

THE MESSENGER

APRIL, 2022

From The Rev. Rick Swenson

As we approach the celebration of Easter, we find ourselves in this time and place in a season of “rebirth” as well. We are beginning to emerge from the restrictions and mitigation measures necessary to keep ourselves and those around us as safe as possible during this Covid pandemic. We are slowly returning to what might be called a “new normal,” for we will be living with this virus for a long time and will need to continue to be vigilant for the foreseeable future.

The Vestry and other parish leaders are working on ways to more fully begin to re-institute the many wonderful in-person, meetings, programs, and liturgies that St. Paul's was so accustomed to before the pandemic hit. This re-opening will not happen all at once, but of necessity will be a gradual process of getting back on our feet in the safest and most productive way possible. I ask everyone's understanding, prayers, and participation as we move forward one step at a time.

Faith formation programs and youth ministry are two priority areas of focus. Plans have already begun for a one-day youth event for Duluth graduating high school seniors late this spring and for a larger Northeast Mission Area youth event in the early summer. Exact details will be forthcoming as planning for these two events begins to take shape. We will also begin to envision how we can re-institute the Wednesday and Sunday youth and adult faith formation opportunities here at St. Paul's.

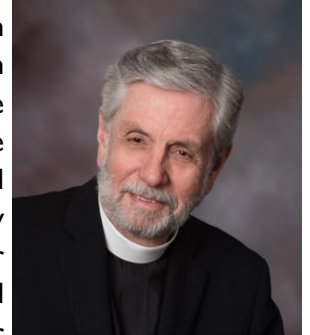
The most immediate opportunity to begin to truly feel like we are emerging from the restrictions of the Covid pandemic will be our celebration of the events of Holy Week. The Worship Committee is formulating plans for these worship events of such importance and significance to our Christian faith and our understanding of our relationship to our God.

The following are the emerging plans for Holy Week:

Palm Sunday (April 10) – we hope to be able to process in some manner with palms as is the custom.

Maundy Thursday (April 14) – the plan is to have an

“agape” meal/Eucharist celebration in the parish hall and after completion of this meal we will move to the sanctuary to “strip the altar.” The reserved sacrament will be removed from the tabernacle in the sanctuary and placed in the Chapel on the altar until the Easter Vigil on Saturday. All will be encouraged to spend an hour or more in meditation in the Chapel with the body of Christ during these days of the Triduum.



Good Friday (April 15) – there will be a service late afternoon Friday praying the Stations of the Cross combined/ followed with administration of Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.

Easter Vigil (April 16) – in many ways this is the most “complicated” service. The Worship Committee is working on ways to make this as meaningful as possible while understanding that we may not be able to do all of the things that have accompanied this service in the past.

Easter Day (April 17) – There will be services at both 8:00 am and 10:00 am on Easter Sunday. We are looking to see if we can have an organist at the 8:00 service as well as having one at the 10:00 service.

The exact times together with more detail concerning all of these services will be announced as plans are firmed up.

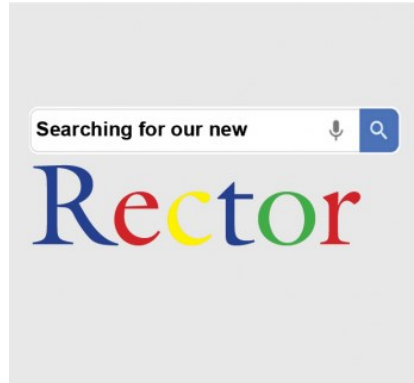
As you all know this is a time of significant transition for the parish of St. Paul's in many significant respects, not just the relaxing of Covid restrictions. Please continue to pray for everyone here at St. Paul's and especially all those of you who are working so hard to make these transitions successful.

Faithfully,
The Rev. Rick Swenson

From Your Rector Search Committee

- The applications have come in and there are more than we had even hoped for.
- All of the applications are in our hands as of March 28.
- The applicants are from far and near.
- We plan on starting interviews soon after Easter.
- This timeline is matching what we had originally planned and we are very pleased that all has gone well.
- The St. Paul's portfolio is on our

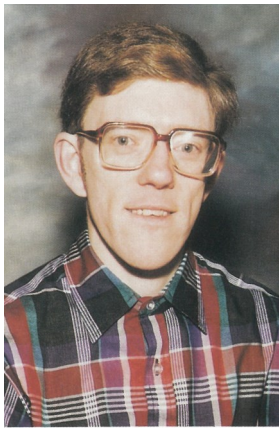
website. You can look at the portfolio that applicants are reading when they consider their call to St. Paul's.



