



St. Paul Lutheran Church

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

Third Sunday of Easter | April 14, 2024

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



Assisting In Worship

Assisting Minister

Jim Paulsson

Reader

Irene Felicetti

Acolyte

Sue Barry

Sound

John Beyer
Mike Scherr

Camera Operator

Sue Scherr

Screen Operator

Mike Scherr

Ushers

Judy Roberts &
Kathie Snyder

Greeter

Hank Roberts

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 in the box when you enter, and it will be placed on the cross.

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 — “The Old Rugged Cross” — George Bennard — John Ferreira

Gathering Hymn — *The Day of Resurrection!* verses 1 through 3

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,

the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.
all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
 Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!
 and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

Response: Amen.

Pastor: Look, here is water!

Response: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Pastor: Here is water, through which God created and continues to create. In the beginning, weaving with the Breath of life every living being; throughout history, a gateway for divine deliverance; in every moment, re-membering the mystery of life, bonding all of creation as one.

Response: We give you thanks, blessed Creator, for the gift of life, for this water without which life would cease, for the gift of baptism, through which these waters birth us again into your promise of newness, wholeness, and oneness.

Pastor: Look, here is water!

Response: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Affirmation of Baptism (Reception of New Members)

Pastor: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism. We welcome officially, Sharon Mashanic, Betty Masters, Rev. Fred Melton, Susan Rocchio, Esther and Mark Smith, and Brian White.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Response: Amen.

Pastor: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father?

Response: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Response: 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.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

Response: 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.

Pastor: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

Response: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in Sharon, Betty, Pr. Fred, Susan, Esther, Mark, and Brian, the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Response: Amen.

Pastor: Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

Response: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray,

Response: Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music – “We’re a Fellowship of Believers”- Jay Althouse - St. Paul Singers

Children's Message

Scripture ~ Acts 3:12-19

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. ¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

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

Scripture ~ Psalm 4

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

²"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"

³Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; the Lord will hear me when I call.

⁴Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.

⁶Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?" Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.

⁷You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound.

⁸In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me rest secure.

Scripture ~ 1 John 3:1-7

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. ⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

Gospel ~ Luke 24:36b-48

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 24th chapter.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to

rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

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

Sermon ~ Pastor Ashley Nicolls

Hymn of the Day - As we Gather at Your Table verses 1 and 3

1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.

Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for-give as you for-gave;
There no more will en-vy blind us nor will pride our peace de-stroy,

teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic-t'ry known.
may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932

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Prayers of the Church

Assisting Minister: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. (*pause for silence*)

Assisting Minister: O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers.

Response: As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life.

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth.

Response: Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety.

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response:** hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge.

Response: Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people.

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response:** hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: O God our elder, you care for all your children.

Response: Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty.

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

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response:** hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: O God our center, you bring all people together in you.

Response: Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community.

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response:** hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever.

Response: We remember our beloved who have died. As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn.

Assisting Minister: God of grace, **Response:** hear our prayer.

Assisting Minister: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Response: Amen.

The Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

Response: And also with you.

Offering

(The collection plates will be brought forward at this time. Offering plates can still be found at the back of the sanctuary if you did not place your offering in the plates when you entered. Online giving at www.stpaulsarasota.org is also available.)

Offering Prayer

Assisting Minister: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

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 seats may lift up their elements at this time).

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 is risen. Christ will come again.

Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your love and teach us to pray.

Response: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at Jesus' table.

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

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: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

Response: Amen.

