

# The Messenger



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

JAN. 2025

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Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

The year of our Lord 2025 is upon us. It is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Paul. For the six weeks after Baptism of our Lord Sunday and before Transfiguration Sunday, we will be celebrating our anniversary with special worship services and coffee hours. These six weeks are a great time to invite your friends, neighbors, and former members that are still in the area, to church. It's like a Homecoming time. We could even have a little competition with it. Whoever brings the most people to church will win a prize.

Each week we will have a theme for worship and a different decade starting in the 1950s when the congregation started through present time. Below is a list of the themes and decades so you can start preparing your clothing, food, and items to bring. We are going to leave the Christmas tree up in the Fellowship Hall so we can decorate it by decade. Just bring in items that can be on a tree on Sunday morning and put it on the tree before you come into worship. You can take it when you leave after coffee hour.

Sunday, January 19, 2025 – “Homecoming Sunday” - 1950s Decade. Worship will be using the Black Hymnal from 1918 that most congregations of our denomination were using at the time called the *Common Service Book*.

Sunday, January 26, 2025 – “Pack the Church Sunday” - 1960s Decade. Worship will be using the Red Hymnal called the *Service Book and Hymnal*. It's Pack the Church Sunday because we are hoping the church is packed with people and also we are packing a lot of events on this day. Rev. Ed Kilbourne will be preaching to introduce himself as it begins the 4-day “God's Word Made Fresh” event. After worship (around 11am) we'll re-dedicate the Education Building that was built in 1962 and the new beams, roof and decking completed in 2024, will be recognized. There will be a lunch following. We will have pulled pork sliders, along with any 1960s food that people bring in for coffee hour. At 1p will be Rev. Ed's concert. So plan to stay all morning and afternoon at the church. You'll be fed spiritually and physically. Since there are several separate events, friends could be invited to church for the re-dedication or the lunch or the concert. Lots of opportunities to pack the church with people.

Sunday, February 2, 2025 (I know this is the January newsletter, but I think you would want to know this already 😊) – “Welcoming the Son (Sun) Sunday” - 1970s Decade. It's Groundhog's Day and Presentation of the Lord Day. We welcome both the sun and God's Son. Worship will be using the Red Hymnal again. I read in a St. Paul bulletin from 1974 that the congregation made a change in worship that was encouraged by the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship. The Psalm replaced the Introit. The Collect is now known as the Prayer of the Day. These changes were made for this service. continued on pg. 8

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# December Council Report

Executive Committee elected positions: President - JoAnn Jordan, Vice President - Judy Roberts, Secretary - Irene Felicetti, and Treasurer - George Hutfilz.

Donations continue to come in for the Raise the Roof/Raise the Kids Campaign update. At this time, the total outstanding is approximately \$26,000.

December 8 is the Moravian Church's final Sunday worship.

George Hutfilz reported on the SURE Research Kickoff. Education and Affordable Housing are the issues that will be addressed in 2025.

Pastor Ashley reported on the Vision to Action Adult Vacation Bible School which will run from Sunday, January 26, with Reverend Ed Kilbourne leading the 9:30 a.m. service. He will perform in a concert that day at 1:00 p.m.; and VBS will run Monday, January 27 through Wednesday, January 29, from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Pastor Ashley reported on the January/February 2025 Special Services, recognizing that St. Paul will be celebrating its 70th Anniversary.

The T-Loop has been active for the past two Sundays. A decision will be made by December 22 to remove or initiate a contract for this system.



## 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



Telephone: 941-955-6479 Fax: 941-955-8600  
ECLC Preschool 941-955-6480  
Email: [StPaul-Admin@verizon.net](mailto:StPaul-Admin@verizon.net)  
Preschool email: [StPaul-ECLC@verizon.net](mailto:StPaul-ECLC@verizon.net)  
Council email: [StPaul-Council@verizon.net](mailto:StPaul-Council@verizon.net)  
Pastor email: [prashley1010@gmail.com](mailto:prashley1010@gmail.com)  
Web site: [www.StPaulSarasota.org](http://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, Marthe Hildreth, JoAnn Jordan, Bob Lariviere, Nancy Parmakian, Judy Roberts, Mike Scherr, Essther 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.

