

THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER, 2023

Tough Texts and Advent Hope

One of the things that I've noticed as I become familiar with our liturgical cycle is that Year A (The Year of Matthew) ends with some *difficult* gospel lessons. During Ordinary Time (June through November) we read about Jesus' ministry in sequential order, though we do take breaks for Saints Days and special feasts. That means that by the end of the year, right before we begin Advent and a new gospel cycle, we get to the parts of Jesus' ministry where he is *urgently* teaching before his arrest. These parables can be challenging, harsh and even frightening. If you've been in church lately, you've probably noticed—ten bridesmaids, three slaves with talents, and the separation of sheep and goats.

Advent texts can also be tough and harsh, beginning with the end of the world, hearing John the Baptist's bold message. Only on the last Sunday do we get invited into something that would be traditionally recognizable as hope and expectation, when we are invited into the story of a young girl in Nazareth. In the midst of all these intense parables and stories, it might seem like we are preparing not for the joy of God-With-Us, but rather for Gloom and Doom. Blessedly, our selections from Isaiah this year will at least temper these tough gospels with hope.

One important way to approach tough gospels like these is to remember the urgency with which Jesus was teaching about love, mercy, and God's restorative power. Sometimes the harshness is not to shock us into fearing God, but instead shock us into understanding what is at stake in living a life steeped in love, mercy, and resurrection. Every little choice to live in such a way has a ripple effect, and in that way every little act of blessing has a great effect on the world around us.

I love the build up to secular Christmas, the festive winter holiday where the dark season is made into the cozy season, where we stop running as cogs in a machine long enough to pay attention to the people we love. Sometimes, all our social commitments might feel like a different kind of machine, but there is a purposefulness to gathering at this time of year that helps us to

feel more connected than our busy lives often allow. However, I also value Advent's companion voice amidst all the holly jolly—not everyone feels happy, hopeful, or fully alive during this dark season. Many people feel profound grief and great joy at the very same time. The tough November and Advent gospel lessons allow for the tension between the merry season and the realities of our grief-stricken world. I appreciate this time of living in two different emotions at the same time: expectation and struggle, joy and concern. When our holy places are torn apart by war, sometimes this kind of tension is the only way to truly honor the complete picture we live in.

I look forward to spending this holy season of Advent with you. Please check the calendars further in our issue to make note of some important dates coming up, especially to plan for joining us for Lessons and Carols on December 17.



Peace,
Maggie,
Rector

December Messenger 2023

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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 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 service bulletins.

If you would like to add someone to the listing this year, please submit your memorial request with a monetary donation to **St. Paul's Episcopal Church** before December 10. 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 "**2023 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.

Carrie Miller, Altar Flowers Coordinator

carmil4@msn.com

The Greening of the Church

December 17 – After the 10 am service

The Altar Guild invites everyone to help decorate the church for Christmas. Fresh ever-green wreaths and garlands will be delivered to the Superior Street entrances waiting to be unpacked and displayed. Help is needed to attach bows to the wreaths, and then hang the wreaths and garlands throughout the church. There will also be other tasks to do: hang the star, gather together items for the children's pageant, assemble the hand-held candles, and more!

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



The Deacon's Stoop

We are Family!

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry preached at ECMN Convention, and he had so much to say! Healing the world with love, standing in the breach, carrying the good news of Jesus with us as we go through life, and that we are never alone. God is with us, and we are with each other. He sang bits of songs throughout his message, including this piece from a traditional African American spiritual.

**There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.**

**Sometimes I feel discouraged
and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.
If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all."**

**There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.**

We all feel discouraged at times as we encounter the brokenness of our world. I often just can't find the words to respond to the pain we humans inflict on each other, and on creation. Our very culture is toxic in so many ways, and we hear about it in the news; we watch with horror at the wars that bring so much destruction and death; we see it in our own community, in the opioid epidemic, in the desperate search for affordable housing, for those who are hungry, for those who suffer illness of mind or body, for those who don't have enough to meet even their most basic needs. We see it in the emptiness of life for those who have chased after possessions or wealth to fill a hunger of soul. We see it in the greed for money and power that plagues our culture.

In this hymn we are reminded that God is the healing balm that makes us whole, and that heals the sin-sick soul. My

soul, your soul, and the souls of all those around us. Our role is to "tell the love of Jesus". In our small group study in Luke, we were reminded of an old quote attributed to St. Francis: "Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words."



