



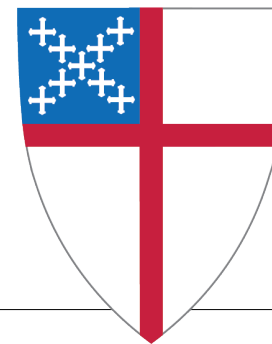
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1710 E. Superior St.
Duluth, MN 55812

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

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ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DULUTH, MN



THE MESSENGER

JULY-AUGUST, 2026

Undue Update

Beloved in Christ,

In mid-June, I got word that the debt erasure process that we initiated with Undue Medical Debt is now complete. On Easter Sunday, we raised \$25,000 as a thanksgiving offering to erase medical debt in Duluth. Once the money was received by Undue, they purchased bundled medical debts on the market in the counties we requested.

A few weeks ago, those families received letters from Undue stating that they no longer owed their debts. Each letter explained that St. Paul's had made donations so that Undue could purchase and abolish their debt.

With your gifts, we were able to erase \$3,235,613.81 of medical debts for 3,693 households across St. Louis County, Carlton County, Itasca County, Lake County, and Douglas County. The average debt erased was 876.15. The majority of these households (2,690) were in St. Louis County.

We set out to erase as much debt in Duluth as we could. Instead, we erased debts across the whole Twin Ports, up the North Shore, and as far as Grand Rapids and the Leech Lake Reservation.

On Friday, June 6 we received an email at the church from one of those households. They said: "I received a letter today that I assumed would be a new debt collection agency from New Jersey. It was a letter from Undue. I cannot express my gratitude sufficiently. Thank you."

The imperative in scripture to care for the poor, the struggling, and the sick could not be clearer. When Jesus isn't teaching, he's almost always healing or coming close to those that others have been forgotten.

Inspired by his example, we have done something truly significant for our community. I give thanks to God for all of you who made this happen.

Thank you to each one of you who gave to this special offering. Thank you to those of you who did the research to vet this opportunity and advocate for it. Thank you to each one of you who advocated tirelessly for an 'outreach component' to our Building Our Legacy capital campaign. Because of you, St. Paul's has been able to change lives and show God's abundant love for our neighbors in need.

Peace,
Maggie

Summer Office Hours

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the Parish Office will be closed on Fridays. Our hours will be 8:30 am-2:30 pm, Monday through Thursday. All Church Offices will be closed from July 3-10, reopening on Monday, July 13.



Lake Superior Sunday

July 19, 2026

See info on page 2.

Mark your calendar for Rally Day!

Sunday, September 13, 2026

More info in the next issue of the Messenger



Medical Debt



Lake Superior Sunday

Sunday, July 19, 9:45 am

St. Andrew's by the Lake Episcopal Church

2802 Minnesota Ave., Duluth

We will once again celebrate Lake Superior Sunday together with St. Andrew's by the Lake! Our preacher will be Mary Dragich. Join us for beach church, a relaxed Eucharist on the shores of the Greatest of the Lakes. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Note, we will start the service at 9:45 am, which is St. Andrew's typical start time. (This allows us to time our arrival with the bridge). **Carpooling from St. Paul's is encouraged.** Since the beach is not accessible for folks with limited mobility, our 8:00 am service will be held at St. Paul's for anyone who cannot join us. If it rains, or conditions do not allow for beach church, we will worship in St. Andrew's sanctuary.

Lost Treasures from the Archives

Duluth in the early 1860's had about twelve families that joined the Native American population living on Minnesota Point. They began meeting in homes and the first Episcopal Church service was held on August 5, 1868 by Bishop Whipple (the first Bishop of Minnesota). Two and a half years later, it was announced that the honorable Jay Cooke of Philadelphia (a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cheltenham, PA) commissioned the building of "a fair sized church for worship according to Episcopal forms in Duluth, MN." Jay Cooke was a wealthy industrialist interested in extending the Northern Pacific Railroad into the Northwest.

No church building of any kind had yet been built in the city, so work soon began on the first church in Duluth, St. Paul's Episcopal on Lake Avenue and Second Street. Visiting priests from the East Coast held services in the schoolhouse; until the first service was held in the new church on Christmas Day, 1869. On October 20, 1870, Bishop Whipple signed documents giving his consent to the organization of the parish; named St. Paul's after St. Paul's Church in Cheltenham, PA, whose members were among the largest contributors to the building fund in Duluth.

That original document hangs outside the Parish Office! And you can visit a large statue of Jay Cooke on East Superior Street, across from the Kitchi Gammi Club.