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**MISSION STATEMENT** As a Holy Spirit-led family of God, we are called through Baptism to proclaim and bear witness to God's reconciling grace in Jesus Christ to all; so that by joyfully sharing God's Word and encouraging each other to service for the sake of others, our lives together make a difference for Christ and His kingdom.



The Annual Christmas Picnic was held over two days in December. Besides the food, the highlight of the day was Santa coming to visit. The weather was great and the directors, teachers, and children were happy to visit with Santa.

# ECLC News

Our ECLC still has openings in all classrooms. If you know of anyone with preschool children who would like to have a tour of our school, please pass along the information in the flyer in the center. Thank you.



**ST. PAUL EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER**

**PRE SCHOOL**

**Now Enrolling**  
**Full/Half Day Programs**  
**Ages 1-5**  
**Open 7:30-5:30**  
**Call for a tour**  
**941-955-6480**

Children can learn and grow in a safe, nurturing environment with the help of our experienced teachers and engaging curriculum.

**Look for the Stars**

Developmental curriculum    Outdoor play    Play-based Learning





# Visits With Santa

St. Paul hosted two *Visits with Santa* in December. On Dec. 7 the community was invited to visit. About 35 children attended. There were crafts, coloring, letters to Santa, face painting, a hot chocolate bar and cookie decorating. The children were able to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas, and a good time was had by all.

On Dec. 14 *Face Autism* was invited to visit with Santa. About 45 children attended with parents, siblings, and grandparents. At this event even an ice cream truck provided sweet treats for all to enjoy. There was also a hot chocolate bar, crafts and cookie decorating. Even Santa enjoyed visiting with all the children/pets.



### A Visit With Santa Dec. 7



A special thank you to all the St. Paul members who showed up to set up, clean up, host the activity stations and registration table. Your help was greatly appreciated.

### A Visit With Santa Dec. 14



# Hope Seeds

Hope Seeds met on December 16 from 1:00-3:00p where fourteen volunteers packed 3,600 sweet pepper seed packets. Hope Seeds meets once a month on the third Monday of the month. Each time it varies in the type and amount of seeds packaged. You can come when you can and leave when you must. Everyone enjoyed the good company and Christmas treats. Please think about joining us next month. We'd love to have more help. Hope to see you at our next meeting on January 21.



## 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](mailto:kaheindl@comcast.net).

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81662784525pwd=QSt4TGNSR2F3L0ovUDJ3SVdWbjRYUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 6278 4525

Passcode: 628552

# Upcoming & Save the Date

## 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Homecoming Worship Save the Dates!

Sundays beginning January 19-February 23 St. Paul will focus on the Church of Christ in Every Age.

St. Paul turns 70 years old in 2025, so our special services in January and February will celebrate the anniversary by decade. Each week we will celebrate a different decade. The worship service will be out of the hymnals of each decade. You are encouraged to wear decade appropriate attire. And after worship during coffee hour, bring your favorite food from each decade.

January 19 is the 1950s

January 26 is the 1960s. We also plan to have a Dedication of the Education Building this day.

February 2 is the 1970s

February 9 is the 1980s

February 16 is the 1990s

February 23 is the 2000s to the present. Director of Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Dr. Carlos Ham will be at St. Paul to bring Anniversary greetings. He will preach and share the children's message (that we will all learn from).

## God's Word Made Fresh!

St. Paul received a Vision2Action Grant from the Florida-Bahamas Synod for this event. It features Rev. Kilbourne, a singer, storyteller, and folk-theologian, who will bring his gifts of music, humor and teaching to take us to a higher ground – an experience of perspective and insight that some have described as “just sitting down with Jesus”. It's a chance to experience Gospel stories as the “Word made Fresh”. Imagine the monologues of Garrison Keillor with the music of Jimmy Buffett and you're almost there.