We rely so much on words, and they can really get us in trouble because they are often inadequate or misconstrued. Words alone don't bring the healing we hope to offer, especially when folks are determined to hear what they want to think of the speaker, rather than what the speaker is trying to convey. I'm not a master of words, and I can't "preach like Peter."

Paul taught us to "pray without ceasing." I pray, often, but I can't pray like Paul. But I can try daily to tell the love of Jesus, to be a healing balm in the world, in community. I can meet the eyes of the person standing on the street corner with a sign begging for help. I can offer a greeting, and often carry socks and some shelf-stable food items if I can offer nothing else. We can offer laundry services so they have clean clothes to wear (Laundry Love), or a hot meal on a cold winter day (Damiano Center), or a warm place to sleep at night (Chum Shelter or Warming Center). We can, and *do*, offer hope where there is no hope.

The other song Bishop Curry sang with us was "We are Family", but he changed the words a bit. Instead of "I got all my sisters and me" he joined us in singing...

We are family. I got all my siblings and me.

We are family here at St. Paul's. We bring healing balm as we join together to tell the love of Jesus in Duluth. And I love you for it!

*Blessings,
Deacon Pat*

Deadline for submissions to the January issue of *The Messenger* is
8:00 am, Thursday, December 14, 2023.

Please email items to:
office@stpaulsduluth.org

And Away We Grow!

Dear friends at St. Paul's,

I have so much to say! There are plans being made, ideas bubbling, and many other good things are afoot! The church has felt so alive in the last few weeks, and I've heard from many parishioners how wonderful it is to have the bustle and buzz of children in the Church. I've been thinking about why that might be so important to people, and I've come to the conclusion that kids are why many of us are here, and why we keep coming. Every adult knows a child, has a child in their family, and at the very least, was a child! I think that caring for our children and helping them grow spiritually is an important way we practice our own faith. We can show them what it is to support each other, and hopefully that is a great gift that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. I know I would give a lot to go back to St. Peter's to get a hug from one of my old Church lady friends. I'm tearing up just sitting here thinking about it. Those connections mean a lot. So, thank you to all who have articulated that for me in the past ten weeks.



Sydney Hanna

Now on to business. I am delighted to report that we are growing! We have a new Nursery Manager, Sydney Hanna! Sydney was recommended by many, and has experience helping in the nursery pre-Covid. Currently she works as a coach for gymnasts at the Y. She is GREAT with kids, and we are lucky to have her. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Beth

Fait and Arna Rennan for keeping the nursery going in the interim years. What an incredible act of service!

We have been getting more and more young people coming to Children's Church on Sunday mornings, which is fantastic. The team of adults involved in shaping this ministry has been compiling songs to sing, deciding on how and what they want to teach, and coming up with great ideas for building community outside of St. Paul's. It's like one of those tropical disturbances off the coast of Africa: we are getting organized, and a system is beginning to form. The Faith Formation Committee (BIG, HUGE shout out to Phyllis Saliin and Wendy Saliin, Jordan and Adam Sundberg, Nat Constance, and Brad Brunfelt!) has been doing a stellar job communicating and working together. We are at the point where we need more adults to help on Sundays. If you are interested in getting involved, ask one of the people listed above, or talk to me (Sophie) in person or via

email kids@stpaulsduluth.org
We'd love to have your help!

Lastly, the exciting season of Advent is upon us! I remember visiting St. Paul's on Christmas Eve when my daughter Matilda was a baby, and thinking "this church is magical!" I was impressed at how grand and genuinely joyful the season is in this church, and how far that goes towards making the darkest days of the year feel considerably more cheerful. I am excited for the next six weeks, and am kind of in awe that I get to have a part in the planning. In addition to talking about Advent on Sundays, and celebrating St. Nicholas and St. Lucy, there are fun things happening on Wednesdays this month as well. On November 29, we will kick off the season with Advent wreath and candle-making after dinner at 6 pm. The next Wednesday (December 6) we will make Advent calendars. On December 13, we'll be busy making cookies after dinner, and on Wednesday, December 20, we'll celebrate **Advent Around the World!** I've been asked about what exactly Advent around the world is. It is a chance for folks to share what they know about Holiday traditions from other countries. Everyone who signs up picks a country, sets up a table in the Parish Hall with decorations, information, festive foods, costumes, music, games, etc. related to the holiday traditions in that country. My family has picked Italy! There is a place to sign up by the big calendar in the stairwell. My hope is that it will turn into sort of a Christmas party for church friends and families before the main event that weekend. All are welcome!

