

The Messenger

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



JUNE 2022

VBS 2022 is Back



July 25-29, 2022
9a—Noon

The St. Paul Evangelism Team is excited to be able to bring our VBS event back this year for our community children!

You'll be hearing more about this event in the weeks to come, so stay tuned, and spread the word to friends and family.

We know we will need the support of the whole church to make this a memorable experience for the youth. Join the planning team! Volunteer for set-up, youth leaders, games, crafts, song, and snacks. Start thinking about where you could help out, even if it's only a couple of hours here and there. The youth will appreciate you and what a blessing to bring God into their lives.

The VBS Coordinators are:

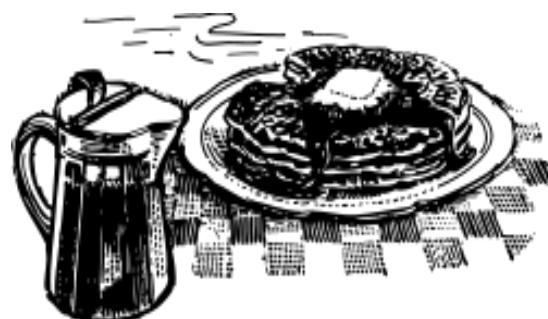
Susy Scholl Black - susyschollblack@gmail.com
JoAnn Jordan - 3jordans@gmail.com

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for VBS

June 12 at 10:30a

Save this date and bring your appetites as our Fellowship Team will prepare their yummy pancakes and sausage breakfast for you.

Your freewill donations on this day will go to help purchase all the needed supplies for the VBS 2022 Food Truck Party event in July.



Dominoes Night

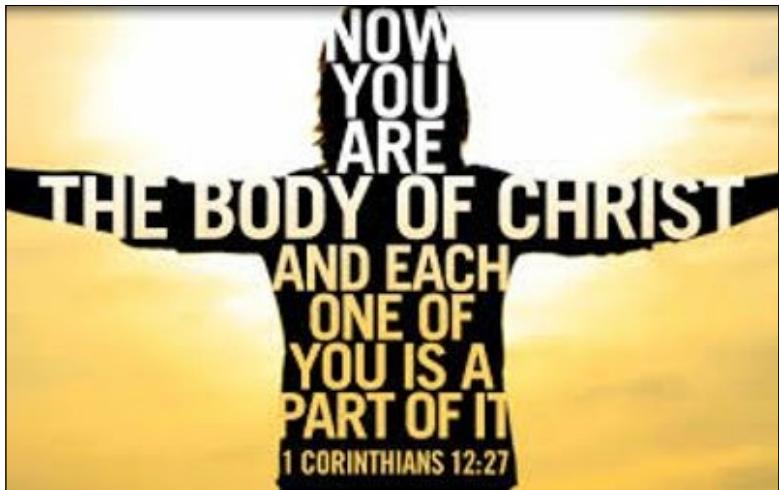
Held the first Friday of each month, come and play Mexican Train Dominoes on June 3 at 6p. It's great fun and easy to learn. Bring a lite snack to share. Contact Susan Burmaster for questions, susan.burmaster@floramoves.com.

What's Inside...

- 2 Council news
- 3 ECLC news; Maturing poem by Sue B.
- 4 From Pastor Ashley

- 5 Building faith opportunities
- 6 Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 7 Photos
- 8 Worship & Music Notes

- 8 Hurricane Preparedness
- 9 Calendar
- 10 ELCA 35th Anniversary
- 11 Keep in Prayer



Church Council News

The Congregation Council met for its regular monthly meeting via Zoom, May 19, 2022.

- Approved contracting with Safe Place to keep our sanctuary AED (Automated External Defibrillator) equipment updated, and to train six persons to use it. The ECLC will be purchasing its own equipment specifically for children.
- Approved use of the Fellowship Hall by Life Line Screening on Monday, September 26.
- Approved the use of the Fellowship Hall for once-a-month Saturday rehearsals and Monday concerts by Sarasota Guitar, November 2022 through April 2023. Dates are on the calendar.
- Approved a resolution to omit the July 2022 Congregation Council meeting. The resolution was approved unanimously.
- Approved a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, June 19, 2022, following the worship service, to help defray the cost of the July 25-29 VBS.

~ The Executive Committee

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 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, ELCA.

