

THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER, 2022

Advent Events and Happenings

Dear People of St. Paul's,

The season of Advent has always been my favorite season of the church year. As a child, I loved the ritual of lighting the candles, smelling the fresh greenery of the wreath, and listening to *O Come O Come Emmanuel*. I love this season because as it gets darker, we are preparing for a new light to come into the world. We are waiting expectantly for God to be made one of us.

Since this is my first Advent with you, I am eager to learn your traditions. Over time, I hope we can create some new ones together. As I write this, I am only about two days into my role as your rector, and so I am still learning so much. During this season, my priorities are:

1. To share in the sacred work of Advent, celebrating our resilience while we prepare for the mystery of God-with-Us
2. Getting to know you! Over the next several months, I want to have coffee, go for a walk, or visit with as many of you as possible. I want to know what you love to do, what matters to you in this faith community, and what your big questions are.
3. To engage in spiritual practices together, including Dwelling in the Word and the *Examen*.

In addition to these three priorities, I am working with the vestry to plan for the 2023 budget, thoughtfully engage stewardship, and help the staff connect as a new team.

I am also pleased to share that the Rev. Rick Swenson has accepted my invitation to remain at St. Paul's as our Associate Rector. Rick will remain half-time as a transitional Associate for a period of one year with the potential for renewal. During his time here, he has been deeply involved in stewardship, parish management, and finance work, and his skills in these areas are vital for building the structure for our future. He will also provide pastoral care, especially on Mon-

days, when I observe my sabbath, and he will preach and preside from time to time.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me to get connected. My new email address is rector@stpaulsduluth.org and my office phone number is 218-724-3535 ex. 208.

I hope that this Advent, you join your faith community for worship. In the midst of all the excitement, I hope you are able to step back and also celebrate the wonder and mystery of this season of expectant hope. Below you will find a list of important dates at St. Paul's this December. Please mark your calendars!



Peace,

Maggie

Advent & December Save-the-Dates

- Sunday, December 4 | Conclusion of the Pledge Campaign and Celebration
Please turn in your pledge card this Sunday. Need a pledge card? There are extra copies in the office.

- Sunday, December 18 | Lessons and Carols 6 pm

Christmas Services:

- Saturday, December 24 | 4 pm and 10 pm
- Sunday, December 25 | 10 am

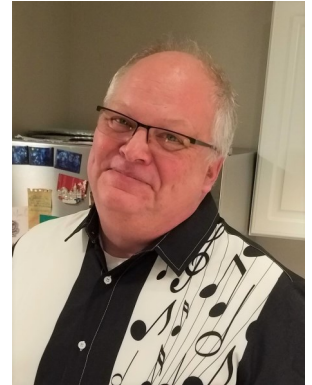
Please note that on Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day) AND Sunday, January 1 (New Year's Day) we will only have one service at 10 am.

Notes of a Different Kind . . . Musings From The Musician

Hello friends,

Last December, on a Sunday in Advent, I was at the church where I was serving as musician and heard the readings being proclaimed. I love the scripture texts for Advent because they are so rich with imagery that is both comforting and confronting. They speak of peace on God's holy mountain while John the Baptist warns us of God's kingdom yet to come. They speak of Mary's faith in the midst of what must have been troubling news. The image of the Savior of the world coming forth as a shoot from the stump of Jesse is beautifully poetic. Advent's readings in particular cause memories to rise and bring peaceful calm in an otherwise busy time. I don't recall the reading that day in my church in Chicago, but whatever it was, I found myself terribly homesick for St. Paul's, so I texted a friend here and told him how much I missed this place and you, its faithful folk. I mentioned to him that the annual Lessons and Carols service was always such a powerful and rewarding experience for me. People came together and worked so hard to make it beautiful and took time out of their busy lives to sing the

season. I'm pleased to say that the tradition will return. The musicians of St. Paul's invite you to attend **"Dawn of Redeeming Grace – a Service of Lessons and Carols" on Sunday, December 18 at 6:00 in the evening.** The greens will have been hung that day, and this service will give you a chance to hear the story of God's redemption throughout history, culminating in the birth of Jesus. Come and hear the story of God's love for the world, this place, and for you as told in scripture and song in the Anglican tradition. I promise you it will be a highlight of your holiday season.