Respectfully submitted,
Nat Constance

*On behalf of: Paul Almirall, Mark Brown,
Rebecca Butler, Mary Dragich, Ryan
Erspamer, Kathy Leonard, Terry Roberts,
Amber Sadowski, Angie Shambour, and
Nelson Thomas*

Congratulations to Peter Pierce



Peter Pierce
Sunday Sexton

Most of you have met Peter Pierce. He has worked at St. Paul's Episcopal Church for twenty-five years! His titles and duties may have changed through the years, but his faithful service, pleasant demeanor and enthusiasm for kite-flying and bird-watching have never changed a bit. Even through the many transitions we experienced over the past two years, Peter

still mowed the lawn all summer and also served as an Event Sexton when we needed him.

Peter doesn't seem to age like the rest of us. Look at these photos, dated 1997 and 2013 — he looks almost the same!

But now he is retiring. We are so happy for him, but sad for us. Thank you, Peter, for all you've done for St. Paul's.



You'll still see him around the neighborhood (he only lives two blocks away from St. Paul's) or flying a kite on the Lakewalk when the weather permits.

If you'd like to send a note of congratulations and appreciation to Peter, just send it to church and Rita will make sure it gets to him.

Thank you for everything, Peter!

*"For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do"
—Hebrews 6:10*

From Your Vestry



When I was first asked to serve as Junior Warden, my immediate reaction was that I didn't have the financial background to eventually lead the Vestry. But I was convinced to do it after being reminded that our church is full of people of great knowledge to tackle

any issue before us. I am amazed at how true those words are.

One of the changes that was made in Nancy Schuldt's tenure as Senior Warden was to appoint a Treasurer to the Vestry. In the past, the role of Treasurer was a paid position that handled all our financial duties, including coming to our Vestry meetings and presenting the Monthly Financial Report. Today, we now have an excellent paid Bookkeeper, Christine Melone, who handles the day-to-day financial details. She reports to our Treasurer, Becky Ballou-Buck, an appointed member of the Vestry who now presents the report.

Our Treasurer, Becky, has come up with a great plan to reduce the time the Vestry commits to the financial process and for us to receive expert advice from those with a strong background and experience in such matters.

Going forward, a Budget and Finance Committee lead by Becky, will review the Monthly Financial Report in

advance of the monthly Vestry meetings and give its approval or highlight issues and areas of concern. Vestry will also review ahead of time, but now be aided in advice from Budget and Finance.

The members of this committee are Becky Ballou-Buck (Treasurer and Chair), Mike French, Nancy Schuldt, Leslie Brunfelt, Ryan Erspamer, Eric Thomas (Vestry Liaison), and me (Senior Warden). My sincere thanks to all the members for offering their expertise.

I expect that the monthly financial information to the committee will be a benefit to Mike French, who along with our Bookkeeper and Treasurer, has so ably put together our budget at year's end. I also believe we have a strong group to get the best financial advice moving forward. But just as important, Vestry will be allowed to focus on a more spiritual aspect of serving. More time can be dedicated to outreach in our community and care for those within. Rebuilding Christian Formation and Sunday services. Meeting the needs and wishes of our congregation in order to do God's will.

The greatest resource at St. Paul's are the people under our roof. Thank you to Christine, Becky, Mike, members of the Budget and Finance Committee, Vestry, and all who give their time to St. Paul's!

Faithfully submitted,

*Eirik Rennan,
Senior Warden*

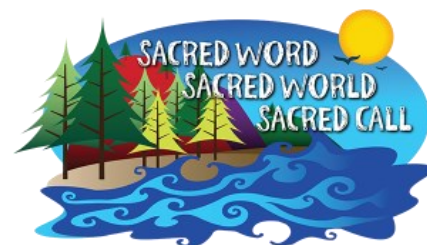
Youth Theological Institute

The Sacred Word, Sacred World, Sacred Call Youth Theology Institute is a week-long ecumenical summer program designed to encourage high school students to dive into these questions. Participants experience and form a community of care and exploration within a sustainable rhythm that includes silence and song, prayer and work and study and play. Together, we explore sacred scriptures, encounter theological traditions and draw on religious wisdom as we wrestle with contemporary moral and ethical challenges and

consider who and what God is calling each of us to be. Our 2022 Institute will be held July 10-16, 2022.

