Saint Louis County

St. Louis County Jail • 4334 Haines Rd • Duluth, MN 55811

Phone: (218) 726-2340
Date: 9/25/2026

Dear Duluth Church Partners,

As the leaves are changing it is indeed time for the Christmas cookie request from the jail. Along with starting the cookie drive, I have also been looking into ornament craft ideas as inmates make them as gifts for volunteers and staff. I learned from my dear grandma how to make all sorts of ornaments and Christmas crafts, and it strikes me that we are in a time of particularly needing some grandparent-style comfort and warmth.

The Gospel, like typical grandparents, gently loves people as they are and thus encourages them into their own fullness. I am reminded of all those in scripture who are in especially imperfect times of struggle but come to Jesus and are loved exactly as they are. They may just seem like cookies you bring but baking them is visiting those incarcerated and loving the least of these as Matthew 25 commands us to do.

When people walk through our doors, they are often facing a stressful situation. In our Christmas program we are able to love as grandparents who bring compassion and hope that comes with wisdom and time. Yes, your cookies translate these things. At our Christmas programs inmates see treats from their past, try new ones they never imagined, and then almost skip back to their units for the inevitable post-sugar-rush crash. We tell the Christmas story, welcome volunteers and various staff to give those ornaments we will make and sing carols with gusto if not skill. It is a joyful tradition, and one that would not be possible without the generosity of you, our community.

Would you consider baking cookies for the jail again this year? Here are the details:

- **RSVP Date:** Please let us know how many cookies you will be able to bring by December 1st, 2026, by calling Chaplain Kathryn Bell at (218)725-6105 or emailing at kbell@stlouiscountymn.gov.
- **Cookie Drop off** is Wednesday, December 16 from 10 am – 4 pm at 4334 Haines Rd. in Duluth. We cannot return containers cookies will be brought in.
- For allergy restrictions please do not include nuts, peanut butter or coconut.
- Gluten-free options are greatly appreciated, and we ask that they be clearly marked.

Thank you for helping us bring a little Christmas warmth, connection, and hope to the individuals in our care.

Grace and Peace, Chaplain Kathryn Dianna Bell