



ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

— GRAND FORKS • ND —

PARISH PROFILE



Rector Search Prayer

Almighty God, the giver of all gifts, we ask your blessing upon this parish family, that your Holy Spirit may empower us to minister to one another, both in word and deed. We pray that you would guide with your heavenly wisdom those who are to choose a Rector for our parish, that we may receive a priest and pastor who will boldly speak your word, faithfully administer your sacraments, and lovingly care for all your people; in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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INTRODUCTION: WHO WE ARE

We are vital and active parishioners from a caring community who volunteer with great willingness to work. Worship, fellowship and outreach are the strongest elements of our life together.

We are a loving and supportive church family with active lay leadership, committed to faith development for all generations. We cherish our children and our youth, and take pride in our formation programs. We serve many outside our walls through our outreach ministries. We offer numerous and varied opportunities for fellowship.

We honor our Episcopal tradition of integrating liturgy, scripture and music. Our church family includes long-time Episcopalians, and crossovers from several Christian denominations, as well as other faiths. All are welcome at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

We are confident in our ability to renew the strength of our parish. The many groups and individuals that make up St. Paul's are committed to working with our new Rector to successfully make this transition.

ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

To confess joyfully that Jesus is Lord in order to bring praise to God by:

- Accepting others as Christ accepts us;
- Strengthening faith through worship, prayer, Bible Study and fellowship;
- Serving the wider community;
- Identifying and nurturing each person's gifts and talents and encouraging their use;
- Encouraging youth in church life.

ST. PAUL'S VISION

Growing as a Christ-centered community reaching out in love.

HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Paul's Episcopal Church was founded on January 16, 1880; nine years prior to North Dakota's statehood! During its 139-year history, St. Paul's has been served by seven Rectors. The original church building stood in downtown Grand Forks, approximately 7 blocks north of its present location. It was destroyed by fire in the late 1940's.

The sanctuary of the current building was erected in 1949. A split-level Christian Education wing was added in the 1970's. Destroyed during the flood of 1997, the Christian Education wing was demolished and rebuilt as our Fellowship (Great) Hall. It was dedicated to God's service in May 2000.

St. Paul's is the only Episcopal church in Grand Forks and is in a prime downtown location to bring in visitors.





OUR RECENT PAST

Throughout our history St. Paul's has experienced many periods of high energy and expansion. In recent years, consistent with the national trend of most mainline Christian denominations, St. Paul's has seen a decline in attendance and membership.

St. Paul's celebrated our Rector's 16 years of service at his retirement reception at the end of September 2019. The continuity of our worship remained unbroken as a dynamic Interim Rector began immediately.

In June 2019, our Vestry established a Search Committee, which promptly undertook a parish-wide survey. This process provided an opportunity for issues to be aired and feelings expressed.

Over half of St. Paul's parishioners completed the written Parish Family survey that covered: Worship, Pastoral Care, Fellowship, Education, and Growing St. Paul's. There was an open "essay" section for parishioners to address concerns and offer comments and suggestions for church leadership and the Search Committee.

The survey identified our strengths and weaknesses and established common goals for our future.

A renewed commitment to St. Paul's has begun to emerge, engendering great hope and anticipation for the future.

Our Vestry has created an environment of transparency and openness. We are improving lines of communication.

With the faithful commitment of parishioners and a sense of expectancy for the possibilities of the future, the parish is moving forward.



WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

The findings and conclusions from the Parish Survey formed an image of how St. Paul's sees itself today, a vision of how it hopes to see itself in the future, and a sketch of a Rector with the skills to help take us there.

- We need to stay connected with our core strengths and values. The hallmarks of our parish include our focus on the liturgy, Eucharist, music, outreach, fellowship and supporting one another in our times of need.
- Our congregation needs spiritual nourishment. We seek scriptural messages that challenge us and inspire us to do God's work in this world.
- St. Paul's recognizes the need to stimulate growth and draw new members.
- We need to improve the way we welcome and integrate newcomers into the church.

