



St. Paul Lutheran Church

9:30a Service of Worship

Pastor ~ Reverend Ashley Nicolls

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost | August 31, 2025

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



Assisting In Worship

Assisting Minister

JoAnn Jordan

Reader

JoAnn Jordan

Acolyte

Gail Seyfarth

Sound

Mike Scherr

Rick Barry

Camera Operator

Sue Scherr

Screen Operator

Mike Scherr

Ushers

Judy Roberts &

Kathie Snyder

Greeter

Hank Roberts

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 ~ “Deck Thyself, with Gladness”— Johann Walther – Fonda Davies

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ 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. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Most merciful God,

Response: we confess that we are captive 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: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Response: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn ~ O God Beyond All Praising



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;

for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown-
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer-cies with - out end:
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav-en's gar - den grown:
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:

we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,

we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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Prayer of the Day

Pastor: O God,

Response: you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Ministry in Music ~ “Cornerstone” – Morgan, Myrin, Liljaro

Soloist, Brian McCulley

Children's Message

Scripture ~ Proverbs 25:6-7a

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great, for it is better to be told, “Come up here,” than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

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

Scripture ~ Psalm 112

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.

Scripture ~ Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" ⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Word of God. Word of Life. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

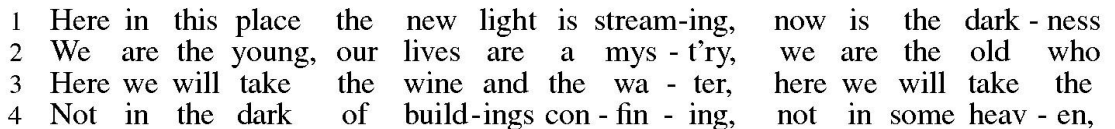
Gospel ~ Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Hymn of the Day ~ Gather Us In





van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream - ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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Apostles' Creed

Assisting Minister: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith with the Apostles' Creed.

Response: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Assisting Minister: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

(pause for silence)

Assisting Minister: For the leaders of the church, we pray.

Response: Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace.

Assisting Minister: Hear us, O God. **Response:** Your mercy is great.

Assisting Minister: For the well-being of creation, we pray.

Response: Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance.

Assisting Minister: Hear us, O God. **Response:** Your mercy is great.

Assisting Minister: For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray.

Response: Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed.

Assisting Minister: Hear us, O God. **Response:** Your mercy is great.

Assisting Minister: For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray.

Response: Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence.

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

Assisting Minister: Hear us, O God. **Response: Your mercy is great.**

Assisting Minister: For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray.

Response: Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us.

Assisting Minister: Hear us, O God. **Response: Your mercy is great.**

Assisting Minister: For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks.

Response: With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever.

Assisting Minister: Hear us, O God. **Response: Your mercy is great.**

Assisting Minister: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

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: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, 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. 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, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. **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 ~ Build My Life – Pat Barrett

Soloist, Brian McCulley

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: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

Blessing

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Response: Amen.**

Sending Hymn ~ Sent Forth by God's Blessing



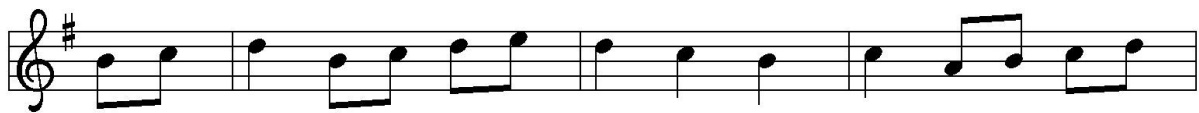
1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

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

Postlude ~ “Laudamus Te” – Carl Mueller – Fonda Davies

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

Attendance for last Sunday morning: 45 in-person; 191 views on line (8/25/25)

Eternal Candle is given this month by: Pastor Ashley Nicolls in honor of family, friends, and church members' August birthdays and anniversaries.

Flowers are given this week by Helen Miller in honor of her parents Stemen and Nellie Diller.

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

St. Paul Singers choir and bell rehearsals begin September 3! It's a great time to join the choir. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7p. Bell Rehearsals are also on Wednesday evenings at 6p. Come join us!






God's Work Our Hands Sunday is September 7! We are starting to collect items to put together care shoeboxes for senior clients of Lutheran Services of Florida. Bring in shoeboxes to decorate and items like lotion, word puzzle and word search books, gripper socks, pens and pencils, Kleenex, regular socks, notepads and Bibles to put in the boxes. Any kind of items from dollar stores are good. After worship on the 7th we will put them all together.

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>

Luke 14:1, 7-14

E	P	A	A	H	I	G	H	E	R	I	D	O	P	J	B	C	B	E	M	H	B	K
E	A	H	E	M	C	A	V	X	G	G	I	I	H	D	A	R	R	D	S	L	T	P
Z	R	O	V	E	V	P	H	E	H	N	N	S	Y	E	N	E	O	N	Z	R	S	J
I	A	S	Z	E	I	P	C	P	R	I	E	E	W	S	G	P	I	I	A	E	E	T
N	B	T	N	I	S	R	N	O	E	D	S	C	L	S	U	A	H	L	D	N	W	P
V	L	T	N	S	H	O	U	S	C	D	U	A	A	E	E	I	E	B	E	N	O	H
I	E	N	D	E	R	A	L	I	L	E	O	L	M	E	T	D	R	H	L	I	L	A
T	D	E	T	Y	E	C	H	T	I	W	E	P	E	B	E	U	S	Z	P	D	W	R
E	S	M	I	H	L	H	U	I	N	S	T	N	P	G	U	E	S	T	P	W	T	I
D	A	Y	C	I	A	O	M	O	E	R	H	H	S	R	O	B	H	G	I	E	N	S
R	B	A	I	L	T	B	B	N	D	J	G	D	S	Q	C	P	M	P	R	Y	B	E
O	B	P	N	A	I	P	L	A	C	E	I	E	X	A	L	T	S	R	C	P	O	E
N	A	E	G	E	V	W	E	M	I	D	R	V	S	V	R	O	O	P	Y	Q	Y	S
O	T	R	O	W	E	Y	D	M	I	A	B	L	E	X	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	H
H	H	K	Q	S	S	U	S	E	J	J	Q	P	R	O	C	E	E	D	I	Y	W	E
J	L	E	A	D	I	N	G	U	R	V	G	N	I	S	O	O	H	C	Y	D	C	B

