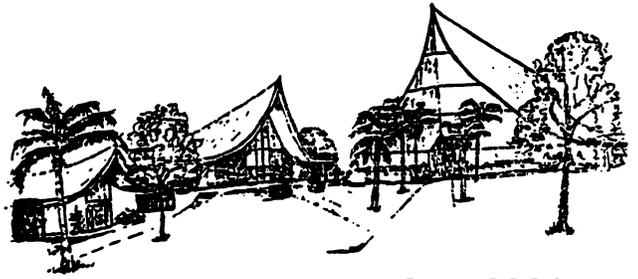


The Messenger



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

JULY 2021



Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

Hopefully you know we have started making masks recommended rather than required on the church campus.

While we know the virus is still around and there are new variants that are very efficient at spreading, especially to those not vaccinated, we are loosening the restrictions that have been in place for over a year.

Many places have loosened restrictions long before we have and I appreciate the congregation's patience during this time. I saw a Meme on Facebook that showed Jesus speaking to his disciples and saying the church was the last place to open up fully because they loved one another. I thought it was very fitting for why many churches weren't the first places to open back up. It wasn't because of fear but out of love.

The best way to show God's love is to care for others' well-being and we've been told by doctors and scientists that the best way to care for not only ourselves but others regarding the virus is to wash our hands, keep social distance, and wear a mask. So we've done that. And even when the doctors and scientists said it was okay for vaccinated individuals without underlying health conditions to go to church and even sing without a mask, we didn't do it right away, because we were still caring for those who were unvaccinated and those who are still vulnerable to the virus even with the vaccine. Remember even now, we still have unvaccinated people in the church who cannot get it for medical reasons, vulnerable vaccinated individuals, and kids

who are not eligible for the vaccine yet either. So basically, don't be surprised if you continue to see masks in the church. Even though it is just a recommendation now, it's still the best way to show God's love to one another.

This is an exciting time though. We are starting to get "back to the future" as some are saying. We are looking forward to being able to worship and have church life more and more like we did prior to Covid. I'm looking forward to taking the best of what we did prior to Covid and the best of what we did during Covid and putting them together for our future. If something didn't work prior to Covid, why bring it back? If something new during Covid worked, why stop doing it? So as we figure out the new post-Covid life, I'm sure there will be some challenges but we will continue to work together as a Holy-Spirit led family of God making a difference in Christ's kingdom on earth.

As members of the family of God there are many opportunities to serve our Lord at St. Paul and I would like to highlight some ministries that could use more volunteers.

Assisting Minister Coordinator and Assisting Ministers – The coordinator schedules the assisting ministers, oftentimes by email. They are usually scheduled a month or two at a time. We have one assisting minister each Sunday who assists me with prayers during the service. All the prayers are provided for the assisting minister. (Cont.)

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Altar Guild chair and Altar Guild members – The chair coordinates which members will serve each week. Members are women and men who help set up the altar. They make sure the candles have oil in them. They change the banners and cloths on the altar table, pulpit, and lectern for each season of the church year.

Camera Operators – We use an iPhone to record worship Live on Facebook each Sunday. It's quite easy to do. We can even provide you the iPhone to use and set it up for you, so all you have to do is press start and turn the phone to the person talking or the screen for the words.

Finance Team members – The Finance team meets monthly to go over the finances of the church.

Audit Team member - The Audit Team looks at the bookkeeping of the church to make sure it is in compliance with regulations and everything is accurate.

If any of these opportunities interest you, please let me know. Of course, there are many other ministries that always welcome new volunteers too.

May God bless you during these summer months and beyond.

Take care and God bless,

-Pr. Ashley



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

Executive Committee

George Hutfilz, president

John McAuliffe, vice president

Sharon Wittren, secretary

Marty Hillerich, treasurer

Congregation Council

Marthe Hildreth, Marty Hillerich, George Hutfilz, John McAuliffe, Daniel Mills, Nancy Parmakian, Debi Rado, Colleen Ryan, Sue Scherr, Susy Scholl, Gail Seyfarth, Sharon Wittren, Pastor Ashley Nicolls

Ministry Team Leaders

Sharing & Caring – Jan Kruse

Christian Education – Susy Scholl

Communications – Debi Rado

Early Childhood Learning Cntr – Marilyn Hutfilz

Evangelism – Gail Seyfarth

Safety & Emergency Preparedness - C. Paxton

Fellowship – Sue Scherr, Nancy Parmakian

Finance – John McAuliffe

Food Pantry – George Hutfilz

Outreach Ministry Fund – Daniel Mills

Property – **Seeking volunteer leader**

Social – Colleen Ryan

Stewardship – George & Marilyn Hutfilz

Worship and Music – Sharon Wittren

Parish Administrator – Dorrie Parsons

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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OUR MISSION AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 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.

