

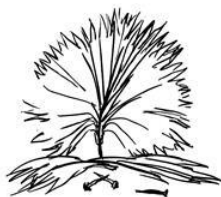


St. Paul Lutheran Church

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

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost | August 30, 2026

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



Assisting In Worship

Assisting Minister

JoAnn Jordan

Reader

JoAnn Jordan

Acolyte

Ryan Masse

Sound

Rick Barry
Mike Scherr

Camera Operator

Sue Scherr

Screen Operator

Mike Scherr

Ushers

Judy Roberts
Kathie Snyder

Greeter

Hank Roberts

Plate Passers

James Millikan

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 put it in the offering plate, and it will be placed on the cross.

The Sanctuary is open for individual prayer on Mondays and Saturdays from 9a-12noon.

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 ~ "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" – arr. Robert Howels

Tambry Schoolcraft

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Response: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin to God. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor: Compassionate God,

Response: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Pastor: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Response: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn ~ *Blest be the Tie that Binds*



The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the piano providing harmonic support. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
 Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: O God,

Response: we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Ministry in Music ~ "" The Summons – Tambry Schoolcraft, flute solo

Children's Message

Scripture ~ Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

¹⁵ O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the

delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰ And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. ²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

Scripture ~ Psalm 26:1-8

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

² **Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.**

³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴ **I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶ **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸ **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.**

Scripture ~ Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit;

serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Word of God. Word of Life. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel ~ Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 16th chapter.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

Sermon ~ Pastor Ashley Nicolls

Hymn of the Day ~ *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



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: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

(pause for silence)

Assisting Minister: For the church in every land,

Response: that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith.

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response:** receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: For the well-being of your creation,

Response: that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters.

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response:** receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: For the nations and all in authority,

Response: that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence.

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response:** receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: For all those in need,

Response: that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit.

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

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response:** receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: For the congregation gathered here to serve you,

Response: that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love.

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response:** Receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: For the faithful departed,

Response: that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come.

Assisting Minister: Merciful God, **Response:** receive our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

The Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

Response: And also with you.

Offering

We gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us.

All are invited to make a gift as the plate is passed,

Online giving at www.stpaulsarasota.org/give is also available.

Offering Prayer

Assisting Minister: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

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 has 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: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

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 font, you may do so at the ushers' direction.

Communion Music ~ "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" arr. Jane Holstein

"Nearer My God to Thee" - arr. Joel Raney – Tambry Schoolcraft

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

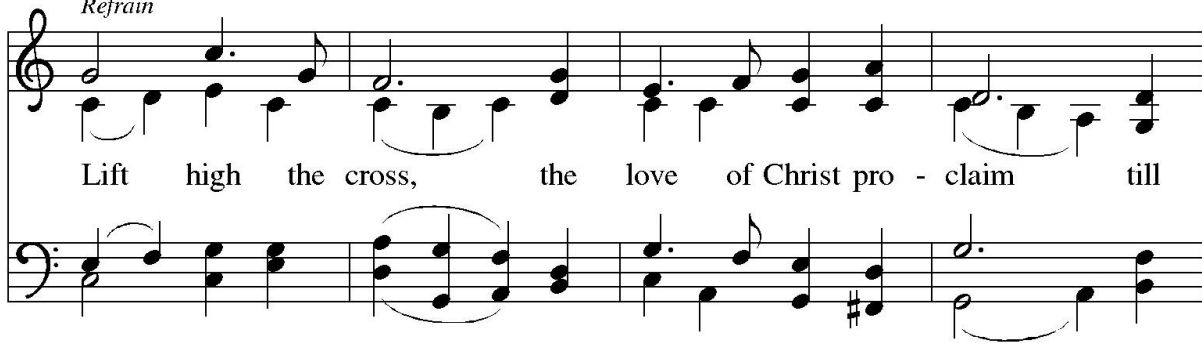
Assisting Minister: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Response: Amen.**

