



St. Paul Lutheran Church

9:30a Service of Worship
Pastor ~ Reverend Ashley Nicolls

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost | October 19, 2025

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

Assisting In Worship

Assisting Minister
George Hutfilz

Reader
Mike Scherr

Acolyte
Mason Beetle

Sound
Mike Scherr
Rick Barry

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!

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude ~ "Prayer" – Humperdinck – Fonda Davies

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Response: Amen.

Pastor: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Merciful and loving God,

Response: we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

Pastor: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Response: Amen.

Gathering Hymn ~ If You But Trust in God to Guide You



1	If	you	but	trust	in	God	to	guide	you	with	gen - tle
2	What	gain	is	there	in	anx - ious	weep - ing,			in	help - less
3	The	Lord	our	rest - less	hearts	is	hold - ing,			in	peace and
4	Sing,	pray,	and	keep	God's	ways	un - swerv - ing,			of - fer	your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite

Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark

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Prayer of the Day

Pastor: O Lord God,

Response: tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries.
Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice
for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Ministry in Music ~ "O What High and Holy Privilege"

Getty, Boswell, Fowler - St. Paul Singers

Children's Message

Scripture ~ Genesis 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

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

Scripture ~ Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

Scripture ~ 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. ^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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

Gospel ~ Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 18th chapter.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord

said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. **Response: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon ~ Rev. Ashley Nicolls

Hymn of the Day ~ Day by Day

1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens

to my anx-ious soul. Day by day, the bless-ings, Lord, you send me
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me

draw me near - er to my heav'n-ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
 o'er the paths I strug-gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
 when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter

mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur-dens of my quest; Sav-ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur-ing grace. Sav-ior,
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav-ior,

lead me to the home I trea-sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor-row till in glo - ry I be-hold your face.
 with your pres-ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom-ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005
 Music: BLOTT'EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882
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Prayers of the Church

Assisting Minister: Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

(pause for silence)

Assisting Minister: We pray for the church universal.

Response: O God, who unites the church across the globe, bring unity and peace to a world divided by hatred and opposition. Turn our hearts toward the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response: receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: We pray for creation.

Response: O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the entire cosmos.

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response: receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns.

Response: O God, you rule over all the earth. Grant our elected officials humility in their decision-making for the sake of the entire world.

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response: receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

Response: O God, who heals and strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort, and heal those who suffer.

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

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response: receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: We pray for St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Response: O God, who guides this congregation, encourage us to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Nurture our relationships with the community, that we serve and advocate for those who come to us in need.

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response: receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: We offer thanksgiving for the faithful departed.

Response: O God, whose promises never end, we thank you for all the saints who have shown us the way of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response: receive our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 Prayer

Assisting Minister: Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. **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 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. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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.

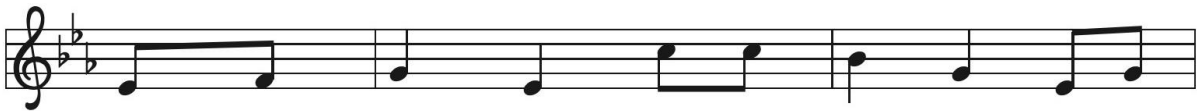
Invitation to Communion

Pastor: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

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 ~ Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken



1	Loaves	were	bro -	ken,	words	were	spo -	ken	by	the
2	Loaves	were	bro -	ken,	words	were	spo -	ken	in	a
3	Loaves	are	bro -	ken,	words	are	spo -	ken,	as	in
4	By	the	loaves	you	break	and	give	us,	send	us



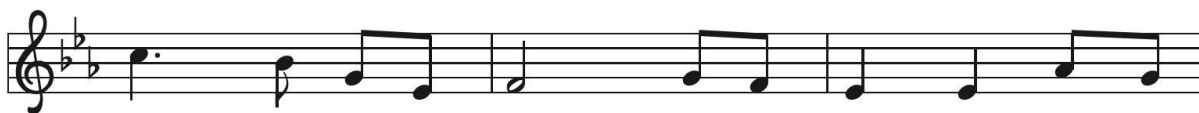
Gal -	i -	le -	an	shore.	Je -	sus,	Bread	of	life	from
qui -	et	room	one	night.	In	the	bread	and	wine	you
faith	we	gath -	er	here.	Je -	sus	speaks	a -	cross	the
in	your	name	to	share	bread	for	which	the	mil -	lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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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