Yours in Christ's service,

*Tom Hamilton,
Minister of Music*

Christmas Eve Pageant Service

We invite young people who sing or play an instrument to play a prelude piece for the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve pageant service. The carols played should be sacred. This is a great opportunity for children to start using their musical gifts in worship. Contact Tom Hamilton with questions. There is a sign-up sheet outside the sacristy.



Holiday Office Closure

St. Paul's is closing the church offices for the week between Christmas and New Year's. Our staff will be working from home on basic essentials, and taking time to rest and enjoy the holiday season with loved ones.

From Your Vestry



Our Vestry welcomed the Rev. Maggie Nancarrow to our November 15, 2022, meeting. Being new to the area, she asked us all what our favorite spot in Duluth is to visit. It was interesting to hear the different answers. Most were parks in the local area. It reminded us how fortunate we are to

live in Duluth. By the way, this Norwegian-American's answer was Leif Eirikson Park.

Then we got down to work and after a lengthy discussion, the Vestry voted unanimously to call on the Rev. Rick Swenson to stay on at St. Paul's as Associate Priest on a part-time basis for 2023.

This decision may surprise some and the arrangement may seem out of the ordinary for the Episcopal Church. But for those who have seen up close Rev. Rick's selfless and dedicated nature of service to St. Paul's at our time of need, this will be welcome news.

Early in the rector search process, the Vestry has studied our current church size, and the role of Associate Priest is needed to fulfill the many needs of the parish. Members of the Rector Search Committee agree. If we expect to serve our congregation and community, we ought to support the gifts Rev. Maggie brings with a full staff to meet the programs and pastoral care we have come to expect.

I am so proud of the church team we have assembled so far. Deacon Pat Benson answers our desire to serve our community in outreach and is respected for her leadership at CHUM. Dr. Tom Hamilton is a skilled organist and Music Director, beloved by our choirs and congregation. The spark of leadership and new ideas by Amy Gustafson is just what we needed to reinvigorate Christian Formation. Our Bookkeeper, Christine Melone, is not only excellent at keeping us financially organized, but she also has experience as a former Vestry Warden. And we have asked so much of Rita Rosenberger as our Parish Secretary. It is difficult to think where we would be without her.

What makes this group special is they work together. Besides an Associate Priest, we used to have a full-time Christian Formation Director who also served as a Parish Administrator. This has fallen on to Rita's desk. The action of the Vestry is about building a talented staff that allows them to

utilize their gifts to the full benefit of the parish.

Rev. Rick excels in pastoral care and will help provide a diverse voice for the multiple worship services, weddings, funerals, and other events. He has expertise in stewardship, administrative management, and ongoing executive projects. But to sum up, he would provide the support needed so that the qualities that Rev. Maggie brings in multi-generational faith formation can flourish and her vision for a renewed church can succeed.

Associate Rectors have always served a vital role at St. Paul's. I think back to my first interaction with Assistant Rector and Youth Minister Aron Kramer back in the 1990s. Our young family used to sit quietly off to the side as we listened to Howard Anderson inspire us from the pulpit. Then one day Aron and I bonded over soccer as we learned that as I coached at East High School, he played at Stillwater. He started getting the youth group together to play soccer and have World Cup watch parties at church. It inspired me to be more active with St. Paul's youth and now look where I am!

But one powerful moment truly highlights the importance of a second member of the clergy at St. Paul's. During the first year of COVID, Bill and Sue Van Oss moved away and left a void. The Rev. Dr. Barb Elliott heroically stepped in and brought us services recorded on an iPhone and provided excellent pastoral care that we needed in a dark time of uncertainty. In the summer of 2020, my mother-in-law, Margaret Fait, was in hospice at Franciscan Health Center in Park Point. Barb would visit her often and observe COVID protocols and sit outside her window to speak with her and provide comfort. Margaret passed away that September. We had a beautiful Park Point outdoor service led by Barb and music by Tom Hamilton and Heidi Lyle. How fortunate we were to have a supportive staff to pick up the pieces during a difficult and emotional time.

