



St. Paul Lutheran Church

9:30a Service of Worship

Pastor ~ Reverend Ashley Nicolls

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany | February 1, 2026

May God's grace continue to overflow to and through you.

Assisting In Worship

Assisting Minister
George Hufafilz

Reader
Rev. Fred Melton

Acolyte
Ryan Masse

Sound
Rick Barry
Mike Scherr

Camera Operator
Kim Lariviere

Screen Operator
Bob Lariviere

Ushers
Judy Roberts &
Kathie Snyder

Greeter
Hank Roberts

Church Security
TBD



Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church!

We hope you will use this bulletin during the week to have a song to sing, prayers to pray and give comfort, whether you are worshipping in person or from home on your electronic devices.

Although not all of us are physically together to worship, our Lord is still with us. We give thanks for those who attend in-person and the technology that allows us to share the bulletin and the worship service on the website.

St. Paul has a Community Prayer Cross located outside near the road. You are welcome to leave a prayer request there or in the box when you enter, and it will be placed on the cross.

Important community ministries of St. Paul include the Tuesday Community Meal, Saturday Food Pantry, and the Early Childhood Learning Center. Your financial gift makes a difference for Christ and His kingdom and enables St. Paul to be *the community church that cares*. It can be made by online giving, on Sunday morning, mailed to the church, or dropped off during normal office hours
- Monday-Friday • 9a-12noon.

May God bless you and give you peace!

MUSIC for Meditation

“All Things Bright and Beautiful” - 17th c. English Melody/Arr. for bells by
Johanek - The St Paul Ringers

Pre-Service Song ~ We Are the Church

Refrain



We are the church, the bo - dy of our Lord;



we are all God's chil - dren. We have been re - stored.



1 The church is not a build - ing
2 You can go to wor - ship
3 The church is not a busi - ness,
4 The church, it is the peo - ple



but where peo - ple go to pray;
you can - not go to church;
a com - mit - tee or a board;
liv - ing out their lives,

it's not made out of sticks and stones,
 you can't find a build-ing that's a - live for it's not a cor - por - a - tion for fied called, en - light - ened, sanc - - ti - fied

Refrain

it's not made out of clay.
 no mat - ter how you search.
 the busi - ness of the Lord.
 for the work of Je - sus Christ.

Text: Jay Beech

Music: THE CHURCH SONG, Jay Beech

Text and music © 1988 Jay Beech

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Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Fanfare on ‘Old Hundredth’” - Arr. by Angerman - The St Paul Ringers

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Response: Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (pause for self-reflection)

