

# St. Paul's Parish Messenger.

"BEHOLD, I HAVE SET BEFORE THEE AN OPEN DOOR."

## Waiting

Advent is a counter-cultural season. The world around us rushes to Christmas. Christmas trees decorate store windows. Christmas music fills our ears in Cub Foods. Television ads try to convince us that we can make it a special holiday season by purchasing the right gifts for our loved ones. While the world around us rushes to Christmas, we enter a church season – Advent – that encourages us to wait and to prepare.

Paul Tillich said this: "Our time is a time of waiting; waiting is its special destiny. And every time is a time of waiting, waiting for the breaking in of eternity. All time runs forward. All time, both history and in personal life, is expectation. Time itself is waiting; waiting not for another time, but for that which is eternal."

"Waiting for that which is eternal" is a wonderful description of Advent. We wait and watch for Christ's coming. We remember his coming a long time ago, a child born in a manger in Bethlehem. We believe Christ will come again in glory sometime in the future. We live in an "in-between" time here and now. Christ comes to us here and now. Christ lives through us here and now. The eternal, Christ, is known to us here and now.

Advent is time to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. Remembering his coming into the world a long time ago on a starry night in Bethlehem, looking for his coming again in glory, and longing for his coming into our lives and into our world today, we are encouraged to take time and make space for Christ to be born again in and through us.

The eternal seeks to make a home in our hearts and in the world. Take some time this Advent season to prepare your heart and your home for Christ's coming. Make it a priority to attend Sunday worship. Spend some time in quiet prayer. Pick up an Advent devotional at the Advent Festival (Nov. 24) and spend some time in reflection each day. Say a prayer as you light your advent wreath before your evening meal. Pray morning or evening prayer from the Prayer Book.



As the world rushes to Christmas, we are called upon to wait and to prepare. To wait and prepare not for what is passing away, but for that which is eternal.

Happy Advent,

Bill

## From Reverend Barb



Our evening Bible study group is planning to read and discuss the Gospel of Thomas—one of the Gospels that didn't make it into the Bible when it was organized 1500 years ago—at our December meeting.

The date for this upcoming meeting is **December 3**, 6:30-8:00 pm—you are welcome to join us! We will also set our after-the-holidays plans at the December meeting.

Our National Church has created an **Advent Calendar** for our use (see page 6). It suggests daily Advent reflections based on the seven practices of the Way of Love. On Advent Sundays (December 8, 15, and 22) you are invited to meet me in the Olcott Room between services, 9:00-9:50 am. We will share our Advent reflections and insights with each other.

Please call the office to learn about the sessions, or email Reverend Barb about it .

*God's blessings... --Barbara Elliott*

## Update From CHUM

We are still collecting canned goods for the CHUM Food Shelf. This month's most wanted item is your favorite soup! Drop off cans in the brown baskets in the church sanctuary. Thanks!



## DAMIANO SOUP KITCHEN

St. Paul's will be serving at the Damiano Soup Kitchen on **Monday, December 2**, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. Volunteers are always welcome; half-shifts are available. Let me know if you can help. Remember to bring a hat. Thanks!

Nelson Thomas

There is a second St. Paul's group serving meals at Damiano Soup Kitchen as well. They could use one more volunteer— must be at least 18 years old. Their next shift is Saturday, December 21, 2:00-6:00 pm. If you are interested, please contact Bill Van Oss. Thanks!

## Remembering the first service held in St. Paul's Church on December 25, 1869

This Christmas we will remember and honor the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first church service held in the original St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Lake Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. It was held on Christmas Day, 1869. Newspaper accounts recall "Christmas Day was spent in Duluth appropriately, but soberly. The Episcopal Church (*it wasn't named St. Paul's until a year later, it was just called Jay Cooke's church*) was the principal scene of attraction in the morning- a good audience attending the first formal services of worship in the new structure. ...We congratulate all our citizens upon having already one completed church in Duluth; and it is a real gem.."

