

THE MESSENGER

AUGUST, 2020

All Called



As you know, we have been intentionally working on “creating a culture of calling” at St. Paul’s for the past three years with resources and a grant through Vibrant Faith network (vibrantfaith.org).

In her book *The Stories We Live* Kathleen Cahalan re-

frames calling through eight prepositions: “We are called: **by** God, **to** follow, **as** we are, **from** grief, **for** service, **in** suffering, **through** others, **within** God.” She says: “We are called *by* God, who is the source of our callings. We are called *to* follow the way shown by Jesus and taken up by his disciples; this calling we share with each other. We are called *as* unique persons with a particular history and circumstance. We are called *from* the losses and grief we suffer over time, so that we can embrace life again. We are called to give our lives *for* others, not simply for our self-improvement or fulfillment. We are even called *in* our deepest suffering to carry out God’s purposes in mysterious ways. We are called *through* the people in our lives, because vocation takes root in community. And, finally, we are called together to live *within* God’s loving embrace, both now and in the life to come.” (Kathleen Cahalan)

Personally, I have been thinking, praying, and talking about calling a lot throughout the past seven months as I discerned a new call. It has included looking back to the very beginning, to lighting candles as an altar server and so many great role

models. It involved reflecting on 14 years of serving at St. Paul’s and the countless ways we have engaged in ministry and shared Christ’s love together. It involved looking ahead and praying for God’s guidance for the next steps in ministry for me and for you, listening to the voice from within and the voices from without.

But one of the things our work on calling has made clear, perhaps the most important thing, is that it is not only clergy who are called. **All** are called. You are called on every step of life’s journey. Check out allcalled.org

As St. Paul’s enters a time of discernment and transition, I encourage you to take some time to reflect on your calling as a member of St. Paul’s and as a disciple of Jesus Christ. You have gifts and talents to share that will help the church to keep proclaiming Jesus’ way of love and reaching out in service. There will be many opportunities for you to respond to God’s call by stepping up and helping out.

Leave taking is never easy and this is especially true during a pandemic. Sue and I have been touched by, and deeply appreciate, the many email, text, phone, Facebook, and written messages we have received. It has been a privilege to be part of your lives these past fourteen years.

Peace,
+Bill



Evening Bible Study

When we met in June, our group decided to set the Bible aside for a few months to read items that can expand our understanding of Racism. In June we discussed Fedo's Lynching in Duluth. We all agreed that it was really hard to read and finish the book—it is so real and local. And at the same time, as Sue Anderson reminded us, it brings back what it must have been like to be part of the crucifixion of Jesus, with the mob of people pushing unendingly toward horror. It is amazing how our faith's stories are truly repeated in our human history.

Our next session is Tuesday, August 11, 6:30-8:00 pm. We plan to discuss James Baldwin's Fire Next Time. The book is quite short. The first part is a letter he wrote to his 16-year old nephew about making life choices living in Harlem; the second part describes Baldwin's dinner with Malcom X. These essays describe the systemic racism we experience and its impact on all of us, plus how we can work to dismantle it--spiritually.



Our group conversations have already helped me become more aware of my own edges and unrecognized racism. You are invited to join us—let me know if you would like the zoom invitation for the August 11 session.

belliott@d.umn.edu

God's blessings... --Reverend Barb

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

Clergy

The Rev. William Van Oss, Rector

billvanoss@stpaulsduluth.org

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Elliott, Assisting Priest

belliott@d.umn.edu

The Rev. Margaret W. Thomas, Priest Emerita

tmsnelmw@cpinternet.com

Parish Staff

Dr. Tom Hamilton, Director of Music

tomhamilton@stpaulsduluth.org

Rita Rosenberger Parish Secretary

office@stpaulsduluth.org

Natalie Smith, Parish Treasurer

natalie@stpaulsduluth.org

Sue Van Oss, Director of Christian Formation

suevanoss@stpaulsduluth.org

Follow St. Paul's Duluth on Social Media

connect with us:



From Your Treasurer

Dear Parishioners,

June financials will be presented at the August Vestry meeting. Here is a summary of the June **General Fund** Statement of Activities.