Visit <https://www.css.edu/about/events/conferences-and-camps/youth-theology-institute/>

to learn more.





Remember Someone Special This Easter



Hello, my name is Carrie Miller and I am currently the Altar Guild Director at St. Paul's. I am in the process of becoming the next Altar Flower Coordinator. I am excited to support a wonderful tradition of remembering or honoring our loved ones with flowers. Your donations to the St. Paul's Altar Guild help purchase the fresh flower arrangements we have every week on our high altar. This tradition has been overseen by many Altar Guild members over the years, most recently Joanne Marinac. Joanne has been wonderful in sharing her tips with me on how to stay organized while keeping track of all the memorial names, dates, and donators. I vow to do my best to successfully continue Joanne's legacy.

If you would like to remember someone in a special way at Easter by giving a contribution for the altar flowers and plants we will use to decorate the church, I will be happy to add your memorial to our Easter Memorials List. All new memorials must be received by April 8, 2022. You may either contact the St. Paul's office or you may contact me directly via email at carmil4@msn.com to leave your information.

There are three ways to make your donation:

1. Send your check payment to St. Paul's by mail.

Please note "Easter Altar flower memorial" on the memo line.

2. Donate online at www.stpaulsfaithformation.org by clicking on the "Online Giving" button. Next, add your donation amount in the Altar Guild space and note it is for a **flower memorial** (Example: "Easter Altar Flower Memorial"). Choose your donation frequency and then follow the prompts for credit or debit card payment or even direct payment from your checking or savings account.
3. Bring your cash or check donation to church in an envelope clearly marked "Easter Altar Flower Memorial" and place it in the offering plate during Sunday services. Be sure to note who the memorial is for on the envelope.

The suggested minimum contribution for an Altar Flower Memorial is \$20. All memorials are continued from year to year unless you indicate otherwise.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Carrie Miller,
Transitioning Altar Flowers Coordinator



St. Paul's Altar Guild Invites You!



Palm Cross Workshop

Saturday, April 9 at 9:00 am
in the Parish Hall

Please come join members of the Altar Guild as we prepare for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services this year. On April 9, we will gather to create palm crosses from fronds, which will be given to all during the Palm Sunday services.

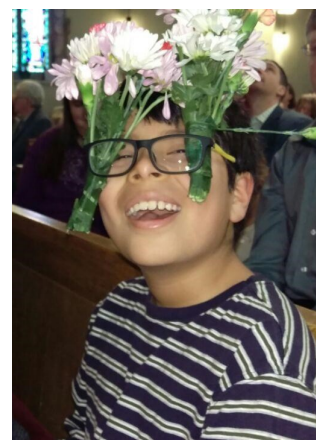
Floral Cross Bouquet Workshop

Saturday, April 16 at 11:00 am in the Parish Hall

On April 16, we will be assembling small flower bouquets, which will be used to adorn the beautiful floral cross on Easter Sunday.

(Bring an extra pair of scissors or floral snips for either event, if you are able.)

Both of these activities are treasured customs of the Altar Guild. We encourage anyone who would like to be a part of these traditions to join us. Coffee and snacks provided! All are welcome!



From Your Bookkeeper

Dear Parishioners,

February 2022 financials were presented at the March 15, 2022, Vestry meeting. Here is a summary of the February **General Fund** Statement of Activities.



MONTHLY FIGURES: February	MONTHLY	Year to date
Total Pledges collected	\$22,049.01	\$84,762.41
Prior year pledges	\$0.00	\$1,339.57
Total non-pledged collection	\$480.00	\$1,556.00
Investment support	\$8,191.20	\$16,509.34
Total Collected	\$30,720.21	\$104,167.32
Monthly expenses	\$32,667.54	\$66,581.61
amount over/(short)	(\$1,947.33)	\$37,585.71

The pledge collection amount for February is under budget; however the January pledges received were quite high due to several 2022 annual pledges being pre-paid. Expenses are \$5782 under budget for the month due to staffing issues.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please call my office or email me at bookkeeper@stpaulsduluth.org.