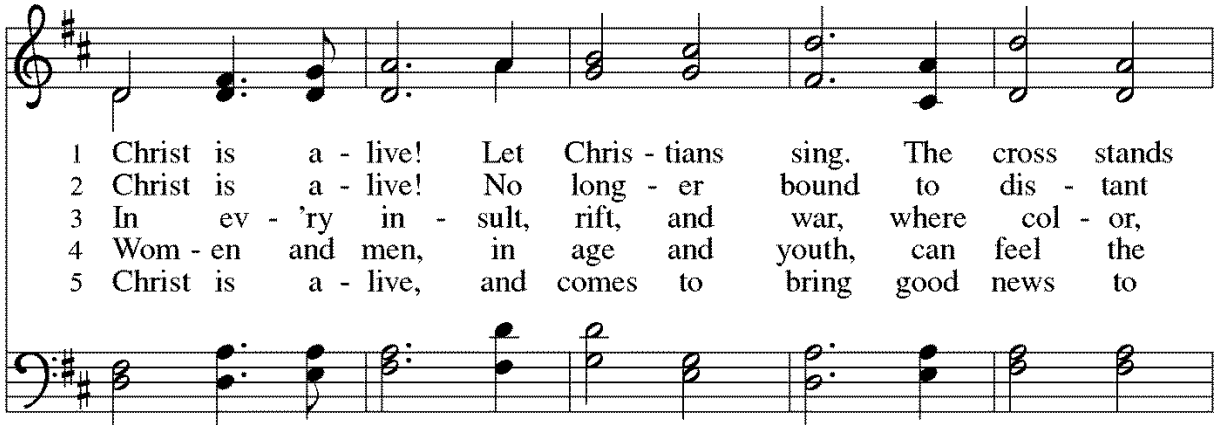
Blessing

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

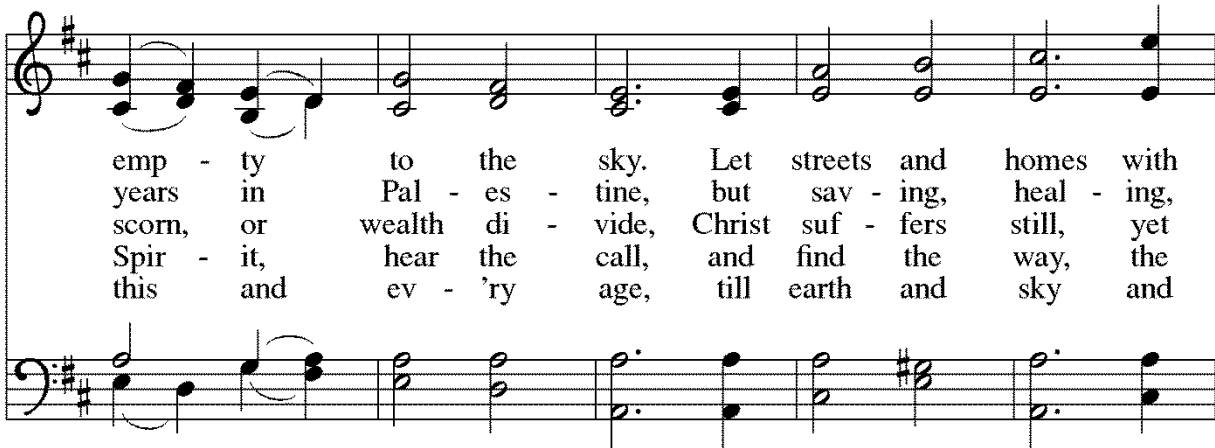
Response: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you now and always. **Response: Amen.**

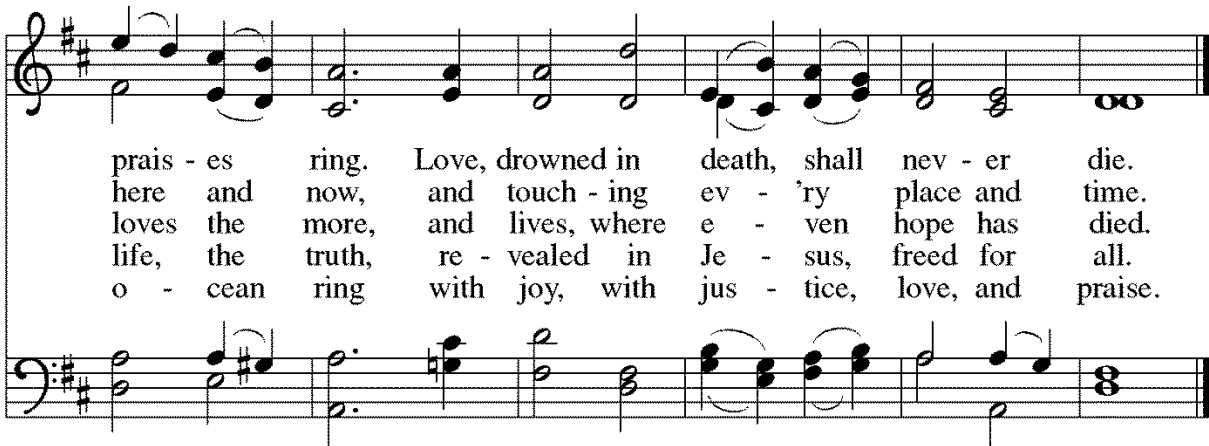
Sending Hymn - Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing verses 1, 4, and 5



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
 Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789
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Dismissal

Pastor: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Children: And all God's children say,

Response: Amen.

Postlude "Exsultate, Jubilate" – W. Amadeus Mozart – John Ferreira

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

Attendance for last Sunday morning: 61 in-person; 127 views; (4/8/24)

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.

Please remember in your prayers...

