A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS



DECEMBER 2 in the Ladore William Following William 6:30 P.M TICKETS: \$25

VISIT THE TABLE IN THE COURTYARD TODAY TO GET YOUR TICKETS







Welcome from Pastor Bob

Welcome to St. Paul United Methodist Church! Whether you're a first time visitor or a long time attendee, I'm so happy you're worshiping with us during the advent season. This is a great season and one that promises so much joy and celebration! This is a time to relive so many of your positive Christmas season memories along with creating some new traditions of your own. At St. Paul we value your being here and want to extend to you our invitation to come each Sunday and be part of what our Lord is doing here at the church. Always know, here at St. Paul you have a home and a friend. May your Advent Season be filled with faith, hope, love and peace.

Take a look through this bulletin or visit our website to find out more about all our upcoming Advent events and everything that is happening at St. Paul during this busy and joyful season.

Thank you for being part of the Lord's work here at St. Paul. With God's help, and all of us working together, there is nothing we can't do!

Varto 1

Bob Martin, Senior Pastor

GLORIFY GOD

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP at 9 AM

Prelude		Aaron Cassette, A	ccompanist
Advent Cand	lo Liahtii		lecompanist
Welcome	ie Lightii	ig. hope	Pastor Pam Dubov
	Ob Ha	ville Leves Veu And Me	
		w He Loves You And Me	
*Call to Worsh		a world of darkpass	
		a world of darkness	
All: Into Chri		-	
		a world of weariness	
		th and hope.	
		a slumbering world.	
		the Spirit, we come to awake	en our souls and
watch for the			
*Hymns		ry Laud and Honor	No. 280
	Let All	Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	No. 626
Apostle's Cre	ed		No. 881
Prayer with L	ord's Pra	ayer	No. 895
Reception of	New Me	embers	
Offertory			Sanctuary Choir
		God, From Whom	No. 94
*Prayer of Tha			
	•	Hail to the Lord's Anointed	No. 203
Message		"Not What I Expected"	
5		Philippians 2:5-7	
Directed Pray	/er	1.1	
*Hymn		ise to Thee, for Thou, O King	Divine No. 166
*Benediction	,		
*Postlude			

*Please stand, if you are able.

If you need assistance, let an usher know. Baby changing tables are located in both men and women's restrooms.

This Sunday's 9 AM Greeters: Sandy and Dennis Parks

VISITING US TODAY?

If you're visiting us today, welcome! We hope you find St. Paul a comfortable place to worship and that you feel God's love. To find out more about us we invite you to:



VISIT OUR CONNECTION CENTER

If you have questions or would like to talk to someone about St. Paul and what we offer, visit the Connection Center to the side



VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.stpaulumc.org



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST SIGN UP ON THE CONNECT CARD



FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK StPaulUMCLargo

Making a Prayer Request

Write your prayer request on the Connect Card and drop at the Connection Center or in the offering plate. You can call our prayer line at any time: 559-PRAY (7729).

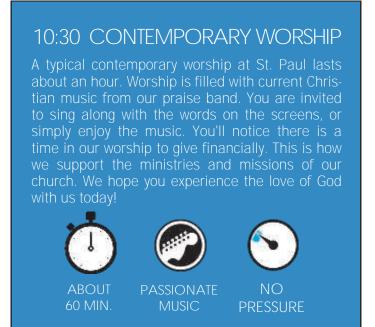
Hear Our Prayer

Please pray for the people listed below with immediate prayer needs:

Al Misuraca Allison Hall Amanda Swan Amelia Neville Bill & MaryIn Neville Bob Donegan Bob Hartel Bob Larch Bobby Quinton Bonnie Wismer Brad James Caitlynn Timberlake Carolyn Goodwin Chad M. Charlie Cox Charlie Petleys Children, Youth, Women Chris Lincoln Chris Mitchell **Cliff Armbruster** Dave David & Cathy Dubrock David, Nicole & baby boy Gilbert Quinn Greg, Megan, Jackson & baby Huff-Walker family Jace Michael Jackson Jane Dinini Jane Dye Jane Huter Jenny Walter Jim Lucky John C. John Fady Josh DeLoach Joy & Brooke Julie & Lillyann Kat Farhangi Kathy Ludwick Kathy Seitz

Kecia Richardson Kenneth A. Kevin Kevin & Vicki Kevin, Heather & Malachi Kim Morris Kristi Burslem Larry Leslie Libby Burke Linda Lori, Andy, David Margie Stillwell Mark LaPolla Mary Barrett Max Meghann Timberlake Mike & Kathleen Normandy Woodward Pat Baker Penny McElyea Peter H. Ramsey Hardin Rex Lucas Rich Stemboroski Rita Samantha Sharon & Stephanie Sherry Shirley Steve Brower Steve Harvey Surgery Susie Cabrera Tammy B. Todd Smyzer Tom Russell Trevor Birt Troy Hartel Wayne Boyd Zackary Kueker Zakk Gerhards

Due to our bulletin printer's early holiday deadlines it may take a little longer for your prayer request to appear in the bulletin than normal, but your prayer needs are being prayed over by our Prayer Team, which receives their own list as soon as requests are made.



