

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

I wanted to share an update on the Raise the Roof! Raise the Kids! Project and Campaign.

The Early Childhood Learning Center is back in the Education Building! The kids were off for the holiday this week and the teachers moved the classrooms back into the Education Building. The Fellowship Hall is now back to being a Fellowship Hall not a school. There is still work to be done in Education Building through the beginning of August but it is work that can be safely done while students and teachers are in there.

*Here are a couple pictures of the roof being shingled this week.*



And here is an update from Pr. Don about the campaign.

**HALF WAY THERE! “RAISE THE ROOF”-“RAISE THE KIDS”**

Thanks be to God for His blessings, motivation and guidance. As of July 1, 2024 we have reached the half-way mark of the “Save the Roof”-“Save the Kids” campaign towards the finish on December 31, 2025. As of this date, **\$608,650.00** has been raised towards the \$665,425.00 goal. Outright cash gifts, pledges and memorials comprise the amount received. The generosity of St. Paul’s members, the architecture community, private foundations and the State of Florida have contributed to the fund. Now, we only have \$56,775.00 to go! Beyond the goal, there will be additional dollars needed to offset the increased cost of the project; therefore, contributions in the form of 1 1/2 year pledges, cash gifts, foundation gifts and memorials are encouraged and appreciated. Any size gift, small or large is so appreciated.

Call Pastors Ashley or Don for more information at 941-955-6479. We can all be so grateful for what God has done for the preservation of the building and its usage for KIDS!

This summer one of our youth, Kendall Riley, attended Confirmation Camp at Luther Springs up in Hawthorne, Florida (near Gainesville). She wanted to share a little about her time at camp.

“Hi! My name is Kendall Riley and I am going to tell you about my experience at Luther Springs. This was my first time doing a sleep away camp and I was a little nervous. We did so many activities during the week such as worship, games, swimming, and more. Some of my favorite activities that we did were going to Ichetucknee springs where we went tubing in a flowing river, archery, kayaking, and playing games at night. Whoever had the cleanest bunk room each day won the golden plunger. We never won but at the end we figured out why... We caught the older high school boys sabotaging us by putting stuff on our deck. My counselor, Dom, was nice and funny. I cannot wait to go back again.”

While I never had a Lutheran Camp experience while growing up (I had really bad allergies when I was a kid to anything outdoors in Minnesota – grasses, trees, along with animals, so camp wasn’t for me), I know for many, Lutheran camps are very influential in youths’ faith development. I encourage all parents to pray about sending their children to camp in the summer or even during the school year. Please check out <https://luthersprings.org/> for the camp nearest Sarasota. There are other camp experiences in North Carolina too. Check out <https://novusway.org/>



*Kendall is in the middle with her friends.*

Take care and God bless

*-Pr Ashley*