Special thanks to Bob Silverness for his research and Carrie Miller, the Altar Guild and Bruce Sederberg who are making plans to recreate some of the decorations that were used in 1869. It will be a beautiful sight, and the smell of fresh pine will be wafting through the sanctuary! There will also be a special surprise for children similar to what was distributed in the early years of St. Paul's. A second collection will be taken to benefit CHUM at all Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services in gratitude for 150 years of St. Paul's and in remembrance of the forebearers who collected funds at the Christmas services and distributed them to the needy. Our bells will ring out at the beginning and ending of the services as well; as they did 150 years ago. Some of the hymns that will be sung at the services will be the same ones sung 150 years ago. Join us to remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus and 150 years of St. Paul's.

## New Names for Christmas Floral Fund



Decorating of the church for the Christmas season with the beautiful flowers and greens is made possible by the monetary donations given in memory of, or in Thanksgiving for, your loved ones. Now is the time to add NEW names to the listings included in the Christmas bulletin.

Submit the names in writing to the Altar Guild c/o the Parish Office by Wednesday, December 11, 2019. Contributions are accepted in any amount with a suggested minimum of \$20. Make checks payable to St. Paul's Altar Guild and note "Christmas Floral Fund" on the memo line. Donors will receive an acknowledgment and name listings. If you have questions, please contact Joanne Marinac, Altar Guild Flower Coordinator, by December 11. Thank you for your generosity.



### Everyday Callings: A Calling To Serve

I have never considered myself much of a leader. Many times in my life, I have found myself in the awkward situation of trying to explain my point of view in a clear way. This usually includes way too many hand gestures. I can have the most wonderful conversations with a good friend or someone I feel comfortable around; someone who gets me. But when I am engaging with someone new, or a large group of people, I imagine them walking away from our meeting feeling somewhat confused and thinking to themselves, "What just happened?". And so, when I was asked if I would consider becoming the director of the altar guild, my immediate gut feeling was, "Why on earth would anyone want to have me be the leader of such a distinguished group of faith-filled people! Surely they will dismiss me and any ideas I may have." I guess that didn't show much faith on my part of the truly wonderful people I have come to know and love as my fellow altar guild members. But back then in 2013, I would not have considered being an altar guild director my "calling". It was more like a slightly scary, intimidating step for me to overcome. How could I be worthy of caring for such traditions, not to mention carry around some of the 100+ year-old treasures we use in our worship services, like our irreplaceable chalice adorned with jewels given by the women of St Paul's, or our baptism bowl which has held the chrism oil that has anointed hundreds! And I think I resisted for a while, not feeling like I was meant for it. But then, something started to change in my heart. I began to feel a sense of calm and peace with this new responsibility in this wonderful place. I let myself feel the calling.

Many of you may be familiar with the movie "Dead Poet's Society". It was released in the summer of 1989 just before I became a senior in high school. I was deeply moved by this stirring, coming-of-age drama. A scene that really resonated with me happens early in the movie when actor Robin Williams, playing the role of a poetry teacher to a group of teenage boys at an elite boarding school in 1959, encourages them to look closely at pictures of past students in the school's trophy case. He urges the boys to lean in and listen to the young men of the past, as if to hear them whispering "Carpe diem." Now, this was particularly impactful to me for 2 reasons: 1) I knew what "Carpe diem" meant before it was even translated in the movie! I had just spent two years of my high school education taking Latin – my dad was so proud. And so I knew quickly that "Carpe diem" meant "Seize the day." 2) I absolutely believed that the faces of the boys in those pictures, boys who by now had become old men, were urging this next generation of young men to "Seize the day!" I could practically hear it.

And now, as a member of the altar guild, I get the privilege of entering into all the holy places of our church and sacristy. I often find it easy to "geek out" at the amazingly old pieces of silver, brass, and linens that I can look at closely and hold. I do recognize that the church is more than a beautiful building and the things inside it. It is about the people, and how we are called to love one another. But also for me, when I really take a moment and pay attention, I can hear the voices of those wonderful people of the altar guild that have gone before me. They too held these items in their hands. They are whispering to me "carpe diem." Seize this day and make it count. Take what you have learned, felt and seen in this place, and go out in the world and spread it around.