Pastor: Rev. Ashley Nicolls

Synod Parish Deacon: Michele Hilton

Executive Committee

George Hutfilz, president
Sue Scherr, vice president
Sharon Wittren, secretary
Marty Hillerich, treasurer

Congregation Council

Irene Felicetti, Carol Grosch, Marty Hillerich,
George Hutfilz, Bob Lariviere, Daniel Mills, Judy
Roberts, Sue Scherr, Susy Scholl, Sharon
Wittren, Ron Zimmerman, Pastor Ashley Nicolls

Ministry Team Leaders

Sharing & Caring – Jan Kruse
Christian Education – Susy Scholl
Communications – Debi Rado
Early Childhood Learning Cntr – Marilyn Hutfilz
Evangelism – Bob Lariviere
Safety & Emergency Preparedness - C. Paxton
Fellowship – Carol Grosch, Nancy Parmakian
Finance – John McAuliffe
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 – Olfa Reyes
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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MISSION STATEMENT As a Holy Spirit-led family of God, we are called through Baptism to proclaim and bear witness to God's reconciling grace in Jesus Christ to all; so that by joyfully sharing God's Word and encouraging each other to service for the sake of others, our lives together make a difference for Christ and His kingdom.

ECLC News ~ March 2022

Summer Camp Fun

The ECLC youth will be having so much fun this summer. You may see them if you're at St. Paul during the week from June 6 to July 29. Here are the themes they'll be experiencing:

Weeks 1 & 2: *Ocean Wonders*

Weeks 3 & 4: *Rainforest*

Weeks 5 & 6: *Camping*

Weeks 7 & 8: *Staycation*



Blaze Pizza Fundraiser Update

Thank you to all who came out and supported our school in our last Fundraiser of the school year! All of those who came helped in sales of \$1,200. From that we collected 20% of those proceeds and we will be receiving \$242. Very exciting! So, thank you again for all of your support.

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

Lisa McLean, Director and Olivia Partington-Farrow, Assistant Director
StPaul-ECLC@verizon.net

Maturing

a poem by Susan Burmester

The new grey hairs don't bother me
It's the ones that grow where they're not meant
to be

Aches and pains I have each day
Old joints now are all giving way

It's God's aerobics I implore
Bending to pick up what I've dropped on the floor

Exotic meals were just a treat
now I'm happy if I can chew my meat

Early Bird dining is a must for me
I need to be home to watch Jeopardy

My nap each day is short & deep
It makes up for nights when I just can't sleep

My mind is fine - but my body's weak
It's lived life well, so I'm complete

Don't say "old" or past my prime
'cause I don't rush & I take my time

I'm not "old" - say I'm mature
wait, didn't I just say that before

Sometimes I'm lonely, weary or sad

But I try to remember that life's not so bad
I've had my ups, downs & woes
I tell myself that's just how life goes

When I awake to the morning's light
I'm pleased to have made it through the night

I may be cranky, but make no mind
Many years I've weathered - one at a time

Now I can say whatever I feel
it's my age, you know - It's no big deal

Memories are many, of family & friends
things I've seen & places I've been

Life's lessons well learned, I surmise
finally, I've become quite wise

I thank the Lord when I arise
once more at night when I close my eyes

I thank the Lord, I know I'm Blessed
"Help Me" I pray & he does the rest.

I'm sometimes sad this life will end
Just like this poem to you, my friend.

From Pastor Ashley



Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

St. Paul is part of the denomination of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Florida-Bahamas Synod (FBS). Many of you may know this already but I like taking time to remind us that we

aren't alone as a congregation. The ELCA is only 35 years old as a denomination. The ELCA formed in 1988 as a combination of three Lutheran denominations in the U.S.: The Lutheran Church in America, the American Lutheran Church, and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches. I was only six years old when the denomination was formed so I only know history lessons of the creation of our denomination, but many of you were around and know the stories.

Our Synod is one of 65 synods of the ELCA. Our geographical area encompasses the state of Florida and the Bahamas. Most of the congregations are in Florida but there is one in the Bahamas. FBS has 190 active pastors, 14 active rostered deacons, 226 retired pastors, 13 retired rostered deacons, 43,320 baptized members, 8 developing ministries, 165 organized congregations, and five global church companions. I love saying our church has 43,000 plus members. In reality, our church has nearly 3.3 million members (the ELCA). St. Paul is just one part of our church.

This month our Synod will be gathering together for the first time in-person since 2019. We call it the Synod Assembly (if you've been around the ELCA or our predecessor bodies it had other names like convention or conference or other names, I'm sure). We typically gather once a year to do the business of the church, worship, fellowship, and grow in our faith together. I have missed this gathering of God's people. I am excited that it is back in-person. This year's theme is "Joyful, Patient, Faithful" based on Romans 12:12 that says, "*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*"

I think this a great theme for this year's gathering.



If we read the scripture from the Message paraphrase I think you may see why.

"Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality."

It's not been an easy time as individuals, as Christians, even as congregations. This scripture from Romans isn't just great for the Assembly, but for each of us. The phrase *Burn-Out* has become popular in our language. Even a recent Grey's Anatomy episode talked about it. One way to not burn out is to keep fueled and aflame. Staying alert for God working in mysterious ways is another. Not quitting when it's hard, and praying like it all depends on God helps too. And always looking out for the other sure helps when we get too focused on ourselves. And creativity is necessary during this time even more so than other times. How do we be hospitable even if we can't safely do all the things we used to do or as we grow older we can't do the things we used to do? We can be creative and inventive to continue sharing God's love with the world. It's not always easy to live into our calling as Christians but this verse can help us.

I'm writing this on the day I heard Joan Hellwege entered her heavenly home. Even though we knew her health was deteriorating and she was suffering, we didn't want her to leave us this quickly. (I hope the words I used were grammatically correct in that sentence. She would have let me know if I didn't.) So this scripture of Romans 12:12 is especially meaningful today and I hope when you read this it will also give you encouragement to keep going, don't quit, keep praying, look out for others, and be creative.

Take care and God bless,

-Pr. Ashley

In-person Bible Study

June 8 will conclude this Bible Study but you can still join us for the conclusion of our eight week session of travels though the Gospels to trace Jesus' teachings on what it means to FOLLOW.

Lots of people think Christianity is all about doing what Jesus says. But what if doing what Jesus says isn't what Jesus says to do at all? Jesus' invitation is an invitation to relationship, and it begins with a simple request: follow me. Religion says "Change and you can join us." Jesus says, "Join us and you will change." There's a huge difference. Jesus doesn't expect people to be perfect. He just wants them to follow him.

This will be the last Bible Study taught by Michele Hilton before her and John's relocation to the east coast of Florida. Everyone who has ever attended one of her study classes is encouraged to come on June 8!

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.

If you are not able to join us, please do take a moment in your day to be with us in spirit.

Topic: St Paul Prayer Zoom
 Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81662784525?
 pwd=QSt4TGNSR2F3L0ovUDj3SVdWbjRYUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81662784525?pwd=QSt4TGNSR2F3L0ovUDj3SVdWbjRYUT09)

Meeting ID: 816 6278 4525
 Passcode: 628552

Son Day School

This new group meets after worship each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall during Social & Coffee Hour. Grab a coffee and a sweet treat first.

We will reflect on Sunday's worship readings, sermon, and whatever else! A great way to get even more out of the day's sermon.

Hope Seeds Ministry



God's Work. Our Hands.

Come join us to socialize, have fun, and make a difference in the world.

We fill several thousand small bags with seeds which will be sent to several countries so families can grow their own food.

We gather the third Monday of every month. Come when you can, leave when you must. The next gathering will be Monday, June 20, 1-3p.



Sunday · June 19
Happy and blessed Father's Day wishes to all dads, past, present and future!



Jun 6 - Ruby Williamson
Jun 6 - Ted Hadjian
Jun 9 - Thad Masters
Jun 11 - Marthe Hildreth
Jun 14 - Olivia Williamson
Jun 19 - Marsha McKinney
Jun 20 - Cecilia Morwick
Jun 21 - Daniel Mills
Jun 23 - June Manselle
Jun 28 - Cindy Schlotterback
Jun 29 - Linda Knight
Jun 30 - Marilyn Hutfilz



Jun 11 - Nicole & Mark Riley
Jun 17 - Marthe & Keith Hildreth
Jun 17 - Kristen & Robert Masse
Jun 24 - Marty & Don Hillerich
Jun 27 - Linda & Dennis Knight

"Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very
dear." ~Unknown



**Frank
Brodnax**
8.8.43—4.29.22



**Joan
Hellwege**
4.16.34—5.15.22

Photos to Share



Our Director of Music Ministries, John Ferreira, accepting his Volunteer Appreciate Award from Florida Studio Theater.

On New Member Sunday we welcomed those who joined our church family over the last two pandemic years when we were not gathering in person.
L to R: Michael Flanigan, Carol Grosch, Irene Felicetti, Hank Roberts, JoAnn Jordan, Lindy Lindeman



Worship and Music Ministry Notes

The Worship and Music Team met in early May, reviewed the first four months of this year, and planned for the summer services. We wanted to share with you a couple of decisions which will be in place at least through August.

- The offering plates will remain on the pedestals in the rear of the sanctuary.
- The celebration of Holy Communion will continue as is at least through August. Either you may come to the altar to receive the individual chalice, or you may remain seated with your individual chalice.

