



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

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**THE MESSENGER**

**ST. PAUL MEMBER  
KARIN ZUKOWSKI  
(AKA KARIZU)  
WINS AWARD**



One of Karin's large paintings, *Zoegernde Metamorphose* ('Hesitant Metamorphosis'), 1999, mixed media, was accepted into the juried 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Show at the Madeby Gallery, Ringling College of Art and Design (2700 N.

Tamiami Trail, Sarasota).

While Karin graduated with a BFA cum laude in Illustration from RCAD in 1993, in 1998 she achieved a Certificate in Expressive Arts from USF, Tampa, under Prof. B. Kazanis. Her painting evolved during these classes; and later on, Expressive Arts became the *Healing Art* movement, which at one time was offered at RCAD. During those years and upon recommendation by a member of St. Paul, she was hired at the Palmetto Jail (Palmetto, FL) to work as Artist Facilitator with men and women residents who enjoyed learning about art and the process of drawing and painting.

The Madeby exhibit opened November 15, 2019 and ran through December 12. Receiving an Honorary Mention Award for her above painting was a very pleasant surprise for Karin. *Congratulations, Karin!*

*(Karin is sharing her gifts at Dinner Church on 2/2/20 where we can join her in painting.)*

**WELCOME YOUR  
CONGREGATION  
COUNCIL FOR 2020**

At the Called Congregation Meeting on December 8, new council members were elected to guide St. Paul through 2020. Please thank and welcome the following for stepping up to lead:

Sue Scherr  
Nancy Neff

And please note your other council members who terms are ongoing through 2020:

George Hutfilz (President)  
Sandy Tull (Vice President)  
Marty Hillerich (Treasurer)  
Sharon Wittren (Secretary)  
Gail Seyfarth  
JD Miller  
Debi Rado  
John McAuliffe  
Colleen Ryan

Reach out to any of these people as they are always willing to listen to concerns, ideas, and answer questions. They are tasked with making sure St. Paul lives out its Mission in the community and elsewhere.

You are always welcome to attend any of the council meetings held the third Thursday of the month.



## ST. PAUL WELCOMES NEIGHBORHOOD DOGWALKERS

Every day, neighbors of St. Paul can be seen walking their dogs on the church campus. The campus is a safe, clean place for a stroll with their pets and we wanted them to know we welcome them to enjoy our beautiful surroundings. In an effort to welcome these owners and their four-legged friends, two new dog waste stations have been placed on the church grounds. One is located in front of the circular drive just west of the Sanctuary and a second one is located between the Sanctuary and the Education Building on the east side of the campus. Bags for waste pickup are supplied and the Property team has graciously agreed to empty the waste cans as needed.



These waste stations were purchased with a Thrivent Action Team grant and through the Carol Zimmerman memorial fund. The ministries involved with the implementation of this project sincerely thank Ron Zimmerman for his generosity in approving the expenditure. Additional personalized welcome signs will be installed soon, letting our neighbors know we are glad they stop to visit.

*~ Thank you Cindy Paxton for leading this effort, along with our Evangelism & Property Teams ~*



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  
Sandy Tull, vice president  
Sharon Wittren, secretary  
Marty Hillerich, treasurer

### Congregation Council

Marty Hillerich, George Hutfilz, John McAuliffe, JD Miller, Daniel Mills, Nancy Neff, Debi Rado, Colleen Ryan, Sue Scherr, Gail Seyfarth, Sandy Tull, Sharon Wittren, Pastor Ashley Nicolls

### Ministry Team Leaders

Sharing & Caring – Betty Smowton  
Christian Education – **Seeking volunteer leader**  
Communications – Debi Rado  
Early Childhood Learning Cntr – Marilyn Hutfilz  
Evangelism – Gail Seyfarth  
Fellowship – Sandy Tull & Sue Scherr  
Finance – John McAuliffe  
Food Pantry – George Hutfilz  
Outreach Ministry Fund – Curt Swenson  
Property – **Seeking volunteer leader**  
Social – Colleen Ryan  
Stewardship – George & Marilyn Hutfilz  
Worship and Music – Sharon Wittren  
Parish Secretary – 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.



