

The Messenger



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

MARCH 2024

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

What I feel as part of my calling as a pastor is to share resources of spiritual reflections with the congregation I serve. A new, to me, website is called *Companions on the Way*. It is by a pastor in Western Australia named Rev. Sue Grace. I have enjoyed her reflections. She sends out a weekly blog that you too could subscribe to for free. The website is www.companionsontheway.com But just know you may hear things in my preaching that she shares so you'll get a little preview some weeks.

When I was researching for my Ash Wednesday sermon I found so much material that I couldn't put it all in a sermon unless you really wanted to be there for a couple of hours. I've seen the meme that says there is a fine line between a long sermon and a hostage situation 😊. So I decided to share one of the ideas from Rev. Sue in my newsletter article this month as we are still in Lent for most of the month. The last day of March is Easter.

On Ash Wednesday we were reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Rev. Sue wrote, "all creatures are precious and beloved of their creator and others. And knowing all to be precious to God we are challenged to keep the true fast of this season which is to be in solidarity with all others made of dust." That really connected with me in connection with our Justice Ministry and Sarasota United from Responsibility and Equity (SURE).

One way we can stand in solidarity with others who are made of dust is through the Nehemiah Action. It is a yearly gathering of the faithful to stand with those in need. **This year's action is on Monday, March 18 at 6:30p at First Congregational Church.** Our Justice Ministry members will be reaching out to you, if they haven't already, to encourage you to attend. First Congregational isn't far from St. Paul and they have a great parking lot to make parking easy. We could even bring our bus if you don't want to drive yourself. Our goal for this year is to have 30 people from St. Paul attend. This year we are standing with the people of our county who cannot afford to live in the community they serve. We

know this personally as many of our teachers in the preschool cannot live near the church, and we have a hard time keeping teachers because of housing issues. Even one of our members moved to Tennessee because she could not find affordable housing in this area.

SURE has created a problem statement that we as people of faith stand behind. "The backbone of our community is breaking. The workforce in Sarasota County – the teachers, bartenders, waitstaff and caddies, the firefighters and police officers, the municipal government employees – cannot afford to live in the county that they have dedicated themselves to serving, and no one with the authority or power to do so has any plan to fix this growing crisis."

I was reminded of the scripture from John 14 where Jesus says he will go and prepare a place for us and where he is we will also be. But even though we often think of this verse as a home we will have when we enter heaven, we also pray, on earth as it is in heaven. So we want all people to have homes now, not just when they enter their eternal home. I was reminded of this verse and this interpretation a few days after Pete Gulliksen's memorial service where I preached from this scripture. Pete had been one of St. Paul members that had attended Nehemiah Actions in the past. So I thought it was fitting to continue to share his witness while he now is in his heavenly home and others are looking for their earthly home.

If you have never been to a Nehemiah Action, it's pretty easy, we just sit there and show the power of people. This is an event where we just want people. So all you need to do is get there and sit. Even if you don't live in Sarasota County, you are connected with a congregation who is, so you count too and we would love to have you. You can even invite friends and neighbors. All are encouraged to come to this event. It's the one time of the year that we all gather to do justice. Hope to see you there.

Take care and God bless
-PrAshley

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Council News

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH COUNCIL FEBRUARY SYNOPSIS

The Congregational Council met for its monthly meeting on February 15, in person and by zoom at 6:30 P.M.

The opening devotions were led by President Irene Felicetti based on Psalm 140.

Bob Laviere led the discussion of Chapter 1 of Leading Faithful Innovation: Following God into a Hopeful Future.

Minutes of the January meeting were accepted without any corrections or editions.

Pastor Ashley's report included the following: 1) Dates and plans for the ECLC relocation during construction; 2) Nave electricity repair update; 3) Campaign Update; 4) March 18th. Meeting of SURE; 5) Foundation Meeting; 6) "Sarasota Day of Sharing"; and 7) Synod's "Vision to Action Grant" program.

Treasurer George Hutfilz reviewed the January 2024 financial report and announced the results of the 2024 Stewardship Campaign. The Annual Report has the details.

