



Monthly publication of St. Paul Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Learning Center

FEBRUARY 2024

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

Happy February!

This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day. I really like the symbolism of Ash Wednesday falling on Valentine's Day. If you have ever seen me sign something other than official documents - I tend to put a cross inside of a heart at the end of my name. I had a friend who always signed his name with a cross around the heart, so I just did the opposite - similar to the Lutheran Rose.



Hearts and crosses in a Christian's mind can go together. The church I served in California had a heart with three crosses in the middle of it as their symbol. I still think of it today as I remember how our hearts work. Blood flows in and blood flows out. If our literal hearts don't pump in or out correctly we get sick. The same is true with God's love in us. We need God's love to pour into our hearts through prayer, worship, and study, but God's love also needs to flow out from us in welcoming, caring, and serving others. But you may ask how the cross fits into it. The cross we know first as a place of death and suffering. Its



the place we say we most clearly see God. So we are called to go to those who are suffering. But we also know the cross wasn't the final answer but rather the empty tomb. So the cross has become a symbol of life, too. So while we put crosses on our foreheads, with ashes on Ash Wednesday to symbolize that we will all physically die, we know that we will all rise too, just as Jesus rose from the dead. So maybe if you want, I can do a cross and heart on your forehead on February 14.

You may wonder if Ash Wednesday has ever fallen on Valentine's Day before. This is not the first time, and actually it happened kind of recently. It happened in 2018. It was my first Ash Wednesday at St. Paul. I remember that day, not because of the uniqueness of Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day (even though it was the first time I remember that happening before), but because it was the day of the Parkland shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in south Florida. Our bishop was actually near the shooting that day because we have a church nearby that he was visiting.

The pictures of people with crosses of ashes on their foreheads running out of the school, and all the interviews later with others with the crosses of ashes, is etched in my mind. I remember commentators having to explain why people had crosses on their foreheads as it had nothing to do with the shooting. On Ash Wednesday we recognize our immortality, but it was never so apparent for me than in 2018. So whenever Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wendesday, I will forever remember those kids and adults who died and those whose lives were forever changed that day. Their lives were not changed because the love of Valentine's Day or because of the love of Jesus on Ash Wednesday, but because a gunman entered a high school and killed 17 students and staff and injured another 17. Yet even though this tragic, awful day occurred, and we ought to never forget it, we are called to walk on in faith. Faith that the victims are in the embrace of our Lord and those left behind will continue to strive for justice and peace in this world.

A blessed Lent to you all.

-PrAshley

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Council News

Congregation Council January Synopsis

The Congregation Council met for its regular monthly hybrid meeting in-person and via Zoom on January 18, 2024.

- Ratified the January 7, 2024 email vote that the Ace Electric, Inc. proposal of \$12,588.88 for electrical repairs be accepted. Funds will come from the Restricted Account for Capital Activities.
- Accepted regretfully the resignation of Sandy Tull from the Congregation Council and the position of Secretary.
- Appointed Donald Hillerich to serve the Congregation Council term vacated by Sandy Tull until the next election meeting in December, 2024.
- Elected Don Hillerich as Secretary of the Congregation Council.
- Approved Face Autism of Riverview High School for the use of the Fellowship Hall the afternoon of February 17, 2024.

Message from the Church Office

Pastor Ashley and the Parish Administrator will never email or text you asking for donations of money or gift cards.

Please ignore these scammers. You should always contact the church office if you are not sure.



The Messenger is the newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

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St. Paul Lutheran Church is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Florida-Bahamas Synod,

Pastor: Rev. Ashley Nicolls

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Donald J. Hillerich

Executive Committee

Irene Felicetti, president JoAnn Jordan, vice president Don Hillerich, secretary George Hutfilz, treasurer

Congregation Council

Irene Felicetti, Carol Grosch,, Lori Fountain-Guillaume, Amy Hildreth, Marthe Hildreth, JoAnn Jordan, Bob Lariviere, Nanacy Parmakian, Judy Roberts, Sandy Tull, Alexandra Wise, Pastor Ashley Nicolls

Ministry Team Leaders

Sharing & Caring - Jan Kruse Christian Education - Seeking volunteer leader Communications - Sue Scherr Early Childhood Learning Cntr - Marilyn Hutfilz Evangelism - Bob Lariviere Safety & Emergency Preparedness - Cindy Paxton Fellowship - Carol Grosch & Alexandra Wise Finance - George Hutfilz Food Pantry – George Hutfilz Outreach Ministry Fund – Daniel Mills Property - Seeking volunteer leader Social - Judy Roberts Stewardship - George & Marilyn Hutfilz Worship and Music - Sharon Wittren Parish Administrator - Tracy Bateman Director of Music - John Ferreira

The Messenger is published monthly and distributed without charge to St. Paul Lutheran congregation members and friends.