You Can Still Turn in a Commitment Card

Your pledges and contributions are how we can make the "what ifs" that we've been talking about this month a reality as we continue, and expand, our work for the Lord. Last week we dedicated Commitment Cards during worship, but if you missed it, we are still accepting Commitment Cards through the end of the year. You can pick up a card in one of the pews or in the Connection Center and place it in the offering plate, drop it off at the church office or mail it to us. Online pledges can also be made on our website: stpaulumc.org

Flowers

Today's sanctuary flowers were given by:

- ♥ Julia Smith and family in memory of Alvin Smith on his birthday
- Dave Bossard with love to my wife, Marilyn, on her birthday
- Mike & Cindy Constantinou in celebration of their 21st wedding anniversary

Do you have an event or person you would like to honor with flowers? You can give a flower bouquet to the Glory of God. Call the church office at 584-8165, visit the Giving page on our website, or e-mail church@stpaulumc.org. Bouquets are \$40. Be sure to include your inscription with your order. Flowers can be donated to hospitals and the homebound, or picked up after 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday or at the church office during the week.

Deaths

Please pray for the family and friends of Marilyn Hough who recently passed on to life eternal.

St. Paul United Methodist Church

Use this card to record your attendance and share your prayer requests, needs and interests. Tear off and return it in the offering plate, the basket in the lobby, or the Connection Center. You do not need to fill out the entire card, only the parts that apply to you!

Date:	November 27, 2016	9 AM	10:30 AI
Name:			
E-mail:			
Phone:			
Addres	S:		
lama)'		
	st Time Guest	2nd Tir	ne Guest
	egular Attendee	Membe	
_	/inter Resident		()
	accoundate my inform	motion	
LP	ease update my inforr	nation.	
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l wan ⁻	t to join your e-ma	il list [.]	
	eekly Pastor's E-Note		n Guide
	nis Week at St. Paul Ne		
	outh	Childre	n
	ther:		
-	e to put your e-mail addre	ess at the top	of the card!
		,	
How c	an we pray for you	J?	

For Military Prayer List

Do NOT publish in bulletin.

Include on prayer chain.

I would like to connect with a Stephen Minister.

Don't forget to fill out the other side!

St. Paul United Methodist Church

Use this card to record your attendance and share your prayer requests, needs and interests. Tear off and return it in the offering plate, the basket in the lobby, or the Connection Center. You do not need to fill out the entire card, only the parts that apply to you!

I am interested in:

Rededicating my life to Jesus

- ☐ Being baptized
- Becoming a member
- ☐ Joining a Source Group
- Serving at the church How:
- Serving in the community How:
- Learning more about St. Paul ministries

Specifically:

Other:

I need a name tag for:

(Name tags can be picked up in the Connection Center to the side of the lobby two weeks after your request is placed.)

I would like to volunteer to help with:

Open Arms Christmas	Toy Distribution
---------------------	------------------

- Loving Hearts Memorial Food Ministry
- □ Flower Ministry-4th and 5th Sunday

Christmas Eve

Usher Greeter Parking Lot Attendant Which service can you help with?

- □ 6 PM (Be here at 5:15 PM)
 □ 8 PM (Be here at 7:16 PM)
- □ Both

I will attend:

- Surviving the Holidays Dec. 4 Cost of Survival Guide Booklet—\$5
- Because of Bethlehem Study–Nov. 30 No cost for this study

Remember to fill out the other side with your name and contact info!

Don't forget to fill out the other side!

NEXTSTEPS

Want to know more about St. Paul, meet new people, or get more involved? TAKE THE NEXT STEP!



CONNECTION CENTER

Our Connection Center is located in the room to the side of the sanctuary. Stop by if you have any questions, need information, or would like to speak to someone about St. Paul.

DISCOVER ST. PAUL

Discover St. Paul is an informal lunch focused on who we are as a church, our mission, core values, a tour of the facilities, and a chance to meet some of our staff and new people who are also interested in the church.





STARTING POINT CLASS

This four week class covers basics of our faith. For anyone who is new to attending church or is coming back to church.

