the physical integrity of the church and the financial resiliency of our parish, we want to hear your questions and concerns directly. We will do our best to provide all relevant information and responses. We welcome your perspectives on the best course of action. The vestry is planning a special meeting on June 2 solely to continue discussions about this proposed project.



*Peace,  
Nancy Schuldt*

# Christian Formation News

**Family Faith Time-** Each Wednesday throughout the summer I will offer on Wednesdays by noon faith formation activities. You can find them at [www.stpaulsduluth.org/family-faith-time](http://www.stpaulsduluth.org/family-faith-time)

It will include music, storytelling and activities, and then downloads of coloring and activity sheets for various ages of kids. It is meant to be shared with ALL AGES in a family! Gather everyone together sometime this week and have Family Faith Time!

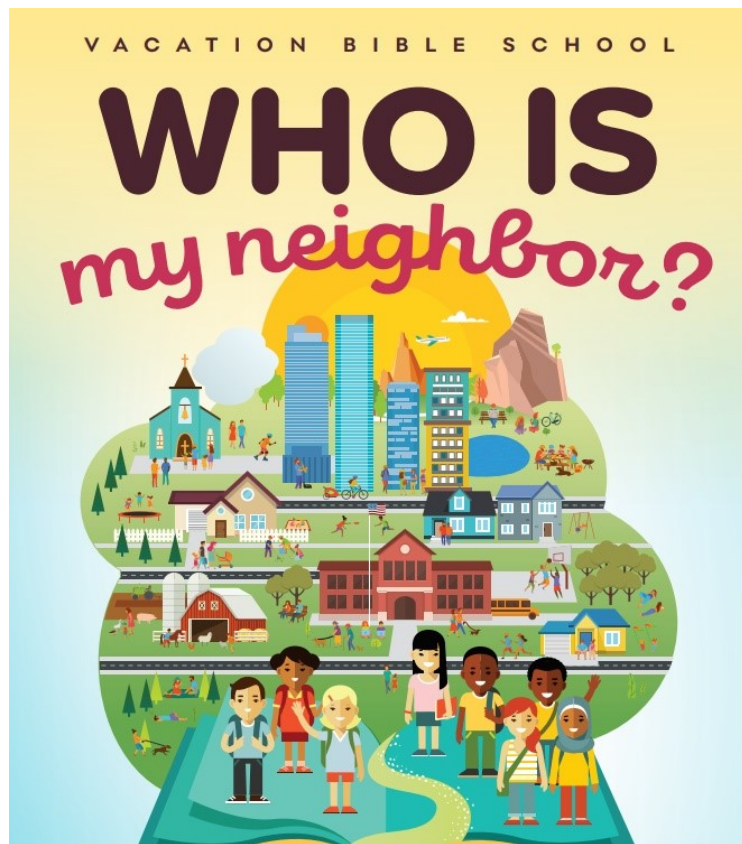
**Summer Faith Kits-** Families with children ages 2 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade received a summer activity kit, either picked up or delivered. Share a photo of your kids enjoying the items in the kit; we'd love to see them!

**Sunday Bulletins:** When you watch our online worship, remember that the children's bulletins that used to be printed in the bulletin are still available online! You can download the bulletin and print off the last pages for the kids to work on while watching worship.

### VBS In a Box & Online!

Based on the results of the survey it was overwhelming that families would like a combination of online videos and a Take Out Home VBS box for this summer and that will be happening! Our theme is In the Neighborhood, and will combine the best of Mr. Rogers with ways to connect to your neighborhood and care for those around you, animals and the earth. I have begun working on this and am part of a couple groups of Christian Formation leaders who are combining effort to provide a quality experience. The exact dates of the VBS week and box distribution will be announced soon via email to families and on our social media platforms.

