

The Messenger




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

MAY 2025

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

When I was ordained in 2007, I began being a part of a Facebook group called The Young Clergy Women Project International. It was started in 2006 as an idea of just getting a group of young women who were pastors of all denominations and all over the world to talk online. It took off to not only include a Facebook page, but also a website, online magazine, conferences and other events. It's now called Young Clergy Women International. When it was started in 2006, the focus was ordained women under 40. Well, all the people who started it aged out so a new group was formed called Young Clergy Women Alumnae.

It was through this Facebook page that I found a wonderful statement of faith about a congregation in Seguin, Texas, named Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church. The one who wrote it though, was not a member and not even Christian, but knew of his friend Kathy's church and understood the congregation's mission and believed in it. I wanted to share with you his poem for I believe it also speaks of St. Paul. It is shared with permission. When asked if it could be shared the author wrote, "Use it as your heart desires, for it is born of love — and true love knows no bounds, only wings. So let it soar."

 Let the Bells Be Heard — for Kathy Yandell and all those who love for no reason!
By Dr. Sam Hijazi

Say it loud, say it proud —
No hush of shame, no cloak of silence.
Let the stained-glass windows sing,
Let the pews rise like hills of hope,
Let the Spirit of joy swirl through
the steeples and the whispers of bread and wine.

We are not called to be the same—
but to love in color.
Not to echo each other's words,
but to harmonize our differences into one gospel.
Love your neighbor?
Yes. But love, too, the winding story in their voice,
the heritage braided into their smile,
the ache behind their gentleness.



O Loving you____
Your name dances like morning light on river water.
You held the hand of the tired,
You saw the invisible,
You didn't ask, "Where are you from?"
but "How are you still rising?"
You are a sermon of kindness wrapped in skin.

cont. on pg 6

WhatsInside

Pg. 2	April Council Report	Pg. 12	Palm Sunday/Easter Sunday Pics
Pg. 3	ECLC News/Art Show	Pg. 13	Birthday/Anniversaries/Thanks
Pg. 5	Faith Op./March Council Report		
Pg. 6	PrAshley's Article cont.	Pg. 14	Calendar of Events
Pg. 7	Children's Easter Cel. Pics	Pg. 15	Prayer Requests

Council Report - April

Pastor Ashley said that donations continue to come in for the Raise the Roof/ Raise the Kids Campaign update. She reminded Council that Beyond Holy Lands will be at St. Paul on April 27 to do a Temple Talk and sell their olivewood wares in the Fellowship Hall after service. Pastor Ashley mentioned that the church doors are locked at the start of service for security issues. Additional details were provided regarding ICE, DHS, and CBP potential visits to St. Paul and guidelines prepared by the Safety and Emergency Preparedness Ministry Team. Guidelines will be posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

George Hutfilz reported on the month of March. He also reported on the Stewardship Summary as of April 20, 2025. To date, 38 intent requests were received totaling \$209,430; 13 responses including giving increases for 2025; 19 responses maintained the same level of giving; 6 responses were from families who did not submit an intent in 2024. Only 20 Shared Ministry Opportunity forms were completed and returned (77 intent forms and 110 Shared Ministry Opportunity forms were sent to families).

JoAnn Jordan will meet with Judy Carnal soon to begin the Constitution changes process.

At this time, St. Paul has approved one representative, Marty Hillerich, to the Synod Assembly, June 11-14, 2025. A motion was made by the Executive Committee to approve Esther Smith as a second representative. The motion carries.

A motion was made by Pastor Ashley to transfer the membership of Mary Schulte from St. Armands to St. Paul. Judy Roberts seconded. The motion was approved.