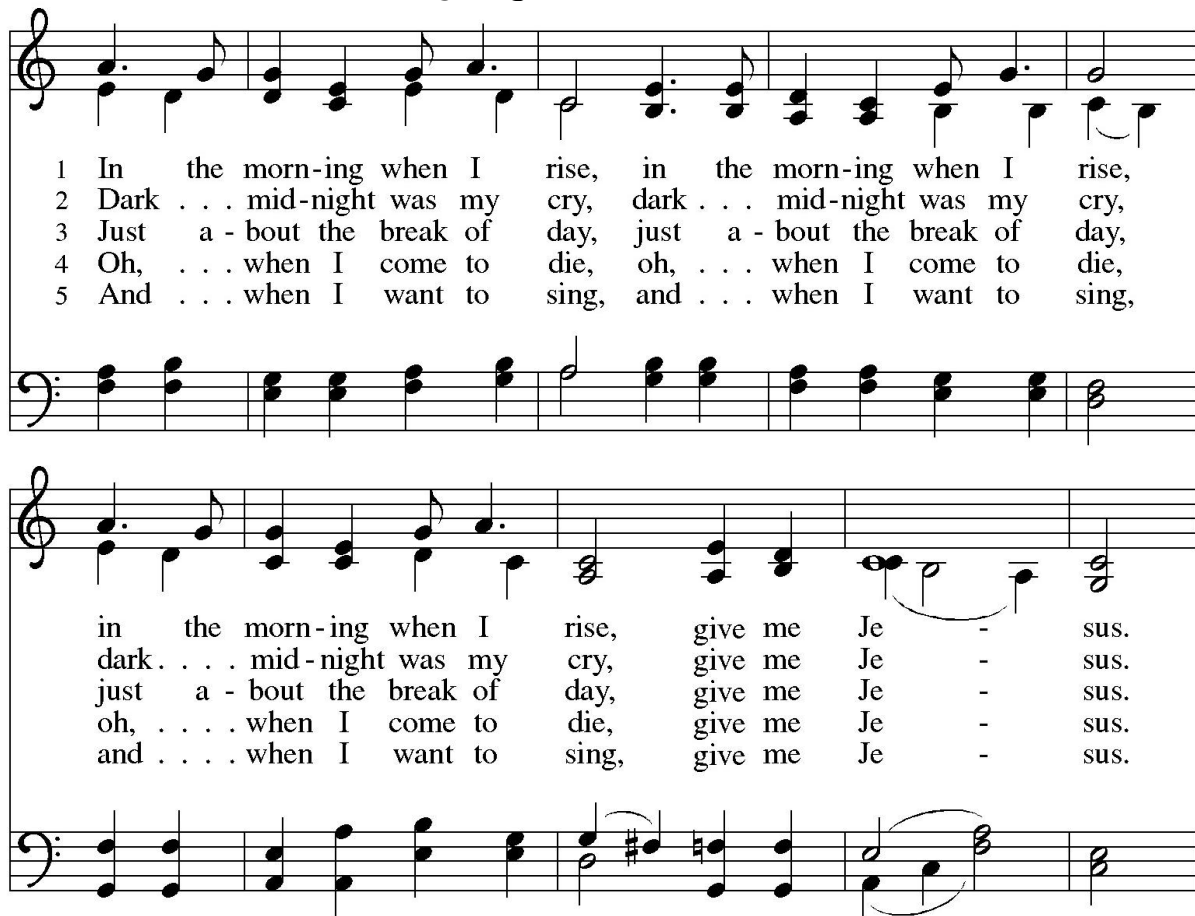
Assisting Minister: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Response: Amen.**

Blessing

Pastor: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever.

Response: Amen.

Sending Hymn ~ Give Me Jesus



1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,

in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
dark . . . mid - night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
oh, when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
and when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain

Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.

You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Response:** Thanks be to God.

Children: And all God's children say, **Response:** Amen.

Postlude ~ "Little Prelude in G Minor" – J. S. Bach - Fonda Davies

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

Attendance for last Sunday morning: 61 in-person; 196 views on line (10/13/25)

Flowers are given this week by: Helen Miller in appreciation for all the people donate of their time for the Saturday morning food pantry.

Eternal Candle is given this month by: Cindy Paxton, given in loving memory of my father Jack Paxton.

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.

Announcements

Hope Seeds – Join us tomorrow, Monday, October 20 in the Fellowship Hall from 1-3p to put seeds in bags that go all over the world to help people grow their own food. Come when you can, leave when you must.

