

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DULUTH,

THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER, 2020

Saying Good-bye. Pausing. Moving Forward...



This message is written the same day that we celebrate the Van Oss' Holy Farewell—and you are reading it after they have left Duluth. Yes, they are gone. It is time to pause and say farewell. I remember experiencing similar feelings in the past, feeling great loss but also knowing that as a church community, we

continue. Priests leave; our community stays together and goes on.

Yes, we will continue, together. The reason we have such strong and memorable priests at St. Paul's is that our community is healthy and resilient—and we support our priests as they grow with their ministries. This process absolutely serves all of us. As a community we are led along the Way of Love by the priests, who in turn, are well served by the love we give them.

Now it is time to transition between priests again. For some of us, it feels especially sad to say good-bye to the Van Oss family. Others have been less connected to them, but we are all sensing the loss that their departure brings for St Paul's.

With the range of circumstances we are living these days and months, the Van Oss' leaving adds another layer to the changes we are trying to absorb. The Vestry has invited me to serve as

the Priest in Charge between their leaving and the arrival of our Interim Rector—and I have agreed to do so.

First, now, we are going to take a break. There will be **no services or online presence** through St Paul's for the next week. Please use this pause **between August 30-September 8** to breathe deeply, take an end-of-summer staycation, and remember the Van Oss's. If you are so inclined, participate in our National Cathedral's services on Sunday, September 6.

On September 8 we will begin our Fall schedule (see page 4 Messenger article with our schedule for the next month). On Sunday, September 13 we will have our online Rally Day, when we will also announce the plans for our coming Interim Rector and Search process.

I look forward to our continuing connections...

God's blessings
—Reverend Barb

Evening Bible Study

When George Floyd was killed, our group decided to read items that can expand our understanding of Racism, and thus we set the Bible aside for a few months. At our August session we discussed James Baldwin's Fire Next Time. The book is quite short, and the two essays describe the systemic racism we experience, plus how we can work to dismantle it spiritually. Again, not an easy book to read or take in. Lots of good discussion.

This month we will meet September 8, via Zoom again, 6:30-8 pm. We will discuss Caste by Isabel Wilkerson. This is one of Oprah's Book Club books, and it is a bit longer but an easier read! I am expecting we'll be talking about this book both September and October.

You are welcome to join us. I am grateful that our group conversations have sensitized me to my own edges and unacknowledged racism. Let me know if you would like the Zoom invitation for the September 8 session.



*God's blessings... --Reverend Barb E
(belliott@d.umn.edu)*

With Grateful Hearts

Dear Parishioners,

we want to thank you so much for all the heartfelt messages and gifts via emails, cards, calls, visits, and especially the wonderful drive-by farewell held on August 23. Thanks to Brenda Sederberg for putting together a beautiful scrapbook. Although it would not have been the way any of us would have wanted to say our goodbyes, it was the best it could have possibly been in the midst of a pandemic. We especially want to thank the Vestry for hosting the event, and a special thanks to Rita Rosenberger, our wonderful parish secretary, who has taken care of so many details with our departure. She is an invaluable asset to the Parish!



We gave final reflections via video that will be part of a special service on Sunday, August 30 that summarized our love for St. Paul's, and our knowledge that the seeds we have planted will continue to grow and blossom in the years to come. Take care of each other, take care of yourselves, and continue to shine God's love into the world as you live out your call to the Way of Love. We will continue to keep St. Paul's in our prayers.

Blessings and peace,

Bill and Sue

From Your Treasurer

Dear Parishioners,

July financials were presented at the August 18, 2020 Vestry meeting. Here is a summary of the July **General Fund** Statement of Activities.