I chose to share my family's story of the importance of a supportive church staff that complements each other. I am sure you have your own story, and I would like to hear it, especially as we approach stewardship season. Soon, we will share how this affects our 2023 budget. But we hope you reflect on the benefits of a full church staff as you prayerfully consider your pledge for the coming year.

Faithfully submitted,

Eirik Rennan
Senior Warden

Giving Tree 2022



Help us spread God's love to our neighbors by purchasing a new gift for the folks at Loaves & Fishes in our neighborhood, and for the women and children at Safe Haven Domestic Abuse Resource Center. A tree is set up at St. Paul's with tags describing a desired toy or gift. Please select one of these special tags, purchase the gift requested and return it unwrapped, with the tag attached, by **Sunday, December 4**. (If you'd like to put the item in a gift bag that is fine.) We will accept any type of nonviolent toy for infants through teens. A great gift idea for teens are gift cards to local stores. If you have questions, please contact Susan M. Anderson. Thank you!

December Library Notes

Hello, it's good to be back. Since the core of Christmas is the birth of Christ, I have listed a few of the Bibles in the Olcott Room Library. They are all available for borrowing.

When asked in an interview, "What books are on your nightstand?" Bono of U2 replied, "A book that's never off the nightstand is The Message, a translation of the Bible by the late American scholar and minister Eugene Peterson. I go back to it again and again, beguiled by the musicality of the language and the clarity of the translation. Some days I read it, other days it reads me."



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 year's 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 for your reading pleasure and study.

BOOK EXCHANGE

Right before the Covid shutdown, we were going to try a paperback exchange for popular or light fiction. Several people asked if this could include hardcover books. Of course! Books donated to the exchange will not be catalogued in the usual manner. Rather, if anyone has books they would like to share, drop them off at the library on the shelf marked book exchange. In addition to donating to the exchange, feel free to take as many as you like and return them at your convenience or keep them forever.

Respectfully submitted,
Faye Witt, Librarian

Christian Formation

This December, we have the joy of continuing with beloved traditions at St. Paul's. Each Sunday in Advent, a different family will light the candles on the Advent wreath. When the children leave the 10 o'clock service to go to Sunday school, each will carry a tea light candle, symbolizing that we are awaiting the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. On December 4, our parish will have a visit from Saint Nicholas! And on Christmas Eve at the 4 pm pageant service, all children will be invited to wear a costume and participate in the telling of the Christmas story.

During the season of Advent, Wednesday Evening programming will continue, with middle school students and confirmands meeting on November 30, and December 7 and 14. The 5:30 pm worship service will be held in a "family friendly" way, suitable to help even the youngest children maintain focus and feel fully included in a hands-on manner. While following the traditional format of the worship service, the language, songs and message will be modified to be understandable from a child's perspective. All are encouraged to attend Advent Wednesday services and

experience the wonder of our children as they and we continue to learn about the love of God. Then, enjoy a tasty and healthy meal, prepared by the talented hands of Buffy!

A special thank you to all of the adults and teens who participated in brunch food preparation, serving and clean-up on Rev. Maggie's first Sunday at St. Paul's. It was a marvelous day of celebration for our community and couldn't have come off so seamlessly without you!

An additional thank you to Holly Hansen and Joanne Erspamer, who sewed both the stole for Rev. Rick and the prayer shawl for Rev. Maggie, which were then tied with love by the children.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Gustafson, Director of Christian Formation



Photos from our Advent wreath-making activity on November 27.