Even if that week doesn't work for your family, you will have access to the videos and box and can have VBS in your family anytime this summer! It would be very helpful for families to register if they are interested in participating so I can plan for the boxes. **Please fill out the form [2020 VBS Registration](#)** by June 15. We are asking for a \$25 per family fee to cover the cost of the materials; but scholarships are available as we don't want the fee to prevent any family from participating.



connect with us:

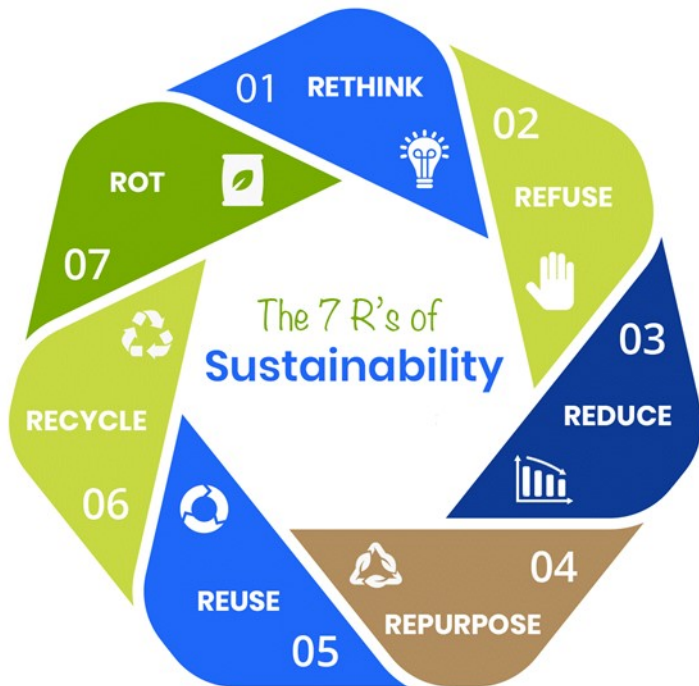


## From Your Creation Care Team

### The Seven Rs

For many decades we were taught to reduce, re-use, recycle... all good ways to protect our environment, but limited in their scope. Now many have expanded those 3 to include 7 R's that we can all strive to engage in to save our earth.

Here's a quick look at each of them:



*graphic by aeromatico*

**Refuse:** refuse single-use plastics (straws, bags, etc.)

**Reduce:** instead of thinking, “well I can recycle this” how about reducing the frequency or amount of items that need to be recycled? Remember just because a plastic item has a number in a triangle on it, does not mean that it can be recycled. That just denotes what type of plastic it is.

**Repurpose:** whether it's glass jars from pasta sauce, clothing items we can turn into bags, rags or quilts, or items we no longer want but could sell or donate, try to repurpose items.

**Reuse:** minimize single use items and instead purchase ones that can be reused or recharged, e.g. batteries, cloth napkins, cloth kitchen towels, etc.

**Recycle:** make sure you are recycling everything you possibly can.

**Rot:** allow your organic waste to decompose and be transformed over time into nutrient rich soil amendment. If you don't have the option of composting where you live, you can drop it off at several spots; like Marshall Hardware, At Sara's Table and WLSSD.

**Rethink:** Before we purchase anything online or in the store, stop and think... is this a need or a want? Do I really need individually wrapped snacks? Could I make this from materials I already have? Could I borrow this item?

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## CHUM

As you know, the 2020 CHUM Rhubarb Festival has been cancelled. As this is a significant fundraising event each year, please consider making a monetary contribution to CHUM.

To donate to CHUM, please use their website: [www.CHUMDuluth.org](http://www.CHUMDuluth.org)

*Respectfully submitted by Jane Jarnis*



## From Your Treasurer

Dear Parishioners,

April financials were presented and approved at the May Vestry meeting. Here is a summary of the April General Fund Statement of Activities.



April update of 2020 pledges:

Pledge income received in April 2020	\$ 22,702
YTD 2020 pledge income as of April 30, 2020	\$ 130,938
YTD budgeted pledge income as of April 30, 2020	\$ 153,468
Variance of actual to budget pledge income as of April 30, 2020.	\$ 22,530
YTD 2019 pledges as of April 30, 2019	\$ 119,769
YTD income as of April 30, 2020	\$ 199,301
YTD expense as of April 30, 2020	\$ 213,197
YTD expense over Income April 30, 2020	\$ 13,896

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please email me at [natalie@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:natalie@stpaulsduluth.org).

Natalie Smith  
Treasurer

*Respectfully submitted by Natalie Smith, Treasurer*

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**3 Ways to Give**

**Text GIVE to  
218-394-3535**

**[www.stpaulsduluth.org/give](http://www.stpaulsduluth.org/give)**

**Mail a check to St. Paul's  
1710 E Superior St  
Duluth, MN 55812**

**Thank you!**

The graphic features a purple and blue gradient background. On the left side, there are three circular icons: a smartphone, a computer monitor, and an envelope. The text is arranged in a clear, bold, sans-serif font, providing three distinct methods for making a contribution.