June update of 2020 pledges:

Pledge income received in July 2021	\$ 20,735
YTD 2020 pledge income as of July 31, 2020	\$182,334
YTD budgeted pledge income as of July 31, 2020	\$235,839
Variance of actual to budget pledge income as of July 31, 2020.	\$ 53,505
YTD 2019 pledges as of July 31, 2019	\$184,051
YTD income as of July 31, 2020	\$286,468
YTD expense as of July 31, 2020	<u>\$250,430</u>
YTD income over expense July 31, 2020	\$ 36,038

The amounts above from the **General Fund** YTD expense do not include \$84,900 of payroll expenses that have been paid from the Payroll Protection Program loan and are recorded in a separate **PPP Fund**. We expect the entire \$84,900 to be forgiven.

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

Respectfully submitted by Natalie Smith, Treasurer

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff Directory

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Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Elliott, Assisting Priest

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Parish Staff

Dr. Tom Hamilton, Director of Music

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Rita Rosenberger Parish Secretary

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Natalie Smith, Parish Treasurer

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September Scheduling

First, let me thank the Vestry for their invitation to serve as the Priest in Charge between Bill's leaving and our yet-to-be named Interim Rector, who we expect to arrive in October. In the meantime, I am available for our St. Paul's community. Overall, these are amazing and challenging times—and now it is Fall when we step towards our year's programming

Scheduling for August 31-September 7:

As mentioned in my other article, we will take this week off. We will take a break in all our busy-ness to honor the loss of Bill and Sue's ministries. They have certainly anchored our church lives these past years. Now they are gone. On September 6, the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, please join the National Cathedral for services (or another church of your choice).

Scheduling starting Tuesday, September 8:

Our Fall online programming will begin. You will be able to access these services just as you have these past months (go to our webpage for the links). The schedule each week will be:

- Monday: 9 am Reflection and Announcements (begins Monday, September 14)

- Tuesday: 9 am Bible Study
- Wednesday: 6 pm Evening Prayer (This is new—see Tom's article on next page)
- Thursday: 9 pm Compline
- Friday: 9 am Morning Prayer
- Saturday: 9 am Community Connections (once each month)
- Sunday: 10 am Worship Service

Rally Sunday, the Sunday after Labor Day, September 13 this year, will include announcements and explanation from Nancy Schuldt regarding up-to-date plans for the Fall.



When Can We Gather in St. Paul's Again?

Oh, such a wonderful thought—to gather again in St Paul's...but the answer so far is “Not yet...”

ECMN has guidelines for us in preparing to gather in the building again. Our Vestry is working on the forms from ECMN. There are two steps we need to follow for this process:

1. We can only consider this AFTER both the MN and St Louis County positivity rates for COVID infections are 5% or less (this week they are 5.5% for the state and 1.7% for our county; see up-to-date numbers at the health departments website: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/stats/covidweekly34.pdf>)

We can begin to move back into the building then, providing we have also

2. Obtained approved plans for that process (approved by the Building Use Task Force, a Diocesan committee).

Stay tuned...and be safe and well... In the meantime, we can clean the building with Buffy's supervision, small numbers at a time. See Buffy's message in this Messenger, too. (p. 8)



From Your Music Director



Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Did any of us expect we would still be having to take such extreme precautions from the pandemic when fall arrived? I remember quite vividly the day we met as a staff to discuss what the future might look like, and we were dismayed because the CDC had said we could possibly be shut down through May. Yet, here we are. The new normal is any-

thing but normal, and this is a long time to feel unsettled.

A friend recommended an article that discusses this very matter. Essentially, we were ready to go and take care of things when we were told to stay home. Our inner emergency response kicked in, and we felt like we could handle anything. Indeed, when that happens, we can handle anything because we are on high alert, and we have a lot of flexibility to meet the coming challenges. What happens when the trauma (which is what we are experiencing right now) continues long-term, we run out of the stuff that gives us that initial burst of energy. This leads to restlessness and a malaise that doesn't seem to go anywhere. Some days I get out of bed and am quite productive. Other days it is all I can do to get my teeth brushed. Yes, depression is part of it, but it's bigger than that. It is helplessness and feeling out of control. In short, life is very difficult, and it doesn't look like things are going to change any time soon.

In a typical church newsletter article, this is where it would make sense for me to tell you to turn to God, and everything will be great. I don't know about you, but even God has been silent for me lately. We can't

even get together and sing. Our tendency toward community and things that draw us together has been silenced.