St. Paul Early Childhood Learning Center

Saying farewell to our ECLC Director

Hello Everyone

As I am sure most of you have heard by now, I have tendered my resignation effective at the end of summer. After serving the St. Paul Early Childhood Learning Center for nine years, God is calling me to a new adventure. The moments I have shared with the school and the congregation are memories I will never forget. I cannot say how much gratitude I have for each of you for welcoming me into your community over the years. I will miss everyone deeply and will keep St. Paul in my prayers.

With Love, Christine Merrill



Welcome to our new ECLC Director Team



Hello everyone,

I am blessed and very excited to have been considered for the position of Director of the St. Paul ECLC.

Some of you may know me already, but for those who don't let me share a little about myself. I am the mother of two children, Ian (age 21) and Addison (age 17). I have been married to my husband Dan for 24 wonderful years. I have 30 years of experience in the Early Childhood field with nine of them here at the St. Paul ECLC. My first six years here was as the VPK teacher and the last three years I have been the Assistant Director. I'm looking forward to the path that God is leading me.

Lisa McLean, ECLC Director



Hello everyone!

I am so excited about the new path that God has guided me to. I am very honored to assume the Assistant Director position here at the St Paul.

Just a little about me; I have been with St. Paul for two years as the VPK Teacher. I have been working in the field of Childhood Education for over ten years, with four years of management and leadership skills. I am a dog mom of two and have been with my boyfriend for eight years now! I cannot wait to be part of the guiding light for our teachers, parents, and most importantly students, on the path to success! Thank you!

Olivia Partington-Farrow, ECLC Assistant Director

Are you ready for some Fantasy Football?



You're all invited! Anyone interested in having a team in the St. Paul Fellowship Fantasy Football league please contact Barry Smith at generals58owls59@aol.com, 941-726-9276, or in person.

St. Paul Member Directory Contact Info Changes

Wilma Armstrong

Phone 941-924-1423

Cell 941-356-4551

Frank & Sharyn Brodnax

2210 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota FL 34239

Joyce Finke

Email: jfinkeohfl@gmail.com

Phone: 419-305-4578 (area code is not 941)

Carol Chambers

Brookdale Colonial Park

4730 Bee Ridge Rd. Room 106

Sarasota FL 34233

Donna Casala

Beneva Lakes, 741 S. Beneva Rd.

Sarasota FL 34232

Phone 941-316-0151

Missy Craig

117 Thelma Dr., Rotonda West FL 33947

Sue Fisher

199 Carriage House Ln., Nokomis FL 34275

Kim Heindl

8925 Cranes Nest Ct., Fort Myers FL 33908

Joan Hellwege

Remove Joan's phone number

Gail Hodge

3244 Sandleheath, Sarasota FL 34235

Lenore Horner

C/O Jocelyn Molitor

86 Main St., Hatfield MA 01038

Ann Olsen

Brookdale Palmer Ranch

5111 Palmer Ranch Pkwy., Rm. 106

Sarasota, FL 34238

Nancy Parmakian

Email: nancy.parmakian@gmail.com

Jim Paulsson

2709 Hidden Lakes Blvd. Unit B

Sarasota FL 34237

Judy Roberts

Add Hank Roberts

Ted & Joyce Swartzbaugh

Add second address:

27416 Ranch Rd., Ashland NE 68003

Dale & Janet Vaessen

Email: patches2011@verizon.net

Ginger Webb

New apartment: # 229

Karin Zukowski

Email: Karin.zukowski.1@gmail.com

Photo Ops



Michele Hilton and John McAuliffe picking up their personal Holy Communion Kit at the new Communion Table.



Welcome new member, Irene Felicetti! Photographed with her St. Paul mentor, Jan Kruse.



Back to School Drive

It's that time of year once again when we begin thinking of the back to school needs of our community neighborhood school, Alta Vista Elementary School.

The school would once again love to receive Walmart gift cards so the teachers can get needed supplies for their classrooms. Please donate Walmart gift cards in any denomination to the church. We will also accept donations of cash or check in the church office, by mail, or in the offering plate for this ministry. Please make a note that it is for Alta Vista School. You may also give by credit card on our website. Please make donations by Sunday, July 25.

God Bless you for your donations!