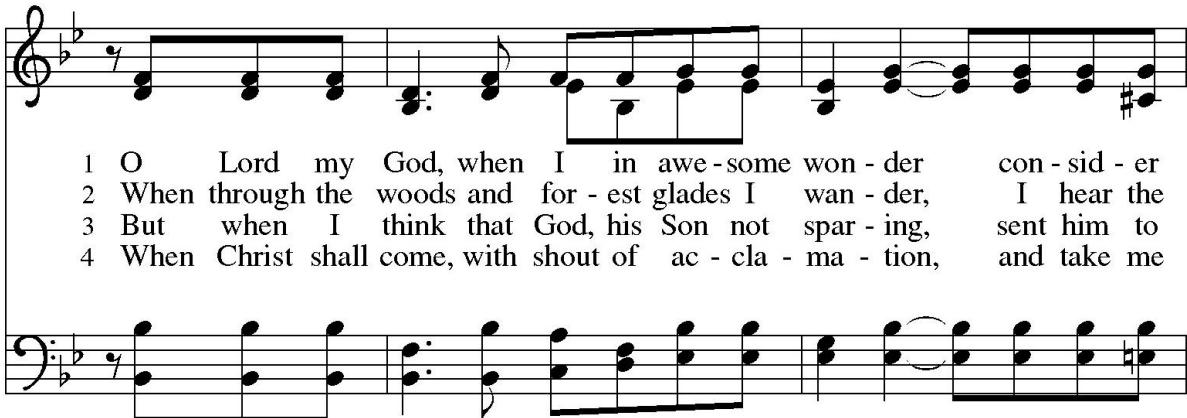
Pastor: Most merciful God,

Response: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

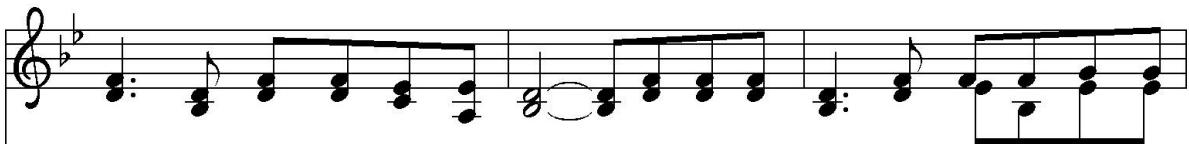
Pastor: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \div Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Response: Amen.

Gathering Hymn ~ How Great Thou Art



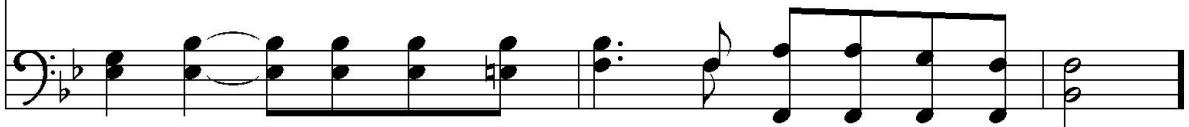
1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad - ly home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o -



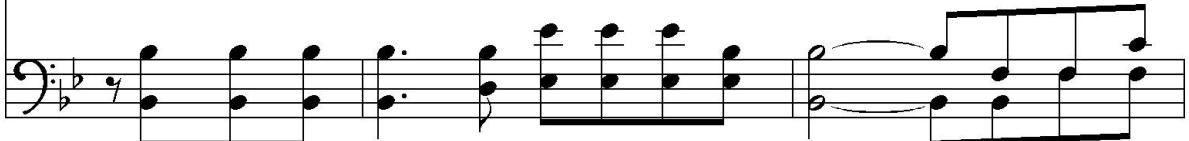
thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"



Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to
 thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989
 Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine
 Text and arr. © 1953 S.K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City, OR 97135 (ASCAP).
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Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Holy God,

Response: you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Ministry in MUSIC

“Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You” - Althouse - The St Paul Singers

Children's Message ~ Esther Smith

Scripture ~ Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.” ⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God. Word of Life. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Scripture ~ Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Reflection

Scripture ~ Romans 8:26-28, 31-35, 37-39

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Scripture ~ Matthew 5:1-12

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying: ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are

persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Hymn of the Day ~ *Borning Cry*



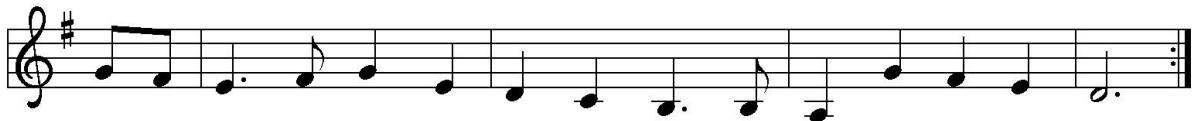
1 “I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I’ll be there when you are old.
2 “When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
3 “In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I’ll be there to guide you through the night, com - plete what I’ve be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.”
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.”
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise.”



4 “I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.”

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937

Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker

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Prayers of the Church

Assisting Minister: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.
(pause for silence)

Assisting Minister: God our wisdom,

Response: renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries.

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response: Receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: God our source,

Response: we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth.

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response: Receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: God our righteousness,

Response: raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth.

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response:** Receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: God our advocate,

Response: you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way.

Assisting Minister: Be especially with those we name now aloud or in our hearts. (pause)

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response:** Receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: God our blessing,

Response: we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others.

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response:** Receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: God our joy,

Response: we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you.

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response:** Receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Response: Amen.

The Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

Response: And also with you.

offering

(The collection plates will be brought forward at this time. Offering plates can still be found at the back of the sanctuary if you did not place your offering in the plates when you entered. Online giving at www.stpaulsarasota.org is also available.)