Image of a sign in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE – AUGUST 2026

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

	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
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	L Kania	S Sommer	M Malone
		K Timmerman		T Jansen	
LECTOR 8 am	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
LECTOR 10 am	N Constance	Z Stodola	N Diener	K Smith	M Spencer
PRAYER LEADER	M Spencer	J Groth	H Hansen	J Pastor	J Groth
VERGER	K Smith	K Smith	K Smith	K Smith	K Smith
LEM/CHALICE	N Constance	N Diener	SM Anderson	K Smith	N Diener
	J Pastor	J Pastor	S Sommer	M Gustafson	S Sommer
ACOLYTE	E Erspamer	J Sadowski	S Peterson	T Halverson	S Keto
LIVESTREAM	C Meehan	D Barthel	J Austin	N French	J Austin
COFFEE HOST	R & J Erspamer	H & J Schreck	M & S Brown	R Hauschildt	B & K Silverness
USHERS	D Morin	G Olson	N Schuldt	M Brown	D Morin
	K Swanson	M Gustafson	J Wall	S Brown	K Swanson
	J Sontag	P Waite	R Finkel	D Kolquist	J Sontag
	H Schreck	E Rennan		R Silverness	H Schreck
LOCK UP	T Diener	D Pederson	S Gray	M Brown	B Stapp

Other Altar Guild Duties for August

August Linens:

A Sadowski, L Hultkrantz

Bread-Baking:

A Rouse

We do not have 8:00 am services in August. It will resume on Rally Day, September 13.

Deadline to submit items for the September issue of *The Messenger* is 8:00 am, Thursday, August 20, 2026. Please email items to: office@stpaulsduluth.org

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE – JULY 2026

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

	July 5	July 12	9:45 am July 19	July 26
ALTAR GUILD	K Leonard	C Conrad	C Miller	D Kolquist
	S Cox	S Hall	L Hultkrantz	S M Anderson
	M Malone	A Sadowski	L Kania	S Sommer
		K Timmerman		T Jansen
LECTOR 8 am	F Witt	A Mackenzie	F Witt	M Gustafson
LECTOR 10 am	M Spencer	S Sommer	∅	K Smith
PRAYER LEADER	J Pastor	J Pastor	∅	L Brunfelt
VERGER	J Pastor	J Pastor	∅	K Smith
LEM/CHALICE	J Pastor	S Sommer	∅	K Smith
	Z Stodola	SM Anderson		Z Stodola
ACOLYTE	J Shambour	C Gustafson	R Wall	A Keto
LIVESTREAM	C Meehan	D Barthel	∅	N French
COFFEE HOST	M & J French	C Meehan & E Jundt	∅	L & B Brunfelt
USHERS	D Morin	G Olson	N Schuldt	M Brown
	K Swanson	M Gustafson	J Wall	S Brown
	J Sontag	P Waite	R Finkel	D Kolquist
	H Schreck	E Rennan		R Silverness
LOCK UP	S Gray	M Brown	B Stapp	J Austin



Please remember that on July 19 we have 8:00 am service at St. Paul's, followed by 9:45 am service on the beach at St. Andrew's by the Lake. (see p. 2)

Other Altar Guild Duties for July

July Linens:

L Hultkrantz, Z Stodola

Bread-Baking:

A Rouse

Church Night at Wade Stadium Wednesday, July 29

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

I 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 (218-724-3535 or office@stpaulsduluth.org) 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.

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

Huge Thanks to Our Rhubarb Scone Team!

During the six days leading up to Rhubarb Festival, many of you shopped, chopped, measured, prepped, baked, packaged and delivered delicious Rhubarb Scones to benefit the ministries of Chum in Duluth. This week has been a lot of teamwork, all led by the extremely capable Sue Brown and many wonderful volunteers. Last month's article mentioned a goal of 700 scones, but of course, St. Paul's decided to go above and beyond and bake over 800 scones this year!

This effort was helped by one of our parishioners obtaining a \$250 Thrivent donation for ingredients, which paid for the majority of the flour, butter, etc.

Our volunteer-led baking efforts will help Chum raise thousands of additional dollars at the Rhubarb Festival on June 27. Thanks to everyone who helped!

Children & Youth Ministry Feedback Gathering

Sunday, June 28 after 10 am Worship

Maggie and Sophie would like feedback from families with children of all ages (birth to 18) about St. Paul's children and youth programs this last year. We want to build the best possible program for 2026-2027, and we need as many parents to provide feedback as possible. We are considering a tween youth group for 4-6th grade students, and need assistance on picking the best time for this activity. **An online survey is available** for all families with kids 0-18.

