

THE MESSENGER

MAY 2026

Faith as a Work of Art



Beloved in Christ,

I am meeting with our confirmation students this month to hear their stories about being in the confirmation class. I am so appreciative of their witness and their stories. Each one of the nine students in our confirmation class is curious, intelligent, and discerning in how they approach their spirituality.

Some are confident in claiming a Christian path, while others are less certain and may choose to wait. It is an important mark of a church's care of its children when young people feel comfortable sharing the truth of their journeys.

The confirmation students have been in a two-year class exploring their faith in God and commitment to the Christian community. As a part of their work together, they decided they wanted to put on an art show. This art show will unveil a mural that the class is making that portrays their understanding of Christian community. There is also an open call for art from our congregation members. If you are an artist or a craftsman of some kind, and you have work that has spiritual or religious significance to you, I encourage you to submit it to the show. I'm proud to submit a drawing of my own. They've asked us to get art submissions to them by Sunday, May 3.

In many ways, a life of faith can be compared to an ongoing work of art. To create a work of art we often have to practice until we can create what we desire to create. A work of art is not a set of rules or a math problem. (Though any mathematician would tell you that some equations are elegant.) Our faith in God

and our building of the Christian community is best approached as responding artistically to the world we live in. I'm so proud of our students for pursuing this, and very grateful to Sophie Gray, Joanne Erspamer, and Brad Brunfelt for guiding the class towards this project.

Most of all, I hope you will join us at church on Sunday, May 17, for the art show opening and our service of Confirmation. Bishop Loya will be visiting us to preach and preside. There will be no 8 am service that day, and we will all worship together at 10 am. We will be confirming this cohort of students, as well as a young adult, and receiving three adults into the Episcopal Church. Anyone who would like to do a formal reaffirmation of faith will also be invited forward during this liturgy.

I hope you will gather with us on May 17 to celebrate this milestone for our young people and these adults who are choosing to join the Episcopal Church.

Peace,
Maggie

Elevator Update: Construction Delayed

Our service provider has postponed the elevator repairs. You may continue to use the elevator until further notice.

Church Night at Wade Stadium

You are enthusiastically invited to come to Wade Stadium in Duluth to cheer on the Duluth Huskies!



**Wade Stadium,
101 N. 35th Ave. W, Duluth
Wednesday, July 29, 6:35 pm**
Duluth Huskies vs. Wisconsin
Rapids Rafters

We will purchase advance group tickets so we can all sit together and socialize throughout the game. These seats (aka box seats) are benches with a back on them, located behind home plate. We get a Group Rate of \$11.50 per person.

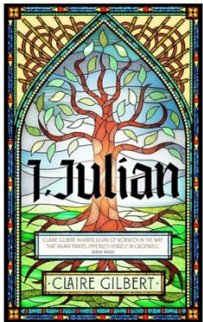
Call or email Rita in the Parish Office by Friday, July 17 to reserve your tickets. Feel free to invite family, friends and neighbors, too. **Please reserve early**, we would love to have everyone together in one section, so the earlier we can confirm it the better. Pay Rita directly by cash, check, PayPal or Venmo.

218-724-3535 office@stpaulsduluth.org

The past two years we've had about fifty people in our group! Bring your family, bring your friends, and bring your spirit of joy—this event promises to be a divine evening filled with laughter, camaraderie, and, of course, baseball!

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Rosenberger, Parish Administrator

May Forums 6:30 pm, Wednesdays, Parish Hall

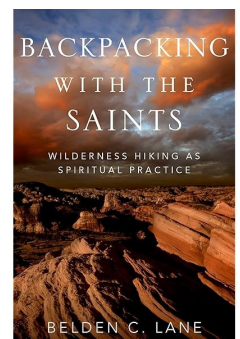


May 6: *Julian of Norwich through Fiction*

Julian of Norwich was a 14th century reclusive mystic in England. She had powerful visions of God's love, and dared to write it down in English, making her the first female author of a book in English. She was an anchoress, a kind of medieval religious life where a person is sealed into one room to live out a life of prayer. On May 6 we will explore her story through a powerful novel written by Claire Gilbert, *I Julian*. This novel helps a modern person explore the faith, curiosity, grief, and courage of this powerful woman who lived in a very different way to us. Please join us to discuss Julian and the novel. A limited number of used copies can be purchased from the Parish Office.