Offering Song ~ We are an Offering

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G clef, 3/4 time. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes. The first staff starts with a dotted half note followed by a quarter note, then a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff begins with a quarter note, followed by eighth and sixteenth notes. The third staff starts with a quarter note, followed by eighth and sixteenth notes. The fourth staff begins with a quarter note, followed by eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are as follows:

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:



Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957

Music: Dwight Liles

Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC

OFFERING

PM

Offering Prayer

Assisting Minister: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Response: Amen.**

Spiritual Communion Prayer

Pastor: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in this most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Holy Communion

(Those who want to partake of Christ's body and blood in their in their seats may lift up their elements at this time).

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Response: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your love and teach us to pray.

Response: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Those who wish to remain at their seats to partake of Christ's body and blood in the bread and wine/grape juice may do so now. The body and blood of Christ is given and shed for you. Take and eat. Take and drink. If you wish to come to the altar, you may do so at the ushers' direction.

Communion MUSIC ~ *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

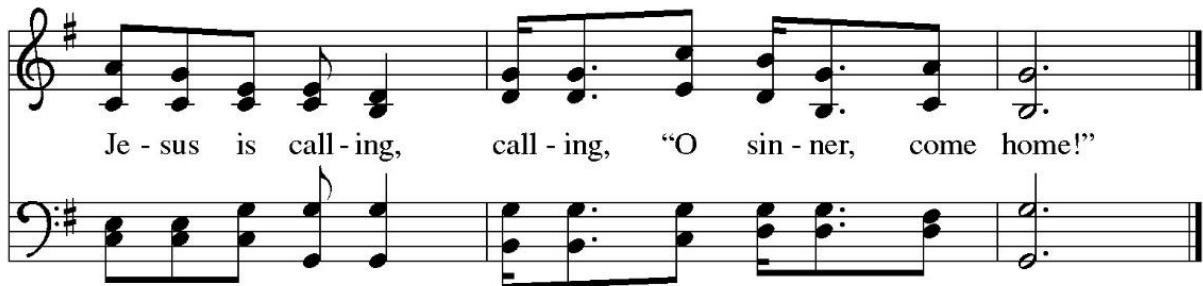
1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait-ing and watch-ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch-ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!

You who are wea-ry, come home." Ear - nest-ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909
Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

Post Communion Blessing

Pastor: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace now and forever.

Response: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Assisting Minister: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Response: Amen.

Blessing

Pastor: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise  bless you now and forever.

Response: Amen.

Sending Hymn ~ What a Friend We Have in Jesus



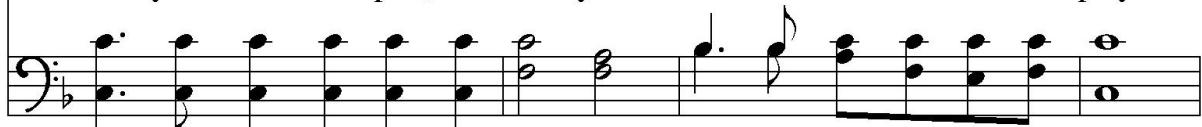
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum-bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share?
Do your friends de-spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Children: And all God's children say,

Response: Amen. Yes!

Postlude

“Recessional on ‘To God be the Glory’ - Doane/Arr. by Wagner” – Fonda Davies

Coffee & Social Hour is held in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

Flowers are given this week by: Judy Carnal given to celebrate the anniversaries of David & Darsey Carnal on Feb. 2 and Tom & Linda Munkelwitz on Feb 5.

Attendance for last Sunday: 66 in-person; 181 views on line. (1/26/26)

ST. PAUL 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.

Please remember in your prayers...

All those serving in the U.S. Military, especially Gage Fournier. The homeless in our neighborhood, our city, our nation and the world. The Florida-Bahamas Synod Office of the Bishop Staff: Bishop Pedro, Assisting Ministers to the Bishop Pastors Carlos, Derek, Nicole, and Rob, Specialists Kim, Bill, & Brittney, Support Staff Tina, Yuliet, & Ileana.

SURE – Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity. Community Meal and Food Pantry guests. Prayers upon the HOPE Community Prayer Cross. The Arlington Park Neighborhood.