I am excited for the month ahead — life slows down and the days get shorter. This gives us time to enjoy the blinking lights, smells of good things in the oven, laughing with friends and family, a warm sweater, favorite books, snuggling under a blanket, singing songs, and quietly contemplate the miracles of Advent. It is the only holiday where people collectively celebrate peace and generosity, and that feels so good. I'm looking forward to being with you as we wait together.

Peace,

Sophie Gray Spehar
Faith Formation Coordinator



Outreach Opportunities

Serve a meal at the **Damiano Center** with your friends from St. Paul's on the first Monday of each month. Contact Zabelle Stodola for more information.

Contribute dried pasta to the **Chum Food Shelf**—add it to the grocery cart near the Parish Hall. Any non-perishable food items are appreciated!

Donate new or gently used hats, mittens and scarves to the **St. Paul's Giving Warmth Line** on Superior Street.

Help at **Laundry Love** on the second Tuesday of each month. See information from Natalie Constance below.

Lynnea Hultkrantz has been volunteering in the Laundry Love project. I helped her one Tuesday morning and this is what I found out:

- It is an easy commitment: only one Tuesday morning a month.
- It is an easy commitment: only 3 hours.

- It is easy work: greet people as they bring in their laundry
- It is easy work: put quarters in a washer and dryer (people load the machines themselves)
- It is satisfying work: to see people gratefully walk out with clean clothes!

The next Laundry Love is Tuesday, December 12. Call Lynnea if you are interested.

It is another time that our hands and feet, head and heart, do the work Jesus would have done, if there were laundromats in those times!



laundry love.

Wednesday Night Supper in December

As you may or may not know, Wednesday evenings are a wonderful time of gathering at the church for food, fellowship, and formation. The menu rotates and in hopes of encouraging anyone and everyone to attend I thought I'd give you a heads-up of **what's cookin'** during December. We try our best to accommodate all dietary preferences.

December 6 — in celebration of St. Nicholas we will be having a celebratory meal of beef pot roast (veggie roast available), veggies, and a sweet dessert.

December 13 — in celebration of St. Lucy we will have wheat berry soup with Swedish meatballs on the side. Fruit

and pepparkakor will be served as well. Kids who may not be so inclined to this one can enjoy some simple buttery noodles.

December 20 — in celebration of St. Mary the Mother of God we will have a fiesta, complete with tacos, chips, dips, and buñuelos (fried dough).



Submitted by
Buffy Helstrom

The Giving Tree



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 located by the elevator on second floor, 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 **Monday, 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!

Vestry Updates Bylaws

Vestry met on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, with a busy agenda as we work towards the close of the year. We were updated on the Annual Giving Campaign by committee member John Pastor and reviewed the Statement of Financial Position with Treasurer, Leslie Brunfelt. Both reports are vital as we prepare for the Budget Forum and Annual Meeting in January, and we are thankful for the work of both committees. We are hopeful of meeting our goal as more pledge cards come in.

Also on the agenda was a review of the updated bylaws of the church. Bylaws are rules that govern any organization and they define how the church's governance structure functions. The V. Rev. Rick Swenson has been working to get our current bylaws updated and easier to understand in today's age for the benefit of our parish. We are grateful to Rev. Rick for his work and expertise in the matter.

One change of note is a proposal that Vestry will vote on in December. That is to change the number of Vestry members from two wardens and twelve members to two wardens and nine members. The Vestry believes that reducing the number of members will help us to be more efficient. This allows us to recruit with ease and retain members through the full three-year term. Another advantage is a more focused discussion as we carefully deliberate issues, as

we aim to be efficient with the time commitment we ask of each other.

One of the main reasons to move to two wardens and nine members is that over the past six years, going back to Mark Brown and Nancy Schuldt's tenure as Senior Wardens, we have aimed to organize and strengthen our church committee structure to give expert advice to our Vestry. In the first paragraph in this letter, you will understand how Vestry is grateful for the work of Stewardship and Finance to guide us in the budget process. Reducing the number of Vestry members will allow us to recruit capable parishioners to serve on specific subcommittees where their skills are most needed.

