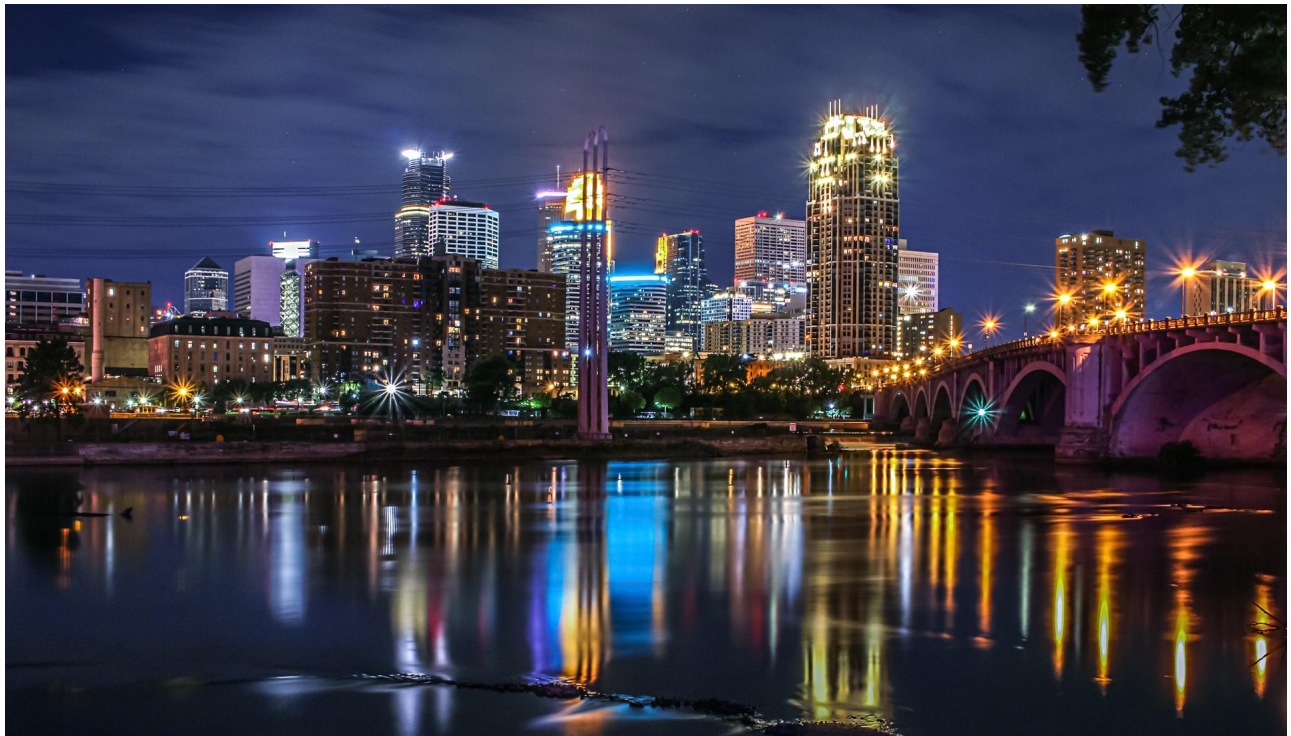


Living in the Twin Cities

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is located in the tree-lined St. Anthony Park neighborhood of [St. Paul](#), home to a multi-generational, multi-cultural community. This conveniently located area, ideally situated between St. Paul and [Minneapolis](#) downtowns, sits a few miles from the Mississippi River. St. Anthony Park exudes a quaint, village-like atmosphere with a variety of restaurants, small shops, and an attractive park near the church. Luther Seminary, the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus, and the State Fairgrounds are all within walking distance from the church. South St. Anthony Park is part of the lively Creative Enterprise Zone, home to hundreds of creative businesses, fine arts venues, restaurants, microbreweries, a transit hub, and a growing residential area.



Night view of Minneapolis

Photo by Tom Conway of Unsplash

Despite Minnesota's reputation as a Scandinavian enclave, we are truly multi-cultural, with well-established communities from South Asia (Hmong and Karen), Africa (Somali, Ethiopian, and Liberian) as well as large Hispanic and African American populations. (You can dig into details at mncompass.org.) We are a congregation with many parishioners involved in restorative justice, racial reconciliation, and building kinship across lines of difference. There is much work to be done in addressing systemic inequities in health, justice, and education in the Twin Cities, and the Episcopal Church in Minnesota is deeply engaged in this transformative work.