## FLORIDA PANHANDLE CONTINUING TO RECOVER



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Seeking individuals and groups of up to 25 to donate their time to families recovering from Hurricane Michael. Weekly and single day events can be coordinated. Projects assigned as skill levels are identified. Opportunities to include; hanging and finishing drywall, paint, carpentry, installing windows, flooring and cabinetry, light plumbing and electrical. Volunteer camp site is hosted by the Messiah Lutheran Church in Panama City. Based on availability for groups up to 14 persons. The cost is \$10. per person per night not including meals.

#### TO VOLUNTEER CONTACT

Email: [Kimh@fbs.org](mailto:Kimh@fbs.org)

For information call  
Kim (850) 319-2686



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## CONGREGATION COUNCIL NOTES – DECEMBER MEETING

- Discussed council representation to various ministries. Members accepted assignments to a ministry as chair and/or liaison.
- Approved George Hutfilz to sign a covenant with Family Promise to be a support congregation as they reorganize.
- Approved the Lent and Holy Week service schedule.
- Approved the Easter Worship schedule: Easter Vigil on Sat., 4/11 at 8:00p; Sunday services: Traditional at 9:00a and blended at 11:00a.
- Approved Sunday, 2/16/20, for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation (will follow the 9:30a worship).
- Set the installation of the Congregation Council for 1/5/20 at the 9:30a worship.
- Approved Cindy Schlotterback and Ron Zimmerman for three-year terms to the Outreach Ministry Fund. Dan Mills, Susan Burmaster, and Barry Smith continue to serve.
- Approved sending First Congregational UCC a letter thanking them for preparing and serving the Community Meal on the fourth Tuesday of each month.
- The November minutes, pastor's report, and financial information may be found in the binder in the narthex. December minutes will be available after approval in Jan.

## USE SHUTTERFLY AND ST. PAUL GETS A CASH REBATE

Many of us use this online photo gift site and they are now partnering with St. Paul. We will earn 8% cash back on everything you purchase. If you order imprinted photo cards or a photobook, for example, and pay \$30, St. Paul will get \$2.40. *This is free money to us to use in our ministries!*

To take advantage of this offer, you **MUST** use the link on our website *Give Back* page to access the Shutterfly website ([www.StPaulSarasota.org](http://www.StPaulSarasota.org)). No special password or anything else is needed. *Happy shopping!*



## NEWS OF OUR ECLC

*St. Paul Early Childhood Learning Center*

Greetings,

December has been such a great month and was the month our savior was born. I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and looks forward to the New Year. The children decorated their classrooms. They had classroom parties with special treats. They made wonderful gifts for their families. Each child also decorated their own baby Jesus manger as they learned the story about the birth of Jesus. Lastly, we celebrated with the families during our first Christmas Pancake Breakfast. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a special event for the children and their families.

It's hard to believe the New Year is here already. The first half of the school year has flown by with so many great memories. We are really looking forward to making even more memories for the second half of the school year. VPK will be celebrating 100 days of school this month. Children will be bringing 100 items to share with their classmates. We also have the ice cream truck visit and a pizza party. Additionally, in January, we will be studying how Martin Luther King Jr. impacted our World.

Stay tuned for more... ~ *Christine Merrill, ECLC Director*



## SAVE THE DATE

The Al Ernst Comedy Show • Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Al Ernst is a former member of St. Paul and will bring his Christian comedy show to our campus. Tickets will be available soon. A freewill offering will be taken at his performance. More info is coming, watch your bulletins and newsletters.

**Mark your calendars!**



## Pr Ashley's Page

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

This is one of my favorite *go-to* stories when things aren't going right. Maybe it's kind of odd to share it when things are going right; but often times when things are tough, we sometimes forget stories or sayings we can hold onto to get us through those times. And if right now things aren't going right for you, I hope this story helps.

A man once had on his desk a paperweight, a glass globe filled with water; inside there was a man. Every now and then, he would get upset, pick up the paperweight, and shake it. When shaken, the globe gets all cloudy and snowy inside. Then he begins to talk to the little man inside: "Little man, I know you are disturbed. You are being shaken up, and your world is being shaken up; it's all cloudy, and you can't see. You don't know what might happen, and you're afraid. Little man, I want to assure you I have you right here in my hand, and I have your world right here in my hand, and I am strong enough to hold it. Then he holds it still, and the cloudiness clears up and the snowy flakes settle down. Then he says, "You see, little man, you didn't have anything to worry about at all."

