

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

As I said in a few of my PastorBlasts, if we blink it will be Lent. I blinked. It is now Lent. I hope each of you find time to prepare your hearts and minds for Easter. Yes, we often like to jump to Easter, but right now is the time we focus on Jesus' walk to the cross and his death. Without it, Easter wouldn't happen.



I am excited to share that we are starting to advertise our Building Bridges-Latino Ministry that we received the synod's Vision2Action grant to do. It's a ministry to build relationships between us and Spanish-speakers by offering English and Spanish classes together. We will learn from each other with a teacher and books to guide. We'll share a meal and even learn basic worship prayers and responses. There will be childcare provided. This is a free ministry.

I've attached the flyer and registration forms. You will see that there will be two 10-week sessions. The first one starts April 23 and runs most Thursdays 6-7:30p (we take off council meeting weeks). The second session starts in September and runs most Mondays 6-7:30p. I invite you to look at the flyer and if you are interested in learning Spanish to sign up sharing which session works better for you, or if you are flexible you can share that too. You only go to one of the 10-week sessions. We expect the classes to fill up quickly, so please turn in your registration forms as soon as possible. It will be first-come-first-serve on registering. We will have a waiting list if there are cancellations. The registration forms will be available on Sunday as well.

This is a way we can continue to be the congregation that cares. I have heard English as a second language classes can be upwards of \$1,000 a month. Many of them do not offer childcare so parents cannot attend. We are filling a need in the community and building relationships at the same time. I very much look forward to learning the Lord's Prayer in Spanish. I hope to also learn the communion liturgy in Spanish. One of our members, Donna Casala, is in a care facility and her roommate Aurora only speaks Spanish. Aurora likes Holy Communion and hopefully after these sessions I will be able to say the liturgy in Spanish for her comfortably.

Monday is the last day for you to have your picture taken for the church directory. We have spots still available. If you can't make it on Monday, you can submit a photo for the directory. If you have other pictures that you would like possibly included in the directory (ministry teams, events, etc), please give them to me or put them in this google drive. <https://bit.ly/StPaulPhotos>

Starting on Thursday from 5:15p-6:15 we will have a Bible study based on Living Out the Lord's Prayer. There will be a meal provided (this coming week it's Olive Garden – spaghetti/fettucine with meat/marinara/alfredo sauces and meatballs/sausage/chicken and of course their salad, breadsticks and mints for dessert). Hope you can make it.

Coming up on March 9 is the annual Nehemiah Action through SURE (Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity). This year's focus has been getting access to mental health help for youth. On Monday, March 9 at 6:30p at First Congregational Church we will gather to encourage our community leaders to fund access to mental health help. We want 30 people from St. Paul to attend. Please sign up on Sunday in the narthex or let me know you plan to attend.

God bless  
-PrAshley