A pastor I worked with several years ago preached a sermon where he said Christian community can be summed up in these phrases: God loves you. I love you. I hear your pain, and I am here for you. That is all we can really say these days. I wish we could be together, but we can't without putting vulnerable ones at risk. It isn't worth it. Someday we will be able to come back together. The flu pandemic of 1918 eventually ended. I find hope in that reality.

You will see elsewhere in this Messenger that our online offerings are changing a bit with the coming of fall. I do hope you will access these things as you are able. We are adding an opportunity to pray Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 6 pm. While this follows the general outline of Vespers, the musical setting is by Marty Haugen and is very singable. I think you'll like it. This along with the other daily prayer offices we are doing will be led by various volunteers from our faith community. Traditionally, these liturgies are composed of psalmody and prayer. Therefore, they belong to the laity. (The administration of the sacraments was the task of the ordained clergy.) Seek out these opportunities to be in prayer. Let the rituals carry you in these days of disorientation.

Peace to you as you walk the reluctant way ahead. While I don't know how the end of this journey will look, it will come. I don't hear or feel God very close right now, but God is there.

Blessings and peace,

Tom Hamilton,
Director of Music

Opportunities to Lead Compline and Morning Prayer

Our September schedule includes opportunities for you to be a part of St Paul's online programming. Are you interested to lead Compline? Or Morning Prayer? These are services from the Prayer Book that do not require clergy leadership; they are written and intended as lay-led prayer services. I would love to share this leadership with you—and would be glad to train you in using our online platforms to do them.

In terms of commitment and scheduling, you can either arrange your schedule to lead the services

live, or you can pre-record a service, so it then runs as posted on schedule. Also, you can do one of these prayer services one time, or routinely for several weeks.

I look forward to hearing from you. Contact me with your interest!

God's blessings. —Reverend Barb
belliottd@d.umn.edu

And give your angels charge over those who sleep...

Say What?: Age-Related Hearing Loss

During our pandemic, with stay-at-home orders, physical distancing and mandated mask wearing, communication with elder loved ones who may have hearing loss can be an added challenge. Hearing loss is the third most common physical condition after arthritis and heart disease. **Forty three percent of people who experience hearing loss are 65 or older.** The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) estimates that by age 65 one in three people will experience hearing loss.



Someone who has lost hearing may not hear knocking at the door, the telephone ringing, or a smoke alarm sounding. Hearing loss can also make the simple exchange of feelings, ideas and other information much more difficult.

Because hearing loss is not visible, these effects may be attributed to aloofness, confusion or personality changes.

Untreated hearing loss has a number of effects, including increased risk for faster cognitive decline, dementia, depression and falls.

Impact of untreated hearing loss

Studies have linked untreated hearing loss to:

- ◇ Feeling irritable or even angry.
- ◇ Having a negative outlook.
- ◇ More fatigue, tension and stress.
- ◇ Depression.
- ◇ Avoiding or withdrawing from social situations.
- ◇ Less awareness of environmental sounds and greater risk to personal safety.
- ◇ Trouble remembering things.
- ◇ More difficulty learning new tasks.
- ◇ Poor job performance and earning potential.
- ◇ Poorer psychological and physical health.
- ◇ Isolation and loneliness.

Signs of hearing loss

- ◇ Trouble distinguishing words that sound similar.
- ◇ Inappropriate responses in social situations.
- ◇ Hears men more clearly than women and children.
- ◇ Turns head to one side or cups one ear to hear better.
- ◇ Frequently responds with a smile and a nod without further comments.
- ◇ Difficulty conversing in the car.
- ◇ Not engaged during group discussions or family gatherings.
- ◇ Frequently does not hear the phone or doorbell.

- ◇ Turns up volume too loud when watching television or listening to the radio.

What to do if you suspect you or a loved one is experiencing hearing loss:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends getting:

- ◇ a medical examination from a licensed physician (preferably an ear, nose, and throat physician), or
- ◇ a hearing test.

