

# The Messenger



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

JULY 2023

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

Yes, I know it is July and I am on Sabbatical, so you haven't seen me for awhile; but, I wrote this before I left. We won't be having an August newsletter, as is common for us, and since the deadline for the July newsletter was about when I was leaving I figured I would share one more message.

In May I helped with one of the Community Meals. I didn't need to serve the food, so I had a chance to talk with some of our guests. I was introduced to a new guest. It was known that he was a Cherokee Indian. I believe I am part Cherokee from my dad's side, but he never knew anything about it and never wanted to look into it, so I was asking our guest how I could look into it a bit more. He shared with me a few ideas and places to go like Cherokee, NC, or the online Indian Affairs website. North Carolina is one of the few states I've never been to before, so I had no idea where Cherokee was. He then mentioned another town that is nearby called Bryson City. Still I didn't really know the area. The next day though I heard Bryson City mentioned again, but this time it was by one of our folks who were going to be traveling there.

When these types of things happen like this, I tend to take notice, and wondering if the Holy Spirit is speaking to me somehow about something. I still don't know what the Spirit is saying, but I did get googling ELCA churches in that area (no, not to move there but to see what God is already doing there). There is a church in Cherokee, NC, that is pastored by a mission developer. They have a lot of pictures on their Facebook page and it looks like they do a lot of ministries with the Cherokee Nation as well as having cultural immersion experiences. Many of their members are Cherokee, but they also have non-Cherokee members. I love their image - Hand in Hand over the baptismal waters.

One of the posts on their Facebook page was this:

A man whispered, "Creator speak to me" and a meadowlark sang. But the man did not hear.

So the man yelled, "Universe, speak to me" and the thunder rolled across the sky. But the man did not listen.

The man looked around and said, "Let me see you" and a star shined brightly. But the man did not see.

And the man shouted, "Show me a miracle" and a life was born. But the man did not notice.

So, the man cried out in despair,

"Touch me, and let me know you are here." Whereupon, the Great Mystery touched that man.

But the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on.

Don't miss out on a blessing because it isn't packaged the way you expect.

Unknown

Take care and God bless.

PrAshley

[Reminder: PrAshley will be on Sabbatical leave from June 11-August 5. If you have need of pastoral care, or an emergency, please contact Pr. Emeritus Don Hillerich at 941-586-6723.](#)



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# Council News

The Congregation Council met for its regular monthly meeting on June 15, 2023, in person and by Zoom.

- The Congregation Council was introduced to a new program, *Vision to Action – V2A* which was presented at the recent Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly for goal setting innovations. Judy Carnal, Irene Felicetti, Marty Hillerich and Pastor Don Hillerich were in attendance and had attended the assembly. In addition, (Gail Seyfarth was also a voting member at the synod assembly) a video was shown to facilitate the council's understanding of V2A. The five goals to be considered are: *Intentional Diversity, Sharing Christ, Making Disciples, Healthy Leaders, and Doing Justice*. The initial agreement of the council is to get input of creative ideas from council members by June 25, form a task force to research possibilities for St. Paul, and when Pastor Ashley returns from Sabbatical to convene a congregational retreat to launch ways to expand, renew, reset, or revitalize ministries to work with entities in the community. Grants are available to congregations before the end of 2023 to fund its innovations.
- The Property Committee has been given a golf cart by Conrad Hellwege.
- The Social Ministry will be providing Alta Vista Elementary School with Walmart gift cards through donations before school begins in August.

Executive Committee

## 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.

Mailing address:  
2256 Bahia Vista St.,  
Sarasota FL 34239-2499

Telephone: 941-955-6479 Fax: 941-955-8600  
ECLC Preschool 941-955-6480  
Email: [StPaul-Admin@verizon.net](mailto:StPaul-Admin@verizon.net)  
Preschool email: [StPaul-ECLC@verizon.net](mailto:StPaul-ECLC@verizon.net)  
Council email: [StPaul-Council@verizon.net](mailto:StPaul-Council@verizon.net)  
Pastor email: [prashley1010@gmail.com](mailto:prashley1010@gmail.com)  
Web site: [www.StPaulSarasota.org](http://www.StPaulSarasota.org)  
Editor: Sue Scherr

St. Paul Lutheran Church is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA.