Oh yes, this is my calling.

*Respectfully submitted by Carrie Miller*

## Christian Formation News



**November 24: Advent Around the World Festival, this Sunday, November 24 at 11 am in the parish hall**— Visit the booths of 13 different countries as you sample the unique foods prepared for the holidays, view special Christmas

displays, make an Advent wreath ( a NEW design this year), pick up an Advent activity calendar, make special crafts and more! For all ages!

### **December Christian Formation schedule:**

**Sunday, December 1:** No KidsWord due to Thanksgiving break

**Wednesday, December 4:** 5:30 pm Service, 6 pm Dinner, 6:30 pm Kids Club for prek-1st, Age Specific Faith Formation 2/3rd, 4/5th, 6/7th, Confirmation and adults

**Sunday, December 8:** KidsWord and S.O.S. =Serving Others Sunday stations set up in the hall

**Wednesday, December 11:** 5:30 pm Service, 6 pm Dinner, 6:30 pm Kids Club for prek-1st, Age Specific Faith Formation 2/3rd, 4/5th, 6/7th, Confirmation and adults

**Sunday, December 15:** KidsWord

**Wednesday, December 18:** GIFT Night—Caroling at Woodland Garden Apartments at 6:00 pm

**Sunday, December 22:** Happy Birthday Jesus Party in KidsWord

**Tuesday, December 24: 4 pm Christmas Eve Service and Pageant, 10 pm Service**

**Wednesday, December 25— Christmas Day Service 10 am**

**Sunday, December 29:** No KidsWord

**Wednesday, December 26 and January 2:** No Church Night programming

## **DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AND PAGEANT**

**4:00 pm** All children are invited to participate in the pageant. Costumes will be distributed in the back of church beginning at 3:00 pm. Children are also invited to play an instrument/sing before the service. A sign up sheet will be posted on the second floor bulletin board or you can contact Tom Hamilton to sign up.

**Prayer Partners Program:** Thank you to all the adults who are praying for our children and youth. Know that they also have been praying for you! It is very powerful for these young people to know that their church community supports them in so many ways; especially through prayer as they deal with the joys, fears and challenges of growing up in today's world. Children will be making Christmas cards for their prayer partners in December; but sometimes children are absent when their class is making their cards; but know even if you happen to not get a Christmas card; that the children appreciate your prayers!

**Milestone Kits** have been restocked and are available in the two black carts in the parish hall. There are kits for all ages and stages in life to help you bring God's presence into the special moments in life's journey. Each kit contains a simple prayer, conversation starter, blessing and symbolic gift to mark the occasion.

For more information on any of the above events, please visit [www.stpaulsduluth.org/grow](http://www.stpaulsduluth.org/grow) or contact me!

*Blessings,  
Sue Van Oss, Director of Christian Formation*

## **Holiday Services**

### **Tuesday, December 24**

**4:00 pm Christmas Eve service with pageant**

**10:00 pm Christmas Eve service with candles and choir**

### **Wednesday, December 25**

**10:00 am Christmas service**





# Advent Around the World Festival

## Sunday, November 24, 11 am

Learn how Advent and Christmas are celebrated in countries around the world! Experience different traditions, foods, sights and sounds! During coffee hour in the parish hall, take a world tour by visiting various country booths and tasting a variety of foods!

Plus, pick up an Advent Calendar, make a wreath, (new this year – smaller metal wreath holder), and more! New countries added this year include Greece, the Philippines, Marshall Islands and the Czech Republic along with some of last year's favorites. Come one, come all ages!