Use this code to link to survey:



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.

Continual Reminder: 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.**

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



MONTHLY FIGURES: May	This Month	Year-to-Date
Total Pledges collected	\$22,347.81	\$175,142.31
Total non-pledged collection	\$7,796.17	\$21,502.78
Investment support	\$12,987.90	\$40,740.50
Total Income	\$43,131.88	\$237,385.59
Total Expenses	\$42,374.04	\$256,357.92
Amount over/(short)	\$757.84)	(\$18,972.33)

Of note: We are already running a deficit fairly early in the year.

Both pledge and non-pledge income were less than budgeted for the month, but ahead of budget year-to-date. St. Paul's continues to be very diligent about expenses, keeping them under budget for May, as well as year to date.

Capital Campaign:

Building Our Legacy MONTHLY FIGURES: thru May	Start to date
Total Pledges collected	\$825,665.27
PIF Heritage account	\$5,342.00
Interest	\$7,335.48
Gain/loss sale of stock	-\$349.12
Total Income	\$837,993.63
Expenses:	
Campaign Expenses	\$63,937.97
Elevator Deposit	\$37,326.40
Total Expenses	\$101,264.37
Amount over/(short)	\$736,729.26

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

Christine Melone, Bookkeeper



Outreach Update

The Outreach Committee held its summer quarterly meeting on June 14, 2026, and approved the following grants:

- \$500 for Make-A-Wish Minnesota (submitted by Angie Shambour)
- \$500 for Western Lake Superior Habitat for Humanity (submitted by Pat Benson)
- \$1,000 for Loaves and Fishes (submitted by Mike Maddy)
- \$1,000 for Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault (PAVSA) (submitted by Mike Maddy)

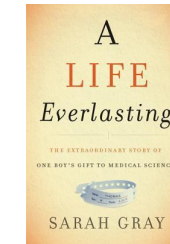
After these disbursements, the Outreach Committee has a little over \$4,000 for grant applications to be considered at its autumn and winter quarterly meetings. For the grant application form and other information, contact Zabelle Stodola, kzstodola@ualr.edu

Respectfully submitted,

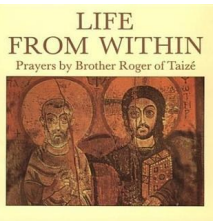
Zabelle Stodola

Stay up to date this summer by signing up for the parish e-newsletter. Visit www.stpaulsduluth.org

New Additions to the Olcott Library



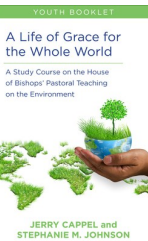
A Life Everlasting: The Extraordinary Story of One Boy's Gift to Medical Science by Sarah Gray. This memoir chronicles the author's journey toward healing after her newborn's death as well as her fascinating quest inside the world of organ, eye and tissue donation.'



Life from Within: Prayers by Brother Roger of Taizé is a small booklet of fourteen prayers written by the founder of the Church of Reconciliation in Taizé, a community in France.



The Life of Thomas More by Peter Ackroyd. A biography of "arguably the most brilliant lawyer the English-speaking world has ever known." A statesman under King Henry VIII, More was beheaded when he refused to follow his sovereign in severing England's ties from the Catholic Church.



A Life of Grace for the Whole World by Jerry Cappel and Stephanie M. Johnson. A study course of the House of Bishop's pastoral teaching on the environment.



The Last Song by Eva Wiseman. This novel is set in Toledo, Spain during the Spanish Inquisition. Raised a devout Catholic, Isabel is shocked when her parents insist she must marry an abusive man she thoroughly dislikes. The reason becomes clear when her parents reveal their Jewish roots and their hopes that by marrying into a respected old Catholic family, their only daughter will be protected and any suspicions that they have not always been devout Christians will be dispelled.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Witt

Summer French Festival

Sunday, July 12, 3:00 pm
Pilgrim Congregational Church,
2310 East Fourth Street, Duluth

The Arrowhead Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is presenting "A Summer French Festival" at Pilgrim Congregational Church, 2310 East 4th Street in Duluth, at 3:00 pm on July 12, in honor of Bastille Day. Our own Charles Sundquist, along with other local musicians, will play (and sing) French music on a French organ with French-inspired delicacies served following the concert. A free-will offering (\$20 recommended donation) will be received in support of chapter programming.



