

The Messenger

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



DECEMBER 2022

Welcome Advent



Mid-week Advent Worship

Wednesdays Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14

Soup Supper—6p • Worship—7p

The ladies of St. Paul will prepare a simple soup supper for you, including beverage and dessert. After which stay for a short and meaningful service of Holden Evening Prayer.



Blue Christmas Advent Worship

Wednesday Dec. 21

Soup Supper—6p • Worship—7p

On this longest night of the year, we can understand that Christmas isn't always the most wonderful time. This worship service will be the time to name our losses and griefs in a safe place knowing that Christ hears us and weeps with us.

The ladies of St. Paul will prepare a simple soup supper for you, including beverage and dessert.

Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, Dec. 24

Worship—7p

A special time of waiting for the birth of our savior will be filled with vocal and handbell choirs, Holy Communion, a special guest for the youth, and a candlelit Silent Night.



Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, Dec. 25

Worship—9:30a

Return on Christmas Day as we celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus.

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The Congregation Council met for its regular monthly meeting via Zoom, November 17, 2022.

- Approved a proposal from David Baber to prepare a National Register for Historic Preservation nomination through the State of Florida Historic Resources for the buildings of St. Paul Lutheran Church.
- Approved an Evangelism Ministry fundraiser for the Education Building Renovation Project on February 18, 2023.
- Approved Life Line Screening’s use of the Fellowship Hall all day on Monday, March 27, 2023.
- A Special Congregation Council (in person) meeting will be held the week of November 27, 2022, at 6:30p; date TBD.

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 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

Synod Parish Deacon: Michele Hilton

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Donald J. Hillerich, D.D.

Executive Committee

George Hutfilz, president
Sue Scherr, vice president
Sharon Wittren, secretary
Marty Hillerich, treasurer

Congregation Council

Irene Felicetti, Carol Grosch, Marty Hillerich, George Hutfilz, Bob Lariviere, Daniel Mills, Judy Roberts, Sue Scherr, Susy Scholl, Sharon Wittren, Ron Zimmerman, Pastor Ashley Nicolls

Ministry Team Leaders

Sharing & Caring – Jan Kruse
Christian Education – Susy Scholl
Communications – Sue Scherr
Early Childhood Learning Center – Marilyn Hutfilz
Evangelism – Bob Lariviere
Safety & Emergency Preparedness - Cindy Paxton
Fellowship – Carol Grosch
Finance – John McAuliffe
Food Pantry – George Hutfilz
Outreach Ministry Fund – Daniel Mills
Property – Brian McCulley, Rick Barry
Social – Judy Roberts
Stewardship – George & Marilyn Hutfilz
Worship and Music – Sharon Wittren
Parish Administrator – Tracy Bateman
Director of Music – John Ferreira

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.



From Pastor Ashley

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

I've been hearing a commercial that plays the song, "It's the most wonderful time of the year," since last Spring. It's not a Christmas commercial but every time I hear it I think 'already, Christmas commercials,' but alas it is for an allergy medicine. Their most wonderful time of the year is allergy season so folks can take their medicine. But now we are hearing Christmas commercials as it is time to start preparing for Jesus' birth. The most wonderful time of the year for me as a Christian is Easter but Christmas is right up there too. We wouldn't have Easter without Christmas. Christ's death and resurrection wouldn't have happened without his birth. Maybe it's the chicken or the egg question but to me Christ's birth is only important because of Good Friday and Easter. But it is important because Good Friday and Easter did happen. So we celebrate this most wonderful time of the year part 1.

This year St. Paul's preparations will include Mid-Week Advent Soup Suppers and Worship. It's great that they are back. We haven't had them since 2019. Soup Suppers are at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, and 21. And then at 7pm we will worship with Holden Evening Prayer Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14. I love Holden Evening Prayer and it is especially appropriate for our time before Christmas as it tells the story of the Angel Gabriel going to Mary and telling of Jesus' birth through her. We also sing about the joyous light of the heavenly glory. It reminds me of the light of the angels when they tell the shepherds about Jesus' birth. And we close with a song called, "Watch, O Lord." It's based on the St. Augustine prayer of the same name. On December 21, the longest night of the year we will have a Blue Christmas worship that helps us reflect on Christmas even amidst grief and sorrow. We know Christmas time isn't always the most wonderful time of year because it brings mixed emotions for most people. This worship service will be the time to name our losses and griefs in a safe place knowing that Christ hears us and weeps with us. I hope you are able to join us on Wednesdays evenings to prepare for Jesus' birth.