Whether you are called to serve in Finance, Stewardship, Faith Formation, Music, Altar Guild, Hospitality, Buildings and Grounds, Outreach, or other ministries, our Vestry is grateful for the time and talent you offer St. Paul's.

Thank you!

Eirik Rennan, Senior Warden



A Message of Thanks

Today I bring to you a message of **Thanks** from our Annual Giving Committee. We appreciate those who have pledged and respectfully ask those who haven't to help us attain our goal and please submit your pledge soon.

Your St. Paul's Church is alive and well because of your commitments of time, talent and money. We have achieved two thirds of our pledge goal, so now I urge those who have yet to pledge to do so in order to continue the success of our great church and its future.

My family has enjoyed being part of St. Paul's success for a quarter century as we give our time, talents and treasure. We have enjoyed St. Paul's worship services and warm community that this church has, and we see a long and bright future for St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Very soon our Annual Giving Committee will be reporting to you the final results of our pledge drive. Please join us at church and expect to hear of this in the coming weeks.

I thank you; our church thanks you.

Jim Ransom,

Annual Giving Committee



Jim Ransom (rt.) and his Prayer Partner, Ernie Barthel, at the Valentine Dinner February 14, 2019. Jim also served as Ernie's Confirmation Mentor in 2023.

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 counters will be able to determine where your gift should go. Unless otherwise noted, pledge payments will first be applied to 2023 until paid in full and then to 2024.

If you want your gifts included on your 2023 year-end statement, please submit them to the Parish Office by 9:00 am Friday, December 29, 2023, or place them in the offering plate on Sunday, December 24, or Monday, December 25, 2023. 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 2023	REPORT FOR 2024
Checks written in December 2023 and deposited in church offering in January 2024		X
Checks written and deposited in church offering in January 2024, but "backdated" to December 2023		X
Checks written and deposited in church offering in December 2023, but "postdated" to January 2024		X
Checks written in December 2023 and deposited in the mail and postmarked in December 2023, but not received by the church until January 2024	X	
Checks written in December 2023 and deposited in the mail in December 2023, but not postmarked until January 2024 and not received by the church until January 2024		X

If you are making an electronic contribution, please complete transactions by December 27, 2023 to have them included in 2023 Contribution Received. Electronic transactions do not post on the week-ends.

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

Thank you,
Christine bookkeeper@stpaulsduluth.org

St. Paul's Episcopal

1710 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH

**Festival of Lessons & Carols:
Sunday, Dec. 17, 6:00 pm**

**Christmas Eve Services:
Sunday, December 24,
4:00 pm**

*Family Service with
No-Rehearsal Pick Up Pageant
Every Child May Participate*

**December 24, 10:00 pm
Choral Candlelight Service**

**Christmas Day Services:
Monday, December 25
Christmas Day Eucharist, 10 am**



From Your Bookkeeper

Dear Parishioners,

October 2023 financials were presented to the Finance Committee and Vestry at their November 2023 meetings. Here is a summary of the October **General Fund** results.



MONTHLY FIGURES: October	This Month	Year to date
Total Pledges collected	\$32,966.60	\$278,903.51
Total non-pledged collection	\$4,660.00	\$36,864.42
Investment support	\$8,297.25	\$83,545.45
Total Income	\$45,923.85	\$399,313.38
Total Expenses	\$49,222.78	\$467,206.59
amount over/(short)	(\$3,298.93)	(\$67,893.21)
General Fund Balance 1/1/2023		\$77,036.78
fund balance year to date		-\$67,893.21
General Fund Balance 9/30/2023		\$9,143.57

- The pledge collection amount for October was \$16,276.72 over the budgeted amount.
 - Total income is under budget \$32,211.92 through the end of October. Please keep in mind that our pledge commitments did not meet our pledge goals.
 - Expenses were \$3065.43 under budget for the month of October and under budget \$28,255.08 year-to-date, which is good news.
 - Our bottom line, income over expenses, for October is -\$3,298.93 and -\$67,893.21 year-to-date. This not a cause for concern at this point, since we budgeted to utilize the surplus from the prior three years as we re-build our programs. The really good news is that we have not yet used up the \$77,000 three-year surplus!
- Please prayerfully consider additional giving to St. Paul's to support our mission and ministries and offset the deficit. If you have any questions, please call my office or email me at bookkeeper@stpaulsduluth.org.

Christine Melone, Bookkeeper

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.