Planning, Sorting, Playing, Praying

Dear Friends,

A lot has happened in the last month! I can barely remember May. Both of my children have birthdays in early June, and we participate in back-to-back summer camps. I spent a lovely weekend at the Episcopal House of Prayer before the pandemic ensued, which I was so thankful for. June is always an intense month of readjusting, celebrating, early morning sun, breaking into new rhythms, and lots of time outside. I am proud of the children in my life — my own, and in our church. Listening to all the plans and adventures the kids have in store was really impressive at our end of the year party. I wish you all well, and hope you are getting the most out of your summer!

I did a little moonlighting in the office for Rita while she traveled with Agnes to France, and this gave me time to get organized and plan for next year. I got some quality one on one time with Maggie, and I think next year will be another step forward in building a strong and sustainable Youth Formation program. I hope you have been checking your emails, because there are important surveys and meetings about next year coming up and going out! We need input about your priorities, availability, and needs. We are making exciting changes for the coming year, and hope to be as responsive as possible so we can maximize your family's time at St. Paul's.

The first part of this process will begin on Sunday, June 28, with an information gathering session in the Parish Hall after the 10 am service. We will meet during coffee hour, and I will be all ears! Maggie and I want to know what times your children are available for Youth Group, and if your family is interested in attending. We have a robust group of Upper Elementary and Middle School-aged kids that we are most specifically wondering about. What kinds of experiences in faith, love, and community, are you seeking for your children? What are you hoping they will absorb during worship, and what are you hoping they will experience in group time outside of Sunday mornings? In conjunction with this meeting, there is a survey going out asking more specific questions that will be going out this week. **Please take time to thoughtfully complete the survey as soon as possible.** It will help us serve you and will hopefully allow us to make Youth Formation more cohesive.



Other dates to keep in mind: July 1, July 15 and August 5 will be our **Beach Wednesdays** for this summer (see info below). These are really pleasant and playful gatherings on the beach behind St. Andrews. Just bring what you need to be

Continued on page 7

JEFFERSON STREET BLOCK PARTY!
HOSTED BY THE LOAVES & FISHES COMMUNITY

JULY 18TH
2-5 PM
THE 1600 BLOCK
JEFFERSON STREET

BRING A SIDE TO SHARE
MEAT/VEGETARIAN BURGERS PROVIDED

VOLUNTEER: [QR Code]

RAIN LOCATION:
ST PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1710 E SUPERIOR ST
GREYSOLON ENTRANCE

DONATE: [QR Code]

Celebrate Our Neighborhood

Saturday, July 18, 2:00-5:00 pm
1600 Block, Jefferson Street, Duluth
Rain Location: St. Paul's Parish Hall

Our neighbors at Loaves & Fishes are hosting their annual Block Party. They requested that St. Paul's continue the tradition of offering root beer floats to celebrate community with our neighborhood. Natalie Constance is looking for volunteers to help scoop ice cream, pour root beer, and get better acquainted with our neighbors! Sign up with a text, email or phone call to Natalie C. Thanks!

Beach Wednesdays



- ★ JULY 1
- ★ JULY 15
- ★ AUGUST 5

5:00-7:00 PM ON THE BEACH BEHIND ST. ANDREW'S BY THE LAKE
2802 MINNESOTA AVE, DULUTH

Join St. Paul's families with kids and teens at the beach near St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. You're welcome to bring snacks, beach gear, and drinks that are not in glass containers. We will have access to the restroom at St. Andrew's for those who need it. Need info? Contact Sophie at kids@stpaulsduluth.org

From Your Senior Warden



Wishing everyone a wonderful summer and may there be many beautiful, sunny days!

As previously announced, we have successfully recruited three of our four new volunteer teams each with a designated leader/coordinator. A hearty

thanks to those who have come forth and volunteered.

The **Kitchen Stewards team** will oversee kitchen operations, coordination, and maintenance. Members include Susan Brown (Leader), Jay Austin, Natalie Constance, Kathy Marinac, Kathy Leonard, and Sandy Stapp. Sophie Gray will serve as their staff liaison. The **Maintenance/minor repairs team** will perform minor, non-urgent repairs and maintenance not requiring an external, licensed contractor. Members include Mike Maddy (Leader), Mark Brown, Tom Diener, Jesse Devich, Gary Olson, Chris Meehan, and Bill Stapp. Rita will serve as their staff liaison. The **Sunday 8 am Open-up team** will open up the church prior to the Sunday 8 am service. Members include John Pastor (Leader), Matt Gustafson, Alan Mackenzie, Bill Stapp, and Faye Witt. Maggie will serve as their staff liaison.