June update of 2020 pledges:

Pledge income received in June 2020	\$ 12,799
YTD 2020 pledge income as of June 30, 2020	\$161,599
YTD budgeted pledge income as of June 30, 2020	\$208,455
Variance of actual to budget pledge income as of June 30, 2020	\$ 46,856
YTD 2019 pledges as of June 30, 2019	\$ 162,681
YTD income as of June 30, 2020	\$251,718
YTD expense as of June 30, 2020	\$232,283
YTD income over expense June 30, 2020	\$ 19,435



The amounts above from the **General Fund** do not include \$28,991 of expenses have been paid from the Payroll Protection Program and are recorded in a separate **PPP Fund**. We expect the entire \$28,991 to be forgiven.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please email me at natalie@stpaulsduluth.org.

Respectfully submitted by Natalie Smith, Treasurer

FACE MASKS

On July 13, the Duluth City Council unanimously approved an ordinance which requires masks in public indoor places, effectively immediately. The mandate does not apply to children younger than age ten, or those who are unable to wear a face covering for medical reasons. The requirement applies to stores, city buses, places of worship, educational institutions, recreational facilities and apartment lobbies. Those who do not comply with the mandate could be fined \$100 for a first offense and \$1,000 for all subsequent offenses. Violators could also face misdemeanor prosecution.

Need another mask in adult or child sizes? We have a crew of volunteers ready to deliver masks, groceries, medications or other items to your home. Just contact Rita, Bill or Barb via phone or email.



CHUM School Backpack Drive

It is that time of year! Once again, we have the opportunity to help CHUM and the Duluth Public Schools ensure that every child in our community has a successful start to the school year.

Due to the Coronavirus, the Drive is going to be a bit different this year. CHUM cannot accept any supplies. Instead, all donations need to be made by going to CHUM's website (www.chumduluth.org) where you can either purchase backpacks with supplies that will be shipped to directly to CHUM, or make a financial donation to CHUM. To ensure timely delivery, all backpack orders and financial donations must be made no later than August 9. If you mail a check or make a financial donation

online, please note that your gift is for the Adopt-A-Backpack Campaign.

For the past couple of years, I have had the pleasure of working as a volunteer at the distribution site. My fondest memory from last year is a little girl who left literally hugging her purple backpack.

Thank you for your generosity.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Jane Jarnis*



Volunteer Opportunity to Deliver Meals

CHUM is looking for volunteers to deliver meals to individuals who have been moved from the shelter to the Downtown Duluth Inn on 2nd Avenue West (formerly the Best Western). They are there because they are in vulnerable group either due to health concerns or age. It is a wonderful opportunity to serve and spread kindness and love. If you are interested in serving and learning more please contact Ben Margeson at bmargeson@chumduluth.org or 605-690-7619.



Wishlists from CHUM Programs

- The shelter is in need of socks and underwear for our guests. We are in need of men's boxers- all sizes, women's undergarments-all sizes, and socks.
- Outreach Services is still accepting any new or gently used camping equipment.
- Steve O'Neil Apartments is in need of household items including: couches, chairs, love-seats, dressers, dinning room sets, cookware and any other items you can donate.
- Please call 218-720-6521 to schedule a drop off.



From Your Music Director



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Change appears to be a way of life these days. Each day we face new information about the best way to handle the pandemic and new ways to try to keep it at bay in our community. It is often overwhelming and can be exhausting, but we wit-

ness to a God who is always near, a God who says, "Behold, I make all things new;" as well as a God who says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." As a community of faith, we find ourselves living in that contradiction more and more each day.

St. Paul's is now thrust into a new phase of its history with the departure of the Van Osses. My heart is indeed sad to have to say goodbye. Bill and I have often commented how rare it is to have a clergy – musician relationship such as ours where we see liturgy and its attendant music in similar ways. In my years of music ministry, this is the second time I have had such a relationship with my colleague. I will miss that very much. I wish Bill, Sue and Luisa all good things in their new endeavors. God will bless them richly.

God will also bless us as we say goodbye. Granted, my own future here is limited, but we will continue to do ministry in this place because God is with us. I've heard that the Chinese word for "crisis" and "opportunity" are the same word. While we are far from being in crisis, we do face change which causes angst, but this change is an opportunity to witness to a God who is bigger than any of us. The church exists because the community is the body of Christ in the world. Yes, we have leaders like priests who help us do the work of Jesus, but even the leader isn't the whole story. God is present. God is active and will continue to call us together as a church.