## Upcoming Women's Event

**Women's Retreat February 7-8, 2020 (with February 9 option)  
at new location, Alleluia Lodge at Camp Annicon.**

It's a four-season retreat facility with beautiful views of the Annicon River valley with hiking, skiing and snowshoeing trails. It's a relaxing weekend (option for February 9 add-on) with free time for you to read a book, knit, enjoy the outdoors or whatever else you'd like to do, along with some structured times to get to know the others, reflect, pray, craft, play games and laugh together! Depend-

ing on the number attending, the cost will only be about \$50 a night which includes three meals! WE NEED AN RSVP and NONREFUNDABLE DEPOSIT BY DECEMBER 15. Indicate your interest now at [www.stpaulsduluth.org/adults](http://www.stpaulsduluth.org/adults). Cabins are reserved on a first come, first serve basis so don't wait!



*Note: St. Paul's respects and acknowledges the gender identities of all people and seeks to remove assumption about gender identity. Non-binary and transgender individuals are always welcome at all events.*

## Loaves and Fishes Christmas Party

Please consider helping our neighbors enjoy a wonderful Christmas party here at St. Paul's. Help and food donations needed for Loaves and Fishes Christmas Party on Saturday, December 14, in the parish hall. Here is what they need:

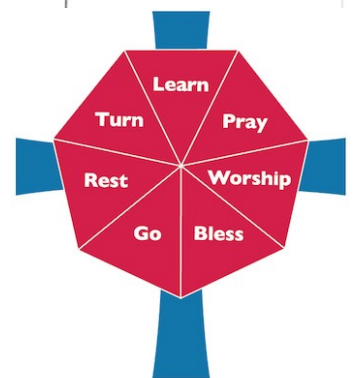
- \* 5 food servers from 2:30-4:30pm
- \* 2 large turkeys, fully cooked and warm, but not carved
- \* 2 large pans (20x12 or 29 x 13) of corn casserole
- \* 2 large pans of sweet potatoes (prepared however you'd like)
- \* Toys for children – unwrapped, non-violent toys
- \* Gift cards for teens



Please call or text Joel Kilgour to sign up or if you have any questions. Thanks!

# ADVENT CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1 Worship</b> <b>Advent 1</b> What word or words from worship today have found a home in your heart? Share these words with a friend or family member.</p>	<p><b>2 Go</b> Take time to listen closely to someone you may not ordinarily take seriously, or who has a different perspective than you. Pray to hear them as God hears them.</p>	<p><b>3 Learn</b> Read Luke 1:30. What are you afraid of that keeps you from saying "yes" to God?</p>	<p><b>4 Pray</b> Set a timer for three minutes. Silently repeat this prayer: "Here I am, God."</p>	<p><b>5 Bless</b> The angel blessed Mary with the gift of presence. To whom can you give the gift of presence this week?</p>	<p><b>6 Turn</b> In giving generously, St. Nicholas turned from a sense of scarcity to a posture of abundance. What do you need to turn from in order to be generous of heart?</p>	<p><b>7 Rest</b> From what could you rest in order to receive renewed life? Take as long as you are able to find that rest today.</p>
<p><b>8 Worship</b> <b>Advent 2</b> What part of gathering for worship fills your heart with hope?</p>	<p><b>9 Go</b> Read or watch your local news. Where is reconciliation needed? Pray for healing.</p>	<p><b>10 Learn</b> Read Luke 1:45. Consider how your faith is a blessing. Share your faith story with a friend.</p>	<p><b>11 Pray</b> Offer a prayer of thanks for each person you encounter – both stranger and friend – silently or aloud.</p>	<p><b>12 Bless</b> Call or write a family member with whom you desire a closer relationship. Share with them how they are a blessing.</p>	<p><b>13 Turn</b> Reflect: Where have I fallen short this week? How can I make amends? Give thanks for the gift of fresh starts that we have through God's grace.</p>	<p><b>14 Rest</b> Set aside 30 minutes to rest, pause, and breathe deeply with a friend or family member. Give thanks for the restorative power of love in relationship.</p>
<p><b>15 Worship</b> <b>Advent 3</b> Pray for each person as they receive communion. Imagine who you would like to see at church next week. Invite them to join you.</p>	<p><b>16 Go</b> Choose to take a different route to work, to school, or to play today. Who or what did you encounter differently?</p>	<p><b>17 Learn</b> Read Luke 1:64. When Zechariah could finally speak, he began by praising God. For what can you praise God? Share on social media or with a friend.</p>	<p><b>18 Pray</b> Keep a lookout for anyone who might seem lonely, stressed, or sad. Offer this simple invitation: "May I pray for you?" Then offer prayers – silently or aloud – on their behalf as you move through your day.</p>	<p><b>19 Bless</b> Identify a blessing you have that you could give away. Share this blessing with your church, a local ministry, or your community.</p>	<p><b>20 Turn</b> Turn away from the busyness of the week and turn toward someone who gives you life or to whom you give life. Give thanks.</p>	<p><b>21 Rest</b> In Genesis 1-2, God calls the creation "good" and rests. What can you proclaim to be "good" instead of "not enough" as a witness to God's love for the world today?</p>
<p><b>22 Worship</b> <b>Advent 4</b> Linger before leaving worship today. Ask God to prepare and send you on a journey into the world to witness to God's love</p>	<p><b>23 Go</b> Go out into your neighborhood today. Where do you see God at work? What attributes of God's love are visible? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate and join that love.</p>	<p><b>24 Learn</b> Read Luke 2:8-10. When has God surprised you? Share with a friend.</p>	<p><b>25 Pray</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> Read Luke 1-2. Give thanks for the birth of the Christ-child. Pray that you may follow Christ Jesus on his Way of Love with your whole heart, mind, body, and spirit.</p>			



