

## Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

Sunday is **New Member** and **Stewardship Sunday**. We will officially welcome Kim Farrell and Jill and John Scherer during worship and during coffee and fellowship time after worship. We will also be collecting the Time, Talent, and Treasure intents during worship. During the offering time we encourage everyone to bring up their envelope and place it in the basket near the baptismal font. I think it is appropriate to have the basket near the font as these envelopes share our intentions of how we will live into our baptismal identities as children of God for 2023. We will have a prayer of blessing over them after they are all collected. If you can't attend worship, please send your intents into the office.



This coming week is **Thanksgiving**. St. Paul will have a meal at noon on Thursday. If you haven't already told Marty Hillerich that you are coming, please let her know. She wants to make sure there is enough food.

**Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE)** had Community Problems Assembly. It was a great gathering of Justice Leaders to plan for the coming year's ministry. I was voted in as co-chair of the Board for the year. It was decided that SURE would focus on Affordable Housing in Sarasota. We know this is a need in the community, and we personally realize it from our ECLC teachers. They can't live in the area easily. Our directors live north and south at least 45 minutes away because that's where they can afford to live. One of our teachers is actually in The Lofts, an apartment complex created for teachers and other professionals in the area. Ideas like The Lofts and other ideas are what SURE will look at to help get real affordable housing in Sarasota. Affordable is definitely a term that needs to be defined as it means different things to different people. The next step is to start researching the topic. If you have interest in helping SURE research the best solutions, please let me know and I can get you connected with the teams. Another way is to attend the research kick-off gathering on Tuesday, December 6, at 6p at Pine Shore Presbyterian Church (6135 Beachwood Ave, SRQ 34231).

SURE is also looking for **administrative volunteers** to make calls, data entry, update the website and write letters/emails. If you are interested in this please let me know and I will get you in touch with the Executive Director.

The **Florida-Bahamas Synod** has received \$6 million from a sale of a congregation. They have been asking members of our congregations how they should be using the money. Here is the next step of the process. It's your time to vote. Know that the survey will take some time to fill out. I suggest printing out the proposed initiatives and then vote electronically. There are a lot of great ideas and it is hard to choose and prioritize them but that is what we are being asked to do.

### **Vision to Action Phase 3: Please Vote!**

We have come to the time in our Synod's Vision to Action Process where we need as many of our Synod congregation members as possible to vote on the goals that have emerged from our listening. Your votes inform the Synod Council and help them to focus on the ministry initiatives you feel are most important for the future of the Florida Bahamas Synod.

Please [click here to take this very important survey](#) and also share it with other active members of your congregation. You can download of list of the proposed initiatives [here](#).

Take care and God bless,

*-Pr Ashley*