

The Messenger

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

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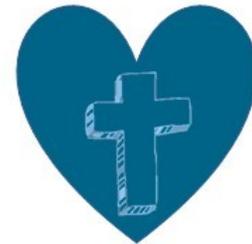


GLOBAL MISSION

SUNDAY
October 13

You'll have an opportunity to give a donation for Global Mission.

PJ May, Chair of the Florida-Bahamas Synod Global Mission Committee will be here to share with us the important work of global mission and how your donations show people the power of Jesus' love.



Witness • Share • Encourage • Sewe

ABOUT GLOBAL MISSION... For decades the global-mission efforts of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have been shaped by the theology of accompaniment: "walking together in solidarity characterized by mutuality and interdependence." Our walk with companions is sustained by the presence of Christ through the Spirit, as God calls and sends us to participate in God's mission of restoring community. This mission takes many shapes and forms, from community development work to preparing women and men for leadership roles in church and society, responding to natural and human-made disasters, working for peace and reconciliation in communities ravaged by civil strife and social unrest, and providing primary health care. Through all these ministries, we seek to touch people's lives for the flourishing of human community. All these efforts are centered on our primary task of witnessing to the love of God in Jesus and making Christ known throughout the globe. People's lives are being touched by the good news of the gospel as we "hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23).

~ Excerpt from Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of Global Mission (Global Mission Update)

HOLY WONDERINGS

Bible Study corner...

The first week of the *Fall Bible Study*, kicked off by group leader Michele Hilton, offered an open exploration of the Beatitudes as found in Matthew and Luke to our group of about 20. This series, titled *Responding to God's Grace* (Augsburg Adult Bible Study), continues each Wednesday from 6-7p, with Michele and Pastor Ashley alternating.

A participant handbook is available for \$4, but is not required. Each section is small and offers prayers, further study references, daily readings and more. We are invited to read aloud and/or comment about exploring the Word as presented. It is often a healthy discussion while sometimes it's more introspective or listening. The studies will continue up until a 2020 Lenten break and then resume in late May, with summer plans yet to be determined.

Also, on the schedule for which an outline copy is available, will be a couple of weeks where we'll learn about the faith of Islam, to separate the fact from the fake, with its similarities and differences to Christianity. It should be enlightening.

We encourage all people (guests or members) to attend. We meet casually in the Fellowship Hall with coffee available, or bring your own beverage. Spoiler alert! We are all one in the body and spirit of Christ! 1Cor: 12:12-13

The week-1 focus on the Beatitudes began with NIV Matthew 5 (also Luke 6:20-23) which is commonly known as the Sermon on the Mount and begins with Jesus speaking to the crowds saying "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." The group determined that this reference of *poor in spirit* referred to humility or being humble before God and His Commandments, which is difficult in our modern world of distractions and choices and responsibilities. We were reminded of Galatians 5:22, "For the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness and self-control." Hopefully, some come more easily while some are a greater challenge for many of us.

Grace and peace,
Brian McCulley



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, Brian McCulley, JD Miller, Daniel Mills, Debi Rado, Colleen Ryan, 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 – **Seeking volunteer leader(s)**

Finance – John McAuliffe

Food Pantry – George Hutfilz

Outreach Ministry Fund – Curt Swenson

Property – **Seeking volunteer leader**

Social – Cindy Paxton

Stewardship – George & Marilyn Hutfilz

Worship and Music – Sharon Wittren

Parish Secretary – Dorrie Parsons

Director of Music – John Ferreira

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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.

Up & Coming Events!



Sunday, September 29 after worship

So much fun, food, and fellowship. The ECLC children will sing for us in worship, then we'll have a water slide, lots of games, hay ride, lunch, and ice cream sundae bar!



VITALITY TRAINING

Saturday, Oct. 12 - Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Venice

The Vitality Kick-off is an invitation to congregational leaders (ministry and council) to gather for a day of learning, fellowship and renewal as we center ourselves on God's dreams. Acting on God's dreams, leaders will gather tools and resources that will create a pathway to a deeper sense of vitality and mission. Surrounded and supported by others, congregations invested in the vitality process journey together into a deeper awareness of God's presence and action, a deeper commitment to their own

discipleship and faith formation, and a deeper understanding of the communities they serve. The retreat will be from 10:00a-3:00p and include a 9:00a light breakfast, worship, brief conference business, and lunch. RSVP to PrAshley asap if you are attending for a headcount. Carpooling may be available.