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

The major challenges and opportunities facing St. Paul's in the next three years are:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people (with primary attention to families and youth) and increase total membership and average Sunday attendance.
- Provide high quality Christian Education for every age and stage of life.
- Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships through fellowship, education and outreach.
- Develop ministries that work toward healing those struggling with unforeseen circumstances, and strengthen the pastoral response of the church in serving parishioners with special needs.
- Identify the gifts and talents of parishioners; empower and equip them for lay ministry and leadership.

THE RECTOR WE SEEK

Our Rector should possess the qualities, skills and character to serve as:

A DYNAMIC PREACHER who delivers thoughtful, engaging sermons that provide scriptural insight. We hunger for messages that are thought-provoking and relevant to our lives and times.

AN INSPIRATIONAL LEADER who is able to recognize and develop the gifts and talents across the span of generations represented in our parish, and can energize each of us to volunteer, contribute, and find our calling within St. Paul's.

A TEACHER who understands the importance of continuing education for every age group, and has the skills to revitalize our Christian Education programs.

A PASTOR who provides spiritual counsel to individual parishioners faced with personal decisions and crisis situations, as well as to the needs of the congregation as a whole.

A SPIRITUAL PERSON who possesses a sense of humor, compassion, and inspires us to live out our baptismal vows.





WORSHIP AT ST. PAUL'S

Shared worship is the strongest single bond that draws us together.

- † Rite II Holy Eucharist is celebrated each Sunday at 10:15 a.m.
- † Holy Eucharist: Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.
- † Prayer Group: Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.
- † Bible Study: Tuesdays at 12:00 Noon

At Christmas, Easter, and during Lent and Holy Week, appropriate services are added to the regular worship schedule.

The 10:15 service is conducted on the parish lawn on the Sunday closest to Fourth of July.

The Parish Survey confirmed that most prefer familiar patterns in our church life. Some would like to experience more contemporary music.

PARISH STATISTICS		
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Total Sunday Attendance	3,697	3,422
Average:	71	66
Easter + Christmas:	833	711
Baptisms:	4	9
Weddings:	0	1
Funerals:	3	1
Confirmations:	0	3
Reaffirmations:	3	4



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

ALTAR GUILD is made up of dedicated parishioners who prepare the church for Sunday and weekday services, baptisms, weddings and funerals. Guild members carry on the traditions of St. Paul's by caring for the sacred objects used at the altar: Holy Eucharist vessels, vestments, linens and candles. Prior to each service, members of the guild prepare and set the credence table using proper seasonal linens.

CHANCEL GUILD pays for St. Paul's altar supplies with their annual dues.

ACOLYTES St. Paul's is blessed with wonderful adults and children who embrace our acolyte ministry. Performing such tasks as carrying the processional cross, lighting and carrying candles and assisting the clergy with the preparation of the table, young and seasoned members of the church are encouraged to participate in the worship service.

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS assist the clergy by administering the consecrated wine at the celebration of the Eucharist.

LECTORS read the Lessons and Prayers of the People at Sunday worship services.

USHERS welcome parishioners and visitors, present the sacraments, gather the offerings, shepherd and assist communicants to the altar rail.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music is an integral part of worship at St. Paul's. Our "small but mighty" choir consists of 4-10 voices led by our new Choir Director.

Music professors and students from University of North Dakota share their vocal and instrumental talents with St. Paul's.

Sunday School children are now being taught songs to perform during the Offertory.

Diversified hymn selections keep our services vibrant.



"It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name O Most High;"

Psalm 92:1 (NKJV)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

At St. Paul's, we believe that Christian Education is fundamental to the formation of our faith. The official start of the church school year is usually held the Sunday after Labor Day.

NURSERY: Open during the Sunday morning worship service, the nursery offers a safe, loving environment for infants and toddlers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Children are valued at St. Paul's and welcome to participate in the church service and Sunday school programs. Sunday school (Pre-K to 5th Grade) is conducted during the first half of the Eucharist service, and runs from September through May. The curriculum includes Bible stories, music and crafts. Our goal is to provide a nurturing framework to assist our youth in exploring and developing their faith, as well as learning about the church.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Offered approximately every other year (based on the Bishop's availability) for those who want to be received into the Episcopal Church.

BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER GROUP: Conducted on Tuesdays, scripture-focused and open to all.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: First Sunday in December.

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Offered monthly during the Sunday service.

Prayer for Education...

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom; Enlighten by thy Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn, that, rejoicing in the knowledge of thy truth, they may worship thee and serve thee from generation to generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



OUTREACH

St. Paul's Episcopal Church generously supports a myriad of outreach recipients; not only monetarily, but also with our time and energy. Every parishioner is directly or indirectly a member of Outreach.

In addition to the grocery cart for food donations just inside the entrance to our church, St. Paul's also supports the following ministries, and other appropriate community needs as they arise:

NORTHLANDS RESCUE MISSION

(Located across the street from St. Paul's)

- The Mission is a nondenominational homeless shelter that provides “independent living skills” training. Donations of food, clothing, personal care items and various kitchen items are ongoing.

PHOENIX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

(A few blocks from St. Paul's)

- Back-to-school supplies and snacks are provided to children whose families are unable to purchase them.
- St. Paul's has established a fund at the school (to be used at the discretion of the school social worker) for student needs, such as clothing, winter outerwear and participation in community summer activities.
- Movie cards are also given at the holidays to provide fun entertainment for families in need.



RED RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION

- Clothing, personal care and household items donated to RRVCA's Women's Shelter.
- Toys, hats and mittens are donated to RRVCA's "Santa Day" program.

SALVATION ARMY

- Parishioners purchase Christmas gifts from "Giving Trees" for selected families.

SPECTRA HEALTH

(Located near St. Paul's)

- St. Paul's has established a fund at the Health Center to help with patient dental needs. Funds are donated semi-annually.

ST. JOSEPH'S FOOD PANTRY AND SOCIAL CARE

- Regular donations of food are given to St. Joseph's, as well as financial support for its summer lunch program.

UNITED WAY

- Underwear, socks, diapers and personal care items are donated to its annual "Undies Sunday" program.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS PROGRAM

- Run by Grand Forks Public Schools, clothing and school supplies are donated annually, or as needed.

NORTHLANDS RESCUE MISSION THANKSGIVING DINNER

- St. Paul's provides the venue, table, chairs, dishes, utensils and dishwasher for Northlands Rescue Mission's annual free Thanksgiving meal. The food is prepared at the Mission and brought to St. Paul's. Volunteers from many local churches set up, plate and serve our guests.





PARISH LIFE

One of our busiest committees, Parish Life:

- Coordinates coffee hour after the service
- Hosts receptions for funerals and celebrations
- Coordinates meals for those in need during times of illness and convalescence.

Parish Life also organizes these fellowship activities:

- Sweetheart Dinner (February)
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Lenten Study Suppers
- Easter Brunch
- Fourth of July Picnic/BBQ
- Baked Potato Bar/Potluck Luncheon (September)
- Craft & Bake Sale/Soup Luncheon (November)
- Decorating the Church for Christmas



BUILDING AND GROUNDS

St. Paul's Episcopal Church reflects traditional Anglican beauty and seamlessly combines traditional and modern architecture.

The nave boasts a beautiful hand-painted baptismal alcove, and seats over 200 comfortably in hand-carved wooden pews. St. Paul's magnificent stained glass windows complement the architecture of the sanctuary, and reflect the color palette of the eras in which they were created. The lovely brass lighting fixtures create a serene and reverent worship atmosphere.

The Fellowship Hall covers 27,000 square feet. It is an airy, multipurpose facility that houses office space, a library, modern kitchen and bathroom facilities, a well-equipped child care center and space to host sizeable community gatherings.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The cost to maintain an aging church has been a challenge, but St. Paul's remains financially sound with a substantial endowment and no debt.

ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET:

\$220,000

ST. PAUL'S ENDOWMENT FUND:

\$1,500,000

Two years ago, when St. Paul's was faced with a budget deficit, the Endowment was used to offset the shortfall.