Ministry Reports were reviewed. As part of the Worship & Music Committee, Pastor announced that for St. Paul's 70th. Anniversary, the Rev. Bishop Pedro Suarez of the FL/Bahamas Synod will preach and serve as Worship Celebrant on Feb. 23, 2025.

A salary increase was approved for a staff member of ECLC.

Approved Betty Masters for Associate Membership.

There was no old business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

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, ELCA.

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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ECLC News

VPK

We learned how to engage in a group activity as well as gained skills in counting numbers and number recognition. 100 looks pretty good here.



100 Days Celebration



We learned about combining words to make a compound word such as *ice cream*. Yummy way to learn!

Ministry Corner Communications

by Sue Scherr

Sharing the word of God to our members, neighbors, and our community is the mission of the *Communications Ministry*. We do this in various ways.

We share our message through our website, Facebook and Instagram sites, *The Messenger* newsletter, email and EBlasts, texts, and in print.

The most successful way we communicate is through our presence on the internet. We have many who have watched our services online through Facebook, as well as our website, which provides information regarding our ministries, service times, our community activism, etc. Many new to the area have found this site useful in helping them determine a church to explore.

We have continued to communicate with others outside our congregation by supplying flyers for those who are renting seasonally (or for a shorter period of time), reaching out to our Arlington Park neighbors; sending invitations to those in our ECLC preschool as well as Alta Vista Elementary School to celebrate our Children's Easter celebration and A Visit with Santa at Christmas. We also advertise our special events using interchangeable banners in front of the church.

We are always looking for others to join our ministry. Please contact Sue Scherr if you are interested.

Sue Scherr, Communications Chair

Current Members: Rick Barry, Cindy Paxton, PrAshley, Debi Rado

Special thank you to Debi Rado for all of her years of service to this ministry. God Speed, Debi, as you move to TN.



Presented by the
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

Beginning noon on April 9 and concluding at noon on April 10 this year's contributions will be matched dollar for dollar by the Patterson Foundation. Any amount given from \$25-\$100 will be matched. Only credit cards accepted. St. Paul as well as SURE will be able to receive donations. Please consider donating to these as well as other charitable organizations in this year's *Day of Giving 2024*.

<https://www.givingchallenge.org/>



Fantasy Football

The winner of the 2023 St. Paul Fantasy Football league was *We Plead the 5th!*, Matt Miller's team. He has won five times in a row. Congrats, Matt. The runner up was Nathan O'Haras' team - *Jon the Tool Man Taylor*. If you are interested in joining our league for the 2024 season, please contact Barry Smith at 941-726-9276.

Hope Seeds

God's Work. Our Hands.

Please join us to help make a difference in the world. The next gathering will be on March 18 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!

PEACE IN YOUR WEEK



A message of
hope & peace
for your
busy life

Tuesdays @ 6:15-6:45p

I AM HERE TO SERVE YOU

March 12 will be the last Peace in your Week worship service. It will feature a Disney Style Worship. Dress up if you'd like in your Disney attire and join us in singing Disney tunes with Christian words and a Mickey Mouse Ice Cream Bar following the service. Hope to see you there.



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/j/81662784525pwd=QSt4TGNSR2F3L0ovUDJ3SVdWbjRYUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 6278 4525

Passcode: 628552

Soup suppers and Mid-Week Lenten Worship services continue on March 6, 13, 20.



March 28 Maundy Thursday Worship Service 7:00p

March 29 Good Friday Walk 7:15a downtown Sarasota

March 29 Good Friday Worship Service 7:00p

March 30 Children's Easter Celebration 1:30p

March 31 Easter Worship/Butterfly Release 9:30a

Save the Dates

April 6 Adopt-a-Road 8:00a

April 27 Arlington Park Neighborhood Association Potluck Picnic

12:00-3:00p Bring a dish to pass. (At the picnic tables by the playground)

July 22-26 VBS at Faith Lutheran Church 7950 Beneva Rd. Sarasota

Easter Lily

Easter Flowers

The chancel on Easter Sunday morning will look like a garden featuring, mostly lilies, but also mums and hydrangeas. To order your plant(s), please use the form in this newsletter, specifying if it is in honor of someone, or in memory of someone, and place it in the plate on Sunday, or mail it or bring it to the church office before March 25. Forms will also be available in the bulletin beginning March 3. All plants are six inches and the cost per plant is \$8.00.