L to R: Laurel and Jupiter Sadowski, Jim Sontag, Emily Denney, Diane Morin, Karen Swanson, and Olivia Morin-Swanson

CHUM Christmas Eve Vigil



The CHUM Christmas Eve Vigil is an opportunity to remember those who have died in the past year who have also spent much of their lives homeless or advocating for those who are homeless. The vigil takes place on the steps of Duluth City Hall and will be led by Deb Holman. Donations of warm weather gear (sleeping bags, tents, gas cards, etc.) will be collected at the event to help keep homeless neighbors warm this winter.

Saturday, December 24, Noon, City Hall

From Your Bookkeeper

Dear Parishioners,

October 2022 financials were presented to the Vestry at the November 15 meeting. Here is a summary of the October **General Fund** Statement of Activities.



MONTHLY FIGURES: October	This Month	Year to Date
Total Pledges collected	\$15,841.05	\$254,287.46
Prior year pledges	\$0.00	\$1,339.57
Total non-pledged collection	\$769.50	\$15,872.10
Investment support	\$8,609.71	\$84,945.15
Total Collected	\$25,220.26	\$356,444.28
Expenses	\$36,087.37	\$304,902.74
amount over/(short)	(\$10,867.11)	\$51,541.54

The pledge collection amount for October is \$4,328 over budget; and the year-to-date pledges are ahead of budget by \$8,491. Unpledged regular giving is under budget \$21,348 year-to-date.

Expenses are \$9,567 under budget for the month and \$101,701 under budget year-to-date.

Our bottom line, income over expenses for the year through the end of October is a surplus of \$51,542.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please call my office 218-724-3535, ext. 207, or email me at bookkeeper@stpaulsduluth.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Melone, Bookkeeper

Deadline for submissions to the January issue of *The Messenger* is
8:00 am, Thursday, December 15, 2022.

Please email items to:
office@stpaulsduluth.org

End-of-Year Giving

Please help us carry out your wishes. If you will note in the memo section of your check the fund to which your donation should be credited, the counter will be able to determine where your gift should go. Unless otherwise noted, pledge payments will first be applied to 2022 until paid in full and then to 2023.

If you want your gifts included on your 2022 year-end statement, please submit them to the Parish Office by 9:00 am Friday, December 30, 2022, or place them in the offering plate on Sunday, December 25, 2022. Below is a chart that outlines the IRS guidelines we need to follow to determine the tax year credited for your contribution.

TYPE OF CONTRIBUTION	REPORT FOR 2022	REPORT FOR 2023
Checks written in December 2022 and deposited in church offering in January 2023		X
Checks written and deposited in church offering in January 2023, but "backdated" to December 2022		X
Checks written and deposited in church offering in December 2022 but "postdated" to January 2023		X
Checks written in December 2022 and deposited in the mail and postmarked in December 2022, but not received by the church until January 2023	X	
Checks written in December 2022 and deposited in the mail in December 2022, but not post-marked until January 2023 and not received by the church until January 2023		X

If you are making an electronic contribution, please complete transactions by December 28, 2022 to have them included in 2022 Contribution Received. Electronic transactions do not post on the weekends.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email.

Thank you,

Christine bookkeeper@stpaulsduluth.org

The Deacon's Stoop



The Season of Advent is such a special time of year, but sometimes it gets lost in the tinsel and bright lights leading up to Christmas. For four weeks we journey to Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph. As we walk these steps with them, I invite you to think about what you could offer them along the way.

A friend introduced me to the reverse Advent Calendar. The idea is that instead of receiving something each day, I share something instead. Each of my days begins with prayer, and especially during Advent, I look for ways to be an answer to someone else's prayer. Here are some ideas:

Sundays: Companionship. Call at least three people you know and invite them to share their stories. Really listen to them and offer your companionship together with them in laughter and joy, in stress and anxiety, in sorrow and grief. Whatever it is they are going through -- let them know they are not alone.

Mondays: Share a gift of warmth. This might be handwarmers or footwarmers for folks at the Warming Center, a hot beverage with someone (a friend or someone you've yet to know), mittens or hats for the Giving Warmth Line, or shop for a gift for families at Safe Haven (tags are on the Giving Tree), or a gift card from a gas station or Menards to provide fuel for folks living outside this winter.