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
Preschool email: StPaul-ECLC@verizon.net
Council email: StPaul-Council@verizon.net
Pastor email: prashley1010@gmail.com
Web site: 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

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Donald J. Hillerich

Executive Committee

JoAnn Jordan, President
Judy Roberts, Vice President
Irene Felicetti, Secretary
George Hutfilz, Treasurer

Congregation Council

Irene Felicetti, Lori Fountain-Guillaume, Amy Hildreth, JoAnn Jordan, Bob Lariviere, Nancy Parmakian, Judy Roberts, Mike Scherr, Esther Smith, Alexandra Wise, Pastor Ashley Nicolls

Ministry Team Leaders or Council Liaison

Sharing & Caring – Jan Kruse
Christian Education – **Seeking volunteer leader**
Communications – Sue Scherr
Early Childhood Learning Cntr – Esther Smith
Evangelism – Bob Lariviere
Safety & Emergency Preparedness - Cindy Paxton
Fellowship – Amy Hildreth & Alexandra Wise
Finance – George Hutfilz
Food Pantry – George Hutfilz
Outreach Ministry Fund – Bob Lariviere
Property - Mike Scherr
Social – Judy Roberts
Stewardship – George & Marilyn Hutfilz
Worship and Music – Judy Carnal
Parish Administrator – Tracy Bateman
Director of Music – Fonda Davies

The Messenger is published monthly and distributed without charge to St. Paul Lutheran congregation members and friends.

Copyright © 2025 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sarasota FL.
Permission granted for reproduction of individual articles with credit to source.

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.



Children from Room 2 sure enjoy sitting in their baking basket!

ECLC News



Room 3 uses creative self expression to choose colors for their splatter plates. They also use their mathematical skill to sort out the colors in flower pots.

The young man pictured above, is definitely thinking hard.



ECLC News Cont.



This little guy is practicing his smiling for the cameras on Picture Day.



These budding artists from Room 1 are getting ready for their Art Show Fundraiser. Such concentration!



Silent Auctions: Gift cards, baskets, precious artwork; the ECLC Art Show had it all!

ECLC ART SHOW



Thank you directors for all your hard work !



And thanks to all who helped make our Art Show such a success.



April 24, 2025





Hope Seeds

On April 21 Hope Seeds had 20 volunteers and packed 3,900 bags of onion seeds. Thanks to everyone who came to help. Hope Seeds meets the third Monday of each month at 1:00p to pack various types of seeds to be distributed in the U.S. and the world. Please consider volunteering. Come when you can and leave when you must. May 19 we will meet again. Hope to see you then.

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.

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

Meeting ID: 816 6278 4525

Passcode: 628552

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.

Council Report - March

Pastor Ashley presented information about the 2026 Vision2Action Synod grant. The project/idea deadline is June 30 and the application deadline is August 15 if we choose to pursue this grant.

One representative, Marty Hillerich, has been approved to attend Synod Assembly June 11-14, 2025.

St. Paul is discussing a possible Temple Talk with the group Christians from Bethlehem. If this happens, they will sell Olive Wood products made in Bethlehem after the service.

SURE will hold a Nehemiah Action on March 31, at 6:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, Beneva Road. Pastor Ashley said they are hoping St. Paul will send 35 representatives to this meeting.

The ECLC Art Show and Fundraiser is scheduled for April 24 from 6:00-7:00p in the Fellowship Hall. They will hold a silent auction and gift cards and themed baskets will be gratefully accepted.

Pastor Ashley said that there have been two pickups of items from the Big Blue Bin. Continued donations are encouraged of all items except large furniture and appliances.

The Worship and Music Committee moved the church to use existing funds from the chancel Memorial Garden Fund to purchase lilies to use on the shelves behind the altar and around the wooden cross. Members, instead of purchasing lilies, would make memorial contributions to the church designated for All Faiths Food Bank. Motion carried.

Pastor Ashley's Article Cont.

Let us—O Church of the Lamb—
not worship only in hymns,
but in every act of embrace,
every hug that defies fear,
every prayer that dares to say,
“I see God in your scars, your accent, your flame.”

Say it proud!
There are no exceptions to grace!
No borders to mercy!
No parentheses around dignity!

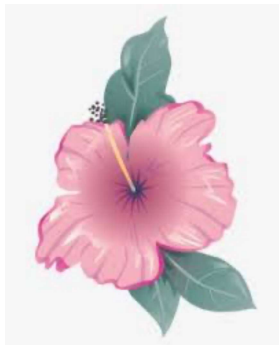
Each soul is a verse in the poem of heaven,
each hand a bridge across the silence.
To love is not to erase,
but to celebrate the constellation of our being—
the Arabic curl of a name,
the Southern lilt of a hymn,
the way two eyes can meet
and finally understand:

You are different. And that is divine.