St. Paul members, especially, Betty, Carolyn, and Thad Masters, Gail McBain, Brian McCulley, and Virginia McQuaig

St. Paul Early Childhood Learning Center families and teachers, especially Josiah, Bodhi, Ava, Kade, Mrs. Lisa and Ms. Iven

Members Manny Acevedo Earleen Ashbrook Beetle/Miller Family Dorothy Boller Susan Burmaster Missy Craig Sue Fisher Joann Flanigan Bob Fong JoAnn Jordan Valerie Nicolls Nancy Parmakian James Paulsson Colleen Ryan Betty Smownton Sandy Tull Homebound Members Donna Casala Evelyn Gulliksen Lindy Lindemann Virginia McQuaig Michael Reiter Doris Schlotterback Carole Wilson Friends and Family Alice – friend of JoAnn Jordan Brad – brother of Cindy Paxton Debbie – friend of Scherrs Donnie – community meal guest Ed – friend of Sandy Choquette Jeff – community meal guest Mark – friend of M & D Hillerich MJ – friend of Ron Zimmerman Rick – nephew of Linda Knight Ryan – community meal guest Sharon – friend of Jane Schubert T.J and family. – community meal guest	Sandi Acevedo – sister-in-law of Acevedo Jesus Alegria – niece-in-law of Sandy Tull Reyna Alegria – niece-in-law of Sandy Tull Kareem Ali – friend of Fred Melton Clinton Allen – friend of Jim Paulsson Laura Anderson – niece of Roberts Sheryl Brandes – sister-in-law of Sue Scherr Buete and Pearson family – family of Brian McCulley Caroline Burmaster – sister-in-law of Susan Burmaster Todd Couch – son of Sandy Choquette Mike Cunningham – friend of H. Roberts Fonda Davies – Director of Music Ministries David Eller – friend of Carolyn Mele John and Joy Emanuelli – friends of Roberts Gladys Faraone – friend of H. Roberts Tony Felicetti – brother of Irene Felicetti Bill & Vickie Hall – family of Fonda Davies Niklaus Heisler – great-grandson of Irene Felicetti Katy Hernandev – niece of M. Acevedo Pr. John Hilficker – friend of Conrad Hellwege, Jr. Nicole Ketler – friend of Susan Burmaster Kate Kretschmann – family of L. Lindemann	Karen Kugler – friend of Marty Hillerich Jesse Lugo – brother of Jose Lugo David McCall – brother of J. Roberts Marsha McKinney – former member Becky Nobles – friend of Lindy Lindemann Linda and Jim Norris – family of Doris Schlotterback Karen Paulsson – sister of J. Paulsson Manny Ribas – friend of Cindy Schlotterback Anita Rose – friend of Irene Felicetti Claude Russell – uncle of T. Bateman Brian and Ken Schlotterback – sons of Doris Schlotterback Haley Schlotterback – granddaughter-in-law of Doris Schlotterback Bill Schroeder – friend of Conrad Hellwege, Jr. Bethany Smith – daughter of B&B Smith Joyce Swartzbaugh – Former Member Natalie Smownton Boxx – great-granddaughter of Betty Smownton Noel Scott Studenwalt – nephew of B&B Smith Bill Sweeney – grandson of Marilyn and George Hutzil Dan Torrence – friend of K. Snyder David Van Ness – brother of Missy Craig Elaine & Mark Vanderweight – friends of Jim Paulsson Andrea Waltje – friend of Irene Felicetti Curtis Weckwerth – cousin of Rich Weckwerth John and Janet Welther – family of Ethel Hamilton
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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

and Early Childhood Learning Center

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

and the Florida-Bahamas Synod, established 1955

2256 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota, Florida 34239

Phone: 941.955.6479 Fax: 941.955.8600 ECLC Phone: 941.955.6480

Website: www.StPaulSarasota.org

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Fonda Davies, Director of Music Ministries – fondadavies6@gmail.com

Lisa McLean, ECLC Director – StPaul-eclc@verizon.net

Iven Ayad - ECLC Assistant Director – StPaul-eclc@verizon.net

The Rev. Don Hillerich, D.D. - Pastor Emeritus – djhillerich@yahoo.com

Executive Committee

JoAnn Jordan, President Judy Roberts, Vice President

George Hutfilz, Treasurer Bob Lariviere, Secretary

Congregation Council

Irene Felicetti

Bob Lariviere

Judy Roberts

George Hutfilz

Pr. Ashley Nicolls

Mike Scherr

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