

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

It's already October and this month has a lot of ministry and educational opportunities.

Tomorrow (Saturday) we will have a first communion class for two of our youth. Jayvion, Esther and Mark Smith's grandson, will have his first communion on Sunday. Isabel, our administrator Tracy's daughter, will be baptized and have her first communion on October 13. We thought it would be neat to celebrate Ethel Hamilton's 100th birthday and welcome Isabel into the family of God on the same Sunday. Our oldest member and newest celebrated on the same day. Isabel is the one who had the saying that Ethel is almost old. Well, I guess on that Sunday she will officially be old at 100. On the 13th we will celebrate Ethel after worship with an extended coffee hour and program in her honor.

The relationship with Sarasota Moravian Church continues. They were at the church last Saturday helping deep clean inside and help pick up branches from the storm outside. Pr. Thomas' wife, Rosa, has been volunteering at the food pantry every week to help non-English speaking clients with registering and making them feel welcomed. During the Conference on Ministry I attended a couple weeks ago in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida, I felt the Holy Spirit continue to push me forward to continue in the relationship with the Moravian congregation. Sarasota Moravian Church ministers to primarily people from Nicaragua. Their members speak Miskito, Spanish, and English. The bishop had a wonderful sermon on different cultures working and learning together. The bishop is from Venezuela. His second call was to minister in a Mexican community. He had to learn the Mexican traditions as they were different than his more Caribbean traditions. It was an insightful message that tugged at my heart to learn more about our brothers and sisters who worship at St. Paul.

We are in the middle of Hispanic Heritage month. Our bishop shared a short video to introduce us to history of it. Here is a link to the video. <https://vimeo.com/1014637032> There is even a devotional written by the Just Love team of our Synod. [English Devotional](#) or here <https://fbsynod.com/just-love/>

A few other events happening in October are:

The ECLC's Trike-A-Thon on Tuesday at 9:30-11:30a. It's a great way to meet the families, teachers, and directors of our school. I hope you can attend. It's a fun event to watch the kids ride their bikes around the circle drive.

Next Saturday (not tomorrow), is Adopt-a-Road at 8am. This will be a partnership with the Moravian congregation to clean up Bahia Vista from 41-Tuttle. All are welcome to help or even just show up to get to know some of the members of the Moravian congregation.

On Saturday, October 19th at 1:30 St. Paul will host an education event by a local historian entitled, **LBJ and Florida's Civil Rights Movement**. In 1963, Florida's civil rights movement and the vice presidency of Lyndon Baines Johnson intertwined in surprising ways. Though Florida's politicians had been successful—thus far—in keeping the state off the front page of national newspapers when it came to matters of race, that was about to change. Join award-winning Sarasota author and historian Liz Coursen as she discusses LBJ's actions and activities in Florida during this tumultuous time in our state and our nation.

And please continue to bring in Halloween Candy. We'll put bags together on Sunday, October 27th after worship. We will hand these bags out during Trunk-or-Treat on October 31st in the front parking lots 6-7:30.

Take care and God bless

-PrAshley