**THE WAY OF LOVE**  
*Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*

On Advent Sundays (December 8, 15, and 22) you are invited to meet with Rev. Dr. Barbara Elliott in the Olcott Room between services, 9:00-9:50 am, to share your Advent reflections and insights with each other.

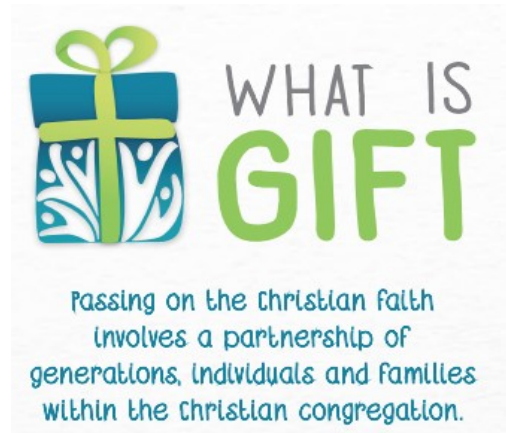
## **Christmas Carols**

### **GIFT Night!**

**Wednesday,**

**December 18**

**6:00pm**



*GIFT events provide an opportunity for people of all ages to explore God's love for them by sharing the gift of each other and the gift of faith. Individuals, couples, and families are encouraged to attend!*



Christmas Caroling at Woodland Garden Apartments, 127 E Calvary Rd, Duluth.

Come spread the spirit of Christmas to our elders! We will meet in the main floor lobby at 6:00 pm then walk the halls for about 30 minutes.

Take a few minutes to bring Christmas cheer for all to hear!

## **Seeking Donations for Camera/Security/Fire System**

As part of our efforts to welcome and ensure the safety of all who enter the doors of St. Paul's, the Safety Team has recommended that we purchase a security system to monitor the various entrance doors, and to connect to police and fire departments to quickly respond in the event of an incident. Jim Ransom has started the efforts to gather funds with a generous donation of \$500, which has been matched by another parishioner's generous \$500 gift who wishes to remain anonymous. If you would like to contribute to this important addition to St. Paul's, any amount is greatly appreciated! Together we can make St. Paul's a safe place for all. Please indicate Security System on your check or online donation that you make. Thank You!!! Thank you also to the members of our new Safety Team who are working hard in the background on several improvements re: lighting, doors, fire detection, etc. They are completing a very thorough audit that will be available in January, 2020.