Blessing

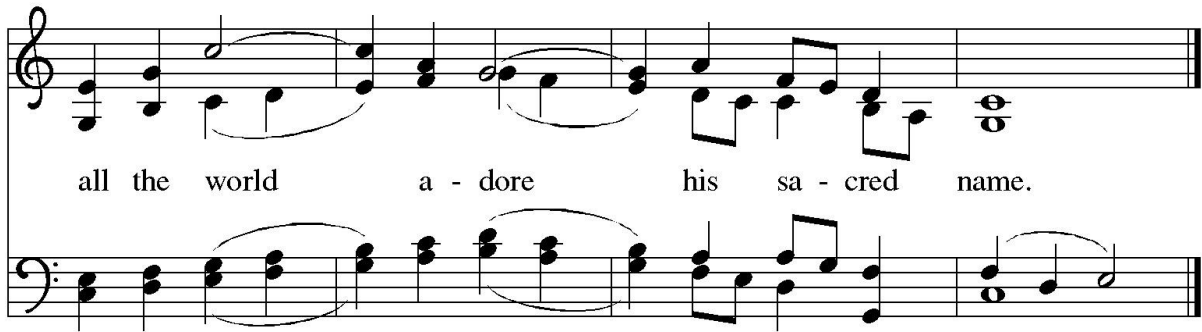
Pastor: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Response: Amen.**

Sending Hymn ~ Lift High the Cross

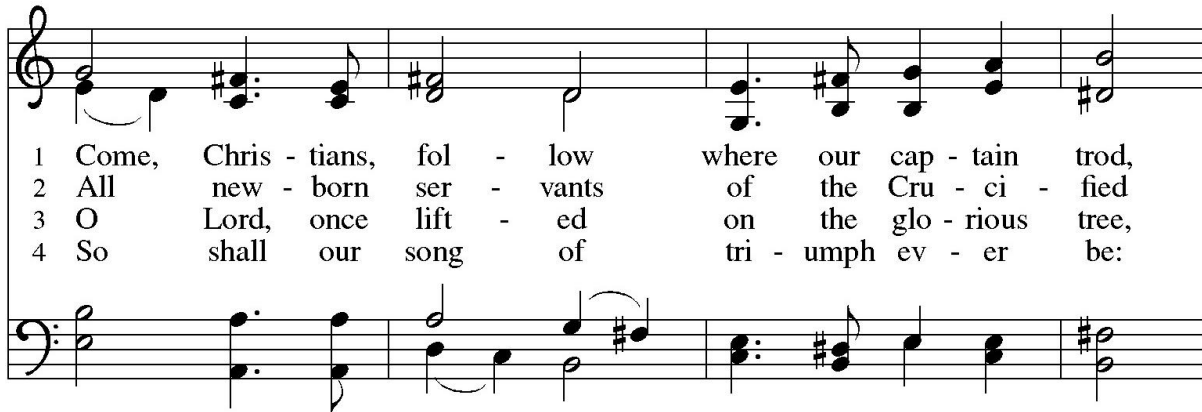
Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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Dismissal

Pastor: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Response: Thanks be to God.

Children: And all God's children say,

Response: Amen. Yes!

Postlude

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" – arr. Jack Schrader – Tambry Schoolcraft

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

Eternal Candle is given this month by: Pastor Don and Marty Hillerich in memory of our brother Jay and our son Bart.

Bulletins are given this week by: Cindy Paxton in thanksgiving to God for my grandson Jasper on his 3rd birthday.

Attendance for last Sunday morning: 43 in-person; 137 views on-line (8/24/26).

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.

Announcement

Adriana and Timothy Miller Baby Shower, 12noon, Sunday, September 6, in the Fellowship Hall. They are registered on Amazon.

Sign up

Sanctuary hosts – Mondays and Saturdays 9-12 to welcome those who want to pray into our sanctuary.

St. Paul has on-going collections for these items. . .

Personal Care Items for the Food Pantry...toothpaste, toothbrushes, laundry detergent, dish soap, toilet paper, tissue, etc.

Cloth bags for food pantry groceries. Many of our clients ride bikes or the bus, so these bags help them take their groceries home.

Snacks for the Early Childhood Learning Center....toastie crackers, pretzels, pirate booty popcorn, raisins, healthy cereal, saltine crackers, chex mix, veggie straws, goldfish, animal crackers, graham crackers, cereal bars, cheez-its, cran-raisins, canned fruits.

Plain Epsom Salt to keep the plants healthy.

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

St. Paul's on-going ministries . . .

Sanctuary Open for Prayer – every Monday and Saturday from 9a-12noon. Come and pray in this beautiful sanctuary.

Hope Seeds – every 3rd Monday 1-3p in the Fellowship Hall. Come when you can, leave when you must. Put seeds in bags to help people across the world become self-sufficient.

Tuesday night Community Meal – 5:30p. Join in welcoming those from the neighborhood for a hot homecooked meal.

Wednesday morning – Property 8a-12n. Come and help keep the campus beautiful and safe.

Thursday morning – Food Pantry preparation 9:30a. All Faiths Food Bank drops off the food. Help organize it and put it into the bags for distribution on Saturday.