Thank You

Ladies of the Altar Guild, I cannot express to you how much I have appreciated your service and dedication. Even though I'm saying "goodbye" to this adventure, I won't forget our time together and the work we accomplished. Helen Keller summed it up best..." Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much".

It has been my privilege to work with you all!

~ Bonnie Zipf



In-person Bible Study Summer Break

In-person Bible Study, led by Deacon Michele Hilton, will be taking a summer break. The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 15, at 6p, where we will continue the study on “Life Lessons from Romans” by Max Lucado (6 weeks left).

We'll save a seat for you!

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 Monday at 11a 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.

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

Holy Communion

Holy Communion will continue to be offered each Sunday in the sanctuary. Pick up your Personal Holy Communion Kit at the Communion Table when you come into the narthex.



Hope Seeds

This ministry of St. Paul meets the third Monday of each month in the Fellowship Hall, 1p—3p, and fills small bags with seeds appropriate for each part of the world to which they are sent.

The people who receive these seeds are then able to grow their own food to feed themselves and others. They'd love to have you. **The next gathering date will be July 19.**

LSF Dream Center Welcome Bags

Please continue to bring in the Welcome Bag items for the **Lutheran Services of Florida Dream Center**. The Dream Center houses up to 60 unaccompanied minors from the border. They are teenagers waiting to go with their sponsor families in the U.S. They often come to the center with nothing of their own.

The Welcome Bag contains items that are theirs to keep. Items for the Welcome Bag can include blankets, socks, games, personal items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, Chapstick, lipstick, masks, lotion, etc. Please place the items in the bin in the narthex by July 4.

On July 11, after worship, please stay as we will assemble the bags in the Fellowship Hall.

St. Paul Lutheran Updated Covid-19 Precautions

On May 13, 2021, the CDC revised their mask usage and social distancing recommendations for fully vaccinated individuals without underlying health conditions. In light of this change, **St. Paul will no longer require masks for fully vaccinated people.** St. Paul also continues to follow the CDC recommendation that unvaccinated individuals still wear masks and social distance. We still encourage frequent hand washing.



So what does that look like at St. Paul?

Every event at St. Paul is open to all people no matter their vaccination status.

All signage on the church campus will change from Masks Required to Masks Recommended.

- ♦ It is still okay to wear your mask. No questions will be asked of people why they are wearing masks. We continue to have vulnerable individuals who will choose to continue to wear a mask.
- ♦ Please be considerate of people wearing masks as they may not want to be touched (shaking hands/pat on the shoulder, hug, etc.) or be in close proximity to others.
- ♦ Ministry and event leaders have the authority to decide masking and social distancing expectations for their ministry/events. Please inform ministry volunteers and the pastor of the expectations.

Worship

- ♦ Masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated individuals.
- ♦ It is suggested that those who are not vaccinated still wear a mask, but worship attenders will not be asked about their vaccination status. And even those we know who are not vaccinated will not be asked to wear a mask if they come into worship without one.
- ♦ It is highly recommended that those who are not vaccinated and not wearing a mask during worship, wear a mask at least during singing or not sing as we know that singing is a risky activity.
- ♦ Plexiglass will only be used when a speaker/singer is unvaccinated or if a speaker/singer requests it.
- ♦ Worship assistants' vaccination status needs to be known to the Pastor.
- ♦ Choir members' vaccination status needs to be known to the Music Director and Pastor.
- ♦ Assisting Minister must be vaccinated as they will speak from the altar unmasked with close proximity to the pastor.
- ♦ Scripture Readers may be unvaccinated without a mask and speak behind the plexiglass.
- ♦ Choir members that are unvaccinated need to wear a mask while singing in the choir.
- ♦ The social distancing in pews will be removed except for the chapel area and the back eight pews on the lectern side.
- ♦ Holy Communion will remain as it has been with individual kits picked up before service from the Altar Table.
- ♦ Bulletins will be available to be picked up before service from the Altar Table.
- ♦ The offering plates will remain at the exits.
- ♦ The sharing of the Peace will remain without touch and without moving around the sanctuary.
- ♦ The pastor will greet people after worship outside but will continue to refrain from handshakes and hugs.
- ♦ Hymnals/Bibles/Prayground will remain stored for the time being.
- ♦ Fellowship time after worship will be reinstated with servers (beginning June 27).



Happy Birthday



- Jul 2 - Carol Chambers
- Jul 3 - Sue Goddard Barry
- Jul 7 - Barbara Wattman
- Jul 8 - Sharyn Brodnax
- Jul 10 - Robert Masse
- Jul 11 - Ryan Masse
- Jul 12 - David Smowton
- Jul 15 - Keith Hildreth
- Jul 18 - Gage Fournier
- Jul 21 - Jim Paulsson
- Jul 24 - Joyce Swartzbaugh
- Jul 24 - Carolyn Mele
- Jul 28 - Edward Hahne

Happy Anniversary



Jul 27 - JD and Tonia Miller

IN LOVING
MEMORY...