Easter Plant Order Form Help beautify the St. Paul sanctuary for Easter Sunday by donating an Easter lily mum, or hydrangea plant (or more than one) in memory or in honor of a loved one. **Please fill out this form and place it, along with your check, in the offering plate, or mail or drop off to the church office.** The requested donation is \$8 per plant. Donors may pick up their plants following the worship on Easter Sunday or on the following day. Please ask for help in removing plants from the sanctuary wall.

Name of donor(s): _____

Contact (phone or e-mail): _____

___ No. of plants in memory of: _____

___ No. of plants in thanksgiving to God for: _____

Orders must be received with payment by 9:00a on Monday, March 25

Volunteers Needed

Saturday, March 23 11:00a
Filling eggs

Sunday, March 24 10:30a
Paint cross/year on rocks

Saturday, March 30 1:00p
Set up
1:30-3:30
Help at event
3:30p
Take down

If you can assist on any of those days/times please contact Barry Smith at 941-726-9276 by March 10, or see him at church and sign up on his famous board.

ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2256 BAHIA VISTA ST
941.955.6479
[HTTPS://WWW.STPAULSARASOTA.ORG](https://www.stpaulsarasota.org)



Children's Easter Celebration
SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH
1:30-3:30PM

Cookie decorating, egg dying, fun craft, Easter story, & meet E.B. the Easter Bunny!



THEN, the Easter Egg & Easter Rock Hunt BEGINS!

FREE! EVERYBODY WELCOME!

Large plastic eggs and candy donations also needed. Please place donations in the box provided in the Fellowship Hall.



Raise the Roof! Raise the Kids!

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>

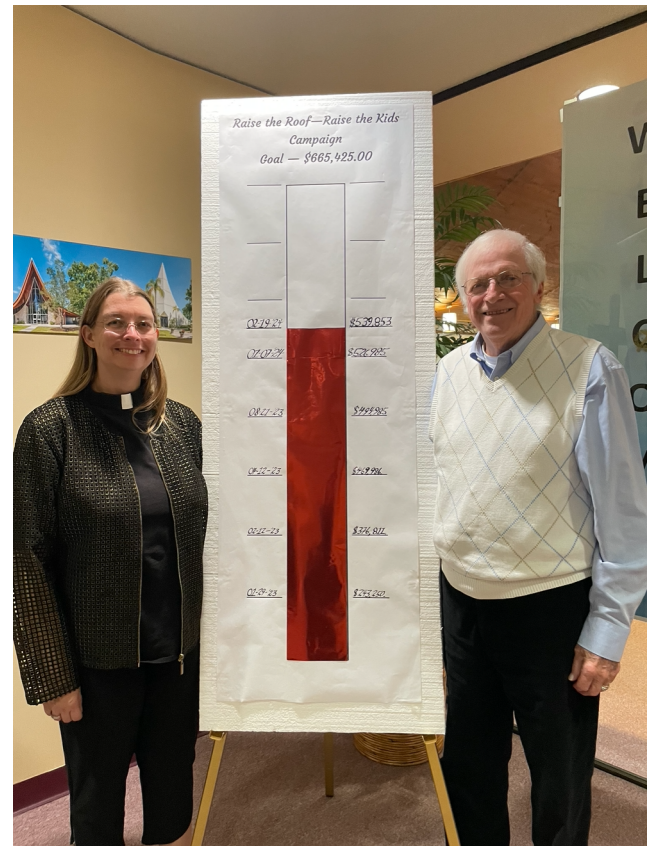
WE CAN SEE THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL!

Yes, we are seeing the light at the end of the "Raise The Roof, Raise The Kids" Campaign Tunnel. As of Feb. 19, 2024, the total raised is \$539,853.00 or 81% of the estimated cost of \$665,425.00. The generosity of many members, friends and the State of Florida grant has contributed to the dollars and pledges raised. Yes, the balance is \$125,572.00; but with the Lord's guidance and His movitation, the goal will be reached!