ARLINGTON PARK HALLOWEEN TRAIL CARNIVAL

Friday, Oct. 25 from 5 to 7p at the Arlington Park & Aquatic Complex

This event features games, trick or treating and a costume contest around the walking trail of the park. The event is free of charge and is geared toward families. St. Paul will host a booth with an interactive craft for children and will also hand out candy and trick or treat bags. If you'd like to volunteer to help, contact Evangelism chair, Gail Seyfarth - wefishfl@aol.com.



TRUNK OR TREAT

Thursday, October 31 from 6 to 7:30p

St. Paul invites all kids to this 2nd annual event held on our grounds. Participating vehicles will be decorated with enthusiasm and candy will be handed out to all the children attending. To participate, let Evangelism team member, Rick Barry know - probulls@msn.com.

There's more





PUMPKIN PANCAKE SUNDAY BRUNCH

Sunday, November 3 at 10:30a

All members and guests are invited to the Fellowship Hall after worship for this annual favorite yummy breakfast. The pancakes will be plentiful and the breakfast will also include sausage, fruit and OJ.

A St. Paul ministry (TBD) will benefit from your freewill donations!



THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thursday, November 28 (time TBD)

Everyone is invited for a full and traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. Bring friends and family along with a side dish to share with everyone.

Watch for details and a sign up sheet on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 14

Our community's favorite event for youth! We'll have a light breakfast of finger foods and beverages followed by crafts, cookie decorating, and of course Santa will stop by to see what each boy and girl wants for Christmas. Watch for details and sign ups to help on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

American Sign Language class

An eight-week class in **American Sign Language** will be offered at St. Paul beginning Wednesday, October 2 at 7:05p, and then continue each Wednesday till November 20.

There is no fee or experience necessary for this class and all materials will be provided to you. Each class is only 45-55 minutes in length and will be led by Susy Scholl and John Ferreira. If you have any questions or need more info, please call John at 376-6233.

Looking forward to seeing you there.





Pr Ashley's Page

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

I am excited for October. There are so many ministry opportunities this month and ways that St. Paul can grow in our care for each

other and this community. We have an amazing opportunity on Oct. 12 from 10a-3p (plus 9a breakfast) at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Venice to hear about and become part of a new initiative of the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Council members have had a sneak preview of it last month from the Assistant to the Bishop, Pr. Khader El-Yateem. They are excited and we want to include others. It's called the **Vitality Process**. It's a way for congregations to listen for God's dream for them and engage their neighborhoods to live it out. We have done great work in becoming a healthy congregation and now it's time to tell everyone and invite people to engage in making a difference in Christ's kingdom with us. This process will help us do just that. All are invited to this conference; just let me know so we can provide the hosting church a good count for breakfast and lunch for all of us.

But that's not all that is going on in October. We will also be kicking off our **stewardship campaign** on October 6. Each Sunday you will hear about why we should financially give to St. Paul. We'll hear testimonies from our members. We'll hear about the ministries that make a difference in peoples' lives. And then on November 3, we'll each have the opportunity to share our intended giving for 2020. Last year the appeal was a great success. We are well on our way to be living within our means by the end of 2021. It's a great time to be a part of St. Paul.

And there's more. The Early Childhood Learning Center has their **Trike-A-Thon Fundraiser** on Tuesday, Oct. 22 from 9:30-10:30a. It's a great way to see our ECLC in action. Come and say hi to the kids and families, and thank the teachers. Financial gifts to support our school are always appreciated. Gifts of \$25 or more get a leaf on the tree.

Yet there's more. One of the new ministries St. Paul joined is **SURE** – *Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity*. We'll be having house meetings at St. Paul to share stories of concerns about Sarasota, so SURE can start coming up with the coming year's initiatives and help Sarasota be a great town for everyone. If you haven't had a one-on-one conversation with the assistant organizer, Madi, and would like one, please let me know. These house meetings are open to everyone – not just St. Paul members. If you know someone who has a concern, invite them to a meeting. There are sign ups available. Remember the dates: *Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 1:30p, Thursday Oct. 24 at 6p, Saturday, Oct. 26 at 11:30a*. You only need to attend one meeting.

