

The Messenger

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



AUG./SEPT. 2025

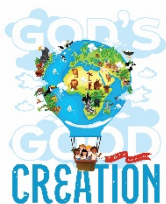
Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

Our Messenger this month is for two months as we often do in the summer. It will be for August and September.

You'll see the birthdays and anniversaries for both months on page 8. I will resend the September birthdays in a PastorBlast at the end of August, just in case the newsletter gets misplaced.

**God's work.
Our hands.**

You'll read about the God's Work Our Hands service project on page 3. I'm especially excited about this as we haven't done a God's Work Our Hands project for a few years. St. Paul is always doing some kind of service so we don't need a special day for it. But this year, Lutheran Services of Florida has come up with a specific need for this ELCA Service Day and we will participate.



The first Sunday in August is a casual VBS themed worship service. If children and youth bring their backpacks or lunchboxes, we'll bless them for a new school year. After worship is a potluck and seafood boil with a bounce house and activities for kids.

SARASOTA UNITED

FOR RESPONSIBILITY & EQUITY

This is also the time of year we start up our Justice Ministry team through SURE. Please look out for more information on our House Meetings dates. They are a time to get to know each other, share stories, and pray for the common good of Sarasota.

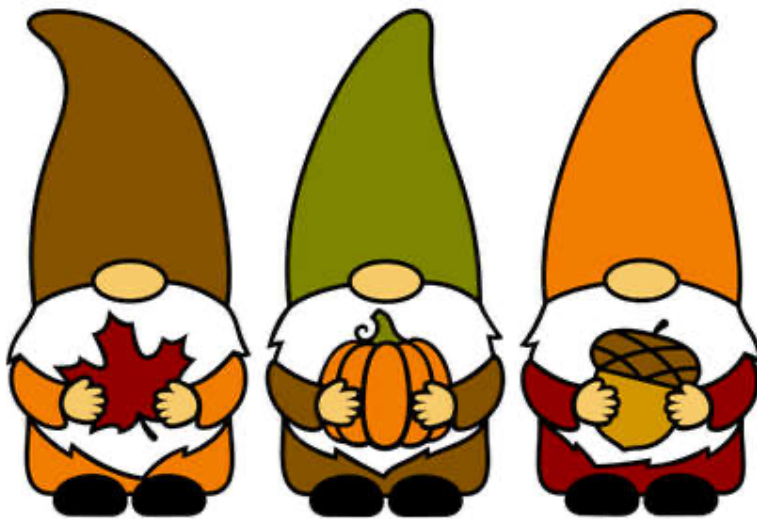
PrAshley's article continued on pg. 3.

WhatsInside

Pg. 2 ECLC News
Pg. 3 PrAshley cont./Shoebox Col.
Pg. 4 Faith Opportunities
Pg. 5 Shrimp Boil Potluck
Pg. 6 Hope Seeds

Pg. 7 SURE/Alta Vista Gift Thanks
Pg. 8 Birthdays/Celebrations/Did you Know
Pg. 9 Aug. Calendar of Events
Pg. 10 Sept. Calendar of Events
Pg. 11 Prayer Requests

There was no meeting in July, so there will be no Council Report. The August and September Council Reports will appear in the October *Messenger*.



HAPPY FALL!



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.

Mailing address:
2256 Bahia Vista St.,
Sarasota FL 34239-2499



Phone: 941-955-6479 Fax: 941-955-8600
ECLC Preschool 941-955-6480
Email: StPaul-Admin@verizon.net
Preschool email: StPaul-ECLC@verizon.net
Council email: StPaul-Council@verizon.net
Pastor email: prashley1010@gmail.com
Web site: www.StPaulSarasota.org
Editor: Sue Scherr

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.

Copyright © 2025 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sarasota FL.
Permission granted for reproduction of individual articles with credit to source.

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.

PrAshley's article continued from pg. 1

St. Paul has also been praying about a Vision2Action Grant from the Florida-Bahamas Synod. It's a ministry called Building Bridges-a Latino Ministry. The application for the grant is due August 15. We will be applying for it. We won't hear back until November if we receive it to start English and Spanish as secondary language classes that will also include a faith element.



At the end of September all active rostered ministers in the Florida-Bahamas Synod gather in Howey-in-the-Hills for continuing education, worship, and fellowship. This year's theme is "Pursuing Peace, Encouraging Others" based on Romans 14:19 "Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding." The keynote speaker will be the renowned biblical scholar, the Rev. Dr. Allen Powell. He will delve into biblical images of the Church, consider the meaning of gratitude and generosity in our culture today, and focus on the strategy of stewardship to bring peace and unity to the Church.

God bless your summer!

-PrAshley

SHOEBOX

Collection

for Lutheran Services of Florida



September 7 is the date to assemble these shoeboxes with the items listed below. A collection of the items, including shoeboxes, will be done in August. If you would like to decorate these boxes ahead of time, that would be great.