May 20: *Backpacking with the Saints* *Wilderness Hiking as a Spiritual Practice Selected Chapters*

To wrap up our series on the saints and to prepare to enjoy the outdoors this summer, we take a look at a spiritual memoir by an author who brought the saints along on his wilderness adventures. We'll share a PDF copy of the chapter we'd like to discuss ahead of time. Participants can purchase the book and continue reading over the summer.



RUMMAGE SALE & BAKE SALE

Saturday, May 2, 2026

8:00 am—1:00 pm

The Rummage Sale is just around the corner, and there are lots of opportunities to pitch in and help!

Monday, April 27 through Friday, May 1, please come help us sort and price items to sell, drop in anytime between **8:30 am-3:00 pm**. Please consider donating something for the Bake Sale on May 2 to benefit Outreach Ministries, too.

Special Pre-Sale Event for Church Members Only!
Friday, May 1, 5:00-7:00 pm

Saturday, May 2, 8:00 am-1:00 pm, please help at the sale, you can greet shoppers, help add up sales at checkout, help customers carryout their purchases, then box up the leftovers and transport to Savers.

We have an online sign-up sheet for volunteers: www.stpaulsduluth.org/sign-up



Questions? Contact Jim Sontag 908-239-5596
or Susan Anderson 218-724-3732

Thank you for supporting the ministries of
St. Paul's Episcopal Church!

During the Rummage Sale, the Outreach Committee will also hold a sale of home-baked goods including cinnamon rolls, cookies, breads and bars. Bake sale proceeds will be dedicated to outreach initiatives such as Safe Haven, Damiano, Life House, and social justice ministries. For further information and to contribute items, contact Mike Maddy at mmaddy@charter.net



From Your Bookkeeper



Dear Parishioners,

Thank you all for your incredible generosity to St. Paul’s Church! Your contributions allow St. Paul’s to be a vital part of the community and keep our programming alive.

Special Note: When making your contribution to either the Capital Campaign, Annual Pledge, or any specific project, please note on the memo line of your check to which of those Funds the contribution is to be credited. **When making Capital Campaign gifts through our online system, please make sure to select the “Capital Campaign” button to ensure that your contribution does not go to General Operating.**

March 2026 financials were presented to the Finance Committee and Vestry at their April meetings. Below is a summary of the March **General Operating Fund** results.

MONTHLY FIGURES: March	This Month	Year-to-Date
Total Pledges collected	\$34,127.75	\$135,111.75
Total non-pledged collection	\$4,435.05	\$11,550.70
Investment support	\$6,969.65	\$20,752.73
Total Income	\$45,532.45	\$167,415.18
Total Expenses	\$51,521.72	\$159,159.15
Amount over/(short)	(\$5,989.27)	\$8,256.03

Of note: Both pledge and non-pledge income were less than budgeted for the month, but ahead of budget year-to-date. Expenses were under budget for March, as well as year to date.

Building Our Legacy MONTHLY FIGURES: thru March	Start-to-Date
Total Pledges collected	\$753,552.43
PIF Heritage account	\$5,385.42
Interest	\$2,708.53
Gain/loss sale of stock	-\$349.12
Total Income	\$761,297.26
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Campaign Expenses	\$59,967.97
Elevator deposit	\$37,326.40
Total Expenses	\$97,294.37
Amount over/(short)	\$664,002.89

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

Christine Melone, Bookkeeper

From Your Faith Formation Coordinator

Hello! I can hardly believe that we are almost to May, and the conclusion of our programming year! I'm going to keep this brief, as this edition of the Messenger only covers a few weeks of May. It's going to be a very busy month around here, and hopefully one that's full of green grass, flowers and fun celebrations!

Here's what's coming down the pike for our various groups of young ones — hopefully you and yours can join in!

