

The Messenger



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

JUNE 2025

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

The Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly this year is June 12-14 in Orlando. This year's theme is from Ecclesiastes, "There is a time for everything."



I like the logo that includes the clock and the cross. It reminds me of the connection made from Psalm 23 that God is with us in every season of our lives. And it's not just every season, but every second, minute and hour.

If you aren't familiar with Ecclesiastes, here is chapter 3 verses 1-15 from The Message paraphrase.

3 There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth:

2-8 A right time for birth and another for death,
A right time to plant and another to reap,
A right time to kill and another to heal,
A right time to destroy and another to construct,
A right time to cry and another to laugh,
A right time to lament and another to cheer,
A right time to make love and another to abstain,
A right time to embrace and another to part,
A right time to search and another to count your losses,
A right time to hold on and another to let go,
A right time to rip out and another to mend,
A right time to shut up and another to speak up,
A right time to love and another to hate,
A right time to wage war and another to make peace.

continued pg. 4

WhatsInside

Pg. 2	May Council Report
Pg. 3	ECLC News/thank You
Pg. 4	Faith Op./Cont. PrAshley's Article
Pg. 5	Birthday/Anniversaries/Hurricane Prep
Pg. 6	Calendar of Events
Pg. 7	Prayer Requests

May Council Report

Pastor Ashley presented additional information about the 2026 Vision2Action Synod grant following discussion with the grant process coach. The Letter of Intent will be submitted for the June 30, 2025, deadline as there is a lot of interest in the Spanish/English classes that would be offered if funded.

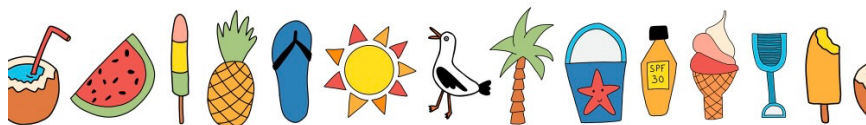
Synod Assembly (June 11-14, 2025) representatives will be Marty Hillerich and Esther Smith.

Pastor Ashley reported that we received the final payment from the state for the *Raise the Roof* campaign.

Pastor Ashley said that donations to the Big Blue Bin for Simply Salvage have been steady. St. Paul and the ECLC will split the first check in the amount of \$220. St. Paul receipts will go towards the remaining balance of the Raise the Roof campaign. Continued donations are encouraged of all items except large furniture and appliances.

JoAnn Jordan and Judy Carnal continue to work on the Constitution changes. These will be submitted to the subcommittee in August; and the Congregation in September for a vote in December 2025.

VBS for this year will be held at St. Paul on July 28, 29, and 30. The theme is God's Creation.



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.

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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

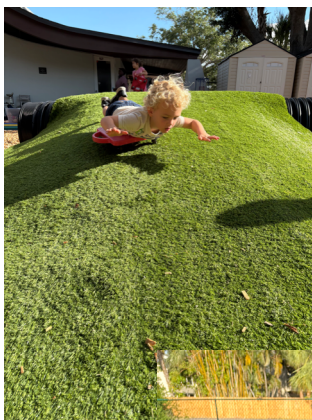
Ministry Team Leaders or Council Liaison

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.

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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.

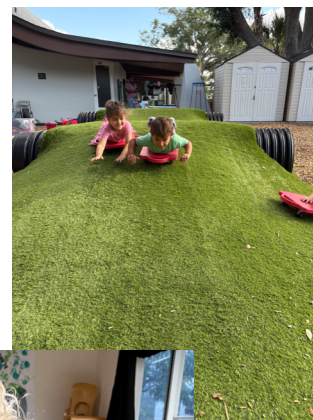


Using large motor skills going down hill.

ECLC News



Socialization and fine motor skills used.



Practicing for VPK graduation.

Fine motor skills being used as the children pretend to paint the house on the playground or put together a puzzle.



PrAshley,

On behalf of the Christian families of Bethlehem in the Holy Land, we would like to thank you for having us at your church and for supporting Bethlehem Christians during this very difficult time. We really enjoyed being with you and were impressed by the interest of your church members. Please thank every one of them on our behalf.

We would really appreciate you mentioning the name of our ministry to the other churches in the next conference meeting in case any of them are interested in hosting our ministry like you have done. Also writing a short letter of recommendation on behalf of the Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative will help us a lot.

For the past years we have been facilitating trips to the Holy Land for Christians from the churches that we had visited in the USA. These trips are well organized itineraries with very competitive prices, and may include a special day and overnight with the Christian families from Bethlehem as part of the itinerary. All groups were very impressed and satisfied with their visit. Whenever you think it is the appropriate time for you, please try to raise the idea and see if any of the church members are interested in going to the Holy Land. We will arrange a Zoom meeting among those who are interested and our Holy Land. Trip organizers will answer all their questions, and they will build an itinerary according to their needs.

Please e-mail me with any questions at: ghanemjgeorge@gmail.com

We hope to meet you again either here in the USA or in Bethlehem.

Yours in Jesus,
Dr. George Ghanem
703-745-2604



Thank You!



Hope Seeds

Hope Seeds met on Monday, May 19, and fifteen volunteers packed 3,900 bags of apple, strawberry and watermelon seeds. The next meeting is scheduled for June 17 at 1:00p.



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

continued pg. 1

9-13 But in the end, does it really make a difference what anyone does? I've had a good look at what God has given us to do—busywork, mostly. True, God made everything beautiful in itself and in its time—but he's left us in the dark, so we can never know what God is up to, whether he's coming or going. I've decided that there's nothing better to do than go ahead and have a good time and get the most we can out of life. That's it—eat, drink, and make the most of your job. It's God's gift.