Chapstick
Flashlight (small, with batteries) or Nightlight
Hand Lotion/Moisturizer
Holiday Trinkets (non-breakable)
Kleenex (small pocketbook size packages)
Mechanical Pencils/Pens
Notepads
Paperback Word Puzzles in Large Print (Crossword, Word Puzzles, Word Jumble)
Shampoo/Conditioner
Slipper Socks with Grippers
Socks
Toothbrush/Toothpaste
Items **NOT** to include: Razors, Candy, Food, Candles, Breakable Items, gift cards and money



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.



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



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS & SHRIMP BOIL FUN!



**JOIN US SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD
WORSHIP BEGINS AT 9:30 AM**

***Come casual, bring the kids, and get ready for a
joyful morning!***

- ✨ Kid-friendly worship — all ages welcome
 - ✨ Bring your backpacks, book bags, or lunch bags for a special blessing during worship
 - 📺 Each child will receive a FREE bag tag to kick off the school year
 - 🌿 We'll share some highlights from God's Good Creation VBS
- After worship, stay for the fun!
- 🍤 Shrimp Boil & Potluck — bring a dish to share
 - 🏰 Bounce House for the kids (or the young at heart)

**Come celebrate, connect, and send our kids into
the new school year with love and joy!**

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Hope Seeds

Hope Seeds met on Monday, July 21, and set an attendance record! There were 24 volunteers ranging in age from sweet 16 to over 90 years old. There was a lot of conversation, fellowship, laughter and great snacks. 3,600 packets of radish seeds were packed in less than two hours. Remember, we meet the third Monday of each month from 1:00-3:00p. Come when you can and leave when you must. We appreciate all the help with this worthwhile endeavor.



Special thanks to our roving reporter, and head of Hope Seeds, Sue Goddard-Barry for the article and photo submissions.



Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity

For your information - if interested place these dates on your calendar.

2025-2026 SURE Process Calendar

2025

August

Listening Meeting Training and Kickoff - *August 11th @ 6pm*

Listening Season - *Aug 12th - Sept 7th*

September

Listening Team Gathering - *September 8th @ 6pm*

Community Problems Assembly - *September 29th* 6:30pm*

October

Research Kickoff - *October 27th - 6:00pm*

Research Season - **October-January**

2026

January

Network Update & Training - *Late January*

February

Rally - *February 16th**

March

Action - *March 9th**

April

Celebration - *April 27th**

** Events will have Rehearsal the week before. Rehearsal date TBD.*



Alta Vista

Thank You



A special thank you to all who donated gift cards for the teachers at Alta Vista again this year. The staff is always very appreciative and touched by your kindness and generosity.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Aug. 8	Charlotte Beetle
Aug. 12	Susy Scholl
Aug. 14	Matthew Miller
Aug. 15	PrAshley Nicolls
Aug. 15	Colleen Miller
Aug. 19	Alison Mills
Aug. 27	Brenda Smith
Aug. 27	Kasthuri Jayaraj

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 3	Susan Fisher
Sept. 6	Emilee Miller
Sept. 8	Sharon Wittren
Sept. 8	Tonia Miller
Sept. 19	JoAnn Jordan
Sept. 20	Joann Flannigan
Sept. 22	Barry Smith
Sept. 22	Nicole Riley
Sept. 28	Sharon Mashanic
Sept. 29	Amy Hildreth

Did You Know



Near the front of the church is a Community Prayer Cross for anyone to offer up prayers.



Five trees were removed from the campus. This shows three areas.

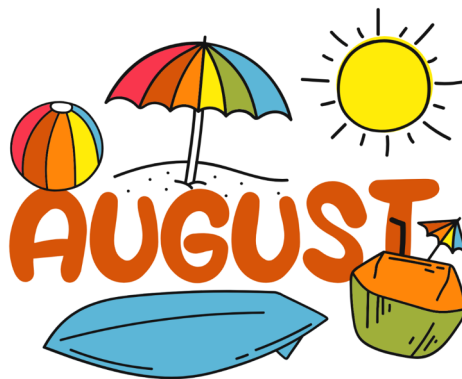


AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Aug. 23	Mike & Sue Scherr (50)
Aug. 25	Manny & Laurie Acevedo
Aug. 30	Jim & Margaret Bull

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 1	Jim & Susan Fisher
Sept. 2	Mr. & Mrs. Scott Parke
Sept. 24	Thad & Carolyn Masters



Aug. 2 Saturday
9:00a Food Pantry
Distribution

Aug. 3 Sunday
9:30a Worship Service
11:30a Seafood Boil
Potluck

Aug. 4 Monday
11:00a Sharing & Caring
Ministry Meeting
1:00p EvANGELism
Ministry Meeting
7:00p Worship & Music
Ministry Meeting

Aug. 5 Tuesday
10:00a ECLC Board
Meeting
5:30p Community Meal

Aug. 6 Wednesday
8:00a Property Ministry
6:00p Bell Choir Practice

Aug. 7 Thursday
9:30a Food Pantry Prep
4:00p Prayer Team
Meeting Zoom

Aug. 9 Saturday
9:00 Food Pantry
Distribution

Aug. 10 Sunday
9:30a Worship Service

Aug. 12 Tuesday
Ministry Reports Due
5:30p Community Meal

Aug. 13 Wednesday
8:00a Property Ministry

Aug. 14 Thursday
9:30a Food Pantry Prep
12:00p Finance Team
Meeting
1:00p Executive Team
Meeting
4:00p Prayer Team
Meeting Zoom