# We Are Open!

Even though we are not gathering in our building, we are worshipping, we are serving others, we are learning, we are loving each other, we are witnessing to the Gospel, we are sharing, and we are caring for each other and those we don't even know. We have never stopped doing that. Our building will open at some time in the future, but the church remains open.

Much of what we are doing is online and involves time consuming, detailed work to create and publish quality offerings. It involves learning new software editing programs, adapting to platforms that update and change their settings at a moment's notice, being flexible and adaptable when things don't go as planned, giving up plans and working day by day and week by week (which is a hard thing for a planner like me to do). It involves nothing I was trained or educated in. (I bet Master's Degrees in Pastoral Studies programs will look much different going forward)... and yet it is life giving, exciting and hopeful to be a part of a church that is open and accepting of the reality that church is much more than the building the people of God gather in.

We will be in this space for awhile; so please let me know if you have suggestions or ideas for what we

can offer online. I encourage you to check out our website, [www.stpaulsduluth.org](http://www.stpaulsduluth.org) or FB page, our You Tube Channel (PLEASE SUBSCRIBE, THE MORE SUBSCRIBERS WE HAVE THE MORE FEATURES ARE UNLOCKED FOR US), our Pinterest boards and Instagram accounts. If you would like to provide some content for our online platforms, please also let Bill or I know; we would be happy to work with you.



As Rev. Lauren Muratore has said:

*“Community is essential.  
Praying with and for each other and the  
whole ever-loving world is essential.  
Caring for the vulnerable is essential.  
Dwelling in God's Word is essential.  
Love is essential.”*

*Submitted by Sue Van Oss,  
Director of Christian Formation*

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## Finances

Thank you for your **ongoing giving** to St. Paul's! Remember, you can give by sending in a check, online, through bill pay at your bank or by texting “give” to 218-394-3535.

We appreciate everyone striving to keep up with your pledge. Pledging is down compared to last year. We are sensitive to those experiencing financial hardship, and thank those who are able to step up during these uncertain and challenging times to support St. Paul's.

Also, the recent CARES Act includes new charitable giving provisions for 2020, for cash gifts only to the church:

- Individuals can take a \$300 "above-the-line" deduction from their gross income even if they do not itemize deductions; and
- Donors who itemize charitable deductions may deduct charitable gifts up to 100% of gross income.

## Invitation to Everyone



*Please join us in  
celebrating  
Luisa's  
graduation!*

**Sunday, June 7**

**3pm-5pm**

**2427 East Third Street  
pull up to the house to  
share your greetings with  
Luisa and receive a treat**

**Hope to see you!**

**(from 6' & with our masks on)**

**Bill & Sue**

**Rain Date- June 8 4-6pm**



## From Your Music Director



Sisters and brothers in Christ,

We are living in strange times. For obvious reasons, the church feels so much more empty than usual, and I am profoundly sad about that.

The reports that singing is a dangerous activity in the midst of the pandemic have sent shock

waves through my friends and colleagues. I have thought of little else since this was announced, and I can't wrap my head around worship without song. Make no mistake, we at St. Paul's take these experts very seriously, so it isn't that I'm thinking of defying orders. I just don't know how to think about being together in community and having the song of the people silenced. Luther said the only human response to God's goodness to us in Jesus is to sing. When we are finally able to be together again, we will have to find other ways to voice our praise, prayer, and lament. Part of that lament will be that our voices have been silenced by this insidious virus.

In the mean time, I encourage you to sing at home. Sing out with full voice and without caring how it sounds. If you are fortunate to have someone in your house with you, they love you and don't care how it sounds. I only have the cats, and

they would find fault if Pavarotti himself walked through our door and started singing. As I have said to you many times, everyone sings. The issue is *not* whether you sing well or in tune or anything like that. God hears the beauty in all voices.

Jay Austin and I continue to work on some sort of virtual singing experience. I have been down a few rabbit holes around this issue, but it will happen.. I would like as many as are able to participate. Keep your eye on the newsletter and the weekly emails for more information on this. We are already working with some bell choir members to put together a virtual bell piece.