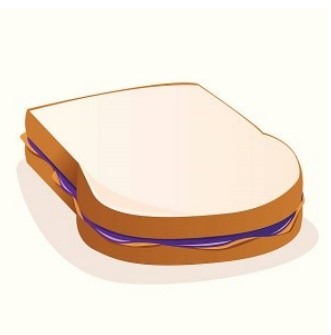
Pray for this time to be one of rich reflection on who St. Paul's will be in its next chapter. With God all things are possible, so the possibilities are endless where God may take this congregation.

In Christ,

Tom Hamilton,
Director of Music

Sandwiches for CHUM

St. Paul's is providing sack lunches to residents who need them on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Volunteers from St. Paul's make the sandwiches and deliver them to church where they are assembled into sack lunches and then delivered to the Steve O'Neill Apartments. If you would like to help with this project, contact Tom Hamilton who is coordinating this ministry. You can reach him via email at tomhamilton@stpaulsduluth.org, or call 218-724-3535, ext. 205.



From Your Director of Faith Formation

As you already know, Bill has received and accepted a call to become the next Rector of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church on Sanibel Island, Florida. Obviously, that means I too will be departing St. Paul's to join the community of St. Michael and All Angels. I will be taking some time to discern my next calling, getting to know the people and area and volunteering in the many ministries at the church. My last day at St. Paul's will be August 30. After dropping Luisa off at DePaul University before Labor Day, we will be heading down to our new home.

It has been an incredible fourteen years here at St. Paul's serving with all of you. There has been tremendous growth in Christian Formation for all ages, as well as a strong online presence to help those outside our doors see all that St. Paul's has to offer. It has been a privilege and an honor to get to know so many of you on a professional and personal level.

In the short time remaining, I will be doing a lot of compiling and writing down of the various responsi-

bilities I have so that whoever takes on these things in the future will have something to begin with. Leave-takings are bittersweet, and more so amid a pandemic. I hope we have the chance to see as many of you as possible (from a distance) at some point.

My prayers will continue for the St. Paul's church family as you begin this transition to new leadership. You have many dedicated and gifted members who will carry on and ensure St. Paul's will remain a strong presence of God's love in the world.

All the best,
Sue



Follow St. Paul's Duluth on social media:



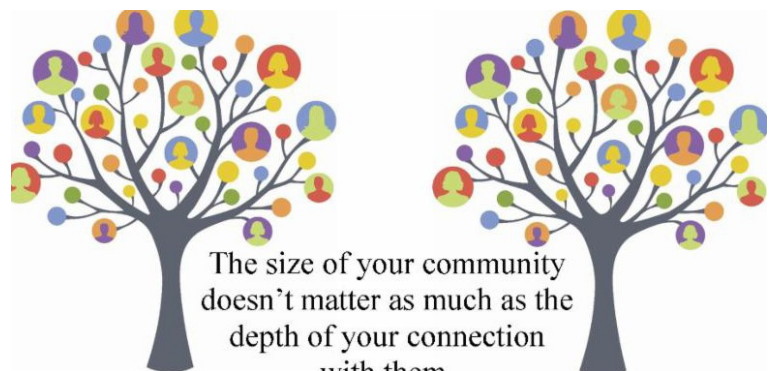
Christian Formation News

Our first **Virtual Bible School — Who Is Our Neighbor?** and **VBS in a box kits** were a great success in late July. A team of 16 created video segments of music, storytelling, skits, games, crafts, snacks and meditations that were compiled into daily hour-long videos. A big thank you to Tom, Brad, Agnes, Bill, Marian, Brenda, Luisa, Angelina, Audrey, Arna, Laurel, Adelaide, Izzy, Evan, Gabe. I could not have done it without all of you. Agnes, Audrey, Angelina, and Luisa helped assemble the boxes that were filled with craft supplies, snack ingredients, games and a family guide for those who registered to receive one.

The videos are available on our website, www.stpaulsduluth.org/virtual-bible-school and on Facebook for anyone to watch at any time. Rainy day? Bored? Tune in and be uplifted as you experience how each of us can love our neighbor. All ages from 1-100 will enjoy the music, stories, and fun activities.