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, Assisting Ministers to the Bishop Pastors Khader, Rob, and Nicole, Specialists Kim & Brittney, Support Staff Tina, Yuliet, & Ileana.

SURE – Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity, Community Meal and Food Pantry guests.

Prayers upon the HOPE Community Prayer Cross and the Arlington Park Neighborhood.

St. Paul members, especially, Joann, Kevin, and Michael Flanigan, Bob Fong, and Benjamin, Helen, and Sarah Foster.

ECLC teachers and students especially, Eliana, Hayden, Celia, Selah, Eliana, Zeven, Landon, Miss Allie and Miss Edwine.

<p>Members Beetle Family John Beyer Henry Blosser Susan Burmaster Missy Craig Sue Fisher Bob Fong JoAnn Jordan Bob Lariviere Lindy Lindemann John Miller Cecilia Morvick James Paulsson John & Hannah Puckhaber John Ryan Sue Scherr Betty Smowton Ginger Webb Karin Zukowski</p> <p>Homebound Members Theresa Alger Sharyn Brodnax Joan Caddell Donna Casala Evelyn Gulliksen June Manselle Virginia McQuaig Michael Reiter Carole Wilson</p> <p>Friends and Family Brenda – daughter of Ginny McQuaig David – step-dad of Cody Eddleman David – neighbor of JoAnn Jordan Debbie – friend of Scherr LaShonda – friend of John Beyer Marilyn – aunt of S. Weckwerth Tibor – regular attender Susan & Jim – friends of C. Paxton</p>	<p>Sandi Acevedo – sister-in-law of Acevedos Clinton Allen – friend of Jim Paulsson Doug Benoit – St. Paul volunteer Buete and Pearson family– family of Brian McCulley Caroline Burmaster – sister-in-law of Susan Burmaster Kathleen Cannon – friend of Puckhabers Alice Chanover – friend of Puckhabers Jessica Clements – friend of Kathie Snyder Mike Cunningham- friend of H. Roberts Cody Eddleman – husband of John Beyer John and Joy Emanuelli – friends of Roberts Gladys Faraone – friend of Hank Roberts Colton Fong – grandson of Bob Fong John Foor – friends of Ryans Gallagher Family – in-laws of Dorothy Boller Lois Heisler – family of Irene Felicetti Niklaus Heisler – great-grandson of Irene Felicetti Katy Hernandez – niece of M. Acevedo Philip Koepke – friend of Irene Felicetti Joe Kramer – friend of Puckhabers. Kate Kretschmann- family of Lindy Lindemann Karen Kugler – friend of Marty Hillerich Kenny Manselle—son of June Manselle David McCall – brother of Judy Roberts Fran McCracken – friend of Kathie Snyder Marsha McKinney- former member Janie McNeil – friend of regular guest Pam Mills – sister of Daniel Mills Becky Nobles – friend of L.Lindemann</p>	<p>Linda and Jim Norris – family of Doris Schlotterback Karen Paulsson – sister of Jim Paulsson Terry Panthana – niece of Jean Panthana Patricia Puckhaber Zerega – daughter of John Puckhaber Manny Rivas – friend of Cindy Schlotterback Ashley Rivera - daughter of Esther Smith Clint Shantz – former member Brian, Kenny, & Tommy Schlotterback— sons of Doris Schlotterback Haley Schlotterback – granddaughter-in-law of Doris Schlotterback. James, Mike, & Rob Scianni – sons of Joan and Frank Scianni Donna Shepherd - sister of Gail Seyfarth Joan Simone – friend of the Puckhabers Bethany Smith – daughter of Brenda and Barry Smith Dave Spitzer – former member Muriel Stevenson – sister of JoAnn Jordan Noel Scott Studenwalt – nephew of B&B Smith Bill Sweeney – grandson of G& M Hutfilz Jean Taffe and family – cousin of Susan Burmaster Elaine & Mark Vanderweight- friends of Jim Paulsson David Weinberger – friend of Puckhabers John and Janet Welther – family of Ethel Hamilton Pr. Pete Zieg and wife Judy – friends of JoAnn Jordan Pr. William Zimmermann – former pastor of John Puckhaber</p>
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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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The Rev. Don Hillerich, D.D. - Pastor Emeritus – djhillerich@yahoo.com

Executive Committee

Irene Felicetti, President JoAnn Jordan, Vice President
George Hutfilz, Treasurer Don Hillerich, Secretary

Congregation Council

Irene Felicetti	Marthe Hildreth	Pr. Ashley Nicolls
Lori Fountain-Guillaume	Don Hillerich	Nancy Parmakian
Carol Grosch	JoAnn Jordan	Judy Roberts
Amy Hildreth	Bob Lariviere	Alexandra Wise



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