Another way of preparing for Jesus' birth, especially for kids is Santa. St. Paul will again have a Visit with Santa on Saturday, December 3 from 2-4p in the Fellowship Hall. It's a time of crafts, snacks, writing letters to

Santa, and even getting pictures with him too. This ministry is a great way to see kids smiling and laughing and enjoying what for kids is normally the most wonderful time of the year. We get to see Christmastime through the eyes of a child and it can bring us back to remembering Jesus as a baby which puts everything into perspective of why we do everything we do as Christians. God loved the world and so we do too.

On Christmas Eve, St. Paul will have one worship service at 7pm. It will be live streamed on Facebook. We will have our handbell and vocal choirs, a special guest for the children and young at heart, Holy Communion, and Silent Night in candlelight. St. Paul will have a Christmas Day worship service because Christmas Day falls on Sunday this year. We will worship at our regular Sunday time at 9:30a. It also will be live streamed on Facebook.

One thing I love about Christmas as a Christian is that we celebrate 12 days of Christmas that actually start on Christmas Day, so we aren't done celebrating on the 25th. We get to continue to say Merry Christmas and get funny looks and be able to share about the 12 days of Christmas. And one way I'm celebrating this year is my one-year anniversary in my house. On Dec. 28, 2021 I bought my house and I said it would take a year to get it done and I am right on track. My mom and I are planning an open house for St. Paul members and friends on Wednesday, December 28, 2022 from 1-4p. It will be a time for you to come and see my house, have treats and non-alcoholic drinks. No need to RSVP, just show up in that timeframe and we'll be there to welcome you. I'm excited to show it off to you as I know I've been in your prayers over the last year-plus with it and I really appreciate all the help Rick Barry, John Beyer, and Mike and Sue Scherr have given me to get the house this far along. Of course, a house is never really completed as there are always projects that we still want to do, but it should be good enough to show and maybe even start meeting in if we need extra meeting space in the future. If you aren't available on December 28 and still want to see my house, just let me know and we can arrange a time.

May God bless your preparation time for Jesus' birth and bless your 12 days of Christmas too!



-Pr Ashley

Adopt-A-Road

Saturday, December 17

It's time again to hit the road and do some community service. Don your yellow God's Work. Our Hands. tee shirt and sneakers and help St. Paul pick up trash along Bahia Vista St..

We'll start at the church at 8:15a, split into two groups, and each cover a one mile section. No experience needed, gloves and bags provided (bring your own gloves if you wish.)

Congregation Meeting

Sunday, December 11

All members are requested to attend this meeting after worship to hear details and approve the 2023 Spending Plan and vote in new Congregation Council members.

Change of Address

Member Donna Casala has moved and her new address is:

Sarasota Center for Nursing/Rehab
4783 Fruitville Rd. Rm 405
Sarasota FL 34232



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.

You are invited to join a group that gather **every Thursday at 4p via Zoom.**

"We talk, share our lives, joys, concerns, and we pray." No stress! Follow the link below (it is the same every week) or email Kimberly Heindl for an invitation: kaheindl@comcast.net.

If you are not able to join us, please do take a moment in your day to be with us in spirit.

Topic: St Paul Prayer Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81662784525?pwd=QSt4TGNSR2F3L0ovUDJ3SVdWbjRYUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 6278 4525

Passcode: 628552

Son Day School

This new group meets after worship each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall during Social & Coffee Hour. Grab a coffee and a sweet treat first.

We will reflect on Sunday's worship readings, sermon, and whatever else! A great way to get even more out of the day's sermon.