Wednesday Faith Time is posted by noon each week at www.stpaulsduluth.org/family-faith-time and is a great way to more deeply understand the upcoming Sunday's readings.

Special appreciation to **Amber Sadowski** and **Brad Brunfelt** who will work together on Community Connections for Saturdays, starting in mid-August! Thank you for saying "YES" to this call!



The size of your community
doesn't matter as much as the
depth of your connection
with them.

Chris Pirillo

And we bid farewell...



VAN OSS, Bill & Sue
Luisa; Lucky (dog)



VAN OSS, Bill & Sue
Luisa, Lucky

People of St. Paul's have been expressing their interest in planning a proper "farewell" for the Van Oss family, who have shared so much of their vision, leadership, fellowship and spiritual guidance with us these past fourteen years. We want to honor their generous and energetic spirits as they continue their faith journeys to new places. If you would like to offer your ideas and participate in this planning, please contact either Parish Secretary Rita Rosenberger (218-724-3535, or office@stpaulsduluth.org) or Senior Warden Nancy Schuldt (218-349-0629, or ncosta2799@charter.net) by phone or email, and we will gladly include you in the communications and activities. We are actually beginning to mull over several options, keeping the ECMN Covid-19 guidelines foremost. If you want to simply send a check for the Van Oss's, or contribute to a gift fund, please mail checks **directly to the church office** with clear notification of how you would like it to be used. Address: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1710 E Superior St, Duluth, MN 55812. Meanwhile, one specific project is already getting underway: if you would like to contribute to a memory/scrapbook for the Van Oss Family, please mail memorable photos, a letter, a written piece, a bible passage, a card, by August 17 to:

Brenda Sederberg
1790 Old North Shore Road
Duluth, MN 55804

If sending text, words, a letter, a message, you may email these to:
bsederb1@gmail.com

no photos via email, please



Try a New Podcast Today

I am enamored of podcasts. From true crime to unsolved mysteries. From radio plays inspired by H.P. Lovecraft to deep-dives into the mysteries of matcha. There really is something for everyone in the world of podcasting. And that includes spiritual seekers. There are podcasts that inspired me. Podcasts that inform me. Podcasts that challenge my preconceptions. There are podcasts - like Rob Bell's interview with Richard Rohr a few years ago - that I come back to time and again.

Many of us are experiencing loneliness more than ever before. Podcasts can be an opportunity for spiritual fellowship. They are time spent with people who can teach you, enliven you, and challenge you in the best ways. Here are some of my favorites, in no particular order.

[**Another Name for Everything**](#) - This podcast is from the Center for Action and Contemplation. It explores the themes of Richard Rohr's book *The Universal Christ*. Father Rohr is a Franciscan friar of many years. He possesses an uncommon depth and breadth of spiritual experience and education.

[**On Being**](#) - Krista Tippett has been having conversations about faith, art, and culture for more than fifteen years. She interviews poets, rabbis, priests, monastics, and contemplatives from all traditions.

[**The RobCast**](#) - Chances are, you're at least familiar with the name "Rob Bell." Rob is a pastor and speaker who has written several important

books, including [*Love Wins*](#) and [*What is the Bible?*](#) His podcast is thought-provoking and often inspirational.

[**The \[De\]constructionists Podcast**](#) - Two post-evangelicals discussing life after religious deconstruction. The hosts are educated and funny. They have interviewed such religious thought leaders as Richard Rohr, N.T. Wright, and Rachel Held Evans.

[**The Liturgists**](#) - This show looks at life through the lenses of science, faith, and art. The hosts are all post-evangelicals who have revised their relationship with religion in various ways. They all bring something different to the table. Science Mike is excellent at bridging the apparent gap between science and religion. Michael Gungor's band, Gungor, was a successful Christian group. Michael still makes music, but his religious influences are now much broader. Another co-host is a licensed mental health practitioner.