Pastor: Rev. Ashley Nicolls  
Synod Parish Deacon: Open  
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Donald J. Hillerich

### Executive Committee

George Hutfilz, president  
Judy Carnal, vice president  
Sharon Wittren, secretary  
Marty Hillerich, treasurer

### Congregation Council

Irene Felicetti, Carol Grosch, Judy Carnal, Lori Fountain, Amy Hildreth, Alexandra Wise, George Hutfilz, Marty Hillerich, Bob Lariviere, Daniel Mills, Judy Roberts, Susy Scholl, Ron Zimmerman, Pastor Ashley Nicolls

### Ministry Team Leaders

Sharing & Caring – Jan Kruse  
Christian Education – Susy Scholl  
Communications – Sue Scherr  
Early Childhood Learning Cntr – Marilyn Hutfilz  
Evangelism – Bob Lariviere  
Safety & Emergency Preparedness - Cindy Paxton  
Fellowship – Carol Grosch & Alexandra Wise  
Finance – John McAuliffe  
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.

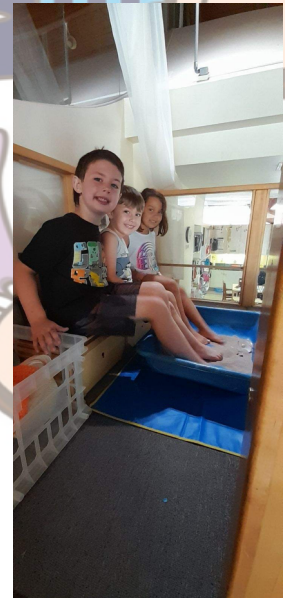
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**MISSION STATEMENT** As a Holy Spirit-led family of God, we are called through Baptism to proclaim and bear witness to God's reconciling grace in Jesus Christ to all; so that by joyfully sharing God's Word and encouraging each other to service for the sake of others, our lives together make a difference for Christ and His kingdom.

# Fun at Summer Camp



Here are a few pictures of what the ECLC Summer Camp is doing. Rooms 1 and 2 shared in an ice cream party and enjoyed sensory activities to cool down after playground time. Room 4 had many engaging and fun activities for their Florida Staycation Beach theme. Hope everyone is having a wonderful summer.



Early Childhood Learning Center  
 Lisa McLean, Director  
 Iven Ayad, Assistant Director [StPaulECLC@verizon.net](mailto:StPaulECLC@verizon.net)





# Alta Vista Back to School Gift Card Drive

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WELCOME  
BACK TO  
SCHOOL



Walmart 

Gift Cards

Won't you please donate monies toward gift cards to help the teachers at Alta Vista Elementary School during our summer donation drive? Gift cards will be delivered to the school the first week of August. Goal - one \$25 gift card per teacher for the 2023-2024 school year.



Donations accepted now until July 30, 2023.



# Hope Seeds

God's Work. Our Hands.

Come join us to socialize, have fun, and make a difference in the world. We fill several thousand small bags with seeds which will be sent to several countries so families can grow their own food. We gather the third Monday of every month. Come when you can, leave when you must. The next gathering will be on Monday, July 17 at 1:00p.



Family packs contained 12 varieties of seeds.



## 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 pray-er.

**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.

## 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! Led by Susy Scholl.

Grab a coffee and something sweet first at Social & Coffee Hour!

## 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](mailto:kaheindl@comcast.net).

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81662784525pwd=QSt4TGNSR2F3L0ovUDJ3SVdWbjRYUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 6278 4525

Passcode: 628552

# Rev. Pedro M. Suárez Re-Elected as Bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod

Taken from the E-Spirit Newsletter dated June 13, 2023

Rev. Pedro M. Suárez was re-elected as bishop on June 8 on the first ballot during the Synod Assembly. Rev. Suárez has been serving as bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod since 2017. Throughout his tenure, he has been dedicated to initiatives to increase discipleship, inclusivity, and justice within the synod's 160 congregations.