So, for now, we wait for news. It is kind of a combination of Advent waiting with eager anticipation and Lenten self-denial of many things. Once again, I can't tell you how much I miss you all. I'm thankful for my own health as well as the health of my children. I am so thankful for you, the community at St. Paul's. I did an arrangement of a spiritual that the choir has sung a couple of times in church. In this time of when we are apart from each other and unable to sing together, I commend to you the text: *Over my head, I hear music in the air; there must be a God somewhere.*

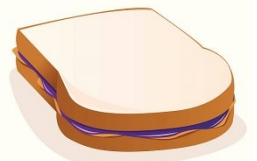
*Peace,*

*Tom Hamilton, Director of Music*

## Sandwiches for CHUM

Great Family Service Project! We are now providing sandwiches for CHUM on the first and third Thursday of every month. If your family wants to be on the team, you would make 20 simple sandwiches and do a contactless drop off at church. We also need one family each time to assemble them at church with chips, granola bars and fruit and then drop them at CHUM at their door. If you would like to be on the team, please contact Tom who is our site coordinator

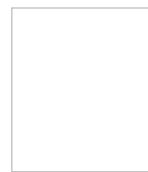
[tomhamilton@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:tomhamilton@stpaulsduluth.org)



## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1710 E. Superior St.

Duluth, MN 55812



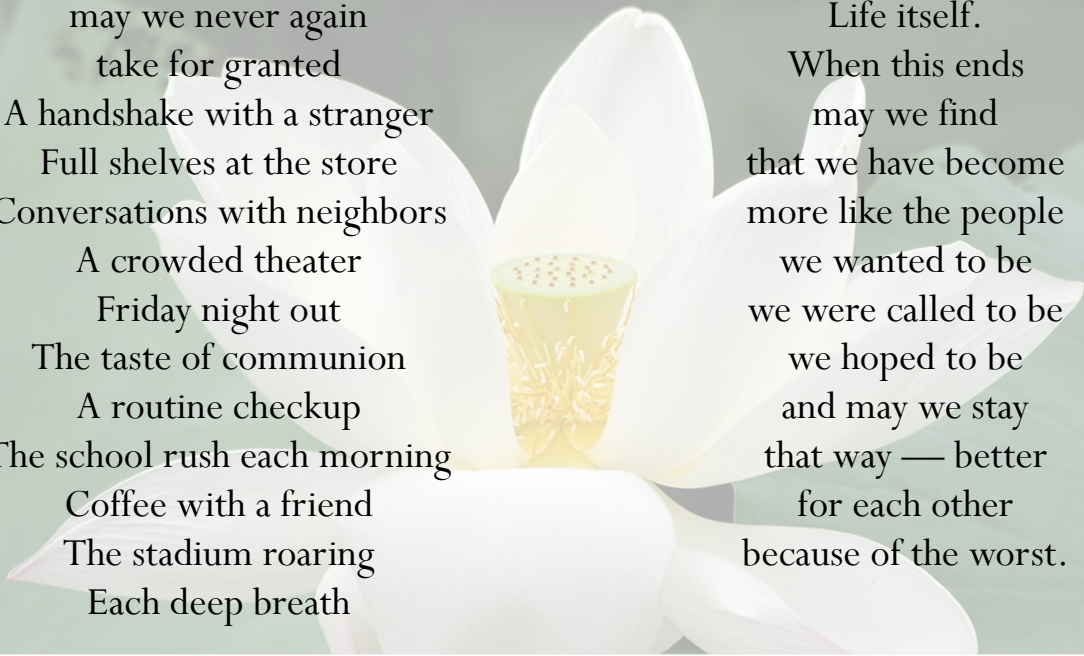
**Email for the church:**

**[office@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:office@stpaulsduluth.org)**

**Visit our website:**

**[www.stpaulsduluth.org](http://www.stpaulsduluth.org)**

A poem for these times by Laura Kelly Fanucci



When this is over,  
may we never again  
take for granted  
A handshake with a stranger  
Full shelves at the store  
Conversations with neighbors  
A crowded theater  
Friday night out  
The taste of communion  
A routine checkup  
The school rush each morning  
Coffee with a friend  
The stadium roaring  
Each deep breath

A boring Tuesday  
Life itself.  
When this ends  
may we find  
that we have become  
more like the people  
we wanted to be  
we were called to be  
we hoped to be  
and may we stay  
that way — better  
for each other  
because of the worst.