



St. Paul's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1710 E Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55812
stpaulsduluth.org

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

"I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out." - Luke 19:40

Dear Friends of St. Paul's,

As I was walking into church for Palm Sunday's service, I noticed a woman standing on the sidewalk, transfixed, gazing at the great stone walls and belltower of St. Paul's. She looked at me, smiling, and remarked about how absolutely beautiful the building was. I smiled back and said, "I know, it certainly is; we love our church! Would you like to come in with me? Service is just about to start." She declined, but said (sincerely, I believe) that she would be back soon. And it came to me that: yes, this is who we are at St. Paul's; we love our church, and we invite people in.

These beautiful stone walls have stood strong and sheltered our congregation for 110 years. They also need care and maintenance, just like any other house we value and love. Over the past four years, St. Paul's has quietly taken steps towards tackling important building repairs that will allow our space to truly be a place for everyone. We convened a Discernment Team to identify the most critical issues with our building. Sherry Hall, Jason Butcher, Chuck Sundquist, Brad Brunfelt, and I, along with our wardens and rector, have been meeting since early 2024 to discuss and prioritize facility needs. We are working to launch a capital fundraising campaign in 2025 to fund these projects.

The enclosed brochure explains the needs that we have identified. Many of these projects aren't new; they have been in front of us for some time. We need to finish re-tuckpointing the exterior using the mortar and methods that have proved effective in our belltower renovation. We can now repair the water-damaged plaster and stonework in the sanctuary. Our organ, which so beautifully guides worship each week, has many notes that no longer play. It needs significant repairs to continue leading us in song. Lastly, our elevator is nearing the end of its functional life and will need critical upgrades to remain in service.

Previous generations of St. Paul's members have blessed us with a legacy – this holy place – and now it is our turn to step forward in gratitude and think about how our generation will care for it. This fall, we anticipate launching a capital fundraising campaign to address these critical issues. We ask that you consider what this community means to you, and how you may be able to support these efforts. There is much work to be done before the campaign is formally launched, including a pre-campaign survey that will assist us in setting a bold but reachable goal. You will likely see this survey in your inbox in late May. We will need every household in the parish to respond to this survey to get the most accurate information.

I am grateful for all that St. Paul's has embodied for me in my 28 years in Duluth: a welcoming community that both shelters me and challenges me to live into my faith. We are at an unusually complicated moment in our society at large, but it helps to remember that our mission is simple: we love our church, and we invite people in. The love of God is present in the work and worship that we do within and without these stone walls. Let's do all we can to make sure they stand strong for another 100 years.

Yours in Christ,



Nancy Schuldt, Chair
St. Paul's Capital Campaign 2025

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