Currently, letters and personal contacts are being undertaken to raise the balance. In early March we expect to receive a check from the FL/Bahamas Synod's "Mission 100" Appeal. A number of fellow members, architects and local foundations are still considering gifts. Yes, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Please continue to pray for the campaign's success. Every new, or additional gift, will help regardless of the size. Pledges may now be spread over a two year period.

Sincere thanks and God bless you for your support. If you have any questions, please call Pr. Ashley (941-955-6479) or Pr. Don (941-586-6723).



Action

NEHEMIAH

Monday, March 18 is the Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)'s Nehemiah Action at First Congregational Church at 6:30p. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. This is the one event a year we come out for justice in our city. If you need a ride, please let PrAshley know. The goal is to get at least 30 people from St. Paul to attend. You do not need to live in Sarasota to be in the crowd, so please consider attending this important meeting.



- March 8 Colleen Ryan
- March 9 Rick Barry
- March 12 Donna Casala
- March 12 Jim Bull
- March 18 Lindy Lindemann
- March 18 John Beyer
- March 20 George Hutfilz
- March 23 Helen Miller
- March 25 Irene Felicetti
- March 26 Scott Parke
- March 31 Nancy Parmakian



March 7 John & Jill Scherer



March 2 at 6:00p join us for our **Chili Cook Off** in the Fellowship Hall. Last year's winner will be unable to join us, so a new winner will be crowned. There will be prizes for best chili and salsa. Bring your chili, enjoy the heat, as well as the fellowship. Hope to see you on the 2nd.

Blessing of the Pets



On Saturday, March 2 PrAshley will have the annual pet blessing at 11:00a in the Pet Memorial Garden. Plan to bring your special pet on that day.

WOW! 2023 Community Meal served 2198 guests and 4,583 meals



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 1 Friday

**First Day of Women's
History Month**

March 2 Saturday

9:00a Food Pantry
Distribution
11:00a Pet Blessing
6:00p Chili Cook-off

March 3 Sunday

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

March 4 Monday

7:00p Worship & Music
Meeting Zoom

March 5 Tuesday

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

March 6 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

March 7 Thursday

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

March 9 Saturday

9:30a Food Pantry
Distribution

March 10 Sunday

Daylight Savings Time
9:30a Worship Service
10:30a Sunday School

March 11 Monday

1:00p EvANGELism
Meeting

March 12 Tuesday

Ministry Reports Due
5:30p Community Meal
6:15p Peace in Your
Week Service

March 13 Wednesday

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

March 14 Thursday

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

March 15 Friday

Messenger Deadline

March 16 Saturday

9:30a Food Pantry
Distribution

March 17 Sunday

St. Patrick's Day

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

March 18 Monday

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

March 19 Tuesday

**Presidential Primary
Election**

9:30a ECLC Chapel
5:30p Community Meal

March 20 Wednesday

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

March 21 Thursday

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

March 23 Saturday

9:00a Food Pantry
Distribution
10:30a Fill Easter Eggs
1:00p Guitar Sarasota

March 24 Sunday

9:30a Worship Service
10:30a Rock Painting
10:30a Sunday School

March 26 Tuesday

9:30a ECLC Chapel
5:30p Community Meal

March 27 Wednesday

8:00a Property Ministry
11:00a St. Paul Ringers
12:00p St. Paul Singers

March 28 Thursday

9:30a Food Pantry Prep
4:00 Prayer Team
Meeting Zoom
7:00p Maundy Thursday
Worship Service

March 29 Friday

7:00p Good Friday
Worship Service

March 30 Saturday

9:00a Food Pantry
Distribution
1:30 Childrens Easter
Celebration

March 31 Sunday

Easter

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



•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.