Christine Melone,
Bookkeeper

Deadline for submissions to the
May issue of *The Messenger* is
8:00 am, Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

Please email items to:
office@stpaulsduluth.org

The Deacon's Stoop



Spring brings with it so much change! As the days grow both warmer and brighter, the sounds of running water mingle with bird song and we watch swelling buds on the trees. We journey through Lent with greater sensitivity to what's happening within and around

us as we approach Easter and Pentecost. For me, this holy season always includes a reading of the gospel of Matthew chapters 5-7, a section of Jesus' teaching we call the Sermon on the Mount. These chapters speak to me of who I am in relationship to God, who we are in relationship to each other, and how then I should live.

I'm really struggling to reconcile what I hear Jesus saying and what I'm seeing in our city. When the Warming Center closes on April 1 those who have been spending the night there will return to their only other option: *OUTSIDE*. How do I reconcile this reality with love, with being the salt of the earth and the light of the world?

For our neighbors living unsheltered this is one of the most challenging times of the year. Those in our community whose only residence is "outdoors" are dealing with not only incessant mud, but also the wet and cold weather. As I write this, the Warming Center is scheduled to close in just 10 days. Last night alone, 72 persons sheltered there, and 20 people took advantage of access to a shower.

Many of you have been among the wonderful, caring volunteers who have offered hospitality throughout the winter months. While the icy mix falling right now is an inconvenience to me, those living outside can find it life-threatening. As we do every spring, we are collecting tents and sleeping bags again this year to share with them. They can't keep them from one season to the next because they have no place to store them, and we have no place to store them. In addition, they have no place to legally pitch them. We can do better than this.



This I ask of you:

Pray for the individuals who are struggling to survive in our community. There are many reasons people are homeless, but one thing they all share in common: They are people created in the image of God, and deserving of care, of shelter, of food, of warmth, and of the support they need to live into the fullness of the person God created them to be. There are many parts to the Body of Christ: some among us are called to serve, some called to teach, some called to preach, and we are all called to pray.

Pray for the needs of our St. Paul's family, and for those we love. We are starting a Prayer Corner in the *Messenger*, a place where you can share specific needs and concerns, and where you can pray intentionally for the needs and concerns of each other. Look for the Intercession/Prayer Corner in this issue (page 9).

Step up, speak up! Sometimes the darkness can seem overwhelming, the scale of the problems insurmountable, and we feel powerless. Reading the Sermon on the Mount reminds me that God has asked me not to fix the world's problems, but to love my neighbor, including those who don't love me; not to find a solution to world poverty, but to share both my coat and my cloak when I encounter those who have none; not to eradicate the darkness, but to shine my light.

St. Paul's has a long history of walking among our neighbors in Duluth, sharing and shining and loving them in a variety



of ways. As Covid restrictions lift, our Outreach Committee is exploring our capacity and coordinating teams to step into those ministries that have been part of St. Paul's in this community. Join us!

We have a housing crisis in Duluth, and our elected officials need to hear from us, to know we care. Nearly half of St. Louis County residents are cost-burdened by rent, paying more than 30% of their income toward housing. Among our neighbors who are sheltered,

Continued on next page

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nearly one in four pay more than 50% toward rent, forcing difficult choices about whether to eat, or fill a prescription, or pay utilities. Rent vouchers help, but for people who qualify for a voucher, the waiting period is months in the best-case scenario, and often up to two years.

We have around 600 people living unsheltered in Duluth, and only 155 shelter beds. We have a plan to address the crisis in Duluth (SteppingOnUpDuluth.org),



but lack the funding to implement it. Sign a postcard, make a call, write a letter to the editor – speak up to share your love of neighbor and let your light shine like a beacon on a hill! Can't we at least create tempo-

rary authorized outdoor living zones where people can camp legally, safely, and with at least the minimum public services of portable toilets and garbage pickup? They live outside now, and lack even these basic services.

This isn't intended to be long term, but a crisis solution until we get stable, secure, affordable housing in place.