A hearing test measures your ability to hear pure tones at different frequencies and volumes. The results are reported in an audiogram and are used to determine appropriate treatment. The audiogram is used to purchase hearing aids and to qualify for some programs and services.

In Minnesota, along with medical doctors who specialize in 'Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT)', audiologists and hearing instrument dispensers can administer hearing tests and recommend treatment. The professional should have credentials from the Minnesota Department of Health. You can find more information, including the professional's credential status, on the Minnesota Department of Health's website <https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/providers/hid/consumerinfo>

Assistive Technologies

- ◇ Assistive listening devices can be helpful when using the phone, talking with friends and family, watching television, listening to music, going to the theater, participating in worship services and more. Assistive listening devices can be used with or without hearing aids.
- ◇ Alerting devices use a flashing light, extra-loud sounds or vibrations to alert the person with hearing loss to various environmental sounds. These can include doorbells or alarm clocks.
- ◇ Amplified phones offer greater volume control as well as frequency boosting to make speech both louder AND clearer.
- ◇ Captioned telephones allow the person with hearing loss to listen to the caller and read the transcribed message on the captioned telephone screen.
- ◇ Smartphone apps are available that amplify speech, react to environmental sounds, transcribe spoken speech to text and more.

To learn more about assistive technologies and the **Minnesota Telephone Equipment Distribution program**, visit their website: <https://mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing>

Communication tips

- ◇ Begin the conversation by getting the person's attention.
- ◇ Do not assume the person hears or understands everything you say, even if they wear a hearing aid. Check their understanding and rephrase if necessary.
- ◇ Converse in a quiet environment with few visual and auditory distractions.
- ◇ Communicate in a well-lit area, but avoid standing in front of bright lights or windows.
- ◇ Keep your face and mouth clearly visible. Do not eat, smoke, chew gum, cover your mouth or turn away while talking.
- ◇ Enunciate your words clearly, but do not make exaggerated lip movements or shout.
- ◇ If you have a tendency to talk fast, try to slow down a little (but don't talk too s-l-o-w-l-y).
- ◇ Maintain eye contact. If you have to turn away from the older adult, wait until you reestablish eye contact before continuing your conversation.
- ◇ Use facial expressions and gestures to clarify your message. Pointing to appropriate objects or using visual aids can also be very helpful.
- ◇ Introduce one idea or fact at a time.
- ◇ Be patient.

Tips for caregivers

- ◇ Protect hearing by reducing environmental noise and treating ear infections.
- ◇ Be aware of ototoxic drugs that may damage hearing and cause tinnitus (or make it worse).
- ◇ Recognize the signs of hearing loss and make appropriate referrals to specialists for diagnosis and treatment.
- ◇ Learn about hearing loss and the resources available to assist you in meeting the needs of the older adult in your care.
- ◇ Appreciate the impact hearing loss has on the older adult and the stages of adjustment they may go through before accepting it.
- ◇ Be aware of the myths associated with hearing loss and dispel them with facts.
- ◇ Modify the environment, when possible, to accommodate the needs of those with a hearing loss.
- ◇ Seek support from professionals with experience providing quality care to older adults with hearing loss.

- ◇ Learn and use effective communication strategies that work for the individual.
- ◇ Use assistive technology to improve communication, improve understanding and promote independence.

Finding help

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division (DHHS) is here to help individuals experiencing hearing loss, their families and caregivers:

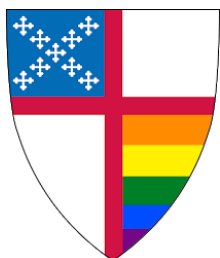
- ◇ Learn more about hearing loss.
- ◇ Identify assistive technology that meets the individual's unique needs.
- ◇ The Telephone Equipment Distribution Program provides devices that make using the phone easier. There is no cost to those who qualify.
- ◇ Connect to mental health services for support.
- ◇ Find resources in the community. Phone: 800-657-3663 DHHS's website: <https://mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing>

Local Address:

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division
Duluth Technology Village
11 E. Superior Street, Suite 220
Duluth, MN 55802

*Respectfully Submitted by,
Nancy Diener*

Information gleaned from State of Minnesota Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division of the Department of Human Services



Duluth-Superior Pride

Duluth-Superior Pride will include some virtual events this year, including a **Community Pride Worship Service** to be live streamed from Peace UCC at **10:30 am, Sunday, September 6**. The link is <https://youtu.be/kmFs7WUMcR0>. The Rev. Jason Clifton of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Solon Springs, Wisconsin will be the guest preacher.