[**The Bible for Normal People**](#) - Hosted by theologian Peter Enns. This podcast tries to make sense of the Bible for those of us who cannot read Koine Greek. Enns challenges such notions as Biblical literalism and the inerrancy of scripture. He takes a close look at many of our long-held views of the Bible. Always informative and thought-provoking.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Art MacAilein*

Best Wishes to Ricky Lyle

Here is his new address:

New Cadet Richard J Lyle Jr.
P.O. Box 2679
West Point, NY 10997-2679

Please make sure you have the last four digits of the zip code (it is the same as his P.O. box number). Also, if you plan on sending anything before August 15, make sure to have the word "New" before Cadet. After August 15 it will just be Cadet Richard J Lyle Jr. He can't have any packages until after Beast is completed but letters are definitely welcome.



From Your Creation Care Team

The Fluency of Our Inland Sea: Climate Change and Lake Superior

Climate change is a global issue. Stated that way, it's sometimes easy to lose sight of the fact that global issues can have local consequences. Lake Superior, which to a large extent defines Duluth, is one of the fastest warming lakes in the world. The consequences of that become more and more evident with each passing year, right here in our backyard.

My early work with the Large Lakes Observatory, a research group within UMD, dealt with characterizing long-term change in long-term trends in the temperature of the lake, a subject which, oddly, had not been carefully considered by the lake studies community. I did work linking changes in water temperature to changes in winter ice cover, showing that a significant increase in summer water temperatures over the last few decades was tied to a steep decline in winter ice cover. Low ice cover years, which are becoming more and more common, tend to be followed by summers characterized by high water temperatures, and vice versa. While the details of this relationship are still being worked out, the relationship is strong, and important to a number of processes within the lake. Lake temperature has a direct and important impact on all levels of the food web, and the ultimate role that temperature will play on the biology of the lake is an area of active study.

Ice cover on Lake Superior varies wildly from year to year in large part due to its sensitivity to gradual changes in winter weather. Surprisingly, the difference between a high ice year- where people are visiting the ice caves of the Apostles, are ice-fishing off of Brighton Beach, and the shipping season is impacted; and a low ice year, where those cultural, recreational, and economic impacts are very different, can be due to a difference in average winter air temperature of only 3 to 4 degrees F. One of the difficulties in communicating the impacts of climate change is that the differences we talk about- a few degrees F by the middle of this century- sound very small. Why should we care about a couple of degrees of warming over the next several decades when it was 10°F cooler yesterday and will be 10°F warmer tomorrow? The answer is that systems like Lake Superior are extremely sensitive to small changes in average air temperature. Ice on the lake gives us a "sense of place"; it is part of

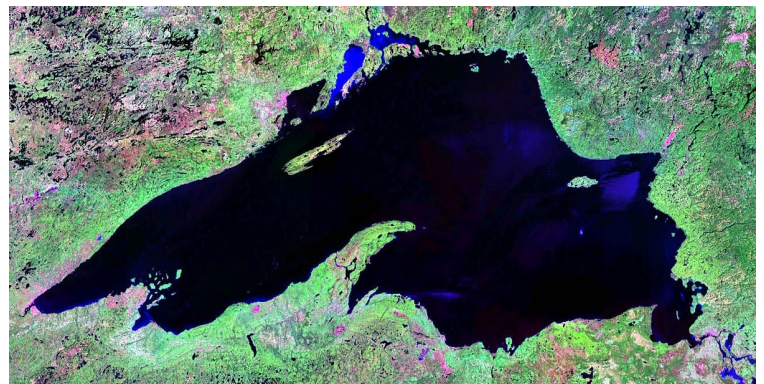
what makes Duluth what it is. And it's going away.

Recent work by the lake studies community suggest that warming is not unique to Lake Superior. Compiled temperature data from several hundred lakes around the world suggests that warming is the rule, not the exception. Lake Superior, among this collection of many lakes worldwide, is among the fastest warming. While the distribution of warming rates varies significantly, the general trend suggests we are living in a warming world, and lakes are sentinels of this warming.

Climate change is a direct result of our impact on the chemistry of our atmosphere. We are adding gasses like carbon dioxide and methane; these greenhouse gases change how heat is retained in our atmosphere. Regardless of what you might read on the web, there is no significant debate in the scientific community about this. The debate centers on how to respond. I do not have an easy answer for you. Our reliance on fossil fuels is center to this, but is a difficult habit to break, to be certain. Nothing about addressing to climate change is easy, but significant changes in how we generate and use energy will be central to any solution to this issue.