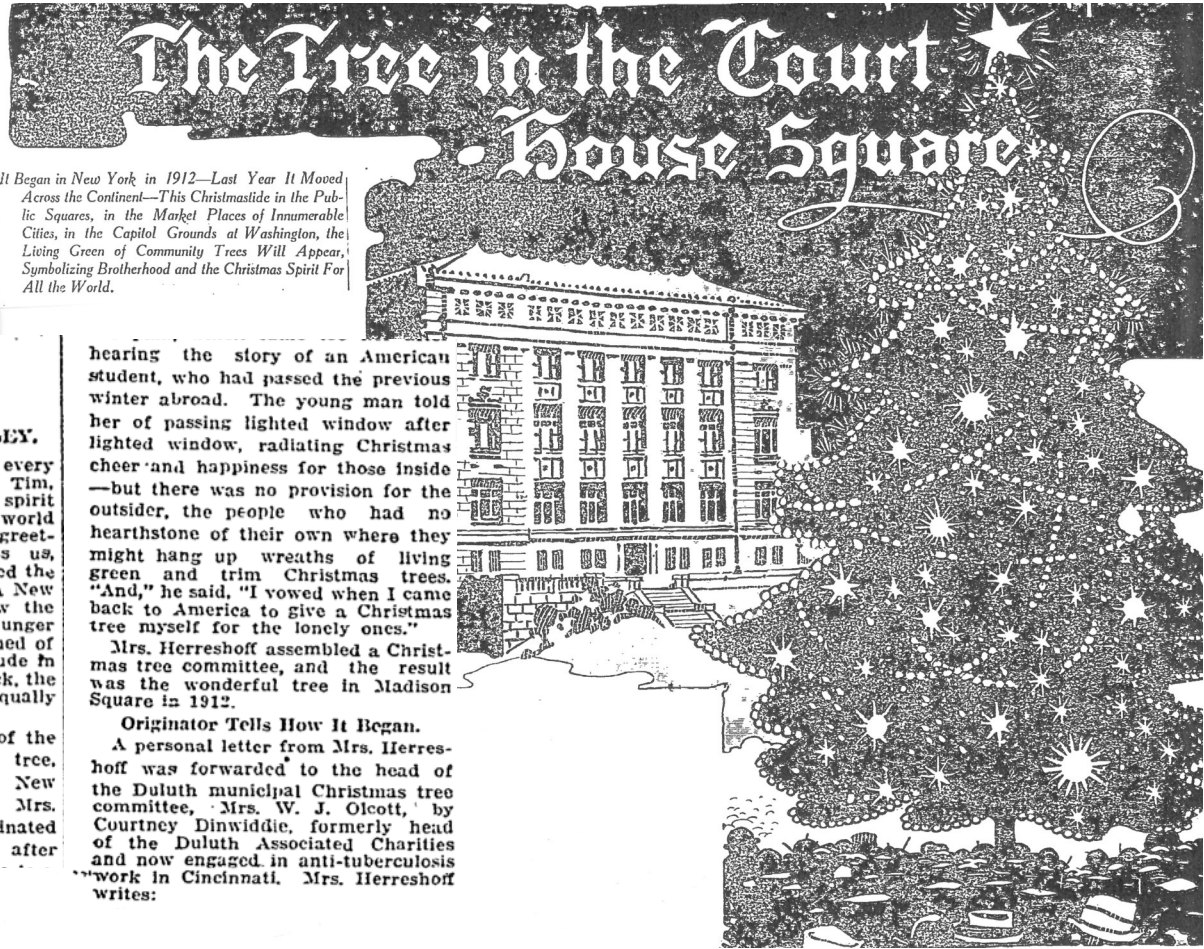


Holiday Office Closure

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.

Lost Treasures From the Archives

From the Duluth News Tribune, December 20, 1914



The Tree in the Court House Square

It Began in New York in 1912—Last Year It Moved Across the Continent—This Christmastide in the Public Squares, in the Market Places of Innumerable Cities, in the Capitol Grounds at Washington, the Living Green of Community Trees Will Appear, Symbolizing Brotherhood and the Christmas Spirit For All the World.



BY MAY STANLEY.

OD BLESS us, every one," said Tiny Tim, reaching out in spirit to embrace the world in his Christmas greeting. "God bless us, every one," echoed the loving heart of a New York woman, who saw the loneliness and heart-hunger of the world and dreamed of a celebration which should include in its scope the lonely, the heart-sick, the poor in pocketbook and the equally poor in Christmas joy.