<p>Members Beetle Family John Beyer Henry Blosser Susan Burmaster Missy Craig Sue Fisher Bob Fong JoAnn Jordan Bob Lariviere Lindy Lindemann John Miller Cecilia Morvick James Paulsson John Puckhaber John Ryan Sue Scherr Betty Smowton Sandy Tull Ginger Webb Karin Zukowski Homebound Members Theresa Alger Sharyn Brodnax Joan Caddell Donna Casala Evelyn Gulliksen June Manselle Virginia McQuaig Michael Reiter Carole Wilson Friends and Family Benda - <i>Ginny McQuaig's daughter</i> David - <i>Cody Eddleman's step-dad</i> David - <i>JoAnn Jordan's neighbor</i> Debbie & Frank - <i>Scherr's friends</i> LaShonda - <i>John Beyer's friend</i></p>	<p>Marilyn - <i>S. Weckwerthis aunt</i> Tibor - <i>Regular attender</i> Susan & Jim - <i>Cindy Paxton's friends</i> Sandi Acevedo - <i>Acevedos sister-in-law</i> Clinton Allen - <i>Jim Paulsson's friend</i> Buete & Pearson family - <i>Brian McCulley's family</i> Caroline Burmaster - <i>Susan Burmaster's sister-in-law</i> Kathleen Cannon - <i>Puckhabers' friend</i> Alice Chanover - <i>Puckhabers' friend</i> Jessica Clements - <i>Kathie Snyder's friend</i> Mike Cunningham - <i>H. Roberts' friend</i> Cody Eddleman - <i>John Beyer's husband</i> John & Joy Emanuelli - <i>Roberts' friends</i> Gladys Faraone - <i>H. Robert's friend</i> John Foor - <i>Ryan's friend</i> Colton Fong - <i>Bob Fong's grandson</i> Gallagher Family - <i>Dorothy Boller's in-laws</i> Lois & Niklaus Heisler - <i>Irene Felicetti's family</i> Katy Hernandez - <i>M. Acevedo's niece</i> Philip Koepke - <i>Irene Felicetti's friend</i> Karen Kugler - <i>Marty Hillerich's friend</i> Kenny Manselle - <i>June Manselle's son</i> David McCall - <i>Judy Roberts' brother</i> Fran McCracken - <i>Kathy Snyder's friend</i> Marsha McKinney - <i>former member</i> Pam Mills - <i>Daniel Mills' sister</i></p>	<p>Becky Nobles - <i>Lindy Lindermann's friend</i> Linda & Jim Norris - <i>Doris Schlotterback's family</i> Karen Paulsson - <i>Jim Paulsson's sister</i> Terry Panthana - <i>Jean Panthana's niece</i> Hannah Puckhaber - <i>regular attender</i> Manny Rivas - <i>Cindy Schlotterback's friend</i> Ashley Rivera - <i>Esther Smith's daughter</i> Clint Shantz - <i>former member</i> Brian, Kenny & Tommy Schlotterback - <i>Doris Schlotterback's sons</i> Hailey Schlotterback - <i>Doris Schlotterback's granddaughter-in-law</i> Rob, James, & Mike Scianni - <i>Sciannis' sons</i> Donna Shepherd - <i>Gail Seyfarth's sister</i> Joan Simone - <i>Puckhabers' friend</i> Bethany Smith - <i>Smiths' daughter</i> Muriel Stephenson - <i>JoAnn Jordan's sister</i> Noel Scott Studenwalt - <i>Smiths' nephew</i> Jean Taffe & family - <i>Susan Burmaster's cousin</i> Elaine & Mark Vanderweight - <i>Jim Paulsson's friends</i> David Weinberger - <i>Puckhabers' friend</i> John & Janet Welther - <i>Ethel Hamilton's family</i> Pr. Pete Zieg & Judy - <i>JoAnn Jordan's friends</i></p>
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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.” 2Corinthians 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

📠 940 -955-8600

🌐 www.StPaulSarasota.org

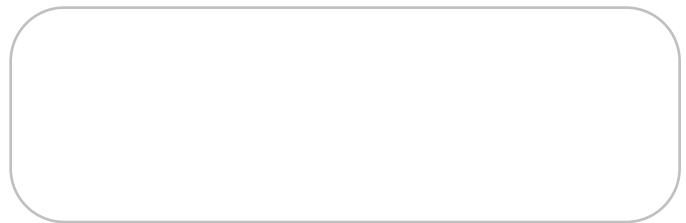
Rev. Ashley Nicolls, Pastor

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.