Rev. Ed will be preaching at worship on Sunday, January 26 to introduce himself. He will have a concert that day at 1p. His program will be from 10a-12noon on Monday-Wednesday January 27-29. There will be a continental breakfast at 9:30a and a light lunch following the program. Sarasota Concierge Service is catering the meals.

Brochures with sign up information are available in the narthex. They are also available for you to take and give to friends and neighbors. Flyers will be available too if you want to put them up around your neighborhoods.

It's a great event to bring a friend or neighbor to introduce them to St. Paul.

Singer, Storyteller & Folk-Theologian, Ed Kilbourne







## Raise the Roof! Raise the Kids!

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Donations may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays, or mailed to the church office. Be sure to indicate that it is for the campaign. Thank you.

For online giving: <http://bit.ly/3ZZOdoH>

### Update: TWO (2) YEAR "Raise the Roof-Raise the Kids" Campaign

As we have reached the end of 2024, we are reminded of the generosity of Members and Friends of St. Paul to the campaign, a three year fund raising effort to preserve Victor Lundy's Building that houses the Early Childhood Learning Center.

As of December 15, 2024, cash gifts, IRA contributions, the Florida State Grant and pledges have reached \$639,841.00; just leaving \$25,584.00 to reach the final goal.

As there is one more year left in the campaign, a personal pledge for the period can be spread over the next 12 months. To submit a pledge, please use the available form found in the St. Paul's narthex or call 941-955-6479 and one will be mailed to you with a stamped return envelope.

God bless EVERYONE for this "Spirit Led" response to the campaign. For confidential information, please call either Pastor Ashley or Pastor Don. God bless you with a Happy and Healthy New Year!

PrAshley's Article Cont. from Pg. 1

Sunday, February 9, 2025 – Fishermen Sunday. Fishers of Men. (Yes, still in the '80s we probably weren't that gender inclusive yet) Decades 1980s. Worship will be using the Green Hymnal called the *Lutheran Book of Worship*. This is the hymnal I grew up with, so I am most excited to use it. We'll use setting 1 (the one I grew up with) for this week.

Sunday, February 16, 2025 – "Blessing the Crowd Sunday" - 1990s Decade. We will use the second setting of the Green Hymnal for worship.

Sunday, February 23, 2025 – "Peaceful Gathering Sunday" - 2000-present Decades. We will use our current cranberry hymnal *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* setting 8. Rev. Dr. Carlos Ham, Director of Evangelical Mission for the South and Assistant to the Bishop, will be preaching as he represents the Bishop's office in recognition of our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

We had hoped to have Bishop Suarez, but he will be on Sabbatical. While we will miss having him at worship, I am happy that he is modeling sabbaticals. As most of you know, I very much appreciated the Sabbatical I took the Summer of 2023. I shared that with him when I returned that Fall, and he said he had never taken one. I reiterated that it was very helpful to me. So, I kind of find it funny that I encouraged him about Sabbaticals, and now we will miss out on him at worship because he is taking a well-deserved Sabbatical. I'm sure there will be another time we can invite him.

I hope you can join us every week and invite someone as we celebrate St. Paul's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Blessings to you all for 2025 and beyond.

-DrAshley



### NEW WINTER SPORTS



ICE HATING



NO-MOBILING



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SNOW SHOO-ING

©Brian Gordon



FowlLanguageComics.com

CROSS-COUNTRY FLEEING



### A Little Winter Humor



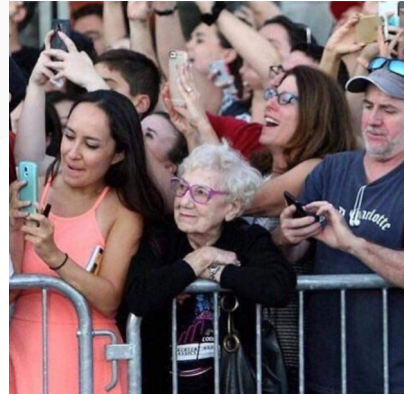


- Jan. 4 Judy Carnal
- Jan. 7 Anna Williamson
- Jan. 15 Sue Scherr
- Jan. 19 Barbara Hahne
- Jan. 19 John Scherer
- Jan. 21 Jayvion Robinson
- Jan. 25 Rev. Don Hillerich
- Jan. 27 Brian McCulley
- Jan. 27 Evelyn Gulliksen
- Jan. 27 Hank Roberts
- Jan. 27 Mason Beetle
- Jan. 28 Missy Craig
- Jan. 29 Cindy Paxton
- Jan. 30 Blake Riley