Dominoes Night

Held the first Friday of each month, come and play Mexican Train Dominoes on **Dec. 2 at 6p.** It's great fun and easy to learn. We'll have lite snacks to share. Contact Susan Burmaster for questions, susan.burmaste@floridamoves.com.

Hope Seeds Ministry



God's Work. Our Hands.

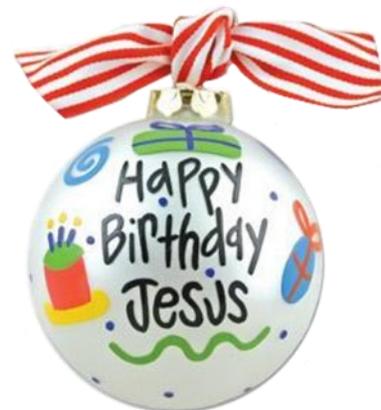
Come join us to socialize, have fun, and make a difference in the world.

We fill several thousand small bags with seeds which will be sent to several countries so families can grow their own food.

We gather the third Monday of every month. Come when you can, leave when you must. **The next gathering will be Monday, Dec. 19, 1-3p.**

Open House

Pastor Ashley and her mom, Valerie, are planning an open house for St. Paul members and friends on Wednesday, December 28, 2022 from 1-4p. It will be a time for you to come and see their house, have treats and non-alcoholic drinks. No need to RSVP, just show up in that timeframe and they'll be there to welcome you. They are excited to show it off to you as they know they've been in your prayers over the last year-plus with it. If you aren't available on December 28 and still want to see the house, just let them know and they can arrange a time.





Dec 6 - John Miller
 Dec 7 - John Puckhaber
 Dec 8 - Wilma Panthana
 Dec 11 - Judy Roberts
 Dec 14 - Sandy Choquette
 Dec 18 - Robyn Wood
 Dec 27 - Myrtle Krause
 Dec 29 - Wilma Armstrong
 Dec 29 - Patricia Collis
 Dec 30 - Earleen Ashbrook



Dec 7 - Evelyn & Pete Gulliksen
 Dec 21 - Brenda & Barry Smith

An Advent Daily Prayer

Dear Lord, please allow me to embrace Advent in the way you intend: as a way to prepare for Your arrival. May everything I do—every gift I send, every party I attend, every meal I share—remind me to prepare space in my heart for You. *Amen.*

Visit with Santa

December 3 • 2—4p

Volunteers are needed now for our annual community youth event. Sign up or let Rick or Sue Barry know if you can help plan, set up, help during the event, or clean up.



This fun event takes many helpful and willing hands, and of course, smiling faces! Consider lending a hand.

A Message to the readers of *The Messenger*

Thank you to Debi Rado for being the editor of this St. Paul Messenger newsletter. Her many years (about 20) of dedicated service for this ministry of St. Paul has been appreciated. She is stepping back from being the editor and Chair of the Communications Ministry but you will still see her around and in new places, like maybe the kitchen for the Community Meal. *Thank you to Sue Scherr for stepping up to be the new editor of the newsletter beginning with the January 2023 edition.*

— PrAshley

Photo Ops

PHOTO UPDATE
Ethel Hamilton plays
Dominoes with Susan
Burmester's cat while
hunkering down at Susan's
house during Hurricane Ian.

HALLO WEEN

Trunk or Treat



Good Gifts for Christmas

They're back! Oink, Moo, Gluck, Baa, BZZZ

The Good Gifts ornaments will be displayed on the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday, December 4. You can choose one or more ornaments to donate to the ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts program. And this year, as happened last year, **your donation will be matched** dollar for dollar up to \$1,000 by an anonymous donor. We are also anticipating some support from the OMF and, for the first time, the St. Paul Early Childhood Learning Center will be participating, teaching the students how they can help other children far from our community. What a great way to help our brothers and sisters around the world!



Each ornament will have a gift you can purchase with prices that range from \$10 - \$500. Here is a sample of what the ornaments will include:

- Barnyard animals (cow, sheep, goat, chick, piglet)
- Honey bees
- Mosquito nets
- And more ...
- Water jugs
- Vaccinations

For the more expensive animals, such as a cow or sheep, please consider purchasing as a family or a group of friends to help offset the cost.

