

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

Synod Assembly was a great time. I always appreciate the worship services. This year was one of the best. I love being able to fully worship without any responsibilities in the worship service. 😊 The Friday night worship service featured Rev. Margarita Romo. She and her son Bruce are pastors at Resurrection House in Dade City. Their ministry is to the farmworkers. I visited this ministry over 15 years ago, as an introduction to the Florida-Bahamas Synod ministries. It was so neat to hear the stories from Pr. Margarita. She will be 89 years old this year. She was just ordained last year. She is a treasure in our Synod and to the state of Florida.

Our keynote speaker was Rev. Emily Harkins. Rev. Emily is a pastor of The Dwelling ministry in North Carolina. The Dwelling is a church without walls that centers its ministry on radical welcome, deep compassion, and kinship with people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. It was birthed from a ministry that started with housing people during cold weather nights. The people gathered asked for a church that looked like them and was led by them. They didn't want to be just served or be considered guests at a church. They wanted a place where they wouldn't be looked at differently. It became a church with them not for them. It has become a place where 200 people show up on a Sunday for worship and then 250 for a meal after worship. 3,000 showers are taken and 13,000 pieces of new clothing are given out a year. They write their own music for worship. It's beautiful. And messy. If you want to read her keynote addresses they are here. <https://www.fbsassembly.org/keynote-addresses.html> I encourage you to do so.

Here are a few pictures from it.



Pastor Don is fond of saying she was the first to understand the voting procedure



Voting Members – L-R PrAshley, Irene Felicetti (Mid-Gulf Conference Lay Chair), Esther Smith, Marty Hillerich, Pr. Don Hillerich



Pr. Don, Marty, and Pr. Rob Hall, at the Village on the Isle table



St. Paul being recognized for 70 years!

Take care and God bless  
-PrAshley