Thursday afternoon - Prayer Zoom – Talking with God! Join the prayer ministry.

Thursdays at 4p. Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81662784525?pwd=QSt4TGNSR2F3L0ovUDJ3SVdWbjRYUT09>

Saturday morning – Food Pantry Distribution 9a. Come and help distribute food to those in need.

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 Jordan, 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, Sharon Mashanic, Jordan, Kellen, Missy, Robert, and Ryan Masse.

St. Paul Early Childhood Learning Center teachers and students, especially, Karter, Wyatt, Capri, Ms. Katie and Ms. Jessica.

Members Manny Acevedo Dottie Albright Beetle/Hildreth/Miller Family Dorothy Boller Susan Burmaster Missy Craig Sue Fisher Joann Flanigan Bob Fong Ethel Hamilton Marilyn Hutfilz Kasthuri Jayaraj James Millikan Valerie Nicolls Nancy Parmakian James Paulsson Cindy Paxton Colleen Ryan Betty Smowton Karin Zukoswki Homebound Members Evelyn Gulliksen Lindy Lindemann Virginia McQuaig Michael Reiter Doris Schlotterback Carole Wilson Friends and Family Alice – friend of JoAnn Jordan Brad – brother of Cindy Paxton Debbie – friend of Scherrs Ed – friend of Sandy Choquette Jim – son of Nancy Parmakian Mark – friend of M & D Hillerich MJ – friend of Ron Zimmerman Patty – sister of Cindy Paxton Sharon – friend of Jane Schubert Zev Maeson – friend of C. Paxton	Sandi Acevedo – sister-in-law of Acevedo Jesus & Reyna Alegria – nieces-in-law of Sandy Tull Kareem Ali – friend of Fred Melton Clinton Allen – friend of Jim Paulsson Laura Anderson – niece of Roberts Billie Jean Athey – friend of C. Mele Sheryl Brandes – sister-in-law of Sue Scherr Lavinia Brown – friend of H. Puckhaber Buete and Pearson family– family of Brian McCulley Caroline Burmaster – sister-in-law of Susan Burmaster Cheryl Bydo - family of Roberts Wayne Cobb – friend of Carolyn Jacobson Todd Couch – son of Sandy Choquette John and Joy Emanuelli – friends of Roberts Gladys Faraone – friend of H. Roberts Tony Felicetti – brother of I. Felicetti 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. Sandy Holloway – friend of H. Puckhaber Nicole Ketler – friend of S. Burmaster Kate Kretschmann- family of Lindy Lindemann Karen Kugler – friend of Marty Hillerich Jesse Lugo – brother of Jose Lugo David McCall – brother of J. Roberts Marsha McKinney- former member	Fran McCracken – friend of Kathie Snyder Linda Munkelwitz – friend of Judy Carnal Becky Nobles – friend of L. Lindemann Linda Norris – family of Doris Schlotterback Karen Paulsson – sister of J. Paulsson Gary Perkins – friend of Judy Carnal Hannah Puckhaber – former attendee Manny Ribas – friend of Cindy Schlotterback Anita Rose – friend of Irene Felicetti Claude Russell – uncle of T. Bateman Brian and Ken Schlotterback—sons of Doris Schlotterback Haley Schlotterback – granddaughter-in-law of Doris Schlotterback. Bill Schroeder – friend of Conrad Hellwege, Jr. Bethany Smith – daughter of B&B Smith Joyce Swartzbaugh – Former Member Natalie Smowton Boxx – great-granddaughter of Betty Smowton Noel Scott Studenwalt – nephew of B&B Smith Bill Sweeney – grandson of Marilyn and George Hutfilz Michael Taylor – friend of Addy Miller Dan Torrence – friend of K. Snyder David Van Ness – brother of M. Craig Mark Vanderweight - friend of Jim Paulsson Andrea Waltje – friend of Irene Felicetti Curtis Weckwerth – cousin of Rich Weckwerth John and Janet Welther – family of Ethel Hamilton JoAnn White – friend of Jan Kruse
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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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Tracy Bateman, Parish Administrator – stpaul-admin@verizon.net
Dr. Tambry Schoolcraft, Director of Music Ministries—stpaulmusicsarasota@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 Bob Lariviere, Secretary

Congregation Council

Irene Felicetti
George Hutfilz
JoAnn Jordan

Bob Lariviere
Pr. Ashley Nicolls
Nancy Parmakian

Judy Roberts
Mike Scherr
Esther Smith



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