We will be in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service for assistance on Sunday, December 4, 11, and 18. Call Cindy Paxton at 377-3449 or email cindypaxton12@outlook.com with any questions. Please make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church and note *Good Gifts* on the check. No IOUs this year – there will be plenty of ornaments to purchase on these three Sundays.

Thank you for sharing and for helping to make this Christmas a little brighter for others!

For more information about the Good Gifts program, go to www.ELCA.org/goodgifts.

Christmas Poinsettias

We will be ordering the poinsettias which will decorate our sanctuary for Christmas from a different nursery this year, as the one we used for years past no longer offers this service.

The good news is we will have these beautiful flowers, the not so good news is we could only get fifty plants.

The cost per plant this year is \$10 and is limited to the first 50 orders.

An order form is included on the back page of this newsletter and will also be included in bulletins on Dec. 4, 11, and 18. You may put your

order in the Sunday offering plate or mail to the church. The deadline for all orders is December 18.

Thank you for your understanding of these new arrangements going forward.

Worship and Music Committee
Sharon Wittren, Chair



St. Paul Events and Meetings Calendar • December 2022

OTHER MEETINGS & EVENTS		RECURRING EVENTS	
DEC 3	VISIT WITH SANTA 2-4P	SUNDAYS	SON-DAY SCHOOL AT 10:30A
DEC 4	OMF MEETING 10:30A	MONDAYS	HOPE SEEDS—3RD MONDAY AT 1:00-3:00P
DEC 5	SHARING & CARING MEETING 1P WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING 7P	TUESDAYS	ECLC CHAPEL—9:30A COMMUNITY MEAL AT 5:30P
DEC 6	SURE RESEARCH KICK OFF 6P	WEDNESDAYS	PROPERTY MNISTRY AT 8:00A ADVENT SOUP SUPPER—6P ADVENT WORSHIP—7P ST PAUL RINGERS REHEARSE 5:45P ST PAUL SINGERS REHEARSE 7:30P
DEC 8	FINANCE TEAM ZOOM MEETING NOON EXECUTIVE TEAM MEETING 1P	THURSDAYS	PRAYER TEAM MEETING AT 4:00P COUNCIL MEETING—3RD THURSDAY AT 6:30P
DEC 10	VISIT WITH SANTA FACE AUTISM 12:30P	FRIDAYS	FOOD PANTRY BAGGING AT 9:30A DOMINOES NIGHT—1ST FRIDAY AT 6:00P
DEC 11	ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING 10:30A	SATURDAYS	FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION AT 9:00A MUSICIAN REHEARSAL AT 10:00A MESSENGER DEADLINE—15TH EACH MONTH
DEC 12	GUITAR SARASOTA 6:30P		
DEC 13	EVANGELISM MEETING 2P MINISTRY REPORTS DUE		
DEC 15	COUNCIL MEETING 6:30P MESSENGER DEADLINE		
DEC 17	ADOPT-A-ROAD 8:30A GUITAR SARASOTA 1P		
DEC 20	ECLC CHRISTMAS PICNIC 11A		
DEC 21	ECLC CHRISTMAS PICNIC 11A ADVENT BLUE CHRISTMAS 7P		
DEC 24	CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 7P		
DEC 25	CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP 9:30A		

A COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS IS FOUND ON THE WEBSITE: WWW.STPAULSARASOTA.ORG.

Ongoing Appeals

Give to Hurricane Ian Relief: Should you want to help Hurricane Ian victims, go to the secure Florida-Bahamas Synod link at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z3JW/campaign/C-12VYY>. 100% of your generous donations benefit local churches and communities with the greatest need in our synod.

Should you want to help the people of the Ukraine, here is a secure link to the website for [Ukraine at Lutheran World Relief](#). 100% of your donation goes to relief efforts.

Donations to Appeals may also be made through your envelope giving as well as online giving on the St. Paul website. Please use **Special Appeals - Hurricane Ian** or **Special Appeals—Ukraine** when donating.