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden     and .

RIGHTEOUS	CHOOSING	SABBATH	PLACES	HONOR	HOST
PHARISEES	BROTHERS	BANQUET	REPAID	PLACE	
REPAYMENT	POSITION	RECLINE	HIGHER	LUNCH	
NEIGHBORS	BLESSED	LEADING	ESTEEM	JESUS	
RELATIVES	WEALTHY	WEDDING	EXALTS	GUEST	
APPROACH	FRIENDS	PARABLE	DINNER	POOR	
CRIPPLED	HUMBLER	INVITED	BLIND	LAME	
NOTICING	PROCEED	LOWEST	TABLE	DINE	

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, Brittany, Emerson, Kevin, and Palmer Salvatore, Susana Santa Cruz, Jill and John Scherer. St. Paul Early Childhood Learning Center directors, teachers, students, and families.

Members Beetle/O'Hara Family Dorothy Boller John Beyer Susan Burmaster Sue Fisher Joann Flanigan Bob Fong Valerie Nicolls James Paulsson Colleen Ryan Susy Scholl Esther Smith Betty Smowton Homebound Members Donna Casala Evelyn Gulliksen Lindy Lindemann Anna Mathisen Virginia McQuaig Michael Reiter Carole Wilson Friends and Family Alice – <i>friend of JoAnn Jordan</i> Debbie – <i>friend of Scherrs</i> Ed – <i>friend of Sandy Choquette</i> Donnie – <i>community meal guest</i> Jeff – <i>community meal guest</i> Mark – <i>friend of M & D Hillerich</i> Rick – <i>nephew of Linda Knight</i> Scott – <i>friend of John Beyer</i> Sharon – <i>friend of Jane Schubert</i> Susan – <i>friend of C. Paxton</i> Sandi Acevedo – <i>sister-in-law of Acevedo</i> Kareem Ali – <i>friend of Fred Melton</i>	Clinton Allen – <i>friend of Jim Paulsson</i> Laura Anderson – <i>niece of Roberts</i> Sheryl Brandes – <i>sister-in-law of Sue Scherr</i> Buete and Pearson family– <i>family of Brian McCulley</i> Caroline Burmaster – <i>sister-in-law of Susan Burmaster</i> Todd Couch – <i>son of Sandy Choquette</i> Mike Cunningham- <i>friend of H. Roberts</i> David Eller – <i>friend of Carolyn Mele</i> John and Joy Emanuelli – <i>friends of Roberts</i> Gladys Faraone – <i>friend of H. Roberts</i> Vickie Hall – <i>sister of Fonda Davies</i> Niklaus Heisler – <i>great-grandson of Irene Felicetti</i> Katy Hernandez – <i>niece of M. Acevedo</i> Sonya Johnson – <i>aunt of JoAnn Jordan</i> Nicole Ketler – <i>friend of Susan Burmaster</i> Kate Kretschmann- <i>family of Lindy Lindemann</i> Karen Kugler – <i>friend of Marty Hillerich</i> Pr. John Hilficker – <i>friend of Conrad Hellwege Jr.</i> David McCall – <i>brother of J. Roberts</i> Marsha McKinney- <i>former member</i> Addie McLean – <i>daughter of ECLC Director Lisa</i>	Becky Nobles – <i>friend of Lindy Lindemann</i> Linda and Jim Norris – <i>family of Doris Schlotterback</i> Karen Paulsson – <i>sister of J. Paulsson</i> Hannah Puckhaber Manny Ribas – <i>friend of Cindy Schlotterback</i> Clint Shantz – <i>former member</i> Brian & Kenny Schlotterback— <i>sons of Doris Schlotterback</i> Haley Schlotterback – <i>granddaughter-in-law of Doris Schlotterback.</i> Bill Schroeder – <i>friend of Conrad Hellwege</i> Bethany Smith – <i>daughter of B&B Smith</i> Natalie Smowton Boxx – <i>great-granddaughter of Betty Smowton</i> Noel Scott Studenwalt – <i>nephew of B&B Smith</i> Bill Sweeney – <i>grandson of Marilyn and George Hutfilz</i> Swisher Family – <i>family of Kathie Snyder</i> Dan Torrence – <i>friend of K. Snyder</i> David Van Ness – <i>brother of Missy Craig</i> Elaine & Mark Vanderweight- <i>friends of Jim Paulsson</i> Curtis Weckwerth – <i>cousin of Rich Weckwerth</i> John and Janet Welther – <i>family of Ethel Hamilton</i> Pr. Pete Zieg – <i>former pastor of JoAnn Jordan</i>
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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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Website: www.StPaulSarasota.org

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Tracy Bateman, Parish Administrator – stpaul-admin@verizon.net
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 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
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