Restrictions have been implemented so that a maximum of 5% of the Endowment Fund can be allocated to the annual budget. The balance must be generated from pledges and charitable giving.

In 2018, one of St. Paul's multi-generation families generously "matched" annual pledged giving to replenish the Endowment Fund.



2019 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2019 INCOME

Pledges	\$137,700	62.5%
Contributions	\$13,600	6.2%
Open Plate	\$2,500	1.1%
Endowment	\$66,500	30.2%
TOTAL	\$220,300	100%

2019 EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	\$120,700	55.2%
Operating Expenses	\$50,600	23.1%
Outside Giving	\$47,500	21.7%
TOTAL	\$218,800	100%

CURRENT AGE GROUPS AT ST. PAULS

Children < 16	25
16-18	8
19-25	4
26-40	19
41-55	25
56-65	25
66-75	35
76 >	25



STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is a critical part of any church's identity. At St. Paul's, the Vestry and stewardship committee chair organize and conduct the pledge drive each fall.

- We need to promote stewardship of time and talent as well as treasure.
- A plan needs to be formulated to address St. Paul's aging population.
- We must continue to follow a cautious fiscal policy and build a sound financial plan that supports our needs and goals for the future.



	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Pledging Units	52	53	55
Pledged Dollars	\$78,540	\$85,630	\$138,250

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
 Praise Him all creatures here below.
 Praise Him above ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

VESTRY

Five Vestry members and two Wardens constitute the primary governing body of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Vestry members are elected for three-year terms.

Meeting monthly, Vestry members choose their preferred "Area of Ministry."

2019 Vestry Members

Kris Miller (Senior Warden)

Arch Simonson (Junior Warden, Property)

Kathie Hein (Worship & Music, Secretary)

Stephanie LaDue (Stewardship)

Susan Owens (Communications)

Lauren Simonson (Christian Education)

Deb Solem (Parish Life, Outreach)

Treasurer: Katie Simonson

*O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage:
Enlighten with your grace the wardens, clerk, and vestry of this congregation,
and so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may
seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church, through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.*

Prayer at Commissioning of the Vestry

CLERGY AND STAFF

INTERIM RECTOR:

The Rev. Harvey Henderson

DEACON:

The Rev. Don Leroux

SECRETARY:

Carol Johnson

SEXTON:

Doug Woodard

INTERIM ORGANIST:

David Larson

CHOIR DIRECTOR:

Mathew Cherian

RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Don Henderson (*Chair*)

Nico Britton

Nicole Derenne

Ellen Jacobi

Margaret Laumb

Don Leroux

Susan Owens

Ilene Sherlock

PARISH PROFILE COMMITTEE

Nicole Derenne

Dana Harsell

Becky Weaver-Hightower

Ellen Jacobi

CITY OF GRAND FORKS

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is located in the city of Grand Forks, North Dakota. Grand Forks sits on the western bank of the north flowing Red River. With a population of 56,948 Grand Forks is the third-largest city in North Dakota.

Originally called *Les Grandes Fourches* by French fur traders from Canada, Grand Forks was platted by steamboat captain Alexander Griggs in 1870. Grand Forks was incorporated on February 22, 1881 and named for its location at the fork of the Red and the Red Lake Rivers.

Grand Forks boasts lovely homes on tree-lined streets. Altru Health System is centrally located, and the Grand Forks International Airport is easily accessible.

Downtown Grand Forks is experiencing a renaissance with new condominiums, offices and retail outlets currently under construction. The number of restaurants in Grand Forks has doubled in the past five years.



EDUCATION

The Grand Forks Public School and Air Force Base School Districts serve 7,400 students. There are two high schools (grades 9-12), one alternative high school, three middle schools (grades 6-8), eleven elementary schools (grades K-5) and one Head Start program.

With strong curriculums and highly qualified teachers, our schools consistently achieve academic results that exceed those at state and national levels.