Prior to becoming bishop, Suárez served as lead pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Pompano Beach, Florida, and as interim Director for Evangelical Mission for the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Previously, Suárez served in Texas, Illinois and in Wisconsin.

Speaking about his re-election, Suárez expressed his deep gratitude to the synod for their trust and support. "It is an honor to continue serving as bishop of this vibrant and diverse synod. I am committed to guiding our faith community with integrity, love, and a steadfast focus on God's mission," he said. "Together, we will strive to boldly share Christ, passionately make disciples, and faithfully do justice in our communities."



## THEME - Renewed In Christ

RE Generate, RE Build, RE Start, RE Set,  
RE Form, RE Kindle, RE Group, RE Live  
RE New

R - Clergy woman Bishop Pat Davenport, Bishop of Southeastern PA, was an outstanding keynote speaker!



Michele Hilton on the right.

## St. Paul's Participating Members

Pictured L to R.  
PrAshley Nicolls, Irene Felicetti, Gail Seyfarth, Judy Carnal, Pr. Emeritus Don Hillerich, Marty Hillerich.



Pastor Emeritus Don Hillerich left.



# Attention Fantasy Football Enthusiasts

We want to invite anyone interested in joining St. Paul's Fellowship Fantasy Football League to contact Barry Smith, at church, or call 941-726-9276.  
Commissioner Barry Smith



## Welcome to St. Paul

Welcome to our newest St. Paul member, Christina Danielewicz.



## New Benches

Two new benches have been purchased to replace the wooden benches that can no longer be repaired. The new ones are made from recycled milk jugs and water.

A BIG thank you to those who donated toward their purchase. They will be installed near the sanctuary entrance.



Pastor Emeirtus Don Hillerich tries out the new benches.

## They're Back!

Having been refurbished, our bells have returned and are beautiful! They will be played again in worship soon. Special thank you to the Worship and Music Ministry and our anonymous donors for funding this project.







## Raise the Roof! Raise the Kids!

### Update

YES, the project has been delayed until March 8, 2024; but not the fund raising and the Renovation Building Committee's efforts. The delay was necessary due to the beams' construction and an evaluation of the best timing for the ECLC calendar. A meeting with the task force and architects set the date, and follow up sessions with projected items costs is being planned. In the meantime, representatives of the school and committee will be meeting with interested community foundations. Gifts of cash and pledges are arriving regularly. As of this date, June 17, \$265,399.71 has been received with \$184,926.71 placed in a new restricted account. All sized gifts and pledges for up to three years are appreciated. Incoming gifts will multiply in value with the restricted account and its interest. Following your prayerful consideration, send your gift to: St. Paul "Renovation Fund", or place it in the offering plate. If you have any questions, contact Pr. Don Hillerich at 941-955-6479.



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>



**July Birthdays**

- July 2 Michael Flanigan
- July 3 Sue Goddard-Barry
- July 8 Sharyn Brodnax
- July 10 Robert Masse
- July 11 Ryan Masse
- July 12 Dave Smowton
- July 15 Keith Hildreth
- July 18 Gage Fournier
- July 21 James Paulsson
- July 24 Carolyn Mele

**August Birthdays**

- August 8 Charlotte Beetle
- August 12 Susy Scholl
- August 14 Matthew Miller
- August 15 Colleen Miller
- August 15 PrAshley Nicolls
- August 19 Alison Mills
- August 21 Dylan Beetle
- August 27 Kasthuri Jayaraj
- August 27 Brenda Smith



**July Anniversary**

- July 27 JD & Tonia Miller

**August Anniversaries**

- August 12 Mike & Debi Rado
- August 20 Chris & Emily Savoca
- August 23 Mike & Sue Scherr

## Special Thank You

St. Paul Congregation,  
 I can't begin to express what a wonderful impact this congregation has had on my life thus far. I have learned valuable lessons that I will take with me to college and beyond. Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers as I enter this new chapter in my life! Your love and support is so greatly appreciated.