14 I've also concluded that whatever God does, that's the way it's going to be, always. No addition, no subtraction. God's done it and that's it. That's so we'll quit asking questions and simply worship in holy fear.

15 Whatever was, is.

Whatever will be, is.

That's how it always is with God.

God's peace and blessings to you. -PrAshley

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.



June 1	Kendall Riley
June 5	Rev. Fred Melton
June 6	Ruby Williamson
June 8	Manny Acevedo
June 9	Thad Masters
June 11	Marthe Hildreth
June 14	Olivia Williamson
June 16	Mary Schulte
June 19	Jordan Masse
June 21	Daniel Mills
June 27	Isabel Waterman
June 28	Lucinda Schlotterback
June 28	Mark Smith
June 29	Linda Knight
June 30	Marilyn Hutfilz

Surveys are Coming



Hurricane Season begins June 1st. As you know, it is a long one, not ending until November 30th. We pray this year will be a quiet season. To better prepare ourselves for a severe storm, we are asking you to update our records with important information. When you receive the survey in your Narthex mailbox or regular mail, please complete the form and return it to the church by placing it in the offering plate, dropping it off at the office, or by mail. We use this information to ensure that you have a safe place to shelter and if you may need assistance in preparing for sheltering in place. Keeping emergency contact information up to date also allows us to have this information on hand in case of any type of emergency on campus throughout the year.

Thank you for completing this form and returning it to the church office.

The Safety and Emergency Preparedness Ministry Team



STAY COOL!



June 11	Mark & Nicole Riley
June 17	Keith & Marthe Hildreth
June 17	Robert & Kirsten Masse
June 24	Rev. Donald & Martha Hillerich

June 1 Sunday

9:30a Worship Service
11:00a Sharing & Caring
Ministry Meeting

June 2 Monday

8:30a Garden Camp
1:00p EvANGELism
Ministry Meeting

June 3 Tuesday

8:30a Garden Camp
5:30p Community Meal

June 4 Wednesday

8:00a Property Ministry
8:30a Garden Camp
6:00p St. Paul Ringers
7:00p St. Paul Singers

June 5 Thursday

8:30a Garden Camp
9:30a Food Pantry Prep
4:00p Prayer Team
Meeting Zoom

June 6 Friday

8:30a Garden Camp

June 7 Saturday

9:00a Food Pantry
Distribution

June 8 Sunday

9:30a Worship Service



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 9 Monday

8:30a Garden Camp

June 15 Sunday

Father's Day

Messenger Deadline

9:30a Worship Service

June 10 Tuesday

Ministry Reports Due

8:30a Garden Camp
5:30p Community Meal

June 16 Monday

8:30a Garden Camp
1:00p Hope Seeds

June 11 Wednesday

8:00a Property Ministry
8:30a Garden Camp
6:00p St. Paul Ringers
7:00p St. Paul Singers

June 17 Tuesday

8:30a Garden Camp
5:30p Community Meal

June 12 Thursday

8:30a Garden Camp
9:30a Food Pantry Prep
12:00p Finance Meeting
Zoom
1:00p Executive Meeting
4:00p Prayer Team
Meeting Zoom

June 18 Wednesday

8:00a Property Ministry
8:30a Garden Camp
6:00p St. Paul Ringers
7:00p St. Paul Singers

June 13 Friday

8:30a Garden Camp

June 19 Thursday

Juneteenth Day

9:30a Food Pantry Prep
4:00p Prayer Team
Meeting Zoom
6:30p Council Meeting

June 14 Saturday

Flag Day

9:00a Food Pantry
Distribution

June 20 Friday

8:30a Garden Camp

June 21 Saturday

9:00a Food Pantry
Distribution

June 22 Sunday

9:30a Worship Service

June 23 Monday

8:30a Garden Camp

June 24 Tuesday

8:30a Garden Camp
5:30p Community Meal

June 25 Wednesday

8:00a Property Ministry
8:30a Garden Camp
6:00p St. Paul Ringers
7:00p St. Paul Singers

June 26 Thursday

8:30a Garden Camp
9:30a Food Pantry Prep
4:00p Prayer Team
Meeting Zoom

June 27 Friday

8:30a Garden Camp

June 28 Saturday

Confirmation Lock In

9:00a Food Pantry
Distribution

June 29 Sunday

9:30a Worship Service

June 30 Monday

8:30a Garden Camp



- 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
Colleen Ryan
Mike Scherr
Frank & Joan Scianni
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
Brad - Cindy Paxton's brother
Debbie & Frank - Scherr's friends
Ed - Sandy Choquette's friend
Donnie - CM guest
Jeff - CM guest
Lucas - Scherr's neighbor's grandson
Mark - Hillerich's friend
Rick - Linda Knight's nephew
Sharon - Jane Schubert's friend
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
Sheryl Brandes - Sue 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
Glenn Greenwood - Hillerich's friend
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
Sonya Johnson - JoAnn Jordan's aunt
Nicole Ketter - Susan Burmaster's friend
Philip Koepke - Irene Felicetti's friend
Kate Kretschmann - Lindy Linderman's friend

Karen Kugler - Marty Hillerich's friend
David McCall - Judy Roberts' brother
Addie McLean - Director ECLC Lisa's daughter
Marsha McKinney - former member
Becky Nobles - Lindy Lindermann's friend
Linda & Jim Norris - Doris Schlotterback's family
Karen Paulsson - Jim Paulsson's sister
Hannah Puckhaber
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 - Hutfliiz'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.