The University of North Dakota is the oldest institution of higher education in the state. With enrollment of 14,000 students, UND is increasingly regarded as one of the top academic and research institutions in the nation. The University prides itself in its liberal arts core as well as Law, Medicine, Nursing, Engineering, Social Work, Education, "Unmanned Aircraft Systems" and Aviation. The John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences is considered the finest school of aviation and space science in the nation.

ON THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA CAMPUS:

- Ralph Engelstad Arena
- North Dakota Museum of Art displays contemporary works from around the world. It also houses an impressive permanent art collection and hosts many touring shows.
- Chester Fritz Auditorium
- Multiple libraries



ECONOMY

Historically dependent on local agriculture, the city's economy now encompasses higher education, defense, health care, manufacturing, food processing, and scientific research.

TOP EMPLOYERS

- Altru Health System
- Grand Forks Air Force Base
- University of North Dakota
- Grand Forks Public Schools

CORPORATIONS

- LM Glasfiber (Wind Turbines)
- Cirrus Design (Light Aircraft)
- J.R. Simplot Co. (Potato Processor)
- North Dakota Mill and Elevator (Flour)
- Alerus Financial (Banking)]
- Hugo's (Supermarket Chain)

CLIMATE

Grand Forks enjoys four distinct seasons featuring beautiful blue skies and gorgeous sunsets. The mean summer temperature is 80 degrees. Autumn temperatures average 54 degrees. December through February can be cold (REALLY cold!) but also offer clear crisp days with Northern lights and "sun dogs."

CULTURE

- The Alerus Center features concerts and stage productions
- Empire Arts Center features drama and musical performances
- Greater Grand Forks Community Theatre performs at the Fire Hall Theatre
- Summer Performing Arts (SPA) Program for school age children through high school

RECREATION

Grand Forks is graced with 31 parks including the Greenway along the banks of the Red River. The Greenway features waterfront parks and impeccably groomed biking/walking/jogging/rollerblading/cross-country skiing trails.

Golf courses, pools and spray parks, hockey arenas, athletic complexes, fitness centers, and youth and adult programs are offered through the Grand Forks Park District.

Trophy-sized catfish, walleye and northern pike have been caught in both the Red & Red Lake Rivers.

Lincoln Drive Park has beautiful gardens and trails.

JUST A CAR RIDE AWAY...

Fargo, North Dakota
Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

And... Hockey, Hockey, HOCKEY!

Fans of UND Fighting Hawks can watch home games in the world class Ralph Engelstad Hockey Arena! Go to the Betty Engelstad Arena for Basketball and Volleyball, and the Alerus Center for indoor Football games! GO HAWKS!

Other popular Grand Forks sports include:

- Hunting
- Fishing
- Ice Fishing
- Red River Runners
- 10K, 5K, Half & Full Marathons
- Cross Country Skiing
- Downhill Skiing in Bemidji, Walhalla or Alexandria

THE DIOCESE OF NORTH DAKOTA



St. Paul's is part of The Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota. The Diocese represents a diverse demographic of people across 22 congregations in the state of North Dakota plus one in Moorhead, Minnesota.

On May 1, 2019, the Diocese of North Dakota entered into what is likely to be a two-year period of transition as they search for a new Bishop.



GETHSEMANE
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

and Diocesan offices are in Fargo.



LETTER TO OUR NEW RECTOR

Our Search Committee begins each meeting (and this Parish Profile) with a prayer. We trust the Holy Spirit to guide us and to guide you in this process.

Conducting the Parish Survey has helped us to discern how St. Paul's functions today. Now we need to chart our course for the future.

We are hopeful...
We hope that you will enlighten us through preaching and teaching.
We hope that you will challenge us and empower us to be Christ-like.
We hope that you will inspire us to live out our baptismal vows.

We are always looking forward...
We look forward to embracing your experience and wisdom.
We look forward to sharing your faith and vision as we shape the future of our parish.
We look forward to having you as a member of our parish family.

We are anxious to welcome you, be honest with you, and to support your efforts to the best of our abilities. We will provide the support and resources necessary to reenergize a strong congregation.

May God bless us during this time of mutual discernment, and may God's will be done.

The Search Committee



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