So love yourselves,
but more than that—
love the holy mystery that made us not copies,
but wonders.
Let the bells be heard.
Let the joy roll down like water.
Let us gather at the table where
even Judas was fed.

Because this is the gospel:
That we rise by lifting each other.
That grace is louder than judgment.
And that Kathy's and your spirit live in every hand
that opens instead of points.

Amen to the dance of difference.
Amen to the fire of unity.
Amen to the Spirit of Joy
that wears every face.



Good Friday Downtown Sarasota

Pilgrim Walk



Children's Easter Celebration



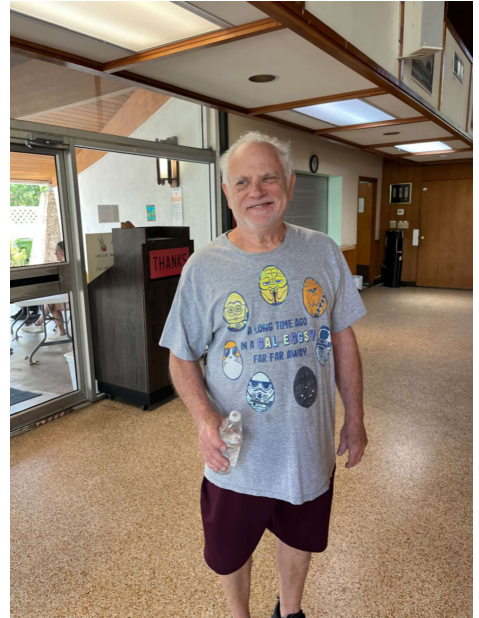
April 19, 2025



Children's Easter Celebration



Goodie bags for all.



Wow, such concentration.

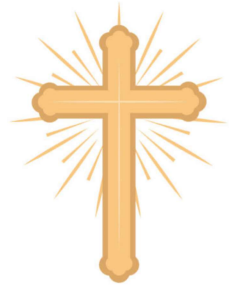
So many helpers and so many activities.

So much fun!

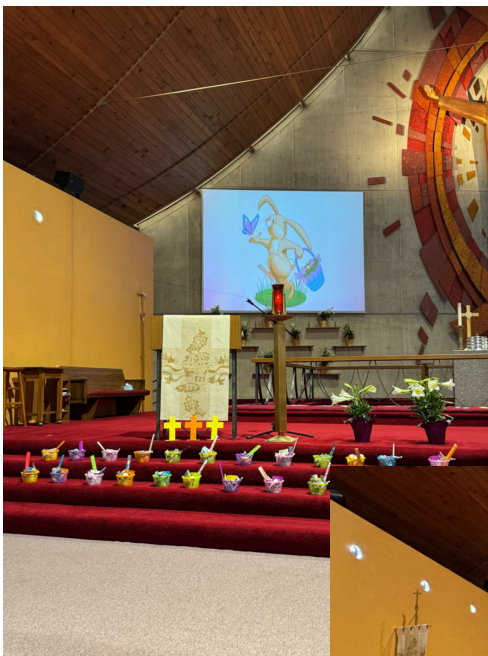




Children's Easter Celebration



Those that brought
back their rocks.
Congrats to Kendall for
the most!



All lined up for
distribution for our rock
participants.



Thanks, Joe (aka Brian)
and Mary (aka Esther). We
learned a lot about the
resurrection.



Jelly bean
contest
winner
guessed over
500 in the jar!



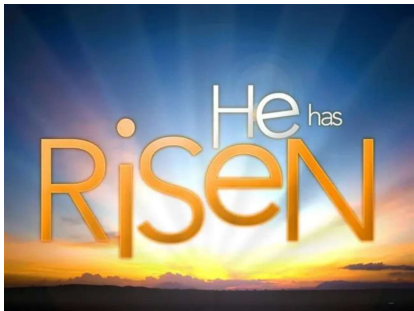
Thanks to the Easter Bunny for making a
visit.
AWWW, such a nice hug!