Blessings,

Deacon Pat

Email: Deacon@stpaulsduluth.org

Phone: 218-724-3535

Outreach Ministry Meeting

The Outreach Committee is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Outreach Committee Asset Based Community Development

Time: Apr 10, 2022 12:00 Noon, Central Time (US and Canada)



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84213016382?pwd=NIE4TjZuMIBiYnJsUUVkY1Z3WU9oUT09>

Meeting ID: 842 1301 6382

Passcode: 1710

For more information please contact Leslie Brunfelt or Deacon Pat.

Intercession/Prayer Corner

- Kathleen Smith: God has surrounded me with angels at St. Paul's. I have been diagnosed with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and began my 18-24 month treatment protocol in early March. Please join my Caring Bridge page to keep in touch. <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/kathleenasmith>
- M., following the birth of her child, for their well-being and a stable home.
- As the Warming Center closes, pray for those who have stayed throughout the winter nighttime hours, that together we might create accessible stable and secure shelter.

8:00 am Rite I Services

All are welcome! The Rev. Rick Swenson celebrates the 8:00 am Rite I service in the Chapel every Sunday.

Parish Office

The Parish Office can be reached at 218-724-3535. It is staffed Monday-Friday, 8:30 am—1:30 pm. We will be closed on Easter Monday, April 18, 2022.

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE – HOLY WEEK 2022

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

	April 14 Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm	April 15 Good Friday 5:30 pm	April 16 Easter Vigil 7:00 pm
ALTAR GUILD	J MARINAC	J MARINAC	J MARINAC
	A Gustafson	A Gustafson	A Gustafson
	L Hultkrantz	L Hultkrantz	L Hultkrantz
	C Miller	C Miller	C Miller
ACOLYTES	∅	∅	A Miller
			A Dodge
LECTOR	N Diener	Z Stodola	J Pastor
USHERS	∅	∅	B Dinan
			C Dinan
LOCK UP	G Maloney	T Diener	J Austin
LIVESTREAM	∅	∅	J Austin

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE –APRIL 2022

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

	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24	May 1
ALTAR GUILD	K LEONARD	C CONRAD	J MARINAC	J JARNIS	K LEONARD
	S Cox	S Anderson	A Gustafson	R Ballou-Buck	S Cox
	J Harvey	S Hall	L Hultkrantz	D Kolquist	J Harvey
		A Sadowski	C Miller	A Schliep	
LECTOR 8:00 am	J Pastor	N Diener	M Gustafson	S Stromquist	J Pastor
LECTOR 10:00 am	D Rogers	N Diener	Z Stodola	M Gustafson	S Stromquist
ACOLYTES	A Dodge	A Barthel	M Butler, B Austin	G French	A Barthel
	A Miller	E Barthel	A Rennan,	E Erspamer	E Barthel
			Le Gustafson		
LIVESTREAM	D Clanaugh	J Austin	J Austin	J Austin	R Lyle
COFFEE HOST	M & B Minter	L & B Brunfelt	N Constance	C Andrews and J Peterman	S M Anderson
USHERS	M & S Brown	R Lyle	D Morin	C & B Dinan	M & S Brown
	D Kolquist	P Waite	K Swanson	G Olson	D Kolquist
		M Gustafson	P Waite	P Enenbach	
LOCK UP	C Fellman	J Austin	M Brown	C Fellman	D Pederson

Altar Guild Other Duties for April:

April Linens:

C Miller, A Sadowski

Subs: C Conrad, C Miller

March/April Brass Cleaning on 4/15:

J Jarnis, D Kolquist, A Abraham, A Slattery

Weekly Team Subs:

G Bouschor, E Killen

Palm Cross Workshop

Saturday, April 9 @ 9:00 am

Floral Cross Workshop

Saturday, April 16 @ 11:00 am

See page 5 for more information.





St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1710 E. Superior St.
Duluth, MN 55812

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Visit our website:
www.stpaulsduluth.org



Holy Week Services

April 14 Maundy Thursday — Agape Meal and Eucharist 6:00 pm

April 15 Good Friday — Stations and Eucharist 6:00 pm

April 16 — Easter Vigil 7:00 pm

April 17 — Easter Sunday 8:00 am in the Chapel, 10:00 am in Church