Tuesdays: Holidays include food! By Thanksgiving we had 60 people coming every night to the Warming Center. At 7:30 am we have to wake them and ask them to leave for the day. While we provide them coffee, it's easier to enter another cold day when you encounter a warm smile and a brown bag breakfast (muffins, applesauce pouch, boiled egg, string cheese – focus on nutrition and protein) when you step outside! Contribute to the Food Shelf. Get together with friends to bake some cookies and de-

liver them to the jail lobby between 11 am – 3 pm on December 13 to share with those who are not able to be with their families on Christmas.

Wednesdays: Forge relationships. Invite an acquaintance to coffee or lunch and get to know them better. Notice the helpers, acts of kindness, and affirm what you observe with a notecard. Come to the worship service and community meal at St. Paul's at 5:30 pm. Have dinner with someone you don't usually spend time with. Share your story and listen to the stories of others.

Thursdays: Advocate for those living on the edges of our community. Look around and think about what you see that is good, and what you see that could use our attention. Invest some time in a letter to the editor, or speaking to a city councilor or legislator, sharing your values and concerns.

Fridays: Play! Creativity and playfulness add so much richness to our lives. Dig out a board game, a jigsaw puzzle, or a deck of cards and invite friends over to play with you. Take a class and learn how to paint, sew, or do woodcarving. Restore that old piece of furniture tucked away in the garage, and donate it to someone just moving from shelter to a place of their own. Pick up some mandala prints and fine point markers for folks at the shelter to color, and you'll offer them a healing practice during a stressful time.

Saturdays: Restore. Notice what feeds your soul; then practice it. Look for opportunities to restore others. Join CHUM volunteers from 9 am - noon on December 10 at Gloria Dei to make Christmas cookies to share with coffee and cider at the Warming Center on Christmas evening, a gentle ending to what is for many a blue day. Dig out your favorite recipe (and bring any special ingredients or equipment) and catch some holiday cheer with a team of good folks caught doing good! Watch a movie that cheers your heart and reminds you of the reason for the season.

Continued on next page

On Saturday, December 24 join me on the steps of City Hall for our Christmas Eve Vigil at noon. Because the reality of this journey for many might include a cold, dark place unfit for human habitation, like it did for the Holy Family. The reality for many might include fleeing for their lives, as refugees in a strange land, as it did for the Holy Family. The reality is that what you offer as prayer, companionship, gifts of warmth, rela-

tionships, playfulness, and restoration might be a vision of angels for many this season. Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All!

Blessings,
Deacon Pat

Email: Deacon@stpaulsduluth.org

Phone: 218-724-3535, ext. 206

From CHUM: Second Saturdays of Support

Each month we gather volunteers from throughout the Twin Ports on the morning of the Second Saturday from 9:00 am - noon. In December (12/10/22) we'll gather at Gloria Dei Lutheran to make holiday cookies for St. Louis County Jail, Arrowhead Juvenile Center, St. Francis Apartments, CHUM Shelter, and the Warming Center. Join us in spreading love throughout the season! Bring your favorite recipe and any special ingredients or equipment. We will have the basic staples on hand. Kids are welcome too, as long as you provide the adult supervision! Register here: <https://www.tfaforms.com/5025428>



Lost Treasures from the Archives



As we transition back to receiving communion at the altar rail, this month we look at the plaque for the Reredos. On the left side of the altar, camouflaged in the dark blue of the wall, is the location of the plaque. This plaque lists the members who made possible the Reredos, which during this Advent/Christmas season is so very meaningful.



Respectfully submitted,
Bob Silverness, Archivist

From Your Altar Guild

The Greening of the Church

December 18 – After the 10 am service



The Altar Guild invites everyone to help decorate the church for Christmas. Fresh evergreen wreaths and garlands will be delivered to the Superior Street entrance at 11:30 am. Help is needed to attach bows to the wreaths, and then hang the wreaths and garlands throughout the church.

After a quick snack in the parish hall, please come to the back of the church at 11:30 if you would like help. Come enjoy the fellowship and festive atmosphere of a wonderful St. Paul's tradition.