And there's still more. St. Paul will have a table at the **Arlington Park Halloween Carnival** on Friday, Oct. 25, from 5-7p. Feel free to come and talk with neighbors or help the families decorate foam pumpkins and hand out candy bags with our information in them. But Halloween is really on October 31, so you can also join St. Paul for Trunk-or-Treat by bringing your car and handing out candy from your trunk or by donating candy for others to hand out. We'll park our trunks in the front parking area from 6-7:30p.



We wouldn't be a Lutheran church if we didn't recognize **Reformation Sunday**. This year it's October 27. We will worship and have regular All Ages Sunday School and Social & Coffee Hour after, but then at Noon, pizza and popcorn will be available as we watch *Luther*, the 2003 movie about Martin Luther (played by Joseph Fiennes). All are invited to join the confirmation students and their mentors for this inspirational movie.

Whew. We will be busy making a difference in Christ's kingdom. I can't wait for you join in the fun.

Take care and God bless

~Pr Ashley

PHOTOS



God's Work. Our Hands. community service weekend

- Adopt-A-Road trash pick-up
- Arlington Park bottled H2O and dog treats hand-out



Addi won the contest for most "butts" picked up!



Church Council Meeting

September Synopsis

- Approved the Advent worship schedule of three 7:00p Wednesday worship services on December 4, 11 and 18. A soup supper is set for 6:15 p prior to the service.
- Approved the Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24 schedule: a 4:00p Family Candlelight service with band and communion; 5:30p Community Meal open to the congregation (sign up required); 8:00p Traditional Candlelight service with choir and communion; 11:00p Candlelight and Holy Communion service. There is no Christmas Day service.
- Approved a holiday nut sale fundraiser to benefit the Community Meal ministry.
- Approved the acceptance of five new members to be received on Sunday, October 6: Sandy Choquette, Janet Hepner, Jim Paulsson, Scott Parke, and Susan Scholl.
- The August minutes, pastor and ministry reports, and financial information may be found in the binder in the narthex. The September minutes will be available after approval at the October 17, 2019 meeting.



“I want to thank everyone for the cards, visits and phone calls, and especially prayers during my healing after my fall. God’s blessing to all and especially Pastor Ashley for coming and giving me communion and keeping in touch all the time. Jesus heals. Amen.”

~ Doris Schlotterback

FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE

Report for year-to-date as of August 31, 2019

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income received:	\$ 172,847.13	\$ 183,000.07
Expenses:	\$ 193,765.08	\$ 222,052.49
St. Paul net	\$ (20,917.95)	\$ (39,052.42)
ECLC net position	\$ 56,060.07	\$ 18,646.10

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News of our ECLC

St. Paul Early Childhood Learning Center

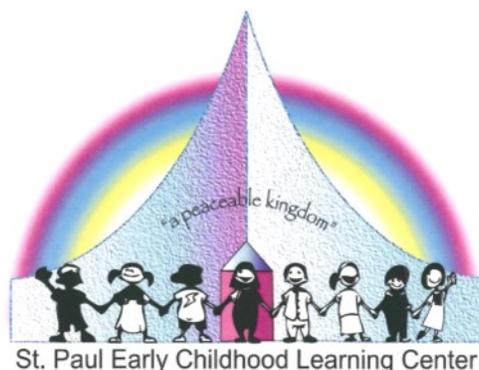
It's great to be back at school. August was a month of getting to know new children and families as well as welcoming back children from last year. All children have been assessed and parent-teacher conferences have been completed in September.

Coming up in October, we have two events in which the congregation is welcome to participate:

#1 The **Trike-a-Thon** is on October 22 from 9:30 to 10:30a. The children bring their own trikes and we block off the circle drive next to the church for them to ride. We have games and snacks to keep them busy also. This is our first fundraiser for the school year, so if anyone wants to sponsor a child, please contact Miss Christine or Miss Lisa (955-6480). Or just come to cheer them on!

#2 The **Halloween Parade** is on October 31 at 9:30a. The children will create their own costumes and have a parade around the church grounds. Congregation members wanting to hand out candy, stickers, temporary tattoos, etc. can contact Miss Christine or Miss Lisa (955-6480).