Palm Sunday



E
A
S
T
E
R



S
U
N
D
A
Y



Easter Sunday



Processional



He is Risen Indeed! Hallelujah!



AMEN!





May 1	Betty Masters
May 2	Dorothy Boller
May 3	Janet Hepner
May 3	Kimberly Farrell
May 4	Gail McBain
May 11	Jill Scherer
May 11	Kellen Masse
May 13	Michael Reiter
May 19	Sandra Tull
May 27	Elizabeth Schwartz
May 27	Paul Euder



May 13	Hank & Judy Roberts
May 26	Rick & Sue Barry

Thank You's

I wish to thank my St. Paul family for your prayers, texts, calls and love shown to me during this difficult time. Know that you all hold a special place in my heart.

Helen Miller

Special thank you to all who helped with the Children's Easter Celebration on April 19. For those who brought in candy and eggs, helped fill eggs, painted rocks, set up, cleaned up, registered children, helped with all the activities thank you so very much. I have appreciated the many who have helped with this celebration year after year. I am so thankful for all of you.

Barry Smith



Easter bunny helpers on Saturday, April 12.



May 1 Thursday
9:30a Food Pantry Prep
1:00p Executive Team Meeting
4:00p Prayer Team Meeting Zoom

May 3 Saturday
9:00 Food Pantry Distribution

April 4 Sunday
9:30a Worship Service
11:00a Confirmation Class

May 5 Monday
Cinco de Mayo
7:00p Music & Worship Meeting Zoom

May 6 Tuesday
9:30a ECLC Chapel
5:30p Community Meal

May 7 Wednesday
8:00a Property Ministry
6:00p St. Paul Ringers
7:00p St. Paul Singers

May 8 Thursday
9:30a Food Pantry Prep
12:00p Finance Meeting Zoom
4:00p Prayer Team Meeting Zoom

May 10 Saturday
9:00a Food Pantry Distribution



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 11 Sunday
Mother's Day
9:30a Worship Service

May 17 Saturday
9:00a Food Pantry Distribution

May 22 Thursday
9:30a Food Pantry Prep
4:00p Prayer Team Meeting Zoom

May 24 Saturday
9:00a Food Pantry Distribution

May 25 Sunday
9:30a Worship Service
11:00a Confirmation Class

May 12 Monday
1:00p EvANGELism Team Meeting

May 18 Sunday
9:30a Worship Service

May 26 Monday
Memorial Day
5:30p Community Meal

May 13 Tuesday
Ministry Reports Due
9:30a ECLC Chapel
5:30p Community Meal

May 19 Monday
1:00p Hope Seeds

May 27 Tuesday
5:30p Community Meal

May 14 Wednesday
8:00a Property Ministry
11:00a PEO Meeting
6:00p St. Paul Ringers
7:00p St. Paul Singers

May 20 Tuesday
9:30a ECLC Chapel
5:30p Community Meal

May 28 Wenesday
8:00a Property Ministry
6:00p St. Paul Ringers
7:00p St. Paul Singers

May 15 Thursday
Messenger Deadline
9:30a Food Pantry Prep
4:00p Prayer Team Meeting Zoom
6:30p Council Meeting

May 21 Wednesday
8:00a Property Ministry
6:00p St. Paul Ringers
7:00p St. Paul Singers

May 29 Thursday
9:30a Food Pantry Prep
4:00p Prayer Team Meeting Zoom

May 31 Saturday
9:00a Food Pantry Distribution



- 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 Pastors Carlos, Derek, Nicole and Rob, Specialists Kim & Brittney, Support Staff Tina, Yuliet, & Ileana. •SURE - Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity.
- Community Meal & Food Pantry Guests. •Prayers upon the HOPE Community Prayer Cross. •Hope Lutheran Church, Gulf Cove (Port Charlotte) •St. Paul members, St. Paul ECLC teachers and students and the Arlington Park neighborhood.