NEW CHRISTMAS FLORAL MEMORIALS

Every year the altar guild is responsible for decorating St. Paul's for the Christmas season. The fresh balsam wreaths and garlands, the cheery poinsettias, and even the candles and twinkle lights are carefully planned for and placed throughout our lovely church building for all to enjoy. This is possible with the monetary donations given in memory of or in thanksgiving for our loved ones. The names of our special people will be printed in the Christmas services bulletins.

If you would like to add someone to the listing this year, please submit your memorial request with a monetary donation to the Altar Guild before December 11. Contributions are accepted in any amount with a suggested minimum of \$20. Cash or checks may be mailed, dropped off at church during office hours, or submitted online at www.stpaulsfaithformation.org. Be sure to note "2022 Christmas Altar Flower Memorial" on your donation. Donors will be sent an acknowledgement and name listing with much appreciation. All memorials are continued year to year unless you indicate otherwise.

Please contact me if you have any questions.



Merry Christmas,
Carrie Miller, Altar Flowers Coordinator

carmil4@msn.com

Altar Guild Other Duties for December:

December Linens:

E Killen, J Harvey
Subs: C Conrad, C Miller

Weekly Team Subs:

G Bouschor, E Killen

Nov/Dec Brass Cleaning—

Date TBD:
C Conrad, S Anderson, P Markert,
J Marinac
Subs: C Miller, A Slattery

Wednesday Evening Services:

12/7—Team 1
12/14—Team 2
12/21—no service
12/28—no service

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE –DECEMBER 2022

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

	December 4	December 11	December 18	4:00 pm December 24	10:00 pm December 24	December 25	January 1
ALTAR GUILD	J HARVEY	C CONRAD	J JARNIS	Team 3 needs Altar Guild members to sign up to help with Christmas. Sign up sheet is in the Sacristy.		J MARINAC	J HARVEY
	S Cox	S M Anderson	R Ballou-Buck			A Gustafson	S Cox
	S Sommer	S Hall	D Kolquist			L Hultkrantz	S Sommer
		A Sadowski				C Miller	
LECTOR 8:00 am	M Gustafson	J Pastor	A MacKenzie	R Butler	M Gustafson		
LECTOR 10:00 am	K Smith	Z Stodola	M French, Sr.			P Kruschke	K Smith
CHALICE	K Halverson	Z Stodola	S M Anderson	R Butler	M Gustafson	P Enenbach	K Smith
BEARERS	S M Anderson	R Butler	K Baumgarten	A MacKenzie	N Diener	J Stromquist	J Pastor
	K Baumgarten	P Enenbach	N Diener	K Smith	J Pastor		
ACOLYTES	G French	A Rennan	A Barthel	A Dodge	L Fellman	E Erspamer	G French
	A Dodge	M Butler	E Barthel	M Butler	L Gustafson	J Bauer	A Rennan
	E Erspamer	A Keto	I Denney	J Shambour	C Gustafson		O Morin-Swanson
LIVESTREAM	J Austin	D Clanaugh	R Lyle				J Austin
COFFEE HOST	C Andrews and J Peterman	Sadowski Family	Bauer Family	Ø	Ø	Ø	B & K Silverness
USHERS	D Morin	R Lyle	B Dinan	Contact Rita to	Contact Rita to	M & S Brown	D Morin
	K Swanson	G Olson	C Dinan	Volunteer!	Volunteer!	D Kolquist	K Swanson
	D Barthel	P Waite	N Schuldt				D Barthel
	P Waite	M Gustafson					
LOCK UP	T Diener	J Austin	D Pederson	M Brown	C Fellman	T Diener	J Austin




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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 667
Duluth, MN

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

To receive an electronic copy of the newsletter, email us at office@stpaulsduluth.org or call 218-724-3535

Visit our website:
www.stpaulsduluth.org



DAWN OF REDEEMING GRACE

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 - 6:00PM

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1710 EAST SUPERIOR STREET
DULUTH, MINNESOTA