From Rev. Margaret



Blueberry Pies

Nelson and I made a pie of Bayfield berries. We are working to perfect flavor and form. We both have long histories of berry picking. His mom used to have three blue granite cups. She would tell her three children to each fill a cup near their Michigan cottage and she would bake them a pie.

I've picked many berries in many places. On nights I could not sleep, I have done a life review, picturing places and companions over the past eighty years. My older sister moved into Michigan farming and woodland areas. She took me to her favorites and encouraged me to set up a roadside stand to sell my berries. We canned most of hers for winter jam and pies. I have picked berries in South Carolina, Canada, many places around Lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior, and also in Alaska.

Native American folks always harvested many blueberries as part of their sustainable and semi-nomadic lives. Late summer was termed, Blueberry Moon, by Great Lakes area Ojibwe people. Berries were eaten fresh and many were dried for later use and often mixed to the storage or traveling food known as pemmican with meat and nuts. The berries contain many nutrients. These days we know of the high antioxidants in them, too.

Our Biblical forebearers never had blueberries in the Fertile Crescent of middle east lands. The climate was too arid, yet they knew about farming and grains. Jesus' stories and parables often include such references. The parable of The Sower depicts varied growing condition of grains of wheat that fall on different spots. Blueberry seeds grow in varied places. Some berry pants grow on isolated rocky islands lashed by wintry blasts where little grows except in crevices under low growing pine trees where grains of sand collect for enough soil. Some berries burst forth in lush and abundance large tracts of burned over forest. Bears, birds and humans feast for a while. Other berry patches occur over time in partially shaded hills where a long harvest season is insured as the sunshine changes.

Many human life lessons may be gained from searching and picking blueberries. We gather in relationships of animals and plants. We may learn endurance, gratitude many forms of spiritual growth. All gifted to us by God our Creator.



*Respectfully submitted by,
Rev. Margaret W. Thomas,
Priest Emerita*

From Your Safety Team

The Safety Team will be meeting over the coming months to make sure St. Paul's is following all guidelines as we move through the phases of reopening. We are following recommendations put forth by the Episcopal Church in Minnesota. Current guidelines can be found at <https://episcopalmn.org/covid19-response>. If you have interest in taking part in this important work please contact Buffy Helstrom at 218.391.5044 or at embuffy@hotmail.com.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Buffy Helstrom*

Follow St. Paul's Duluth on social media:



From Your Creation Care Team

Manoominikewin Giiziis: Wild Rice Harvesting Moon

One of the many things I have learned from the tribal community since coming to work for the Fond du Lac Band is a greater appreciation of how each passing season informs our focus and drives our labors. I have always loved the changing of the seasons and can't imagine living in a place where that is not as visible and tangible as it is here in Minnesota. Tribal cultural practices have evolved over time and experience in this place of absolute abundance, to reflect a genuine and deep awareness of and gratitude for what the Creator has provided, and an abiding sense of stewardship of that Creation. The plants and the animals who share this Earth with us...they are all "our relatives".

According to oral traditions, more than a thousand years ago and directed by prophets that warned them in order to survive and preserve their ways of life, the Ojibwe people migrated westward through the Great Lakes basin, guided also by the prophecies that led them to the place where "food grew up out of the water." That food was wild rice or manoomin, the "good berry"; the only grain native to North America. Manoominikewin Giiziis (September) is the name of the month for gathering manoomin. For generations, families would work together to prepare for this "gift" of manoomin that would nourish their bodies and sustain their lives, through communion with each other and embracing the season that brings all the traditions of preparation for this gift to their community.