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We Traveled Everywhere

Week one we highlighted our travels to the Scandinavian countries and Germany. Brats and sauerkraut were served afterward in the Fellowship Hall, along with some delicious Scandinavian sweets. George H. was all decked out in his Filz hat from Neuschwanstein in Germany, and his reindeer from the Sami trading post in Lapland.

Week two we highlighted our travels to the rest of Europe. Some had been to Italy, England, France, Scotland and Ireland, and many to other locations. There were Italian meatballs from Frank S., and Marty H. made a French Puff Pastry. There were also some delicious desserts as well.

Over the course of the next two weeks we will have highlighted Africa, Asia, Australia, Antarctica and the Americas which will conclude our brief sojourn around the globe.

George dons his hat from Germany and reindeer from Lapland.



Frank wears his Italian hat.





Welcome to George's family and JoAnn. :)





Don and Rick look like seafaring a captain and his shipmate.

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Ministry Corner Worship & Music

by Sharon Wittren

In St. Paul Lutheran Church's Constitution, it describes the Worship and Music Committee. I will use these words and then explain how we meet these mandates.

C13.08.G08. WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE- this committee shall assist the Congregation Council in seeing that the services of God's house are conducted regularly and in accordance with the liturgy of the ELCA,

The committee meets monthly to keep track of the areas of, yes, it is working, or no, we need to make some changes. We recommend the worship schedule for all services to the Congregation Council who in turn approves and sets the schedule for Sunday Worship, as well as additional services during Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and alternative services. An informal Tuesday service began on January 2, 2024, at 6:15 p.m.

...that competent assisting ministers, communion assistants, ushers and acolytes are recruited and trained, and that hymnals and other devotional materials are provided and properly cared for.

The volunteers who arrange the service participants, some are listed above, are automatically a member of this committee and serve with other church members at large and Pastor. We also arrange readers, greeters, screen operators, and camera operators. We oversee the ordering of devotional books, service resources and make certain we have updated licensing.

This committee shall supervise and strive to advance the welfare and effective service of the choirs.

Persons in leadership of the music program are members of this committee. John Ferreira, director of music ministries, informs the committee of plans for wants or needs of the vocal and bell choirs, rehearsals, and preparation for special services. He arranges musical substitutes, special instrumentalists, and other soloists or groups. He makes the decision on the purchase of music and with the approval of the chair, makes other purchases and requests compensation for substitutes and other musicians. John presents a weekly vlog introducing the music for next Sunday's service.

It shall arrange for the care of paraments, vestments,

The Altar Guild is represented on this committee. The committee helps to provide a schedule of when to change the paraments (hangings on the altar, pulpit, and lectern), the decorating for Christmas and Easter, and the use of the pew candles. A printed list is available for where (altar or font) Holy Communion is celebrated for each service. Charts are provided to sign up for altar flowers, eternal candles, and bulletins. The committee arranges for the poinsettias at Christmas and the lilies at Easter. It helps arrange for the property committee to help with wall shelves, pew candles, and Christmas trees. The committee made the decision in late November to change florists to provide the altar flowers.

...and musical instruments and in consultation with the pastor(s), the organist and choir director shall furnish music supplies appropriate for use in worship of a congregation of the ELCA.

John informs the committee when instruments need to be tuned or repaired and makes the arrangements to schedule it. It is our goal to make certain our choirs and musicians have supplies needed. There is an extensive library of choir anthems and bell music, and John has been frugal about purchasing music; however, the committee urges him to get whatever he needs to make choirs enjoy and get excited about their role as worship leaders.

As in any committee, there is always the fine print. There are many areas we do not enumerate but we find them and fulfill them. A couple of examples: In early 2023, we initiated five Sundays to celebrate where we came from; and on January 14, 2024, and for three additional weeks, we are highlighting music from countries where you may have traveled.

The committee is grateful to every person who is willing to step into any of the areas that we oversee. There are always openings available. Are you interested?

Sharon Wittren Worship and Music Chair FEBRUARY 2023 Pg, 5



January Hope Seeds' volunteers packed 1900 packets of okra seeds and a family pack - 250 bags with 12 seed varieties.

Hope Seeds

God's Work. Our Hands.