Currently the **Event Set-up team** has one member, Jason Butcher, but needs at least six more volunteers and a lead-

er/coordinator. Its job is to set up furniture and other materials for events held in the Parish Hall. With many team members the job will be much less burdensome. Rita will serve as its staff liaison. If you are able to serve on this team, please contact Rita or me as soon as possible.

Another team has been around for a while, but needs presenting here, the **Garden team**. This team includes Kathy Marinac (leader), Carol Andrews, John Pastor, and Mary Dragich. They care for the several gardens on our property.

We are still searching for a **Sexton**. Perhaps someone from within the Parish community will come forth. Please contact Maggie or any Vestry member with your suggestions or inquiry. Until a permanent Sexton is found the Maintenance/minor repairs and Event Set-up teams are essential for our Parish. After a new Sexton is hired these two teams may be retired.

Major capital projects update: The heating system modernization project by Jamar Company has begun with completion expected by September 10. The elevator modernization project by Larson Elevator Company is planned during September requiring about three weeks of work.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Elliott, Senior Warden

Continued from page 5

comfortable at the beach- toys, suits, blankets, chairs, and a snack or drink. We will meet in most weather- unless there is a severe thunderstorm or tornado watch or warning. You can park in the lot at St. Andrews, and follow the trail to the beach. Thankfully, we'll have access to the building for bathroom and kitchen needs. The address is 2802 Minnesota Ave, and we meet from 5:00-7:00 pm.

Another thing that I've been working on is recruiting for an **exciting ministry development cohort for Neurodivergent children and families called "Gathered."** This is a five-year-long program funded by a Lilly Endowment Grant that was acquired by St. Clement's in St. Paul. It includes writing guidance for congregations, peer teaching, and group learning. The first two years involve a monthly meeting via Zoom and one weekend retreat in April. The next three years involve teaching, implementing, and reporting back about findings. I am on board, and I am seeking another representative from St. Paul's to make this commitment with me. If this is something that rings a bell for you, please ask me about it! I am passionate about understanding and celebrating neurodiversity. I think that this could be a great thing to do for our congregation, as well as the Diocese.

Lastly, I am absolutely delighted to report that the **Godly Play Training**, recently attended by Jordan Sundberg, Rae Finkel, and me, was a success! It was a two-part training led by Joy Struder from the Godly Play Foundation in Washing-

ton, who flew in just for this training. We were joined by an interdenominational group of clergy and lay leaders from Northern Minnesota, who all spent the day learning like children. The training was illuminating and answered a lot of questions I had about the nuts and bolts of leading Godly Play, as well as what a true Godly Play classroom looks and feels like. I say it was a success mostly because after the training, Jordan felt inspired to grow her role as lead in the Godly Play department. We have some ambitious ideas about how to really get this off the ground here- and it's pretty exciting! I'm not going to spill too many beans just yet, but as I mentioned earlier, I think next year is going to include lots of growth and progress.

Phew! That was far more news than I thought I had. Thanks for reading! See you in the pews!

Peace,



Sophie Gray,

Faith Formation Coordinator

kids@stpaulsduluth.org

Upcoming Preaching Schedule

Over the summer, we like to invite many preachers to St. Paul's, to expand the voices that interpret scripture for us. Below is the schedule for upcoming preachers.

Sunday, July 5 — the Rev. Maggie Nancarrow

Sunday, July 12 — Melanie Spencer, Lay Preacher in Training

Sunday, July 19 — Mary Dragich, Lake Superior Sunday (see p. 2)

Sunday, July 26 — the Rev. Maggie Nancarrow

Sunday, August 2 — the Rev. Maggie Nancarrow

Sunday, August 9 — the Rev. Sue Sommer

Sunday, August 16 — the Rev. Sarah Hoch of ECMN

Sunday, August 23 — the Rev. Paul Nancarrow

Sunday, August 30 — the Rev. Maggie Nancarrow

Sunday, September 6 — Ecumenical Pride Service

Summer Concert Series in Duluth

In 2026, the Lake Superior Chamber Orchestra celebrates 40 seasons of music, community, and creativity — and they invite you to their summer concert series taking place on three Thursdays in July at 7:00 pm. Tickets range from \$5 to \$25.

July 2: The Tutors & The Pupil at UWS Thorpe Langley Auditorium, 1710 Weeks Ave, Superior

July 9: The Wilderness Letter at UMD Marshall Performing Arts Center, 1215 Ordean Ct, Duluth

July 16: The Birth of a Prodigy at UMD Marshall Performing Arts Center, 1215 Ordean Ct, Duluth

For more information, visit www.lakesuperiorchamberorchestra.com