REST IN
GOD'S
PEACE

Cliff Flanigan
5.15.2021

Curt Swenson
5.27.2021

Children's Books Needed

Our Lending Library has been going well. We have noticed though that children's books are taken a lot and not many are put back to be redistributed. If you have children's books you are no longer reading, the Lending Library could use them. Please drop them off in the church office.



FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report for year-to-date as of May 31, 2021

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income:	\$ 133,596.06	\$ 144,945.67
Expenses:	\$ 133,824.55	\$ 143,682.90
St. Paul net	\$ (228.49)	\$ 1,262.77
ECLC net position	\$ 52,084.15	\$ (16,112.92)



SUSAN G BURMASTER

Sales Associate III
 5145 Ocean Boulevard . Sarasota . FL 34242
 email: susan.burmaster@floridamoves.com
 Direct: 941-266-3650



Referrals are always appreciated.

As a Thank You, I will be pleased to make a donation to St Paul for every referral from a member of my Church Family that closes.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Calendar of Events • July 2021

JULY 2 FRI
9:00A FOOD PANTRY PACKING
7:00P DOMINOES NIGHT

JULY 3 SAT
9:00A FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION
10:00A MUSICIAN REHEARSAL

JULY 4 SUN
INDEPENDENCE DAY



JULY 5 MON
11:00A PRAYER TEAM VIA ZOOM
7:00P WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING

JULY 6 TUES
5:30P COMMUNITY MEAL

JULY 7 WED
8:00A PROPERTY MINISTRY MEETS

JULY 8 THURS
IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY
ON SUMMER BREAK

JULY 9 FRI
9:30A FOOD PANTRY PACKING

JULY 10 SAT
9:00A FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION
10:00A MUSICIAN REHEARSAL

JULY 11 SUN
10:30A LSF WELCOME BAG ASSEMBLY

JULY 12 MON
11:00A PRAYER TEAM VIA ZOOM

JULY 13 TUES
MINISTRY REPORTS DUE
5:30P COMMUNITY MEAL

JULY 14 WED
8:00A PROPERTY MINISTRY MEETS

JULY 15 THURS
MESSENGER DEADLINE
NOON FINANCE TEAM MTG VIA ZOOM
1:00P EXECUTIVE TEAM MTG VIA ZOOM

JULY 16 FRI
9:30A FOOD PANTRY PACKING

JULY 17 SAT
9:00A FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION
10:00A MUSICIAN REHEARSAL

JULY 19 MON
11:00A PRAYER TEAM VIA ZOOM
1:00P HOPE SEEDS

JULY 20 TUES
5:30P COMMUNITY MEAL

JULY 21 WED
8:00A PROPERTY MINISTRY MEETS

JULY 22 THURS
6:30P COUNCIL MTG VIA ZOOM

JULY 23 FRI
9:30A FOOD PANTRY PACKING

JULY 24 SAT
9:00A FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION
10:00A MUSICIAN REHEARSAL

JULY 26 MON
11:00A PRAYER TEAM VIA ZOOM

JULY 27 TUES
5:30P COMMUNITY MEAL

JULY 28 WED
8:00A PROPERTY MINISTRY MEETS

JULY 30 FRI
9:30A FOOD PANTRY PACKING

JULY 31 SAT
9:00A FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION
10:00A MUSICIAN REHEARSAL



Hello
July

Dominoes Night is Back

All Mexican Train Dominoes players are invited back to this first Friday of the month get together. It will be at 7p in the Fellowship Hall. Here are the rules for at least the first Dominoes Night:

- Masks are optional.
- There will be no food/snacks.
- Bring your own beverage in your own container.

See you there!



Hurricane Surveys

The church office has only received 40 of the 90 surveys that were mailed out.

Please send yours in if you haven't already, it's not too late! Thanks.

Worship & Music Ministry Notes

The exciting news is that we are gearing back up to a more normal worship service. That means that we now need several more participants each Sunday.

Our Assisting Minister list has dwindled, and we are looking for volunteers who are willing to read the prayer, lead the creed, read the offertory prayer, and the closing prayer. The Readers have been doing some of these tasks during the interim. It is our goal to have a larger group of Assisting Ministers by September. Please call Pastor Ashley or Sharon Wittren (941-371-7535) if you want to volunteer.