In 2023 Hope Seeds shipped through 48 different ministry partners to 60 countries. Seeds were shipped to the Caribbean, Africa, Central America, Asia and India. Hope Seeds also provides seeds domestically to Indian reservations, military veterans, and some high school students. They shipped over 8,000 family packs in 2023. Please join us to help make a difference in the world. The next gathering will be on February 19 at 1:00p.

Son Day School

This faith building opportunity meets each Sunday after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Join this group and reflect on Sunday's worship readings, sermon, and whatever else!

Grab a coffee and something sweet first at Social & Coffee Hour!

Like the Post Office?

Just like the Post Office, the dedicated volunteers at St. Paul Food Pantry showed up for food pantry distribution in spite of the weather...through wind, rain, sleet, snow (well maybe 2/4) they were there carrying on much like the postal delivery folks.





Prayer Ministry

St. Paul offers many ways to pray with and for loved ones, the community, and the world!

Online Prayer Chain - an email goes out weekly with prayer requests. Please let PrAshley know if you want to be a prayer

Prayer Crosses - Located in the Fellowship Hall, the Sanctuary, and outside for prayers to be placed either in or on. Any prayer request put on the cross in the FH or Sanctuary will be put on the outside Hope Cross.

Prayer Zoom - Talking with God (see below) facilitated by Deacon Kim Heindl meets every Thursday at 4:00p.

Talking with God

As people of faith it is quite natural that we talk to God. In quiet moments, in moments of uncertainty or challenge, and in times of joy. It is part of our worship and helps us grow personally and communally in our relationship with Jesus. I would like to invite you to join a group of us that gather every Thursday at 4p via Zoom. We talk, share our lives, joys, concerns, and we pray. No stress and easy to be part of! Follow the link below (it is the same every week) or email Kimberly Heindl for an invitation: kaheindl@comcast.net.

Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/i/81662784525pwd=QSt4TGNSR2F3L0ovUDJ3SVdWbjRYUT09

Meeting ID: 816 6278 4525

Passcode: 628552

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Happy Valentine's Day!



Save the Date

February 3 February 10 February 11 February 14	Adopt a Road Shrove Talent Show Transfiguration Sunday	8:30a 5:00p 9:30a Wear your Bling for Shiny Jesus Sunday 12:00p Sanctuary; 12:30p Circle Drive; 7:00p Worship
February 18 February 21-28 March 28 March 29 March 30 March 31	Annual Meeting Wednesdays Maundy Thurday Good Friday Kids' Easter Celebration Easter	Following morning Worship - Constitutional changes 6:00p Mid-week Soup Supper; 7:00p Worship 7:00p Worship 7:00p Worship 1:30p 9:30a Worship

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A Big Thank You for Your Generosity!



by Cindy Paxton

Because of your joyful participation and your generous giving, St. Paul was able to send a donation of \$3021.00 to the ELCA Good Gifts program. Donations from our church family, the ECLC, and guests totaled \$1521.00, a donation of \$500.00 from the OMF, and a generous matching fund of \$1000.00 from an anonymous donor rounded out the total. The ELCA World Hunger program will use these gifts from St. Paul to supply the following to be distributed around the globe to our brothers and sisters who struggle to meet their basic needs:

Broods of chicks	13	Colonies of honeybees	15
Roosters	2	School fees and uniform	1
Goats	2	School supplies for a child	9
Couple of goats	2	Nutrition for a child 1 month	7
Piglets	9	Feed a refugee family 1 month	1
Cow	1	Bibles	3
Fish farms	4	Feed 50 at a soup kitchen	1

Thanks to all who made this holiday tradition a success! The spirit of giving does wonderful things for all of us.







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Raise the Roof! Raise the Kids!

Click on the link below to be taken to our MB100 article in the *E-Spirit Newsletter*.

http://bit.ly/savetheroofraisethekids

Raise the Roof!

Help us save artist architect Victor A. Lundy's soaring beams by donating to the St. Paul Education Building Renovation Campaign. Thank you.

Donations may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays, or mailed to the church office. Be sure to indicate that it is for the campaign. Thank you.

For online giving: http://bit.ly/3ZZOdoH

In Case You Missed It



December 31, 2023 this little birdie flew into the Sanctuary and alighted on the altar.

