

Did You Know

1

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church's organ was installed in 1956 and we gave it a 60th birthday celebration in 2016! Now its leather is deteriorating, causing it to lose notes.

2

We still have pipes from our church's very first organ that were taken out of service in 1956!

3

Our 30-year-old elevator only goes from the lower level to 2nd floor and is reaching the end of its lifespan. Without modern upgrades, it will soon become impossible to repair, greatly impacting those who rely on it.

4

Prior to 2020, our main sanctuary had severe water leakage. We successfully repaired our bell tower and stopped "the indoor water feature," and the Duluth Preservation Alliance recognized us for this achievement.

5

St. Paul's was designed by New York architect Bertram Goodhue, who also designed the Kitchi Gammi Club and Hartley Building—which are both on the National Register of Historic Places.

A prayer for discernment

Almighty God,

Who inspires all good things through your Holy Spirit,

Give us the resolve of the women of St. Paul's who founded St. Luke's hospital amid a typhoid outbreak

that we may be a beacon of hope in dark times, as they once were.

Help us honor our parish's rich history and live out our faith

with resilience and commitment to The Word.

Give us the wisdom to build on this foundation of hope for future generations, and the gifts to sustain generations to come.

We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, Amen



St. Paul's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Faith in Our Future



Continuing a tradition of stewardship



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Our Parish Needs

Ensure Structural Integrity

How does this property provide people with a special sense of belonging, meaning and purpose?

St. Paul's stands as a sacred space offering traditional worship in a progressive, welcoming environment. The beautiful architecture conveys a sense of long-time stability. Despite its formality it is loved and well-used in service to the community inside and outside its stone walls. Maintaining the structural integrity of this building requires periodic repair and replacement of the mortar tuckpointing, along with other necessary maintenance of the roof, drainage and exterior trim.

Enriching Music Ministry

Music is prayer; worship is song

St. Paul's values our music ministries, and our nearly 70 year old Moller pipe organ is in dire need of a major rebuild and repair. Parishioners who toured the organ console and pipe chambers with our Music Director saw and heard what this instrument that is so central to our worship and celebrations needs in order to sustain our music ministry for the next half century or more. Investing in these necessary major repairs is substantially less expensive than replacing the organ.

Improve Heating Efficiency & Reduce Cost

St. Paul's is a large building with an aging heating system which requires significant care and maintenance. To both maintain comfort and sustainability in the long term, and to value environmental stewardship, we need to plan for installing a modern energy efficient replacement for our boiler in the near future.

Improve Sanctuary's appearance and integrity

The beauty of the sanctuary, the niches and corners, the sense of serenity bring us closer to God.

After solving the water intrusion problem by restoring the bell tower, we need to repair the plaster

damage in the sanctuary and other interior walls.

This is more than just a cosmetic issue; the interior plaster surfaces require periodic maintenance. This attention to aesthetic aspects of our church also reflect our care and reverence for this place where we gather to worship, love, rejoice, grieve, and heal.

Enhance Accessibility

To continue to be a place that is welcoming and open to all, we need to plan for replacing our outdated elevator, which is nearing the end of its functional life. We are also examining options for extending access to the top floors and the rooms and function they provide.

Our Discernment Goal

Help people understand capital needs for preserving, restoring and improving the function of our building, so that we continue to fulfill the mission and ministry of St. Paul's in the wider community for generations to come.

How we got here

St. Paul's is a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive church community! Our beautiful gothic stone building is over 100 years old and we have significant property needs that must be addressed to be good stewards of what previous generations built. We are at a moment where we have reflected on what we treasure and value at St. Paul's and what we hope for our future. What are we being called to do as faithful stewards of this sacred and historic place?

Our parish leadership is dutifully considering all financing options for addressing the capital projects identified as vital to preserving our building and music ministry into the future. Options include grants, loan opportunities and a possible capital campaign. Through this discernment process grounded in prayer and conversation, input from everyone is welcomed to develop a common understanding of the needs of our church building, and the importance of those needs in St. Paul's ministry and presence. After completing this discernment phase, your response to our needs will be formally tested in a Feasibility Study, led by our consultant, Linda Buskirk.

"But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."

Ephesians 4:15-16