That was the thought back of the first community Christmas tree, erected in Madison Square in New York city only two years ago. Mrs. J. B. Francis Herreshoff originated the plan, which came too her after

hearing the story of an American student, who had passed the previous winter abroad. The young man told her of passing lighted window after lighted window, radiating Christmas cheer and happiness for those inside—but there was no provision for the outsider, the people who had no hearthstone of their own where they might hang up wreaths of living green and trim Christmas trees. "And," he said, "I vowed when I came back to America to give a Christmas tree myself for the lonely ones."

Mrs. Herreshoff assembled a Christmas tree committee, and the result was the wonderful tree in Madison Square in 1912.

Originator Tells How It Began.

A personal letter from Mrs. Herreshoff was forwarded to the head of the Duluth municipal Christmas tree committee, Mrs. W. J. Olcott, by Courtney Dinwiddie, formerly head of the Duluth Associated Charities and now engaged in anti-tuberculosis work in Cincinnati. Mrs. Herreshoff writes:

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Silverness

Reflections of a Lay Delegate at ECMN Convention

The very recent statewide convention and meeting of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota (ECMN) was held this year in Eden Prairie, MN. I am moved to share my experience of this joyous event, and a delegate experience.

St. Paul's is a member church, part of the statewide Minnesota diocese, or division, of the national Episcopal Church. Proudly, I have served as part of St. Paul's delegation as a church representative to the annual ECMN convention. As a side note, I am a member of St. Paul's, with no formal theology training or background. I represent St. Paul's as a "lay" delegate (my, aren't we full of terms and jargon!) I am nearing the end of my term as a lay delegate.

In addition, the lay delegates are also representatives in our mission area, formerly known as the "region". The mission area is a geographical area of the state which comprises various Episcopal Churches in various communities. St. Paul's is



St. Paul's delegation to convention from L. to R.:
Rick Swenson, Pat Benson, Nancy Diener, Maggie Nancarrow,
Becky Ballou-Buck, Natalie Constance, and Jill Peterman

in the Northeast Mission Area. The lay delegates attend periodic mission area meetings held in

Continued on page 10

Jesus, Our Churches and our Money

Money, how we use it, how we manage it, how we relate to it, is an intrinsic part of our lives. Jesus certainly recognized this: more than 200 verses in the gospels deal with money and our relationship to it. Church leaders are called to help guide and lead the congregations they serve in their relationships to money as well.

One of the things that is evident to any church leader is that people want to give of their resources to things that are important to them. People discover that they can give much more than they ever thought possible through understanding the methods of giving to support the church. One of those methods that is not systematically talked about and is thus not well understood in most churches is planned giving.

I led an initial discussion of planned giving last Wednesday evening with only a few of you attending. That is understandable. It can be a complicated and difficult topic to consider. But planned giving, whether to the church or to other important groups you support, is a vital part of how we all help build and maintain God's kingdom. Gifts can be made in a planned and substantial way to take effect either during one's lifetime or upon one's passing, or a combination of both.

Planned giving is also a part of a larger effort that all of us should (**must**) undertake to make plans for our passing such as making out our wills, medical healthcare directives, and other planning to ensure that our loved ones understand what our desires are and thereby minimize the pain and doubt they often must endure when making important decisions after our passing not knowing exactly what we would want them to do.

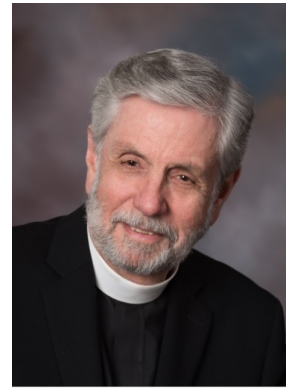
Both matters are related: planned giving and end of life planning. They are matters we should all learn more about to understand how we can best accomplish our desired results in the most beneficial, effective way possible for those we love and to continue to support those things we desire to support.

I, along with others, will continue to offer educational opportunities to all those interested to discuss in general these two important topics, and most importantly to help guide you to the resources necessary to help you determine how best to steward your money and your resources and to make end of life plans essential to ensuring your legacy is what you would want and is most beneficial for those you love and those you support and want to help.

These are matters that we often put off because they can be uncomfortable to consider. But, as a lawyer, I have seen too many instances where a lack of adequate thought and planning has led to outcomes that no one wanted, and no one anticipated.