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February 1	Harper Gregalot
February 1	Virginia Webb
February 4	Gail Seyfarth
February 5	Bob Fong
February 7	Lori Fountain-
	Guillaume
February 9	Doris Schlotterback
February 14	Carolyn Masters
February 18	Avery Miller
February 18	Carole Wilson
February 20	Deborah Rado
February 26	Joan Scianni
February 26	Alexandra Wise
February 27	Helen Foster
February 27	Maren Miller



February 9 George & Marilyn Hutfilz Happy 60th Anniversary, George & Marilyn!

Ecumenical Classes - Learning About Judaism and Lutheranism

Rabbi Altshuler from Temple Beth Shalom and Rev. Dr. Kenneth Blyth from St. Armand's Key Lutheran Church will be starting classes with the Rabbi explaining Judaism at St. Armand's Key and alternating with Rev. Blyth teaching the congregation at Temple Beth Sholom about the Lutheran faith. The classes will be held first at Temple Beth Shalom and then the following week at St. Armand's Key Lutheran Church. It is open to everyone interested. The classes will begin on February 6, and continue on February 13, 20, and 27 at 2p.



The Chosen



continues to meet each Wednesday at 4:00p.

Feb. 7	Season 3 Ep. 3	"Physician, Heal Yourself"
Feb. 14	Season 3 Ep. 4&5	"Clean, Part 1" & "Clean, Part 2"
Feb. 21	Season 3 Ep. 6	"Intensity in Tent City"
Feb. 28	Season 3 Ep. 7	"Ears to Hear"
Mar. 6	Season 3 Ep. 8	"Sustenance"

THE MESSENGER



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 1 Thursday

First Day of Black History Month

9:30a Food Pantry Prep 4:00p Prayer Team Meeting Zoom

February 3 Saturday

9:30a ECLC Chapel 8:00a Adopt-A-Road 9:00a Food Pantry Distribution

February 4 Sunday

9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Sonday School 11:00a Sharing & Caring

February 5 Monday

1:00p EvANGELism Meetina 7:30p Worship & Music Meeting Zoom

February 6 Tuesday

9:30a ECLC Chapel 5:30p Community Meal 6:15p Peace in Your Week Service

February 7 Wednesday

8:00a Property Ministry 4:00p The Chosen Bible Study 6:00p St. Paul Ringers 7:00p St. Paul Singers

February 8 Thursday

9:30a Food Pantry Prep 12:00p Finance Meeting Zoom 1:00p Executive Team Meetina 4:00p Prayer Team Meeting Zoom

February 10 Saturday

9:30a Food Pantry Prep 5:00p Shrove Saturday **Talent Show**

February 11 Sunday

9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Sonday School

February 13 Tuesday

Ministry Reports Due

9:30a ECLC Chapel 5:30p Community Meal 6:15p Peace in Your Week Service

February 14 Wednesday

Valentine's Day **ASH Wednesday**

8:00a Property Ministry 12:00p Ashes Distributed Sanctuary 12:30 Ashes Distributed

Circle Driveway 4:00p The Chosen Bible Study

5:30p St Paul Ringers 7:00p ASH Wednesday Service 7:45p St. Paul Singers

February 15 Thursdday

Messenger Deadline 9:30 Food Pantry Prep 4:00p Prayer Team Meeting Zoom 6:30p Council Meeting

February 17 Saturday

9:30a Food Pantry Distribution

February 18 Sunday

9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Annual Congregation Meeting 10:45a Sonday School

February 19 Monday

President's Day

1:00p Hope Seeds 6:00p Guitar Sarasota

February 20 Tuesday

9:30a ECLC Chapel 5:30p Community Meal 6:15p Peace in Your Week Service

February 21 Wednesday

8:00a Property Ministry 11:00a St. Paul Ringers 12:00p St. Paul Singers 4:00p The Chosen Bible Study 6:00p Lent Soup Supper 7:00p Lenten Worship Service

February 22 Thursday

9:30a Food Pantry Prep 4:00p Prayer Team Meeting Zoom

February 24 Saturday

9:00a Food Pantry Distribution 1:00p Guitar Sarasota

February 25 Sunday

9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Sonday School

February 27 Tuesday

9:30a ECLC Chapel 5:30p Community Meal 6:15p Peace in your Week Service

February 28 Wednesday

8:00a Property Ministry 11:00a PEO Meeting 11:00a St. Paul Ringers 12:00p St. Paul Singers 4:00p The Chosen Bible Study 6:00p Lent Soup Supper 7:00p Lenten Worship Service

February 29 Thursday

9:30a Food Pantry Prep

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•For all those serving in the U.S. Military •The homeless in our neighborhood, our city, our nation and the world. •The Florida Bahamas Synod Office of the Bishop Staff: Bishop Pedro, Assistant to the Bishop Pastors Khader, Rob C., Rob R., and Nicole, Specialists Kim & Brittney, Support Staff Tina, Yuliet, & Ileana. •SURE - Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity. •Community Meal & Food Pantry Guests. •Prayers upon the HOPE Community Prayer Cross. •Our members, our preschool teachers and students and our Arlington Park neighborhood.