More Photo Ops—Youth & Camp Sunday



Ethel, Earleen & Ron line up for camp food.



The ECLC youth sang for us.

Mike, the S'mores guy.



Bowling made easy!



Carol & Irene at the craft table.



Rick & the hay ride; S'mores making.





- 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, Assistants to the Bishop Pastors Khader, Rob C., Rob R., and Deacon Connie, Specialists Jim and Marina, Support Staff Tina, Yuliet, Kim, and Ileana.
- SURE – Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity.
- Our Members, and our preschool teachers and students.

<p>Members</p> <p>Beetle Family John Beyer Henry Blosser Susan Burmaster Sue Fisher Bob Fong Jane French Carolyn Masters Bruce & Cecilia Morvick Jean Panthana James Paulsson John and Hannah Puckhaber Rado Family Colleen Ryan Susy Scholl Brenda Smith Dave and Betty Smowton Ginger Webb Karin Zukowski</p> <p>Homebound Members</p> <p>Sharyn Brodnax Donna Casala Charles Kistner June Manselle Virginia McQuaig Michael Reiter Carole Wilson</p> <p>Friends and Family</p> <p>Debbie – friend of Scherrs Ian – son of Michele Hilton Kayla – niece of J. Roberts LaShonda – friend of J. Beyer Ramona – friend of Irene Felicetti Susan & Jim – friends of Cindy Paxton Steve – friend of Irene Felicetti Clinton Allen – friend of Jim Paulsson Geri Bandauski – sister of Dave Smowton Joyce Benton – sister of H. Roberts</p>	<p>Karla Benton – niece of the Roberts 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 Lily Gibson – niece of Susy Scholl David Jackerson – son of Susy Scholl Kate Kretschmann- family of Lindy Lindemann Jim & Kathleen Logan – brother and sister-in-law of Judy Carnal Kenny Manselle—son of June Manselle Ginny Marraccini – sister of Kathie Snyder Shirley and Dan Martin - friends of Susy Scholl Marsha McKinney- former member Nora McQuaig – daughter of Ginny McQuaig Pam Mills – sister of Daniel Mills Kaye Mulgrew – sister of Nancy Parmakian Becky Nobles – friend of Lindy Lindemann</p>	<p>Linda and Jim Norris – family of Doris Schlotterback Karen Paulsson – sister of Jim Paulsson Terry Panthana – niece of Jean Panthana John Popielarsky – friend of Ethel Hamilton Manny Rivas – friend of Cindy Schlotterback Candy Reimer – godmother of PrAshley Brian & Tommy Schlotterback— sons of Doris Schlotterback Cynthia Lu Scholl – sister of Susy Scholl Rob Scianni – Scianni's son Clint Shantz- former member Donna Shepherd - sister of Gail Seyfarth Joan Simone – friend of the Puckhabers Bethany Smith – Smith's daughter Timothy Smith—grandson of Ginny McQuaig John Strahan –uncle of JoAnn Jordan Noel Studenwalt – Smith's nephew Donna Van Ness – niece of Missy Craig Elaine & Mark Vanderweight- friends of Jim Paulsson David Weinberger – friend of Puckhabers John and Janet Welther – family of Ethel Hamilton Dottie Lynne White – sister of Susy Scholl Judith Wismer – community meal guest Carl Zimmerman – friend of Jan Kruse Amy Zuccarello—daughter of Dcn. Michele Hilton</p>
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"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." 2 Corinthians 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

📠 941-955-8600

🌐 www.StPaulSarasota.org

Rev. Ashley Nicolls, Pastor

Sunday Schedule

9:30a Service of Worship In-person

9:30a Service of Worship on Facebook Live

10:30a Adult Son-Day School



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



These beautiful plants will be used to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas services.

Purchaser _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

No. of plants _____ Total cost _____ Check no. _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In thanks for _____

The cost per plant is \$10. Use this form and bring to church on **December 4, 11, or 18**. You also may mail it or drop it off at church. The deadline for ordering is December 18.