Godly Play:

The Remaining lessons will be

- May 3: Jesus appears to Thomas
- May 10: the story of Dorcas
- May 17: Ascension
- May 24: Pentecost
- May 31: end of the year party — There will not be a Godly Play lesson during the 10 am service so kids can listen to the graduates speak, but we warmly invite all kids to the Children's Room for the last coffee hour of the year. It'll be so nice to hoot and holler with them as they prepare for summer (see page 8).

On a personal note, Jordan Sundberg, Rae Finkle and I are attending a Godly Play training at First Lutheran at the end of the month, and I'm really excited about it! These trainings rarely happen in Duluth, so Maggie encouraged us to nab this opportunity. I'm thrilled to have some official training in this discipline, I'm delighted that Rae is joining the team, and I'm endlessly grateful to Jordan for stepping into a role of leadership and providing so much help and guidance this year.

Middle Schoolers:

May 3 is the Acolyte Appreciation Party at the Incline Bowling Alley at 12:00 pm. (see page 6). The learning and commitment the new group of Acolytes have shown is truly impressive. Many of our middle schoolers are now in heavy rotation serving in this role on Sundays — and even a few wise and

wonderful fifth graders! I have seen the positive change in my child as the year has progressed. Serving as an Acolyte has helped Matilda learn the different parts of the service, and has really been a point of pride for our family. Many thanks to Holly and Kathleen as well as the amazing Head Acolytes for encouraging and coaching these kids and giving them the confidence to succeed! I'm looking forward to celebrating with everyone. Middle school aged kids are invited to join in the End of the Year party during coffee hour on May 31.



Confirmation:

Confirmands are getting closer to the big day! They are meeting weekly until May 17 to finish the murals they've been working on around the themes of Faith, Love and Community, as well as plan the reception they are hosting. I see that Maggie has put this event front and center for her article this month, so I won't remind you of all the details — they're on the front page. I'm glad these kids get a spotlight this month, because they are pretty incredible. If you have a piece you'd like to submit for the show, please have it here no later than Sunday, May 3. Please email me if you can help install art on May 16. I give a huge shout out to Brad Brunfelt and Joanne Erspamer, who have given so much time and energy to this class. They care deeply about serving this congregation, and their dedication and guidance has made a big impact on what these confirmands have gotten out of their time together.

I think that's all for the next few weeks. Please look for information about summer and a lot more thank-yous in next month's article. I hope you are well in body and spirit, and hope to see you here soon!

Sophie Gray,
Faith Formation Coordinator
kids@stpaulsduluth.org

Scholarship Committee Update



Because education is one of the most important elements of a successful society and a key factor in the well-being of a community, the Mars family established a Scholarship Fund in 1989 for members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Graduating seniors from high school or high school graduates, of any age, are eligible to apply. The scholarship recipients are chosen

by a committee of people who also are members of St. Paul's Church and/or members of the Mars family.

This year's new recipient is Olivia Morin-Swanson. We wish her all the best as she pursues her education!

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Scholarship Committee
Karen Allison, Nancy Diener, Bill Dinan, Bruce Mars,
Christine Melone

From Your Senior Warden



Now in Easter season, and everything seems new and wonderful!

Unfortunately, Barbara and I missed Passion Week and Easter at St. Paul's, because we were on a 25-day tour of Türkiye. As a predominantly Moslem country we

did not experience Easter but saw the archeological sites of the three great monotheistic religions spanning 6,000 years and sites of the Bible, including Ephesus where St. Paul preached. Türkiye, recognized as the "Cradle of Civilization," is a beautiful and very welcoming country that we heartily recommend to adventuresome travelers.

Now the business of the Vestry as of April 21, 2026. The heating system modernization project contract was signed with Jamar Company, which will commence late-May and be completed by August 31. Unfortunately, the elevator modernization project by Larson Elevator Company will be delayed to September, because the company has several high-need projects that must be done before ours and the company lacks enough skilled technicians to encumber all their obligations at the same time.