When our lives get shaken up, I think about this story. We have a loving God who is holding us and telling us, "Child, I know you are disturbed. You and your world are being shaken up. It's all cloudy and you can't see. You don't know what just happened or what might happen next and you are afraid. My Child, I want to assure you I have you and your world right here in my hand and I am strong enough to hold

it. I am strong enough for any anger, for any hurt; you have nothing to worry about at all. I will never let you go."

Our Lord's hands are secure. They will never falter, unlike ours that drop things both literally and figuratively. The snow globe story above always reminds me of one of my favorite quotes from Martin Luther, "I have held many things in my hands and have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." If our lives are in our own hands, we will either crumble and be crushed because we are holding too tightly or we will break as we hit the floor because we couldn't hold on any longer. But when we are in

God's hands, we are held tightly but gently so we will always be safe and protected even in the midst of our most trying times in our lives. *That is the good news we proclaim to all we meet.*

I have shared this blessing with many of you before, but I wanted to again. My internship supervisor used it quite often. *"And now may God's eternal sun be warm and kind to you. And on the darkest night some stars shine through. On the grayest morn, a radiance brew. And when dusk comes, God's hand to you."*

Take care and God bless,

~Pr Ashley



PHOTOS



### Breakfast with Santa

On December 14, about 110 kids with parents came to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas. While they were waiting for him to appear, they had lite bites, made crafts, wrote Letters to Santa, colored, and decorated cookies! After this, we welcomed back about 50 of the Face Autism group—enjoying the same Christmas joy in a calmer setting.



### The Beetle Family Lighting the Advent Wreath

# 2020 DINNER CHURCH SCHEDULE

## A GATHERING FOR EATING AND SHARING TOGETHER

### SUNDAYS · JANUARY – MARCH · 6–7:30P

Date	Theme	Leader	Food
January 5	12 <sup>th</sup> Night of Christmas Epiphany Eve The Other Wiseman Readers Theatre	Pr. Ashley	Grilling Out S'mores
January 12	Baptism	Pr. Ashley	Soup/Salad/Breadsticks
January 19	Living Faith      Proverbs 3:5	Dcn. Michele Hilton	Stuffed Chicken breasts, rolls, dessert
January 26	Creative Signing	Susy Scholl and John Ferreira	Finger Foods
February 2	Expressive Arts	Karin Zukowski	Create your own sandwiches
February 9	TBA	John Beyer	TBA
February 16	Disney-Style Worship	Pr. Ashley	Spaghetti Dinner by the ECLC preschool
February 23	Baseball and Religion	Pr. Ashley	Ballpark food
March 1	What is Lent?	Pr. Ashley	TBA
March 8	TBA	John Beyer	TBA
March 15	Traditions    2 Thessalonians	Dcn. Michele Hilton	TBA
March 22	How Prayer Changed My Life	Gail Seyfarth	TBA
March 29	TBA	Pr. Ashley	TBA

## A NOTE FROM THE TELLER TEAM

The team of volunteers who faithfully count and post your Sunday offerings each and every week would like your help.

The front of your offering envelope has lines to record your name, offering amount, how you would like your offering applied, and a total. When any of these items are left off your envelope, it causes extra work and time for the volunteers.

Please take an extra moment and fill out your envelope as completely as possible. With appreciation,

*The St. Paul Teller Team*

# SURE • UPDATE

## Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity

### On-going Issue Work

#### *Affordable Housing*

Nearly 1/4 of Sarasota County residents pay more than 1/3 of their income on housing and are one paycheck away from crisis. SURE was successful in pressing county officials to make zoning changes that make smaller units more affordable. While this is a step in the right direction, a more comprehensive solution is needed. 800 communities across the country have implemented a housing fund, and thousands of units of affordable housing have been created from these types of funds. In the spring of 2019, SURE pressed for and received a commitment from the City Commission to direct staff to identify potential dedicated funding sources for a Housing Opportunity Fund that would create hundreds of units of affordable housing each year. SURE leaders will continue to press the city to fund a Housing Opportunity Fund in the 2021 budget, while continuing similar conversations with the county to begin the process of identifying funding sources, totaling \$15 million between the two.