♥ Emilee Miller

## Hurricane Surveys Reminder

The 2023 Hurricane Preparedness Surveys were recently mailed to St. Paul members. If you did not receive one, check your mailbox in the Narthex, or call the church office at 941-955-6478.

Please return the completed survey as soon as possible, either by mailing it or dropping it off at the church office. We will update your emergency contact information in our membership database.

Thanks for your help in keeping this vital information current.

Safety and Emergency Preparedness Ministry Team



On **Sunday, Sept. 10**, congregations of the ELCA will join together for our 10th annual day of service. "God's work. Our hands." Sunday began in 2013 in connection with the ELCA's 25th anniversary and continues to be a day to celebrate who we are — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**July 1 Saturday**  
9:00a Food Pantry  
Distribution  
10:00a Musician  
Rehearsal

**July 9 Sunday**  
9:30a Worship Service  
10:30a Sunday School  
11:00a Sharing & Caring  
Ministry Meeting

**July 16 Sunday**  
9:30a Worship Service  
10:30a Sunday School

**July 25 Tuesday**  
9:00a Vacation Bible  
School  
5:30p Community Meal

**July 2 Sunday**  
9:30a Worship Service  
10:30a Sunday School

**July 11 Tuesday**  
**Ministry Reports Due**  
5:30p Community Meal

**July 17 Monday**  
1:00 Hope Seeds

**July 26 Wednesday**  
8:00a Property Ministry  
9:00a Vacation Bible  
School



5:30p Community Meal

**July 12 Wednesday**  
8:00a Property Ministry

**July 18 Tuesday**  
5:30p Community Meal

**July 27 Thursday**  
9:00a Vacation Bible  
School  
9:30a Food Pantry Prep  
4:00p Prayer Team  
Meeting Zoom

**July 5 Wednesday**  
8:00a Property Ministry

**July 13 Thursday**  
9:30a Food Pantry Prep  
12:00p Finance Meeting  
1:00p Executive Team  
Meeting  
4:00p Prayer Team  
Meeting Zoom

**July 20 Thursday**  
9:30a Food Pantry  
Prep  
4:00p Prayer Team  
Meeting Zoom

**July 28 Friday**  
9:00a Vacation Bible  
School

**July 6 Thursday**  
9:30a Food Pantry  
Prep  
4:00p Prayer Team  
Meeting Zoom

**July 22 Saturday**  
9:00a Food Pantry  
Distribution  
10:00a Musician  
Rehearsal

**July 29 Saturday**  
9:00a Food Pantry  
Distribution  
10:00a Musician  
Rehearsal

**July 8 Saturday**  
9:00a Food Pantry  
Distribution  
10:00a Musician  
Rehearsal

**July 15 Saturday**  
**Messenger Deadline**  
9:00a Food Pantry  
Distribution  
10:00a Musician  
Rehearsal

**July 23 Sunday**  
9:30a Worship Service  
10:30a Sunday School

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

**July 24 Monday**  
9:00a Vacation Bible  
School

**Please Note - There will be no August Messenger. The Messenger will return in September.**





•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 Pators Khader, Rob C., Rob R., and Deacon Connie, Specialists Kim, Brittney, & Stephen, Support Staff Tina, Yuliet, & Ileana. •SURE - Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity. •Community Meal & Food Pantry Guests. •Our members and our preschool teachers and students.