The Twin Cities area (shorthand for the combined metro region, including St. Paul, Minneapolis, and their suburbs) is home to 60% of Minnesota's 5.7 million residents. The Cities are a vibrant place to live, with an impressive variety of opportunities that appeal to nearly any interest. Among the many benefits of this cultural diversity is a wide spectrum of cuisine, from restaurants featuring James Beard Award-winning chefs to African, Caribbean, Chinese, Hmong, Latin American, Mediterranean, Spanish, Thai, and Vietnamese flavors (among others), as well as variations on American and European favorites. We have lots of ways to satisfy both your curiosity and your palate.



State Capitol Building in St. Paul

Photo by Bao Chau on Unsplash

After you have sampled any of these foods and wonder what to do next, here are a few ideas: if you are a theater-goer, check out the internationally renowned Guthrie theater, as well as the Ordway, State or Orpheum theaters for touring Broadway shows and larger-scale local and original productions. We have a wealth of theater, music, and dance companies, large and small. Our Fringe organization showcases the breadth and depth of our performing arts companies year-round. Musical options abound, from classical music with the Minnesota Orchestra and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra to jazz at the intimate Dakota or the best of contemporary genres at the iconic First Avenue (where home-grown legend Prince often performed).

For a quieter outing, check out any of our world-class museums, including the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Walker Art Center (a stone's throw from its famous

outdoor sculpture garden), and the Frank Gehry-designed Weisman Art Museum. Discover our cultural heritage at the Minnesota History Center, and explore the Science or Children’s Museums. Whether or not you have children, you can hunt for the woolly mammoth and the giant beaver at the Bell Museum, Minnesota’s own natural history museum (less than a mile from the church).



Weisman Museum on the University of Minnesota campus

Photo by weston m on Unsplash

If live rather than stuffed animals interest you, we have two zoos nearby: the 125-year old (and free!) Como Zoo and its big brother, the sprawling Minnesota Zoo. For those who enjoy flora as well as fauna, the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory provides an indoor experience, while the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum spreads out over 1,200 acres that are home to an amazing array of plants, shrubs, trees, and even sculptures.

The Twin Cities are home to sports teams in every major (and a few minor) sports: baseball’s Twins (and their minor-league affiliate, the Saint Paul Saints); football’s Vikings; basketball’s Timberwolves (NBA) and Lynx (WNBA); hockey’s Wild (NHL) and Whitecaps (PHF); and in soccer (the “real” football), the Loons of Minnesota United FC.

Minnesota is celebrated for its active lifestyle in all seasons. Minneapolis is one of the best bicycling cities in the country (vying with Portland for #1), with abundant options for daily commuters as well as recreational riders. Along with hundreds of miles of biking trails, we boast an equal number of hiking and walking paths. Green spaces (i.e., municipal and county parks) come in all shapes and sizes; the St. Paul parks system is ranked #2 in the nation, followed by Minneapolis parks at #5. In addition, several of

Minnesota's 66 state parks are within easy driving distance of the Twin Cities. Heading north, the Boundary Waters wilderness and the North Shore of Lake Superior are favorite destinations for canoeing, kayaking, hiking, and camping. If golf is your game, tee off at one of many golf courses spread throughout the area. (You can find disc golf courses as well.) Winter brings snow and cold, but also many highlights, including St. Paul's Winter Carnival – a 17-day extravaganza – and the candle-lit Luminary Loppet festival on and around



The Milky Way shines over a North Shore waterfall. *Photo by Vincent Ledvina on Unsplash*

Minneapolis' Lake of the Isles. Cross country ski and snowshoe at any of the plentiful trails throughout the region. When spring and summer return, canoeing, fishing, hunting, and kayaking are perennial pastimes. We are a culturally exuberant and physically active bunch.

Finally, the Twin Cities offers a wide variety of excellent school options for elementary and secondary schools, including public, private, religious and charter schools. World class medical care is available in the Twin Cities; a little over an hour away is the world renowned Mayo Clinic. Travel in and out of the region is convenient: the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport (oft-cited as one of the best in the country) is located between both cities.



Northern lights shimmer over Lake Superior.

Photo by Vincent Ledvina on Unsplash

We think that Minnesota is [a great place to live](#), as evidenced by the fact that nearly 70% of residents were born here. As our cultural diversity demonstrates, we are also a destination of choice for many immigrant groups (1 in 12 Minnesotans is foreign-born), as well as Americans moving from other parts of the country to pursue their careers and enjoy all of the opportunities that Minnesota offers!