~ Christine Merrill, ECLC Director



*Brian and Nancy Neff
and
Susan Gadson*

*Are excited to announce the
marriage of*

*Jason Neff
and
Desiree Gadson.*

*Jason and Desiree will be
married at St. Paul Lutheran
Church on
Sunday, the 3rd of November
at One O'clock p.m.*

*All members of St. Paul
Lutheran Church are invited to
join us for this joyous occasion.*

*A reception will not be held.
The couple has chosen to have a
small gathering with family.*



Dinner Church

As we prepare for a new seasonal service at St. Paul, this article helps explain it's origins.

We live in a day that holds deep assumptions about the way church is done.

We assume exclusive religious spaces, teaching-centric gatherings, congregational liturgies, and musical worship experiences. The reformers gave us these ideas of church five hundred years ago, and we have become serious disciples of their ways.

Interestingly, this approach is not found in the scriptures.

Nor is it how church was done for the first three hundred years of Christianity.

Overlooked Piece of Christian History

The apostolic era practiced church primarily around dinner tables. Whether it was the house churches introduced in the Book of Acts, or the Agapé churches introduced in the Epistles, church happened around tables of food at dinnertime. The dinner table setting of the first Christians is usually overlooked in today's theological discussions, but its implications are very deep and worthy of serious reflection.

Jesus himself used the dinner table and dinnertime throughout his ministry. J. Crossen states that if one were to watch a day in the life of Jesus, he would mostly see him healing and eating.

Jesus performed much of his salvific work from a dinner table. Many of the parables were told from a dinner table. Numerous kingdom metaphors assumed a dinner table.

It is not a mystery then why the Acts house churches and the Gentile Agapé churches functioned around dinner tables; they were given that pattern by Jesus himself.

During the Last Supper, Jesus took an annual dinner event and turned it into a vision for doing church by telling his disciples to begin doing what they were doing whenever they met, to continue to gather the poor and the stranger to their table, and to "remember" Christ instead of remembering the rescue event from Egypt. In so doing, Jesus embedded the gospel into the dinner table sociology, and his disciples obviously caught that vision.

The gospel found a comfortable home at the dinner table and at dinnertimes. The familial setting of the dinnertime table made it easy to gather people to the family of God. During the three hundred years when Christian gatherings were dinner churches, the church grew from 20,000 to over 20 million. In other words,

many sinners met their Savior over tables of food.

Sociological Problem

There is something winsome about inviting people to dinner that cannot be paralleled by inviting them to a teaching event. In our day and age, still so influenced by the Reformation, we desperately need to meditate upon what we are actually asking the unchurched population to come to when we invite them to this thing we call church. We must follow up this meditation with another: would inviting our neighbors to dinner be more compelling?

In fact, take a moment right now to think about one of your neighbors who isn't a part of a church. Imagine inviting that person to come with you to a worship gathering.

Now, start over. Instead, imagine inviting that same neighbor to come over for dinner with your family.

To which invite do you think you are more likely to hear a yes?

For people who have an understanding of church in their background or have a primed interest in Christianity, the proclamation event would be considered. But for people with no church sociology in their background or those having low interest in the Christian message, a proclamation event holds little appeal.

With this in mind, I propose that the American church has a "sociological problem." There is nothing wrong with our gospel, but our way of doing church does not match the sociological realities of our non-church-going neighbors, who now dominate almost every zip code across our nation. And yet, the Church is called to lead all types of people to Jesus—not just those who would already fit in our gatherings.

We cannot focus only on the those who already understand church sociology, we must do church for our secular neighbors, too.

The only question remaining is, "Who is going to set His table?" Could it be that setting a table for sinners, seculars, and strangers to have dinner with Jesus might be one of the great callings of the church? What if when Jesus was telling Peter to "feed his sheep," he wasn't speaking metaphorically, but was actually directing him to a physical table?