<p><b>Members</b>                  Beetle Family                  John Beyer                  Henry Blosser                  Susan Burmaster                  Sue Fisher                  Bob Fong                  Cecilia Morvick                  Jean Panthana                  James Paulsson                  Rado Family                  Susy Scholl                  Frank Scianni                  Brenda Smith                  Dave and Betty Smowton                  Ginger Webb                  Karin Zukowski</p> <p><b>Homebound Members</b>                  Sharyn Brodnax                  Donna Casala                  Evelyn Gulliksen                  June Manselle                  Virginia McQuaig                  Michael Reiter                  Carole Wilson</p> <p><b>Friends and Family</b>                  LaShonda - <i>John Beyer's</i> friend                  Marie - <i>Cindy Paxton's</i> friend                  Marilyn - <i>S. Weckwerth's</i> aunt                  Susan &amp; Jim - <i>Cindy Paxton's</i> friends                  Sandi Acevedo - <i>Acevedos</i> sister-in-law                  Clinton Allen - <i>Jim Paulsson's</i> friend                  Joan Asplund - <i>St. Paul</i> attender</p>	<p>Gerri Bandauski - <i>Dave Smowton's</i> sister                  Joyce Benton - <i>H. Roberts's</i> sister                  Karla Benton - <i>Roberts's</i> niece                  Buete &amp; Pearson family - <i>Brian McCulley's</i> family                  Caroline Burmaster - <i>Susan Burmaster's</i> sister-in-law                  Kathleen Cannon - <i>Puckhabers's</i> friend                  Alice Chanover - <i>Puckhabers's</i> friend                  Jessica Clements - <i>Kathie Snyder's</i> friend                  Mike Cunningham - <i>H. Roberts's</i> friend                  Janine Dress - <i>seasonal</i> guest                  Cody Eddleman - <i>John Beyer's</i> husband                  Gladys Faraone - <i>H. Robert's</i> friend                  Lily Gibson - <i>Susy Scholl's</i> neice                  Niklaus Heisler - <i>Irene Felicetti's</i> great-grandson                  Katy Hernandez - <i>M. Acevedo's</i> niece                  David Jackerson - <i>Susy Scholl's</i> son                  Jenny Jerrems - <i>Susan Burmaster's</i> friend                  Maryjane Kapela - <i>Janine Dress's</i> cousin                  Philip Koepke - <i>Irene Felicetti's</i> friend                  Kate Kretschmann - <i>Lindy Lindemann's</i> family                  Kenny Manselle - <i>June Manselle's</i> son                  Shirley &amp; Dan Martin - <i>Susy Scholl's</i> friends                  Marsha McKinney - <i>former</i> member                  Pam Mills - <i>Daniel Mills's</i> sister                  Logan Nitchie - <i>Irene Felicetti's</i> friend                  Becky Nobles - <i>Lindy Lindemann's</i> friend</p>	<p>Linda &amp; Jim Norris - <i>Doris Schlotterback's</i> family                  Karen Paulsson - <i>Jim Paulsson's</i> sister                  Terry Panthana - <i>Jean Panthana's</i> niece                  Stan Popielarsky - <i>Ethel Hamilton's</i> friend                  Manny Rivas - <i>Cindy Schlotterback's</i> friend                  Brian, Kenny &amp; Tommy Schlotterback - <i>Doris Scholotterback's</i> sons                  Cynthia Lu Scholl - <i>Susy Scholl's</i> sister                  Rob Scianni - <i>Sciannis's</i> son                  Clint Schantz - <i>former</i> member                  Donna Shepherd - <i>Gail Seyfarth's</i> sister                  Joan Simone - <i>Puckhabers's</i> friend                  Bethany Smith - <i>Smiths's</i> daughter                  Noel Scott Studenwalt - <i>Smiths's</i> nephew                  Martha Swain                  Jean Taffe &amp; family - <i>Susan Burmaster's</i> cousin                  Donna Van Ness - <i>Missy Craig's</i> neice                  Elaine &amp; Mark Vanderweight - <i>Jim Paulsson's</i> friends                  David Weinberger - <i>Puckhabers's</i> friend                  John &amp; Janet Welther - <i>Ethel Hamilton's</i> family                  Dottie Lynne White - <i>Susy Scholl's</i> sister                  Judith Wismer - <i>Community Meal</i> guest                  Pr. Pete &amp; Nancy Zieg - <i>J. Jordan's</i> friends</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](http://www.StPaulSarasota.org)

### Rev. Ashley Nicolls, Pastor

#### Sunday Schedule

9:30a Service of Worship In-person

9:30a Service of Worship on Facebook Live

10:30a SonDay School



## St. Paul Mission Prayer

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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.