Deadline for submissions to the next  
issue of *The Messenger* is  
8:00 am, December 11, 2019.  
Please email items to:  
[office@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:office@stpaulsduluth.org)

## Church Nights in December

Wednesday Church Nights have some exciting offerings this month. Church Nights have become the centerpiece of our Christian Formation program and include something for everyone. The adult programs for Church Night will focus on health, wellness and safety this month.

Our 5:30 pm Eucharist is held in church. This is a great way to attend service if you are not able to make it on Sunday (or even if you are able!). We gather in the front pews. Tom Hamilton leads our music on the piano. This service is less formal and shorter than Sunday. We use the scripture readings for the coming Sunday.

Buffy Helstrom (and friends) prepare our simple suppers that begin at 6:00 pm. Buffy does a wonderful job preparing a simple, healthy meal that we ask you to help support by making a donation toward defraying the cost.

Church Nights meet three times per month with programming from 6:30-7:30 pm. Two Wednesdays, the children and youth have age-specific faith formation for grades pre-K through Confirmation. Faith formation is life-long, so adults have the opportunity to engage in programs, speakers and discussions on various topics. Please let me know if you have suggestions for speakers or programs.

One Wednesday we will be together for GIFT; Growing in Faith Together, which gives a chance for all ages to **engage** in fun faith activities together. We will have one Wednesday where we don't gather at church, instead that time can be used for focusing on faith at home. On the months where there are five Wednesdays, our church leaves the building and engages in a service project somewhere in our community.



December Church Night Adult Programs:  
Our focus for December is: **Health, Wellness and Safety.**

**December 4: Peter Hafften** from **Age Well Arrowhead** will lead a training on **Dementia Friendly Living**. Dementia affects many aspects of our communities including our faith community. It is predicted that dementia cases will triple in years to come. One in three adults over age 80 already suffer from dementia. With the proper training and education, we can support those living with dementia and help them remain active members of our community. *Dementia Friendly Living* seeks to:

1. Provide us with valuable communication strategies, easy physical changes that support those with dementia, and ways to detect early warning signs of dementia with older adults.
2. It supports those who are caregivers to loved ones with dementia and better educates everyone about the disease and resources available.
3. It promotes education about the disease and allows us to become "Dementia Friendly." St. Paul's will be recognized for completing the training through Age Well Arrowhead's website, newsletter, and our social media!

**December 11:** Our own **Craig Heidenreich** will lead a session on **Personal Safety and Suspicious Behavior**. This comes out of requests from a number of people who have completed the newly revised **Safe Church Training** for more information.

**December 18:** Our **GIFT (Growing in Faith Together)** intergenerational church night will be singing **Christmas Carols** at the Woodland Garden Apartments, 127 East Calvary Rd, Duluth. Come at 6:00 pm. No 5:30 service or meal this week.

**December 25:** Merry Christmas! Christmas Day service is at 10:00 am

Hope to see you at Church Night!

*Bill Van Oss, Rector*

### In Memory of Joy Williams

Joy Williams' memorial service will take place on Friday, November 29, the day after Thanksgiving. Visitation in church beginning at 12:30 pm. Service at 1:30 pm, followed by light refreshments and fellowship time in the Parish Hall.





## Share the Celebration: 150th Anniversary Mementos Are Still Available!

Sterling silver crosses made especially for St. Paul's by parishioner Susan Furo of the Jeweler's Bench and engraved on the back with the dates 1869-2019 are available in two lengths of chain 18" and 20" for \$75. The retail price of these elegant crosses is significantly higher, and they make great Christmas gifts! Buy one today in the church office.

Only a few mugs are still available! One of the custom tiles on the sanctuary floor that was made by Moravian Tile Company in Pennsylvania was chosen as the inspiration for these commemorative mugs, made by Karin Kraemer of Duluth Pottery. It is inscribed CARITAS, which means "love for all" in Latin. Two colors are available Everglade (blue) and Lichen (green). Buy one today in the church office for \$30.




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## Annual Giving Tree begins November 24!