All of these questions, verses, and more are what informs the dinner church movement. And true to the Reformation era, groups that decide to work with Jesus at one of his dinner tables find their rooms filling up with strangers, sinners, the poor, and the new Gentiles (Seculars). Let me say it: **Jesus still wants to have dinner with sinners.**

~ Excerpt of a dinner church blog from Dinner Church Collective @ website

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 • OCTOBER 2019

OCT 1 TUES

9:30A ECLC CHAPEL
5:30P COMMUNITY MEAL

OCT 2 WED

8:00A PROPERTY MINISTRY MEETS
6:00P BIBLE STUDY
7:05P AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLS

OCT 3 THURS

11:00A COMMUNICATIONS TEAM MEETS

OCT 4 FRI

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

OCT 5 SAT

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

OCT 7 MON

1:00P CARING & SHARING
4:00P WORSHIP & MUSIC MTG
5:30P GIRL SCOUTS

OCT 8 TUES MINISTRY RPTS DUE

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

OCT 9 WED

8:00A PROPERTY MINISTRY MEETS
11:00A HANDCRAFTERS GUILD MTG
2:00P STEWARDSHIP ALL SEASONS
6:00P BIBLE STUDY
7:05P AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLS

OCT 10 THURS

11:30A HANDCRAFTERS GUILD MEETS
2:30P EVANGELISM TEAM MEETS
3:30P FINANCE TEAM MEETS
5:00P EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS

OCT 11 FRI

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

OCT 12 SAT

9:00A FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION
9:00A VITALITY RETREAT/BREAKFAST
10:00A VITALITY RETREAT/VENICE
10:00A MUSICIAN REHEARSAL

OCT 13 SUN

9:30A GLOBAL MISSION SUNDAY

OCT 15 TUES

MESSENGER DEADLINE

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

OCT 16 WED

8:00A PROPERTY MINISTRY MEETS
6:00P BIBLE STUDY
7:05P AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLS

OCT 17 THURS

6:30P CONGREGATION COUNCIL MTG

OCT 18 FRI

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

OCT 19 SAT

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

OCT 20 SUN

11:00A CONFIRMATION CLASS

OCT 21 MON

5:30P GIRL SCOUTS

OCT 22 TUES

9:30A TRIKE-A-THON
5:30P COMMUNITY MEAL
6:00P BELL CHOIR
7:00P CHOIR

OCT 23 WED

8:00A PROPERTY MINISTRY MEETS
1:30P SURE SACRED CONVERSATN
6:00P BIBLE STUDY
7:05P AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLS

OCT 24 THURS

6:00P SURE SACRED CONVERSATN

OCT 25 FRI

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

OCT 26 SAT

9:00A FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION
10:00A MUSICIAN REHEARSAL
11:30A SURE SACRED CONVERSATN

OCT 27 SUN

NOON LUTHER MOVIE

OCT 29 TUES

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

OCT 30 WED

8:00A PROPERTY MINISTRY MEETS
6:00P BIBLE STUDY
7:05P AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLS

OCT 31 THURS

9:30A ECLC HALLOWEEN PARADE
6:00P TRUNK OR TREAT



Happy 100th Birthday Mary Marshall!

St. Paul member, Mary Marshall, turned 100 years old on September 7. Members from St. Paul were on hand to share this day with her and give her a card signed by our congregation.



Happy Birthday



- Oct 2 - Breanna Brodnax
- Oct 2 - Marty Hillerich
- Oct 3 - Eileen Everhart
- Oct 10 - Michele Hilton
- Oct 11 - Ethel Hamilton
- Oct 12 - Liam Miller
- Oct 16 - John Ryan
- Oct 18 - Rachel Williamson
- Oct 20 - Pamela Bleser
- Oct 21 - Kathie Snyder
- Oct 22 - Olive Lehman
- Oct 23 - Conrad Hellwege, Jr.
- Oct 26 - Linda Case
- Oct 27 - Missy Masse
- Oct 29 - Bob Lariviere

Happy Anniversary



- Oct 5 - Terry & Joyce Finke
- Oct 5 - Edward & Barbara Hahne
- Oct 7 - Brian & Nancy Neff
- Oct 17 - Bob & Kim Lariviere

Received in Holy Baptism!

Alexandra Wise, granddaughter of Conrad & Joan Hellwege, was baptized Sunday, September 22, 2019.



St. Paul Lutheran Church

& Early Childhood Learning Center

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

Preschool 941-955-6480

Website 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



65th Anniversary Member Directory

As part of our anniversary celebration, we will be working with Lifetouch to publish a new member directory. The first photography date is scheduled for those who may want pictures in time for Christmas—you'll get a free 8 1/2x11 portrait and your directory is free! You may also purchase additional photos.

Photography dates are November 11 and February 20.

Watch for more info on when we will start making appointments!

We want to see everyone in the directory!



Be included in our directory!

Lifetouch