Happy Anniversary

- Jan. 19 John Beyer & Cody Eddleman
- Jan. 25 Frank & Joan Scianni

## For All Ages



### PERSPECTIVE

Looking at life through the eyes of age sets us apart from those around us. To open wider the eyes of your heart, you are invited to a time of perspective and renewal at St. Paul's Sr. Adult Vacation Bible School January 27-29 from 9:30-1:00.

### Throwback to Oct.

Whoops, the editor forgot to put in the Oct. *Messenger* these pics. Just too cute to not include. Everyone had fun at the Trunk-or-Treat event on Oct. 31.





**Jan. 1 Wednesday**  
Happy New Year!

**Jan. 2 Thursday**  
9:30a Food Pantry Prep  
4:00p Prayer Team  
Meeting Zoom

**Jan. 4 Saturday**  
9:00a Food Pantry  
Distribution

**Jan. 5 Sunday**  
9:30a Worship Service

**Jan. 6 Monday**  
1:00p EvANGELism  
Meeting  
7:00p Worship & Music  
Zoom Meeting

**Jan. 7 Tuesday**  
11:30a Sharing & Caring  
Meeting  
5:30p Community Meal

**Jan. 8 Wednesday**  
8:00a Property Ministry  
6:00p St. Paul Ringers  
7:00p St. Paul Singers

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



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Jan. 11 Saturday**  
9:00a Food Pantry  
Distribution

**Jan. 12 Sunday**  
9:30a Worship Service

**Jan. 14 Tuesday**  
**Ministry & Annual  
Reports Due**  
5:30p Community Meal

**Jan. 15 Wednesday**  
**Messenger Deadline**  
8:00a Property Ministry  
6:00p St. Paul Ringers  
7:00p St. Paul Singers

**Jan. 16 Thursday**  
9:30a Food Pantry Prep  
4:00p Prayer Team  
Meeting Zoom  
6:30p Council Meeting

**Jan. 18 Saturday**  
9:00a Food Pantry  
Distribution

**Jan. 19 Sunday**  
9:30a Worship Service

**Jan. 20 Monday**  
**Inauguration Day  
Martin Luther King Jr.  
Day**  
1:00p Hope Seeds  
6:00p Guitar Sarasota

**Jan. 21 Tuesday**  
5:30p. Community Meal

**Jan. 22 Wednesday**  
8:00a Property Ministry  
6:00p St. Paul Ringers  
7:00p St. Paul Singers



**Jan. 23 Thursday**  
9:30a Food Pantry Prep  
4:00p Prayer Team  
Meeting Zoom

**Jan. 25 Saturday**  
9:00a Food Pantry  
Distribution  
1:00p Guitar Sarasota

**Jan. 26 Sunday**  
9:30a Worship Service  
11:00a Education Building  
Dedication  
1:00p Rev. Ed Kilbourne  
Concert

**Jan. 27 Monday**  
9:30a God's Word Made  
Fresh

**Jan. 28 Tuesday**  
9:30a God's Word Made  
Fresh  
5:30p Community Meal

**Jan. 29 Wednesday**  
8:00a Property Ministry  
9:30a God's Word Made  
Fresh  
6:00p St. Paul Ringers  
7:00p St. Paul Singers

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





- For 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, 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. •Hope Lutheran Church, Gulf Cove (Port Charlotte) •St. Paul members, St. Paul ECLC teachers and students and the Arlington Park neighborhood.