Help us spread God's love to our neighbors by purchasing a new gift for the children at Loaves and Fishes in our neighborhood, and for the women and children at Safe Haven Domestic Abuse Resource Center. A tree will be set up by the side entrance to church on Sunday, November 24 with tags describing a desired toy or gift. Please purchase the gift and return it unwrapped, with the tag attached, by **Sunday, December 8**. We will accept any type of nonviolent toy for infants through teens. A great gift idea for teens are gift cards to local stores.

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## St. Paul's Creation Care Team

For several decades, St. Paul's has been highly involved in caring for God's creation through education, action and spiritual resources. For example we were designated a Green Congregation and worked with Ecolibrium3 on an energy audit and energy efficient lighting project. Now there is renewed interest and energy among several parishioners in continuing and expanding those efforts to combat climate change and care for creation on an individual and congregational level.

We are in the final step on being the first congregation in the Northland to be certified as a Climate Justice Congregation (and the second Episcopal parish in the state) through Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light. Climate Justice Congregations are faith communities who are committed to living out their faith through effective and sustained climate action. We hope to implement solutions that address systemic problems and co-create a just and sustainable world.

We have taken several small steps like composting food waste, using biodegradable items, reducing waste and plastics. Those are practical steps. In addition we are looking at systemic and spiritual steps as part of a three-legged stool to respond in ways that are effective and life-giving.

The Creation Care Team is meeting next on Sunday, December 8 at 11:15 am in the Olcott Room. If you are interested in being on the team; please feel free to contact a team member or come to the meeting. The Creation Care Team is: Carol Andrews, Jay Austin, Liz Austin-Minor, David Clanaugh, Tom Diener, Jane Jarnis, Charlie Orsak, Wendy Saliin, Nancy Schuldt, Margaret Thomas, Nelson Thomas, Bill Van Oss, Sue Van Oss, and Jason Wall.





## Notes of a Different Kind

Second verse just like the first. . . .

Each year we gather around the same story of angels and shepherds, Mary and Joseph, the innkeeper and the animals in the barn. The story of Jesus' birth as told in the Gospel of Luke is emblazoned into our memory so deeply we can almost tell it without a printed script. So why do we come to church? We come because we change and because we are changed by the story that never changes. We find ourselves in different life circumstances, and the meaning of Jesus being born for us changes as well.

This is the first year I will celebrate Christmas without either of my parents. While I would never presume to have a monopoly on grief, it is a melancholy time as memories of Christmases past flood my thoughts. Smiles on my lips and tears in my eyes are common as I remember a cherished childhood with loving parents who cared deeply for me. The hole in my heart created by their absence is huge. However, each time I hear the story of Jesus' birth, I hear it differently. This year I hear it in my dad's voice, gentle and calm. I hear it in the voice of the community of St. Paul's as we sing and pray and eat and bless together. My prayer for all of us is that whatever makes us feel empty, Jesus, love born anew, will fill our hearts with calm and comfort.

Peace,  
Tom Hamilton,  
Director of Music

## December Library Notes



So, I was going to do an article on the Christmas books in the library. As I was thinking about this, I had a “duh” moment where I realized that the center of Christmas is the birth of Christ and the tale is told no better than in the Gospels. With that in mind, I thought I would give brief descriptions of some of the Bibles in the collection here at the library. They are all available to be checked out. They are listed in no particular order.

Life Application Study Bible: this Bible is annotated with application and explanatory notes. Each application note has three parts: (1) an explanation that ties the note directly to the Scripture passage (2) the bridge that explains the timeless truth and makes it relevant for today and (3) the application that shows you how to take the timeless truth and apply it to your situation. The explanatory notes help the reader understand the culture, history, context, background and places. Maps, charts and diagrams are also found on the same page as the passages to which they relate.

The Spiritual Formation Bible: this Bible is designed to help you reflect on the passages. Each page contains an “Entry Point” which is a short article based on a passage on or near the page on which the article appears. The contributors hope that these “reflective notes will help you enter the passage and make it come alive for you in a personal way.”

The One Year Bible: this entire Bible is arranged in 365 daily readings.