Respectfully submitted by Jay Austin



From Your Vestry

Greetings from your wardens and vestry! Shortly after our June meeting we received the sad news that our beloved clerk, Susan Meyer, had unexpectedly passed away. We will most certainly miss her presence and faithful service to the vestry and the many ways she enriched our St. Paul's family. Our prayers go out to her family.

The July meeting was intended to focus on developing a capital campaign approach to raise funds not only for the bell tower tuckpointing project (which is officially underway), but also to support an enhanced parish outreach framework and to strengthen our longer-term investment reserves. We engaged with two professional fundraising firms who gave presentations about their experiences, processes and perspectives for successful campaigns, and we will be carefully considering how they might help us in this critical time. The vestry has expressed a strong desire to not only embark upon this effort to be good stewards of our beautiful and historic building, but also to affirm our commitment to be good caretakers of our parish family and the community we serve. We will be meeting again before our regular August business meeting to continue discussions and hopefully reach a decision for moving forward.

Then, on top of the many challenges and uncertainties we have all been dealing with over the past months, the news of Bill's calling to a new parish in Florida and the reality of losing his pastoral leadership and Sue's remarkable work in expanding Christian Formation for St. Paul's came upon us. But I think I speak for the vestry when I say that we have been blessed for fourteen years with a great team, and the mark they leave on this parish is indelible. It has been a time of growth and enrichment for our church family and it is so hard to say farewell to them. They may be leaving us, but the gifts and energy and vision

they have shared with us will always remain. Bishop Loya has already reached out to us and offered his personal support and commitment to supporting our search for a new rector (and an interim who will step in as Bill departs), and the Diocese will be with us along this journey. We will be thinking about and planning for a celebration of Bill's tenure at St. Paul's, and a way to honor the good work he and Sue have done here for so many years. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of that planning.



Finally, I would like to share with you my thoughts about how this time – full of change and uncertainties and unexpected challenges – is also a time of opportunity for us to reflect and reimagine how our parish can continue to be a strong, caring Christian community in the 21st century. St. Paul's has experienced much change and uncertainty – and even a pandemic! – over the course of its 150 years of serving Duluth and providing worship, healing and sacraments to the people who come through our doors. While Eirik and I and the vestry profoundly feel the weight of all the decisions we are facing: for personnel, for safely resuming gathering for worship and fellowship, for taking care of our building and our long-term financial health; I sincerely believe we have the tools and talents we need in this parish to come through this challenging time together. I ask for your continuing prayers for us to make wise and thoughtful decisions, and as always, welcome your ideas.

*Peace,
Nancy Schuldt*

Deadline for submissions to the September
issue of *The Messenger* is
8:00 am, Thursday, August 22, 2020.
Please email items to:
office@stpaulsduluth.org

From Your Parish Secretary



Please keep in touch with St. Paul's! Let us know when you have a new phone number, address or email. Send us your prayer requests. Ask me to mail you a copy of a sermon, the latest issue of *Day By Day*, or a new Parish Directory.

I am still working part-time Monday-Friday, and I love to hear from you!
Email office@stpaulsduluth.org
or call 218-724-3535.

*Peace,
Rita R.*



Education for Ministry

Beginning this Fall, a four-year EfM (Education for Ministry) course will begin virtually through St. Andrews. EfM was developed at the Episcopal Seminary in Sewanee, Tennessee, and has been used throughout the world to help us become informed and comfortable understanding and living our faith. EfM is a four-year, weekly commitment during the school months to read and discuss scripture, church history, and theology together as a small group.

Jane Quesenberry-Nelson from Trinity will be the group facilitator. Participants pay \$375 each year and agree to meet weekly for 1.5-2 hours in prayer and discussion. To register and have more questions answered, contact Deacon Mary Anderson at marysatl@aol.com.

--Rev. Barb

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.

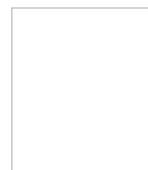
Also, the recent CARES Act includes new charitable giving provisions for 2020, for cash gifts only to the church:

- 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.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1710 E. Superior St.

Duluth, MN 55812



Email for the church:

office@stpaulsduluth.org

Visit our website:

www.stpaulsduluth.org

3 Ways to Give



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



www.stpaulsduluth.org/give



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

Thank you!