Members

Beetle Family

John Bever

Henry Blosser

Susan Burmaster

Missy Craig Sue Fisher

Bob Fong

JoAnn Jordan

Lindy Lindemann

Avery Miller

John Miller

Cecilia Morvick

Jean Panthana

James Paulsson

John Puckhaber

John Ryan

Betty Smowton

Ted Swartzbaugh

Ginger Webb

Karin Zukowski

Homebound Members

Theresa Alger

Sharyn Brodnax

Joan Caddell

Donna Casala

June Manselle

Virginia McQuaig

Michael Reiter Carole Wilson

Friends and Family

Benda - Ginny cQuaig's daughter

David - Cody Eddleman's step-dad

Debbie - Scherr's friend

LaShonda - John Bever's friend

Marilyn - S. Weckwerth's aunt

Tibor - Regular attender

Susan & Jim - Cindy Paxton's friends Sandi Acevedo - Acevedos sister-in-law Clinton Allen - Jim Paulsson's friend Buete & Pearson family - Brian McCulley's family

Caroline Burmaster - Susan Burmaster's sister-in-law

Kathleen Cannon - Puckhabers' friend Alice Chanover - Puckhabers' friend Jessica Clements - Kathie Snyder's friend Mike Cunningham - H. Roberts' friend Cody Eddleman - John Bever's husband John & Joy Emanuelli - Roberts' friends Gladys Faraone - H. Robert's friend

John Foor - Ryan's friend Colton Fong - Bob Fong's grandson Gallagher Family - Dorothy Boller's in-

Lois & Niklaus Heisler - Irene Felicetti's family

Katy Hernandev - M. Acevedo's niece Philip Koepke - Irene Felicetti's friend Kate Kretschmann - Lindy Lindemann's family

Karen Kugler - Marty Hillerich's friend John Logan - Judy Carnal's brother Kenny Manselle - June

Manselle's son

David McCall - Judy Roberts' brother Fran McCracken - Kathy Snyder's friend Marsha McKinney - former member

Pam Mills - Daniel Mills' sister

Becky Nobles - Lindy Lindermann's friend

Linda & Jim Norris - Doris Scholotterback's family

Karen Paulsson - Jim Paulsson's sister

Terry Panthana - Jean Panthana's niece

Hannah Puckhaber - regular attender Eileen Rado - Mike & Debi Rado's daughter

Manny Rivas - Cindy Schlotterback's

Ashley Rivera - Esther Smith's daughter Clint Shantz - former member

Brian, Kenny & Tommy Schlotterback -

Doris Schlotterback's sons

Hailey Schlotterback - Doris

Schlotterback's granddaughter-in-law Rob & James Scianni - Sciannis' sons

Donna Shepherd - Gail Seyfarth's sister

Joan Simone - Puckhabers' friend Bethany Smith - Smiths' daughter

Muriel Stephenson - JoAnn Jordan's sister

Noel Scott Studenwalt - Smiths' nephew Jean Taffe & family - Susan

Burmaster's cousin

Elaine & Mark Vanderweight - Jim

Paulsson's friends

David Weinberger - Puckhabers's friend John & Janet Welther - Ethel Hamilton's

Michael Whitney - Jan Kruse's son-in-

Pr. Pete Zieg & Judy - JoAnn Jordan's friends

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble, with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." 2Corinthians 1:3-4

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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941-955-6479 Preschool 941-955-6480

940 -955-8600

www.StPaulSarasota.org

Rev. Ashley Nicolls, Pastor Rev. Don Hillerich, Pastor Emeritus

Sunday Schedule

9:30a Service of Worship In-person

9:30a Service of Worship on Facebook Live





St. Paul Mission Prayer

God of grace and love, you created us as your children and have brought us to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are not perfect people, but this church is the perfect place for imperfect people. Thank you for your grace through Christ given to us. You call us to proclaim to everyone we meet that your grace is for them too. As a Holy Spirit-led family of God, we ask you to help us joyfully share your word and serve your people, so that together our lives make a difference in your kingdom here on earth. Strengthen us in our mission together; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.