Members

Beetle/O'Hara Family
Dorothy Boller
Susan Burmaster
Judy Carnal
Sue Fisher
Valerie Nicoills
James Paulsson
Esther Smith
Betty Smowton

Homebound Members

Donna Casala
Evelyn Gulliksen
Lindy Lindemann
Anna Mathisen
Virginia McQuaig
Michael Reiter
Carole Wilson

Friends and Family

Alice - *JoAnn Jordan's friend*
Bill - *Jan Kruse's friend*
Debbie & Frank - *Scherr's friends*
Ed - *Sandy Choquette's friend*
Donnie - *CM guest*
Gina - *Jan Kruse's friend*
Lucas - *Scherr's neighbor's grandson*
Mark - *Hillerich's friend*
Rick - *Linda Knight's nephew*
Susan - *Cindy Paxton's friend*
Tunde - *Irene Felicetti's friend*
Marie - *Cindy Paxton's friend*

Sandi Acevedo - *Acevedos sister-in-law*
Clinton Allen - *Jim Paulsson's friend*
Kareem Ali - *Fred Melton's friend*
Laura Anderson - *Roberts' niece*
Lori Boller - *Dorothy Boller's daughter-in-law*
Sheryl Brandes - *Scherr's sister-in-law*
Jim Broad - *Hannah Puckhaber's friend*
Kim Brown - *Hildreth's niece*
Buete & Pearson family - *Brian McCulley's family*
Caroline Burmaster - *Susan Burmaster's sister-in-law*
Todd Couch - *Sandy Choquette's son*
Mike Cunningham - *H. Roberts' friend*
Rachel Dolgan - *Hannah Puckhaber's friend*
Dave Eller - *Carolyn Mele's friend*
John & Joy Emanuelli - *Roberts' friends*
Gladys Faraone - *H. Robert's friend*
John Foor - *Ryan's friend*
Susan Gallagher - *Dorothy Boller's daughter*
Gallagher Family - *Dorothy Boller's in-laws*
Glenn Greenwood - *friend of Hillerich's*
Vickie Hall - *Fonda Davies' sister*
Lois Heisler - *Irene Felicetti's family*
Niklaus Heisler - *Irene Felicetti's great-grandson*
Katy Hernandez - *M. Acevedo's niece*
Kara Johnson - *Amy Hildreth's friend*
Nicole Ketter - *Susan Burmaster's friend*
Philip Koepke - *Irene Felicetti's friend*
Kate Kretschmann - *Lindy Linderman's friend*

Karen Kugler - *Marty Hillerich's friend*
Kenny Manselle - *June Manselle's son*
David McCall - *Judy Roberts' brother*
Marsha McKinney - *former member*
Becky Nobles - *Lindy Lindermann's friend*
Linda & Jim Norris - *Doris Schlotterback's family*
Karen Paulsson - *Jim Paulsson's sister*
Manny Ribas - *Cindy Schlotterback's friend*
Clint Shantz - *former member*
Brian & Kenny Schlotterback - *Doris Schlotterback's sons*
Hailey Schlotterback - *Doris Schlotterback's granddaughter-in-law*
Bethany Smith - *Smiths' daughter*
Natalie Smowton Boxx - *Betty Smowton's great-granddaughter*
Noel Scott Studenwalt - *Smiths' nephew*
Bill Sweeney - *Hutfliz's grandson*
Swisher Family - *Kathie Snyder's family*
Bill & Jean Thompson - *Dorothy Boller's sister & brother-in-law*
Dan Torrence - *Kathy Snyder's friend*
David Van Ness - *Missy Craig's brother*
Elaine & Mark Vanderweight - *Jim Paulsson's friends*
Curtis Weckwerth - *Rick Weckwerth's cousin*
John & Janet Welther - *Ethel Hamilton's family*

"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

Rev. Ashley Nicolls, Pastor

Rev. Don Hillerich, Pastor Emeritus

Sunday Schedule

9:30a Service of Worship In-person

9:30a Service of Worship on Facebook Live



St. Paul Mission Prayer



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.