But as an aquatic ecologist by training and practice, I have also come to appreciate that manoomin is uniquely sensitive to environmental changes: pollution, land alterations, changes to hydrology (water levels and water flow), and humans' heavy footprint on the earth. Manoomin once occurred over most of the lower US east of the Rockies, but westward expansion of development, industry and agriculture has wiped it out nearly everywhere *except* northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and places in Michigan where tribes are actively restoring stands. Since it is an annual grass, each season a stand of wild rice is starting anew from the seeds dropped in seasons past. Over time, if even small changes to its environmental condition occur, those small changes can add up to a serious threat to its continued existence.

For instance, a shorter period of winter ice cover can impact the timing of seed germination the following spring, and seasonal growth milestones. When manoomin first sprouts, it sends shoots up to the surface of the shallow waters (1-3 feet deep) it prefers, and they spread out across the water in the "floating leaf" stage. Because the sediments of these shallow lakes

and flowages are usually very soft, the plants are vulnerable to being uprooted by dramatic changes in the water level – like heavy flooding rain events. Some years, an entire lake is wiped out by a single storm event. In drought years, even if the plants survive, the water isn't sufficient to float the canoes of harvesters.

I've witnessed multiple seasons of both extremes. Working with my tribal colleagues, we have identified other ways that manoomin is vulnerable to climate change impacts: disrupting hydrology, affecting pollination, increasing insect pests and diseases, increased competition from invasive species.

One of the key strategies we identified for sustaining manoomin in the face of climate change was simply to protect any and all remaining populations of wild rice, regardless of density. Other climate change adaptation strategies include a stronger tribal collaboration with the state resource management agency (DNR), protecting wild rice habitats and preventing the introduction of invasive species, expanding the monitoring and surveys of wild rice waters, increasing restoration efforts, and conducting education and outreach to the public about the importance of manoomin and the need to preserve it for future generations. If you want to learn more about what you can do to protect wild rice – which also happens to be Minnesota's state grain! – you can start with some of the following websites:

<https://www.1854treatyauthority.org/wild-rice/wild-rice.html>

<https://www.glifwc.org/WildRice/>

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/wildlife/shallowlakes/wildrice.html>

<http://www.fdlrez.com/RM/downloads/WQSHIA.pdf>

But maybe most importantly, support the sustainability of native Minnesota wild rice by buying hand-harvested (not paddy-cultivated) wild rice, and consider learning how to harvest your own manoomin! What a beautiful season to be outdoors, on the water, listening to the birds call and watching fish rise as the rice grains "rain" down into your canoe....

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Schuldt



From Your Vestry

Greetings from your wardens and vestry! Since my last Messenger update, the vestry has met twice. In early August, our special meeting focused first on the process of searching for a new rector, as we met via Zoom with Bishop Loya and Missioner for Ministry Karen Olson. The diocesan approach has evolved over the years, and we were presented with several options for consideration. Both the Bishop and Canon Olson are confident that our parish will be a big draw for rector candidates, as we have such a strong community and standing within the diocese. Then Bill came on to update us about changes to the ECMN safe reopening criteria, and to share the results of the online survey (which had a great response, thank you!) that gaged our parish members' thoughts, concerns, and intentions about participating in physical gatherings when appropriate measures can be put in place. We also expressed our unanimous desire for Rev. Dr. Barb Elliott to remain as Assistant Rector, continuing her pastoral care, Bible study, and services until an interim is in place. We also touched on several of the issues that Junior Warden Eirik Rennan and I are more actively attending to as we prepare for our transition in ministry – personnel, administrative logistics, “downloading” the trove of knowledge that Bill and Sue have amassed over the past fourteen years...it can be a little daunting! I also want to call out my appreciation for the extra work and efforts that Rita Rosenberger, Natalie Smith, and Tom Hamilton are giving to St. Paul's to maintain continuity and service; we truly are blessed.