<p><b>Members</b>                  Beetle/O'Hara Family                  Dorothy Boller                  Susan Burmaster                  Sue Fisher                  JoAnn Jordan                  Brian McCulley                  James Paulsson                  Betty Smowton                  Kathie Snyder</p> <p><b>Homebound Members</b>                  Donna Casala                  Evelyn Gulliksen                  Lindy Lindemann                  Anna Mathisen                  Virginia McQuaig                  John Miller                  Michael Reiter                  Carole Wilson</p> <p><b>Friends and Family</b>                  Alice - JoAnn Jordan's friend                  Bill - Jan Kruse's friend                  Brad - Cindy Paxton's brother                  Cassandra - Irene Felicetti's friend                  Debbie &amp; Frank - Scherr's friends                  Ed - Sandy Choquette's friend                  Gina &amp; Greg - Jan Kruse's friends                  Lucas - Scherr's neighbor's grandson                  Marilyn - S. Weckwerth's aunt                  Mark - Hillerich's friend                  Patty - Cindy Paxton's sister                  Susan - Cindy Paxton's friend                  Tunde - Irene Felicetti's friend</p>	<p>Sandi Acevedo - Acevedos sister-in-law                  Clinton Allen - Jim Paulsson's friend                  Laura Anderson - Roberts' niece                  Lori Boller - Dorothy Boller's daughter-in-law                  Buete &amp; 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                  Bill Davies - regular attender                  John &amp; Joy Emanuelli - Roberts' friends                  Gladys Faraone - H. Robert's friend                  John Foor - Ryan's friend                  Susan Gallagher - Dorothy Boller's daughter                  Gallagher Family - Dorothy Boller's in-laws                  Vickie Hall - Fonda Davies' sister                  Lois Heisler - Irene Felicetti's family                  Niklaus Heisler - Irene Felicetti's great-grandson                  Katy Hernandez - M. Acevedo's niece                  Kara Johnson - Amy Hildreth's friend                  Nicole Ketler - Susan Burmaster's friend                  Philip Koepke - Irene Felicetti's friend                  Kate Kretschmann - Lindy Linderman's friend                  Karen Kugler - Marty Hillerich's friend                  Kenny Manselle - June Manselle's son                  David McCall - Judy Roberts' brother</p>	<p>Kevin McKenny - Susan Burmaster's friend                  Marsha McKinney - former member                  Becky Nobles - Lindy Lindermann's friend                  Linda &amp; Jim Norris - Doris Schlotterback's family                  Karen Paulsson - Jim Paulsson's sister                  Manny Ribas - Cindy Schlotterback's friend                  Clint Shantz - former member                  Brian, Kenny &amp; Tommy Schlotterback - Doris Schlotterback's sons                  Hailey Schlotterback - Doris Schlotterback's granddaughter-in-law                  Bethany Smith - Smiths' daughter                  Natalie Smowton Boxx - Betty Smowton's great-granddaughter                  Noel Scott Studenwalt - Smiths' nephew                  Bill Sweeney - Hutfliiz's grandson                  Jean Taffe &amp; family - Susan Burmaster's cousin                  Bill &amp; Jean Thompson - Dorothy Boller's sister &amp; brother-in-law                  Dan Torrence - Kathy Snyder's friend                  David Van Ness - Missy Craig's brother                  Elaine &amp; Mark Vanderweight - Jim Paulsson's friends                  Curtis Weckwerth - Rick Weckwerth's cousin                  John &amp; Janet Welther - Ethel Hamilton's family</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." 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](http://www.StPaulSarasota.org)

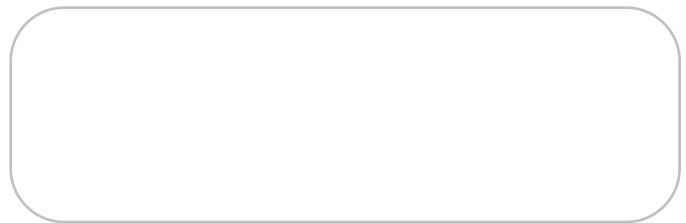
**Rev. Ashley Nicolls, Pastor**

**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

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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.