It has been difficult to arrange for a full complement of ushers

for returning to passing the offering plates. Worship and Music has discussed the issue. As we move forward, we are looking for persons who would be willing to be involved only in those aspects of the service. You do not have to be there early, or to stay late. Everyone in the congregation would be eligible, young people, choir members, etc. who are willing to place their name on a list to volunteer. Our idea is not to schedule the volunteers but to ask a person to help on that day when arriving at the Sunday service. If you would consider this approximately two-minute participation, speak to Jan Kruse, chair of the ushers, or call

the church office, or Sharon Wittren (941-371-7535), Worship and Music chair.

Nancy Parmakian, our Altar Guild chair, urgently needs help. Examples of this volunteer opportunity include, setting up for communion, changing paraments and clearing the altar. Please call Nancy (941-343-2222) and she will be happy to share details, and work with you. Most of the time Nancy and Sue Barry have been the Altar Guild. We are grateful to them, but we would like to provide them with backup.

Thank you for your support.

~ Sharon Wittren, chair

Hurricane & Tropical Storm Season 2022



If you have not already received the annual St. Paul Hurricane Preparedness Questionnaire, it should reach your mailbox soon. Please complete the survey and send back to the church as soon as possible. This information can become vital in the event of an approaching storm and its aftermath. We want to make sure you are safe and that we can reach out to you and help if we can.

If you will be residing in the Sarasota area at any time during the hurricane season, June 1 through November 30, it is important to stock your hurricane survival box with essential items.

Here is FEMA's suggested list:

At a minimum, you should have these basic supplies:

- Water: one gallon per person, per day (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Food: non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (3-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home)
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
- Multi-purpose tool, like a Swiss Army knife
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash (ATMs might be inoperative)
- Extra fuel for generator and car

Depending on your family's requirements, you may also need to include: medical-care items, baby supplies, pet supplies and other items, such as extra car and house keys.

Additional supplies might include towels, plastic sheeting, duct tape, scissors and work gloves.

We encourage you to prepare for the upcoming hurricane and tropical storm season and look forward to receiving your completed questionnaire as soon as possible.

The Safety and Emergency Preparedness Ministry Team

St. Paul Events and Meetings Calendar • June 2022

OTHER MEETINGS & EVENTS		RECURRING EVENTS	
		SUNDAYS	SON-DAY SCHOOL AT 10:30A
JUN 7	EVANGELISM TEAM MEETING—2:00P	MONDAYS	HOPE SEEDS—3RD MONDAY AT 1:00-3:00P
JUN 8	LAST BIBLE STUDY SESSION—6:00P	TUESDAYS	COMMUNITY MEAL AT 5:30P
JUN 9	FINANCE TEAM ZOOM MEETING—NOON EXECUTIVE TEAM—1:00P	WEDNESDAYS	PROPERTY MNISTRY AT 8:00A BIBLE STUDY IN-PERSON AT 6:00P (JUNE 8 ONLY)
JUN 11	CELEBRATION OF LIFE—JOAN HELLEWEGE TIME TBA	THURSDAYS	PRAYER TEAM MEETING AT 4:00P COUNCIL MEETING—3RD THURSDAY AT 6:30P
JUN 12	PANCAKE BREAKFAST VBS FUNDRAISER- 10:30A	FRIDAYS	FOOD PANTRY BAGGING AT 9:30A DOMINOES NIGHT—1ST FRIDAY AT 6:00P
JUN 14	MINISTRY REPORTS DUE	SATURDAYS	FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION AT 9:00A MUSICIAN REHEARSAL AT 10:00A
JUN 15	MESSENGER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		
JUN 16	PRAYER SHAWL GROUP—NOON		
JUN 19	FATHER'S DAY		

A COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS IS FOUND ON THE WEBSITE: WWW.STPAULSARASOTA.ORG.



CORRECTION

A previous change of address for Ted and Joyce Swartzbaugh should have been **Indiana** and not Ohio.

ELCA Observes 35th Anniversary

Reprinted from the Florida-Bahamas Synod E-Spirit Newsletter

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) observed its 35th anniversary on April 30. On this date in 1987, the ELCA constitution was adopted during the opening session of the Constituting Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

The ELCA was formed from a merger of three Lutheran churches – the American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and the Lutheran Church in America. To symbolize the formation of the new denomination, the bishops from the three predecessor church bodies poured water from separate containers into one baptismal font.

The Rev. Herbert W. Chilstrom was elected first bishop of the ELCA during the Constituting Convention. He was former bishop of the Minnesota Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.