The Vestry is very pleased with the generous outcome of the Undue Medical Debt project, which produced about \$25,000. The Vestry voted unanimously to disperse the funds to Undue Medical Debt in the next several months. The search for a new Sexton continues under the leadership of Ken Buck, who is chair of the Personnel Committee. Any recommendations from the congregation for this position would be welcomed. Fortunately, Bill Stapp continues work as Sexton until the position is filled.

During upcoming summer, the Vestry will be busy planning for Annual Giving 2027, overseeing the major modernization projects, and organizing for Parish events 2026-2027.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Elliott, Senior Warden

Acolyte Appreciation Event

Sunday, May 3, 12:00 pm
Incline Bowling Station, Duluth

Acolyte Appreciation Event at Incline Bowling Station (601 W Superior St) after church. Acolytes should arrive at Incline at Noon to gear up for bowling, games, pizza, and fun. Parents, plan to pick up your child between 1:45-2:00 pm at Incline that day. RSVP to Holly Hansen at 218-310-1674 or hlhansen13@gmail.com.

Thank you to our St. Paul's Acolytes who have served during the 2025-2026 school year: Anna Keto, Caitlin Gustafson, Eliana Erspamer, Jack Shambour, Jupiter Sadowski, Riley Wall, Sara Keto, Silje Sundberg, Quinn Wall, Sig Peterson, Hazel Buck, Matilda Spehar and Tanis Halverson.

Special thanks to **Holly Hansen** for again serving as our Acolyte Coordinator this year!

All youth in grades 5-12 are eligible to serve. It's a great way to volunteer for your church and become eligible for the church scholarship. Contact Holly for information.



From Deacon Pat

The Rev. Deacon Patricia Benson will be on sabbatical from May 9 – August 10.
We pray that these weeks will be restful and rejuvenating for her!



Plants Offered

All plants are donated. These include vegetable transplants and flower plants started from seed, perennials split from donor yards or gardens, and houseplants.

Pricing

St. Paul's Outreach team has two objectives:

1. Raise funds to support our Laundry Love program, providing clean clothes and dignity with free laundry for persons with low/no income; and
2. Provide food-producing plants and those that bring joy to our neighbors.

All plants are offered on a donation basis.



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PLANT SALE

TO BENEFIT LAUNDRY LOVE

May 23rd, 10 AM – 2 PM
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1710 East Superior Street

Deadline to submit items for the June issue
of *The Messenger* is
8:00 am, MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026.

Please email items to:
office@stpaulsduluth.org

Confirmation Sunday May 17



The Rt. Rev. Craig Loya, X Bishop of ECMN, will celebrate Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation with St. Paul's, Duluth, on Sunday, May 17 at the 10 am service.

We have nine teenagers who have participated in the formation process in preparation for this sacrament. We also have one adult who will be confirmed and three adults who will be received.

Graduation Sunday

Sunday, May 31, 10:00 am, please join us to celebrate all of our spring graduates this season — high school, college and beyond. We have invited all of the high school seniors to address the congregation at the 10 am service on May 31, and we will have a special blessing for all graduates.

Seniors who may not wish to speak, but may wish to participate in a more introvert-friendly way are also welcome to do so. Please let us know. Graduates of college or graduate level programs will also be listed in the bulletin and receive a blessing. Please submit names to the Parish Office by May 11! office@stpaulsduluth.org

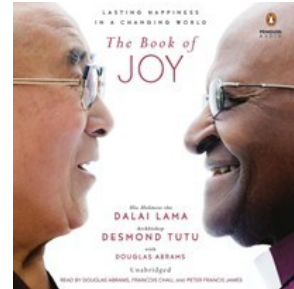


St. Andrew's by the Lake

New Art Exhibit

On Saturday, May 16, St. Andrew's will premiere a new art exhibit in our Mission Hall. We will be featuring the digitized photographs of the late Henry Roberts. Henry was a prolific artist and traveler who captured his adventures through the lens of his camera. The beauty of everyday life deepened his appreciation of nature. Plans are underway for visitors to be able to purchase some of Henry's prints, with proceeds going to local charities. Contact the Rev. Wanda Copeland for more information.