Mid-Gulf Conference Gathering! Saturday, October 25 from 8:30-12noon at Village on the Isle in Venice. Come join the other ELCA church members for worship, fellowship, and service. See Irene Felicetti or PrAshley to sign up.

Reformation Sunday! Wear red on October 26 to celebrate the Reformation!

All Saints Sunday! November 2 Please share any names of loved ones who have died that you would like to be included in the All Saints list by October 26.

ECLC Trike-A-Thon! The school's Trike-A-Thon Fundraiser is Tuesday, November 11 from 9:30-10:30a in the circle drive. Be there to cheer on the kids and meet their families.

Symphony Salvage Blue Bin! Keep cleaning out your closets. If items don't fit in the bin safely, bring items to the Fellowship Hall on Sundays or to the office during the week. Everything is accepted except large furniture and large appliances.

Prayer Zoom – Talking with God! Join the prayer ministry. Thursdays at 4p. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81662784525?pwd=QSt4TGNSR2F3L0ovUDJ3SVdWbjRYUT09>

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, Janet Vaessen, Isabel Waterman and Tracy Bateman, and Ginger Webb

St. Paul Early Childhood Learning Center families and teachers, especially, Quintin, Harper, Ms. Jamie and Ms. Miranda.

Members Manny Acevedo Jesus Alegria – Neice-in-law to Sandy Tull Reyna Alegria – Neice-in-law to Sandy Tull Beetle/O'Hara/Miller Family Dorothy Boller John Beyer Susan Burmaster Judy Carnal Sue Fisher Joann Flanigan Bob Fong Valerie Nicolls James Paulsson Colleen Ryan Susy Scholl Frank Scianni Betty Smowton Homebound Members Donna Casala Evelyn Gulliksen Lindy Lindemann Anna Mathisen Virginia McQuaig Michael Reiter Carole Wilson Friends and Family Alice – friend of JoAnn Jordan Debbie – friend of Scherrs Ed – friend of Sandy Choquette Donnie – community meal guest Jeff – community meal guest Mark – friend of M & D Hillerich Rick – nephew of Linda Knight Scott – friend of John Beyer Sharon – friend of Jane Schubert Susan – friend of C. Paxton	Sandi Acevedo – sister-in-law of Acevedo Gina – friend of Jan Kruse 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 David Eller – friend of Carolyn Mele John and Joy Emanuelli – friends of Roberts Gladys Faraone – friend of H. Roberts Bill & Vickie Hall – family of Fonda Davies Niklaus Heisler – great-grandson of Irene Felicetti Katy Hernandez – niece of M. Acevedo Pr. John Hilficker – friend of Conrad Hellwege Jr. Becky Hutfilz – daughter of George and Marilyn Hutfilz Nicole Ketter – friend of Susan Burmaster Kate Kretschmann- family of Lindy Lindemann Karen Kugler – friend of Marty Hillerich Tom and Karen Macari – family of Fred Melton David McCall – brother of J. Roberts Marsha McKinney- former member Addie McLean – daughter of ECLC Director Lisa	Becky Nobles – friend of Lindy Lindemann Linda and Jim Norris – family of Doris Schlotterback Karen Paulsson – sister of J. Paulsson Hannah Puckhaber Manny Ribas – friend of Cindy Schlotterback Clint Shantz – former member Brian & Kenny Schlotterback—sons of Doris Schlotterback Haley Schlotterback – granddaughter-in-law of Doris Schlotterback. Bill Schroeder – friend of Conrad Hellwege Bethany Smith – daughter of B&B Smith Natalie Smowton Boxx – great-granddaughter of Betty Smowton Noel Scott Studenwalt – nephew of B&B Smith Bill Sweeney – grandson of Marilyn and George Hutfilz Swisher Family – family of Kathie Snyder Dan Torrence – friend of K. Snyder David Van Ness – brother of Missy Craig Elaine & Mark Vanderweight- friends of Jim Paulsson Curtis Weckwerth – cousin of Rich Weckwerth John and Janet Welther – family of Ethel Hamilton Pr. Pete Zieg – former pastor of JoAnn Jordan
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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
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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 Irene Felicetti, Secretary

Congregation Council

Irene Felicetti
Lori Fountain-Guillaume
Amy Hildreth
JoAnn Jordan

Bob Lariviere
Pr. Ashley Nicolls
Nancy Parmakian
Judy Roberts

Mike Scherr
Esther Smith
Alexandra Wise



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