As the church commemorates its history, it also is looking toward the future. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton spoke of the importance of the “Future Church” priority being rooted in tradition while also being relevant to people who may not know the gospel message of freedom.

“In 1522, early in the Lutheran movement, Martin Luther took hold of the new technology of the printing press and modernized communication by translating the Bible into German, the language of the people,” she said. “Now, 500 years later, we need to find new ways to speak into the cultural vernacular.

“It’s not our intent to water down or minimize the gospel word, but to share the good news to make it rooted in tradition and radically relevant. We believe that the gospel changes lives. The gospel not only is a word of grace but it’s also a word of liberation.”

Additional “Future Church” priorities include starting new ministries and engaging with new, young and diverse people.

Ongoing Appeal

Should you want to help the people of the Ukraine, there is a matching fund for gifts for Ukraine at [Lutheran World Relief](#). Use this link as it needs to go through this website to be matched.

https://donate.lwr.org/give/394396/?fbclid=IwAR0gFthoxC7N_Y0AHZqH2lrEiKt_QnTtjzhdbg3VVP_eBHnDI4Zb6g2WRxg#/!/donation/checkout?utm_source=social_graphic&utm_medium=vanityurl&utm_content=link&utm_campaign=CongUA_Match&c_src=social_graphic&c_src2=vanityurl

Donations to Ukraine relief may also be made through your envelope giving as well as online giving on the St. Paul website. Please use **Special Appeals - Ukraine** when donating.



please keep in prayer

- 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, Assistants to the Bishop Pastors Khader, Rob C., Rob R., and Deacon Connie, Specialists Jim and Marina, Support Staff Tina, Yuliet, Kim, and Ileana. • SURE - Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity. • Our Members, and our preschool teachers and students.

Members	Geri Bandauski – sister of Dave Smowton Joyce Benton – sister of H. Roberts Karla Benton – niece of the Roberts Buete and Pearson family– family of Brian McCulley Caroline Burmaster – Susan Burmaster's sister-in-law Kathleen Cannon – friend of Puckhabers Cayson Carter – friend of Hilleriches Alice Chanover – friend of Puckhabers Jessica Clements – friend of Kathie Snyder Rusty Corner and family- friend of Susan Burmaster Skylar Dickey – friend of Ethel Hamilton Cody Eddleman – husband of John Beyer Kathy Gbur – friend of Ethel Hamilton Lily Gibson – Susy Scholl's niece David Jackerson – son of Susy Scholl Carolyn Jacobson – regular attender Linda Jones – friend of Ethel Hamilton Kelly Kowalski – cousin of Debi Rado Molly Lafferman – friend of the Puckhabers Kenny Manselle—son of June Manselle Ginny Marraccini – sister of Kathie Snyder Shirley and Dan Martin - friends of Susy Scholl Marsha McKinney- former member Nora McQuaig – daughter of Ginny McQuaig Pam Mills – sister of Daniel Mills Linda and Jim Norris – family of Doris Schlotterback Karen Paulsson – sister of Jim Paulsson	Terry Panthana – niece of Jean Panthana Peter N. Adams – friend of Lindy Lindemann John Popielarsky – friend of Ethel Hamilton Manny Rivas – friend of Cindy Schlotterback Candy Reimer – godmother of PrAshley Brian & Tommy Schlotterback—sons of Doris Schlotterback Cynthia Lu Scholl – sister of Susy Scholl Rob Scianni – Scianni's son Clint Shantz- former member Donna Shepherd - sister of Gail Seyfarth Joan Simone – friend of the Puckhabers Bethany Smith – Smith's daughter Timothy Smith—grandson of Ginny McQuaig Dave Spittler – former St. Paul member Noel Studenwalt – Smith's nephew Brian Sullivan – friend of John Ferreira Laura Testa – friend of Nancy Parmakian Pr. Lyle Truitt – former pastor at St. Paul' Elaine & Mark Vanderweight- friends of Jim Paulsson Rich Weckwerth – seasonal attender David Weinberger – friend of Puckhabers John and Janet Welther – family of Ethel Hamilton Matt Williamson – friend of Cindy Schlotterback Carl Zimmerman – friend of Jan Kruse Amy Zuccarello—daughter of Dcn. Michele Hilton
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"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." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4



St. Paul Lutheran Church

& Early Childhood Learning Center

2256 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota FL 34239

📞 941-955-6479 Preschool 941-955-6480

📠 941-955-8600

🌐 www.StPaulSarasota.org

Rev. Ashley Nicolls, Pastor

Sunday Schedule

9:30a Service of Worship In-person

9:30a Service of Worship on Facebook Live

10:30a Adult SonDay School



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.