Join the Friday Book Group



Friday Book Group started a new session on April 24, with two of the world's greatest spiritual leaders, good friends His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu. In The Book of Joy, they share their wisdom about living with joy even in the face of adversity. Both the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu have been tested by great personal and national adversity. How can joy can be transformed from a fleeting emotion into an enduring way of life?

All are welcome. Fridays at 10 am in the Olcott Room. *No meeting on May 22.*

Submitted by,
The Rev. Dr. Barb Elliott and the Rev. Marta Maddy

Lost Treasures From the Archives

Printed in Duluth newspaper December 3, 1902.

*Submitted by Bob Silverness,
with help from his daughter Ina-Marie.*

Note from Rita: I had to show this little article to our bookkeeper, Christine Melone, because her maiden name appears in it. We are wondering if Mr. & Mrs. G.E. Budd were related to Christine's parents, Frank & Laura Budd. It seems possible, but maybe unlikely, since Frank was from Indiana.

NEW EPISCOPAL SOCIETY.

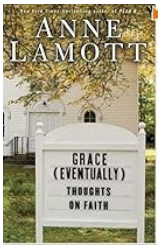
Women Form an Auxiliary and Elect Officers.

Women of the Episcopal church held a meeting yesterday afternoon at the home of J. C. Scott and organized a women's auxiliary with the following officers:

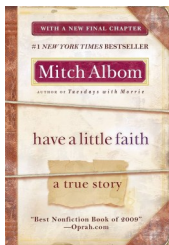
Mrs. J. Everard Scott, president; Mrs. G. E. Budd, secretary and treasurer.

Arrangements were made for a social and supper to be given in a short time. The women are well pleased with their success, and expect to add many more members in the near future.

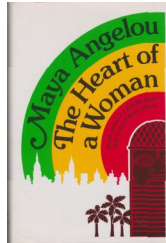
New Additions to the Olcott Library



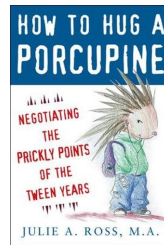
Grace (Eventually) Thoughts on Faith by Anne Lamott. "For readers trying to live a kind of faith that's centered on social justice, who are saddened at the state of our nation and feel mired in a world gone mad with war and greed, Lamott and her quirky, funny perspective are nothing short of a salve for tired souls" — Los Angeles Times Book Review.



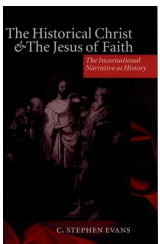
Have a Little Faith by Mitch Albom, author of "Tuesdays with Morrie." This book follows the author's relationship with two men of faith, one an aging rabbi who asks the author to deliver his eulogy and the other a Detroit pastor, a reformed drug dealer and convict, who preaches to the poor and homeless in a decaying church with a hole in its roof. "This is a story about believing in something and the two very different men who taught me how." — Mitch Albom.



The Heart of a Woman by Maya Angelou. This is the fourth volume of the autobiography of the acclaimed author. This volume covers her time as the northern coordinator of Martin Luther King's history-making quest and includes vignettes of other famous characters in her life from Billie Holiday to Malcom X.



How to Hug a Porcupine: Negotiating the Prickly Points of the Tween Years by Julie A. Ross, M.A. Yesterday your child was a sweet, well-adjusted eight-year-old. Today, a moody, disrespectful twelve-year-old. What happened? This book explains what is going on with children of this age physically, emotionally and psychologically and gives tips and ideas for getting through the tween years.



The Historical Christ and the Jesus of Faith by C. Stephen Evans. This book explores the relationship between the story of Christ as set forth in the New Testament compared to historical studies that have been made.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Witt

Chum Rhubarb Festival

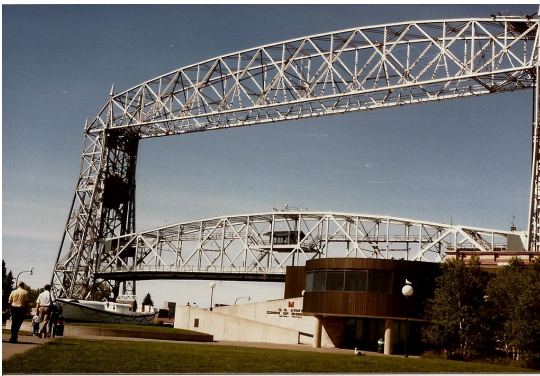


Join the fun and support our neighbors at the 2026 Chum Rhubarb Festival on Saturday, June 27, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Asbury United Methodist Church (6822 Grand Ave., Duluth).