#### *Restorative Justice*

SURE got the Superintendent of schools to select 5 elementary schools to pilot full implementation of restorative practices, which gives students an opportunity to learn from their mistakes without being kicked out of school. SURE was also successful in getting the school district to train 42 Assistant Principals in restorative conferencing. In 2018, over 2,400 students received an out of school suspension. Keeping children in school means a better educated workforce, less children going into adulthood with arrest records, less crime, and less burden on families. SURE leaders will monitor the effectiveness of the implementation of restorative practices and work to expand the program.

### New Issue Work

#### *Criminal Justice*

On Monday, November 4, 2019, 200 SURE leaders gathered to set priorities for the coming year. SURE leaders present voted to address problems related to criminal justice after hearing dozens of stories around the intersections of the criminal justice system and race, addiction, and mental illness. Over the next several months, SURE’s Criminal Justice Committee will narrow down the problem area and identify a proven solution and an official who can implement it.

## ***ECLC FAMILY CHRISTMAS PANCAKE BREAKFAST ON DECEMBER 18***



# St. Paul Mission Prayer

*Pray with us,*

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*

## ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS • JANUARY 2020

### JAN 3 FRI

9:30A FOOD PANTRY PACKING  
1:00P MAH JONGG  
6:30P DOMINOES NIGHT

### JAN 4 SAT

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

### JAN 5 SUN

6:00P DINNER CHURCH

### JAN 6 MON

12:00P SHARING & CARING MEETS  
2:00P STEWARDSHIP/ALL SEASONS

### JAN 7 TUES

5:00P WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETS  
5:30P COMMUNITY MEAL  
7:00P CHOIR REHEARSAL

### JAN 8 WED

8:00A PROPERTY MINISTRY MEETS  
6:00P BIBLE STUDY

### JAN 9 THURS

1:30P COMMUNICATIONS MEETS  
2:30P EVANGELISM MEETS  
3:30P EXECUTIVE TEAM MEETS

### JAN 10 FRI

9:30A FOOD PANTRY PACKING  
1:00P MAH JONGG

### JAN 11 SAT

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

### JAN 12 SUN

11:00A CONFIRMATION  
6:00P DINNER CHURCH

### JAN 14 TUES

MINISTRY REPORTS DUE  
9:30A ECLC CHAPEL  
5:30P COMMUNITY MEAL  
6:00P BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL  
7:00P CHOIR REHEARSAL

### JAN 15 WED

#### MESSENGER DEADLINE

8:00A PROPERTY MINISTRY MEETS  
3:30P FINANCE MEETS  
6:00P BIBLE STUDY

### JAN 16 THURS

11:30A HANDCRAFTERS GUILD MEETS  
6:30P COUNCIL MEETS

### JAN 17 FRI

9:30A FOOD PANTRY PACKING  
1:00P MAH JONGG

### JAN 18 SAT

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

### JAN 19 SUN

6:00P DINNER CHURCH

### JAN 20 MON

1:00P HOPE SEEDS  
7:00P GUITAR SRQ

### JAN 21 TUES

9:30A ECLC CHAPEL  
5:30P COMMUNITY MEAL  
6:00P BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL  
7:00P CHOIR REHEARSAL

### JAN 22 WED

8:00A PROPERTY MINISTRY MEETS  
11:00A PEO MEETS  
6:00P BIBLE STUDY

### JAN 24 FRI

9:30A FOOD PANTRY PACKING  
1:00P MAH JONGG

### JAN 25 SAT

9:00A FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION  
10:00A MUSICIAN REHEARSAL  
11:30A RICE DESIGN ALLIANCE

### JAN 26 SUN

6:00P DINNER CHURCH

### JAN 28 TUES

9:30A ECLC CHAPEL  
5:30P COMMUNITY MEAL  
6:00P BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL  
7:00P CHOIR REHEARSAL

### JAN 29 WED

8:00A PROPERTY MINISTRY MEETS  
6:00P BIBLE STUDY

### JAN 31 FRI

9:30A FOOD PANTRY PACKING  
1:00P MAH JONGG

**OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON  
NEW YEAR'S DAY—  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1.**



## 65th Anniversary Member Directory

As part of our anniversary celebration, we will be publishing a new member directory. You get a FREE 8-1/2x11 portrait and your directory is FREE! You may also purchase additional photos.