The Access Bible is designed to provide study helps that enable the reader to engage biblical text directly. The study helps range from full length essays on topics of general interest to short, dictionary-like entries.

Holy Bible. This is a traditional King James version illustrated with masterpieces of religious art. It is published by Heirloom Publishers.

Seniors' Devotional Bible. This is a large print, King James version containing a years' worth of daily devotions on “the great art of living” with a focus on issues that may be especially important to an older adult – no matter where you are at in the process of aging and saging.

These are only a few of the Bible versions available at the library. There are several more for your reading pleasure and study.

### PAPERBACK EXCHANGE

On a separate note. We are going to try an experimental paperback book exchange. These will not be catalogued in the usual manner. Rather, if anyone has paperback books that they would like to share, drop them off at the library and they will be placed on the shelves of the paperback exchange, which will be marked as such. In addition to donating to the exchange, feel free to take home as many as you like and return them at your convenience, or keep them forever.

*Respectfully submitted by Faye Witt*

## LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE –DECEMBER

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

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
ALTAR GUILD	K LEONARD	C CONRAD	J MARINAC	J JARNIS	K LEONARD
	J Harvey	S Hall	J Elliott	D Kolquist	J Harvey
	L Hultkrantz	S Hartley	P Markert	A Schliep	L Hultkrantz
		S Meyer	C Miller	R Ballou-Buck	
		A Sadowski			
LECTOR 8:00 AM	M Gustafson	S Stromquist	J Pastor	N Diener	A MacKenzie
USHERS	B & C Dinan	G & K Bubalo	J & H Ransom	M & S Brown	G & K Bubalo
	C Orsak	J Jarnis	K Swanson	C Orsak	B & C Dinan
	P Waite	D Morin	D Kolquist	P Waite	
ACOLYTES	See <a href="http://www.stpaulsfaithformation.org">www.stpaulsfaithformation.org</a> for current acolyte schedule				
LECTOR 10:00 AM	P Kruschke	K Halverson	S Meyer	Z Stodola	J Stromquist
CHALICE	K Baumgarten	K Halverson	S Anderson	Z Stodola	J Stromquist
BEARERS	J Bamford	M Gustafson	G Maloney	N Diener	J Bamford
	S Stromquist	Z Stodola	J Stromquist	P Enenbach	K Baumgarten
FLORAL DELIVERY	S Furo	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
COFFEE HOSTS	M & B Minter	J Hudecheck	French Family	Barthel Family	Fait-Rennan Family
LOCK UP	D Pederson	J Austin	M Brown	T Diener	C Fellman

### December 24: 4:00 pm

**Lector:** M Gustafson

**Chalice Bearers:** M Gustafson, A MacKenzie, G Maloney, S Stromquist

**Ushers:** D Morin/K Swanson & Family

### December 24: 10:00 pm

**Lector:** J Pastor

**Chalice Bearers:** J Pastor, S Anderson, N Diener, P Enenbach

**Ushers:** J & S Dusek & Family

### December 25: 10:00 am

**Lector:** Pat Kruschke

**Chalice Bearer:** M Gustafson

**Usher:**

### Altar Guild Other Duties for December:

#### Christmas Services – Team 4

Dec 24- 4:00 pm & 10:00 pm

Dec 25 – 10 am

#### December Brass Cleaning:

December 23—10 am

C Conrad, C Miller, P Markert, J Sederberg, J Marinac

#### Substitutes:

Weekly Teams: G Bouschor, E Killen

Wednesday Services: C Conrad, C Miller, N Brunfelt

Linens: C Conrad, C Miller

Brass: J Sederberg, C Miller

#### December Linens:

E Killen, J Harvey

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**1710 East Superior Street**  
**Duluth, MN 55812**

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Visit our website:  
[www.stpaulsduluth.org](http://www.stpaulsduluth.org)



*Angels  
Round  
Thee Shine*

*Festival of Lessons and Carols*

*Sunday, December 22, 2019  
3:00 pm  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
1710 East Superior Street  
Duluth*