All area faith communities take part by baking rhubarb treats, volunteering, and spreading the word! Stay tuned for more details. Questions? Contact Bud Trnka at btrnka@chumduluth.org or visit www.chumduluth.org/rhubarb

Check the June Messenger for info about baking rhubarb scones at St. Paul's!

Blessing of the Port



You are invited to the annual Blessing of the Port, **Thursday, May 14**, at the Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center and Museum (600 Canal Park Dr, Duluth). Enjoy a self-directed tour of the museum at 4:00 pm, followed by the Blessing of the Port at 5:00 pm. Free. Sponsored by the Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers.

Golf and Life Skills for Youth

Walt Tabory, a friend of St. Paul's, is an avid supporter of this wonderful golf program for youth. He encourages you to sign up your kids and grandkids. For more information, visit www.firstteeminnesota.org

First Tee Junior Golf at Enger Park Golf Course

At First Tee - Minnesota we enable kids to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with life skills curriculum, we create learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience that kids can carry to everything they do.



Registration for Junior Golf at Enger Park GC is open! Scan the QR code to learn more and register. Financial aid is available for all sessions. Questions? Email info@firstteeminnesota.org



LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE – MAY 2026

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

	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
ALTAR GUILD	K Leonard	C Conrad	C Miller	D Kolquist	K Leonard
	S Cox	S Hall	L Hultkrantz	S M Anderson	S Cox
	M Malone	A Sadowski		S Sommer	M Malone
		K Timmerman		T Jansen	
		L Kania			
LECTOR 8 am	F Witt	A Mackenzie	Ø	Ø	M Gustafson
LECTORS 10 am	J Pastor	N Constance	M Spencer	K Smith	S Sommer
	O Morin-Swanson	J Pastor	N Diener	M Gustafson	
PRAYER LEADER	P Peterson	L Brunfelt	A H Peterson	O Morin-Swanson	P Peterson
VERGER	K Smith	K Smith	K Smith	K Smith	J Pastor
LEM	O Morin-Swanson	N Constance	M Spencer	K Smith	N Diener
CHALICE	J Pastor	J Pastor	S Sommer	M Gustafson	SM Anderson
BEARERS	M Gustafson	K Baumgarten	J Pastor	N Constance	
			SM Anderson		
ACOLYTES	C Gustafson	J Sadowski	J Shambour	C Gustafson	E Erspamer
	S Peterson	M Spehar	S Keto	R Wall	A Keto
	J Shambour	H Buck	T Halverson	Q Wall	S Sundberg
			A Keto (kite)		
LIVESTREAM	C Meehan	D Barthel	J Austin	N French	J Austin
NURSERY	A Rennan	A Rennan	A Rennan	Ø	Ø
	E Erspamer	Y Quinn-Sikorski	J Schreck	Ø	Ø
COFFEE HOST	H & J Schreck	M & S Brown	R Hauschildt and J Schreck	N Constance	B & K Silverness
USHERS	M Brown	D Morin	G Olson	N Schuldt	M Brown
	S Brown	K Swanson	M Gustafson	J Wall	S Brown
	D Kolquist	J Sontag	P Waite	R Finkel	D Kolquist
	R Silverness	H Schreck			R Silverness
LOCK UP	J Austin	D Pederson	B Stapp	S Gray	M Brown

Other Altar Guild Duties for May

May Linens:

C Conrad, S Hell

Bread-Baking:

A Rouse



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

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Visit our website:
www.stpaulsduluth.org



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We have an online sign-up sheet for volunteers: www.stpaulsduluth.org/sign-up or just feel free to drop in and volunteer, we can always find something for you to do!