You will be notified of the date and time of future discussions. Please consider taking a little of your time to begin to acquaint or reacquaint yourself with some of the fundamentals of these two important topics. They **are** important in our lives and, perhaps more importantly, for our loved ones and the ministries we support.

*Faithfully,
Fr. Rick*



Continued from page 9

our various fantastic Northern Minnesota communities. For instance, last May we met in Grand Rapids and joined other churches, ECMN staff, and our Bishop Loya (along with our own Rev. Rick). The region meetings conduct business, worship, and preparation of delegates for convention. Our near and far neighbor churches, and all of us, are part of the body of the ECMN. You can feel the Episcopal relationship where we come together as one. I personally enjoy developing the relationships with others as we stand in the light of our shared, diverse, and transforming church. It is one of our treasures.

The ECMN convention offers another treasure, and a glimpse of the depth and breadth of our rich spiritual tradition. This year on November 10–11 we experienced true joy and hope that was shared by both our Bishop Loya and our

Presiding Bishop Curry. Following the convention business sessions with rules, order and structure, combined with elections, voting, budget and finance, we were offered experiences for spiritual growth and renewal. Bishop Loya challenged us – can we live together like we believe God's promise? Can we get “out of the boat” and respond to God's call to heal breaches and love like Jesus does? Bishop Curry reminded us that Jesus came to show us how to be God's Family – bound by love. The Kingdom of God is hope and love, and Joy in the Holy Spirit.

I have so appreciated this opportunity to serve our church. May we all be empowered to go forth and do the work that is given us to do.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jill Peterman*

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE – DECEMBER 2023

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

	December 3	December 10	December 17	10 am December 24	4:00 pm December 24	10:00 pm December 24	10 am only December 25	10 am only December 31
ALTAR GUILD	K Leonard	C Conrad	C Miller	R Ballou-Buck	R Ballou-Buck	C Miller	C Conrad	K Leonard
	S Cox	S M Anderson	L Hultkrantz	D Kolquist	D Kolquist	L Hultkrantz	S M Anderson	S Cox
	J Harvey	S Hall					S Hall	J Harvey
	S Sommer	A Sadowski					A Sadowski	S Sommer
LECTOR 8:00 am	M Gustafson	A Mackenzie	J Pastor	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
LECTORS 10:00 am	R Butler	M Chilson	W Copeland	N Constance	R Butler	J Pastor	P Kruschke	J Stromquist
	K Smith	M Spencer	Z Stodola		M Butler	N Diener		
CHALICE	R Butler	M Chilson	W Copeland	Ø	R Butler	J Pastor	P Enenbach	J Stromquist
BEARERS	SM Anderson	M Spencer	Z Stodola	N Constance	N Constance	N Diener	A Mackenzie	K Baumgarten
	K Smith	P Enenbach	M Gustafson		Z Stodola	SM Anderson		Z Stodola
ACOLYTES	A Dodge	G French	A Rennan	Ø	M Butler	L Fellman	Ø	M Butler
	L Gustafson	J Bauer	C Burcher		A Rennan	G French		J Bauer
	C Gustafson	J Shambour	M Butler		A Dodge	E Barthel		J Shambour
LIVESTREAM	J Austin	D Barthel	R Lyle	Ø	E Barthel	R Lyle	Ø	J Austin
COFFEE HOST	J & V Groth	M Chilson & W Copeland	K Smith	M & S Brown	Ø	Ø	Ø	J & R Erspamer
USHERS	M Brown	D Barthel	G Olson	B Dinan	P Waite	D Barthel	G Olson	B Dinan
	S Brown	D Morin	P Waite	C Dinan	D Morin	G Olson		C Dinan
	R Lyle	K Swanson	M Gustafson		K Swanson	D Kolquist		N Schuldt
			D Kolquist		N Schuldt	J Harvey		
LOCK UP	C Fellman	M Brown	T Diener	D Pederson	B Stapp	C Fellman	M Brown	T Diener



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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SING
PEACE
FESTIVAL
OF
LESSONS AND CAROLS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 - 6:00PM

The poster features a dark blue background with a bright, multi-pointed starburst or light flare on the left side. The text is centered and written in a white, serif font. The words "SING" and "PEACE" are the largest, followed by "FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS" and "SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 - 6:00PM" at the bottom.