I had the opportunity to join Sue and some of our Faith Guides for a virtual “pie and possibilities” meeting. Sue has been compiling resources: programming, materials for at-home activities, online, etc., for Faith Guides (and any new staff coming down the road) to have easy access to. We are trying to firm up a volunteer network to carry our Youth Programming and some intergenerational activities through the next several months; most of the age groups are covered, and Nat Constance has graciously offered to be a resource or advise other volunteers who may need support. Brad Brunfelt and Amber Sadowski have teamed up to coordinate the Saturday Community Connections, on the first Saturday of each month. Thank you, thank you to all the people who are stepping up, calling, emailing and otherwise offering to pitch in to keep our parish activities alive!

Speaking of volunteering, check out the upcoming message from Buffy Helstrom about how you might be able to actually get back into the building. Buffy and I walked the entire building last weekend to scout out opportunities to give St. Paul's some much-needed TLC, even while it remains pretty quiet on the inside. On the outside, you can't possibly miss the extravagant scaffolding that surrounds the bell tower! Work is now well underway on removing the failing mortar, repairing or replacing stones, and getting ready to install a wa-

terproof layer (a special mortar mix with latex polymers), followed by a more aesthetically suitable exterior mortar. Laborers are getting extensive training, and there is significant project oversight by our architectural consultant. It is a painstaking process.



At our regular vestry meeting on August 18 we were joined for the first time by our new clerk of the vestry, Cris Levenduski; thank you, Cris! Natalie reported on the June and July financials; our online giving rate is slowly climbing, but overall income is down compared to last year. However, our expenses are down as well, thanks to the PPP loan we received after being shut down under COVID restrictions. Natalie is finishing up the paperwork to have that loan fully forgiven, as we were able to spend it all on personnel costs over the past months. We will need to prepare a safe reopening plan, which must be approved by the ECMN Building Use Task Force before we can begin a phased opening. We spent significant time discussing the rector search and determined unanimously that we would follow the more traditional approach: first by calling an interim rector, then establishing a search committee or teams to take the next steps (discovery, parish profile, candidate review, etc.). Canon Olson will be providing us with names of candidates for an interim immediately. In addition, we continued our discussion of the two well-qualified professional consultants who may assist with our imminent capital campaign (more on that to come!!).

It was bittersweet to recognize that this was Bill's last meeting with the vestry of St. Paul's – by his count, well over 120 meetings since he arrived. We heard his last closing prayer, and shared a few final thoughts and gratitude for his service to us. I hope you were able to join us in a “holy farewell” to Bill, Sue and Luisa as they embark upon their next journey; Godspeed and blessings!

Stay tuned for more information about the how/what/when of Rally Day this September...and if you have any ideas to share, please do so! And one final word: if you are interested in being a part of the rector search team, please contact Rita in the Parish Office, or you can reach me via email at: ncosta2799@charter.net

*Peace,
Nancy Schuldt, Senior Warden*

Share Your Love for St. Paul's Church

The church needs your LOVE and maybe some elbow grease. If you have missed being at church, here is your chance to return. Projects ranging from cleaning the pews, freshening up bulletin boards, to organizing art supplies will be tackled. We will work on weekends following all guidelines from ECMN. Keep an eye out for emails with a sign up link.

If you have any immediate interest or projects you would like to tackle, please feel free to contact Buffy Helstrom at 218-391-5044 or at embuffy@hotmail.com.



*Respectfully submitted by,
Buffy Helstrom*

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!

Finances

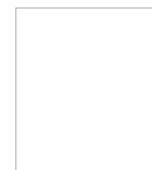
Thank you for your **ongoing giving** to St. Paul's! Remember, you can give by sending in a check, online, through bill pay at your bank or by texting "give" to 218-394-3535.

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

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, rec-

reational 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? Just contact the Parish Office via phone or email.



Deadline for submissions to the October issue of *The Messenger* is
8:00 am, Tuesday, September 22, 2020.

Please email items to: office@stpaulsduluth.org