Altar Flowers continue to be displayed each week. Now that more people are back in the sanctuary, please check the flower chart and eternal candle charts in the narthex to sign up for your donation. Flowers are \$25 per vase and the eternal candle is \$15 for a month.

The Bell Choir and Vocal Choir will begin rehearsals the week of Labor Day. After taking a survey of the present participants, the rehearsals will be moved to Wednesdays. At present the time is 6p for Bell Choir and 7p for Vocal Choir. The times will be confirmed closer to September.

~ Sharon Wittren, chair





- 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 Beetle Family John Beyer Henry Blosser Susan Burmaster Judy Carnal Donna Casala Sue Fisher Bob Fong Jane French Barbara and Ed Hahne Carolyn and Thad Masters Carolyn Mele Cecilia Morvick Jean Panthana Euder Paul James Paulsson John Puckhaber Susy Scholl Dave and Betty Smowton Karin Zukowski</p> <p>Homebound Members Sharyn Brodnax Carol Chambers Charles Kistner Olive Lehman June Manselle Virginia McQuaig Ann Olsen Michael Reiter Carole Wilson Bettie Zuknick</p> <p>Friends and Family Dustin – <i>family friend of Carol Chambers</i> Jason & Samantha – <i>Debi Rado's son and daughter-in-law</i></p>	<p>LaShonda – <i>friend of J. Beyer</i> Mark K. – <i>friend of Cindy Paxton</i> Patty – <i>friend of community meal guest Jessica Hester</i> Martin, Ernest, and Tricia- <i>friends of Puckhabers</i> Susan – <i>friend of Cindy Paxton</i> Clinton Allen – <i>friend of Jim Paulsson</i> Geri Bandauski – <i>sister of Dave Smowton</i> Franklin Boyer – <i>friend of Puckhabers</i> Pam and David Brett – <i>family of Puckhabers</i> Sherri and Rebecca Buete – <i>family of Brian McCulley</i> Kathleen Cannon – <i>friend of Puckhabers</i> Alice Chanover – <i>friend of Puckhabers</i> Rusty Corner and family- <i>friend of Susan Burmaster</i> Peter Craig – <i>son of Missy Craig</i> Esther Davis – <i>friend of Puckhabers</i> Skylar Dickey – <i>friend of Ethel Hamilton</i> Stephanie Diehl – <i>daughter of community meal guests</i> John Dolittle – <i>family friend of Brian McCulley</i> Cody Eddleman – <i>husband of John Beyer</i> Kathy Gbur – <i>friend of Ethel Hamilton</i> Auggie Glasgow – <i>grandson of Cindy Paxton</i> Freddie Greer – <i>friend of Jim Paulsson</i> Terri Hancock – <i>friend of Marthe Hildreth</i> Eli Harshman – <i>ECLC student</i> David Jackerson – <i>son of Susy Scholl</i> Linda Jones – <i>friend of Ethel Hamilton</i> Jim & Kathleen Logan – <i>family of Judy Carnal</i> Kenny Manselle—<i>son of June Manselle</i> Ginny Marraccini – <i>sister of Kathie Snyder</i></p>	<p>Dan Martin - <i>friend of Susy Scholl</i> Marsha McKinney- <i>former member</i> Melissa Meyers and family – <i>sister of Marthe Hildreth</i> Pam Mills – <i>sister of Daniel Mills</i> John Morrow – <i>family of Brian McCulley</i> Karen Paulsson – <i>sister of Jim Paulsson</i> Terry Panthana – <i>niece of Jean Panthana</i> Cory Putnam – <i>grandson of Janice Kruse</i> Manny Rebas – <i>friend of Ethel Hamilton</i> Candy Reimer – <i>godmother of PrAshley</i> Rose Sajevic – <i>family friend of Pr. Ashley</i> Brian & Tommy Schlotterback—<i>sons of Doris Schlotterback</i> Cynthia Lu Scholl – <i>sister of Susy Scholl</i> Jim and Robert Scianni – <i>sons of Sciannis</i> Clint Shantz- <i>former member</i> Donna Shepherd - <i>sister of Gail Seyfarth</i> Timothy Smith—<i>grandson of Ginny McQuaig</i> Dave Spitler – <i>former St. Paul member</i> Elaine & Mark Vanderweight- <i>friends of Jim Paulsson</i> Joan Weihrauch – <i>friend of Anna Mathisen</i> Judith Wismer – <i>community meal guest</i> Amy Zuccarello—<i>daughter of Dcn. Michele Hilton</i></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



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.