Sign up now online at [www.StPaulSarasota.org](http://www.StPaulSarasota.org).

**We'll have a table in the narthex beginning again in January for our next photography date of February 20.**

We want to see everyone in the directory and will be contacting you if you do not have an appointment to be certain you get into the directory!



Be included in our directory!

**Lifetouch**

## ST. PAUL 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY 2020 CALENDARS ON SALE

These one-of-a-kind 2020 calendars have arrived and are for sale in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday after worship. **The cost: \$15 each**

Each calendar month contains photographic highlights that span St. Paul's history from the very beginning to the present day, as well as significant dates.

Don't miss out. There are only 40 calendars left and you may want more than one!



### FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE Report for year-to-date as of November 30, 2019

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income received:	\$ 231,710.11	\$ 252,011.39
Expenses:	\$ 277,578.14	\$ 310,232.27
St. Paul net	\$ (45,868.03)	\$ (58,220.88)
ECLC net position	\$ 62,875.81	\$ 17,608.10

"Referrals are always appreciated. As a Thank You, I will make a donation to St. Paul Lutheran Church for every referral from my Church Family at closing."

**SUSAN G BURMASTER**  
*Realtor*

CELL: (941) 266-3650  
FAX: (941) 349-8090  
[susan.burmaster@floridamoves.com](mailto:susan.burmaster@floridamoves.com)



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## Happy Birthday



- Jan 4 - Judy Carnal
- Jan 6 - Aubrey Savoca
- Jan 7 - Anna Williamson
- Jan 8 - Jennifer Collis
- Jan 15 - Sue Scherr
- Jan 19 - Barbara Hahne
- Jan 21 - Ben Foster
- Jan 23 - Clara Spitzer
- Jan 24 - Eryn Gwatney
- Jan 24 - Brenda Hadjian
- Jan 25 - Pete Gulliksen
- Jan 25 - Rev. Don Hillerich
- Jan 27 - Evelyn Gulliksen
- Jan 27 - Brian McCulley
- Jan 28 - Madeline Craig
- Jan 29 - Cindy Paxton
- Jan 30 - Blake Riley

## Happy Anniversary



- Jan 25 - Joan & Frank Scianni
- Jan 29 - Betty & David Smowton

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CHRIST'S KINGDOM...

### THANKS FROM TANNER'S TURKEYS

Thank you so much for helping us this year utilize your church for packing and delivery! We fed 350 families this year plus just distributed another 100 turkeys today. We love what you do and are so excited with our goal next year to feed 500 families. If there are families within your church who can benefit from a full Thanksgiving meal next year, let us know. We delivered 7 turkeys and bags of food to St. Paul Peaceable Kingdom families this year. ~ Merry Christmas and God Bless!



## HOPE SEEDS



*A new ministry opportunity at St. Paul*

Hope Seeds is a Christian, charitable ministry that seeks to improve the nutrition of the poorest in the world, by providing quality garden seed and agricultural education through Christian missionaries and organizations. We will be putting together bags of seeds with this ministry starting **January 20 from 1:00-3:00p.**

Everyone is welcome to be a part of this ministry. The group will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

For more information: <https://www.hopeseeds.org>



# St. Paul Lutheran Church

## & Early Childhood Learning Center

2256 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota FL 34239

Phone 941-955-6479 Fax 941-955-8600

Preschool 941-955-6480

Website [www.StPaulSarasota.org](http://www.StPaulSarasota.org)

Rev. Ashley Nicolls, Pastor

### Sunday Schedule

9:30a Service of Worship

*with Children's Message*

10:30a All-ages Bible Learning Games

& Coffee and Social Hour