Aug. 16 Saturday
9:00a Food Pantry
Distribution

Aug. 17 Sunday
9:30a Worship Service

Aug. 18 Monday
1:00p Hope Seeds

Aug. 19 Tuesday
5:30p Community Meal

Aug. 20 Wednesday
8:00a Property Ministry

Aug. 21 Thursday
9:30a Food Pantry Prep
4:00p Prayer Team Meeting
Zoom
6:30p Council Meeting

Aug. 23 Saturday
9:00a Food Pantry
Distribution

Aug. 24 Sunday
9:30a Worship Service

Aug. 26 Tuesday
5:30p Community Meal

Aug. 27 Wednesday
8:00a Property Ministry

Aug. 28 Thursday
9:30a Food Pantry Prep
4:00p Prayer Team
Meeting Zoom

Aug. 30 Saturday
9:00a Food Pantry
Distribution

Aug. 31 Sunday
9:30a Worship Service

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 1 Monday
Labor Day
 Office Closed

Sept. 10 Wednesday
 8:00a Property Ministry
 6:00p Bell Practice
 7:00p Choir Practice

Sept. 17 Wednesday
 8:00a Property Ministry
 6:00p Bell Practice
 7:00p Choir Practice

Sept. 27 Saturday
 9:00a Food Pantry
 Distribution

Sept. 2 Tuesday
 5:30p Community Meal

Sept. 11 Thursday
 9:30a Food Pantry Prep
 12:00p Finance Meeting
 Zoom
 1:00p Executive Team
 Meeting
 4:00p Prayer Team
 Meeting Zoom

Sept. 18 Thursday
 9:30a Food Pantry Prep
 4:00p Prayer Team
 Meeting Zoom
 6:30p Council Meeting

Sept. 28 Sunday
 9:30a Worship Service

Sept. 3 Wednesday
 8:00a Property Ministry
 6:00p Bell Practice
 7:00p Choir Practice

Sept. 20 Saturday
 9:00a Food Pantry
 Distribution

Sept. 30 Tuesday
 5:30p Community Meal

Sept. 4 Thursday
 9:30a Food Pantry Prep
 4:00p Prayer Team
 Meeting Zoom

Sept. 13 Saturday
 9:00a Food Pantry
 Distribution

Sept. 21 Sunday
 9:30a Worship Service

Sept. 6 Saturday
 9:00a Food Pantry
 Distribution

Sept. 14 Sunday
 9:30a Worship Service

Sept. 23 Tuesday
 5:30p Community Meal

Sept. 7 Sunday
 9:30a Worship Service

Sept. 15 Monday
Messenger Deadline
 1:00p Hope Seeds

Sept. 24 Wednesday
 8:00a Property Ministry
 6:00p Bell Practice
 7:00p Choir Practice

Sept. 9 Tuesday
Ministry Reports Due
 5:30p Community Meal

Sept. 16 Tuesday
 5:30p Community Meal

Sept. 25 Thursday
 9:30a Food Pantry Prep
 4:00p Prayer Team
 Meeting Zoom



Prayer Request

•For all those serving in the U.S. Military, especially Gage Fournier. •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. •St. Paul members, especially Amy, Keith, & Marthe Hildreth, Pr. Don & Marty Hillerich, George & Marilyn Hutfilz. •St. Paul ECLC teachers and students. •The Arlington Park neighborhood.

Members

Beetle/O'Hara Family
Dorothy Boller
John Beyer
Susan Burmaster
Sue Fisher
JoAnn Flanigan
Valerie Nicolls
James Paulsson
Colleen Ryan
Susy Scholl
Esther Smith
Betty Snowton

Homebound Members

Donna Casala
Evelyn Gulliksen
Lindy Lindemann
Anna Mathisen
Virginia McQuaig
Michael Reiter
Carole Wilson

Friends and Family

Alice - JoAnn Jordan's friend
Debbie - Scherr's friend
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
Sandi Acevedo - Acevedos sister-in-law
Kareem Ali - Fred Melton's friend
Clinton Allen - Jim Paulsson's friend
Laura Anderson - Robert'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
Vickie Hall - Fonda Davies' sister
Niklaus Heisler - Irene Felicetti's great-grandson
Katy Hernandez - M. Acevedo's niece
Sonya Johnson - JoAnn Jordan's aunt
Nicole Ketter - Susan Burmaster's friend
Kate Kretschmann - Lindy Linderman's friend
Karen Kugler - Marty Hillerich's friend
Pr. John Hilficker and Bill Schroeder - Conrad Hellwege's friends

David McCall - Judy Roberts' brother
Marsha McKinney - former member
Addie McLean - Director ECLC Lisa's daughter
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 Snowton Boxx - Betty Snowton's great-granddaughter
Noel Scott Studenwalt - Smiths' nephew
Bill Sweeney - Hutfilz's grandson
Swisher Family - Kathie Snyder's family
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.