ONGOING GROUPS

- Age level groups (ex. JOY, IGNITE)
- Source Groups (Small groups of twelve or less)

Sunday School

SHORT TERM GROUPS

- Topical classes covering things like
 - ⇒ Finance
 - \Rightarrow Parenting
 - \Rightarrow Caretaking
- Topical and seasonal Bible studies and

VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.STPAULUMC.ORG

for more information about our ministries.

GROW IN FAITH

Adult Studies

Adult Sunday Morning Classes

Adults of any age are invited to join one of our Sunday school classes:

9:15 a.m. Sunday school classes Room 202 in Bldg C (Children's building).

10:15 a.m. Sunday school classes

Inspirations - Purple Door Classroom (101) in Bldg C Crusaders - Conference Room 1 in Bldg B Friendship - Room 201 (Community Room) in CLEC Bereans - Conference Room 2 in Bldg B

JOY (Just Older Youth)

Older adults are invited to join us at 10:30 a.m. each Tuesday for worship, study and fellowship. This Tuesday, November 29, Horton Townes will teach. Bring a lunch and eat together. Beverages are provided by the church. For more information, contact Senior Director of Ministry, Bobby Van Duyne at 584-8165 x233 or bobby.v@stpaulumc.org

SURVIVING HOLIDAYS

Next Sunday, December 4 | 2 to 4 p.m. | Room 201 (CLEC) When you're grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our Surviving the Holidays seminar helps participants discover practical ways to deal with emotions and traditions, helpful tips for surviving social events, and how to find hope for the future. Join us next Sunday for this encouraging seminar. Refreshments and childcare provided. Cost of the Survival Guide booklet is \$5. It includes over 30 daily devotions with insights from GriefShare experts, powerful Scriptures and prayers, as well as tips to manage the holiday season during this difficult time.

If you plan to attend, register by calling the church office at 584-8165 or filling out the Connect Card.





Our IGNITE group for adults ages 18-35 does not have a meeting tonight. Join them next Sunday at 7 p.m. in room 202 of the Christian Life Enrichment Center for study and discussion of Max Lucado's, "Because of Bethlehem." Contact IGNITE leader, Felix Koutsourais at c24go1@aol.com for more information. You can also visit their facebook for updates.





Advent Study: Because of Bethlehem Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. | Nov. 30 - Dec. 21 Mariposa Cafe (CLEC) | Cost: Free

This year Pastor Bob will lead a Wednesday night Advent study written by Max Lucado, "Because of Bethlehem." It's easy to get caught up in the secular excitement of Christmas, but this study brings us back to the real reason for the season. Christmas begins what Easter celebrates. The child in the cradle became the King on the cross. Because of Bethlehem, we have a Savior in heaven. The class begins November 30 and runs through Dec. 21. Come at 6 p.m. for desserts, beverages and fellowship. Class begins at 6:30 p.m. If you plan to attend, let us know by marking your Connect Card. There is no book needed or cost to attend.



Candlelight Christmas Is This Friday

Deadline to buy tickets: Tuesday, Nov. 29

Join us this Friday, December 2 for this year's Candlelight Christmas dinner. We have a live nativity beginning at 6:10 pm in the lobby of the Christian Life Enrichment Center and caroling before dinner. Doors to the fellowship hall open at 6:30 p.m. Our program will be performed by the Largo High School Madrigal Singers, directed by our own Traditional Worship Leader, Kody Wallace. Tickets are \$25. Be sure to get yours in the courtyard between worship services today or at the church on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

GROWTHguide

Sign Up For Our Growth Guide

Our Growth Guide offers daily scripture readings and reflection based on Pastor Bob's Sunday message. You can use this tool to help draw you deeper into your faith journey and reflect on the topics raised each week during worship. To receive the Growth Guide by e-mail, fil out the Connect Card or sign up online at www.stpaulumc.org Here From St. Paul Missionary, Carolyn Goodwin

December 11 | 3 p.m. |LuAnne Willey Fellowship Hall

St. Paul member Carolyn Goodwin has been serving as a missionary in South Sudan over the past year. She is temporarily back home, and on December 11, we invite you to come to the LuAnne Willey Fellowship Hall



from 3 to 4 p.m. to hear Carolyn share her experiences in South Sudan. You will hear about the work she did with the orphans many of you gave to help provide rain boots for, the work she did with women in prison, and about her efforts to assist and improve the medical care available in Yei, South Sudan. She will also share the story of her sudden evacuation with other personnel from their compound in Yei to Uganda due to the unrest and violence in South Sudan, and how they were able to remove the children from the orphanage to the relative safety of a refugee camp in Uganda. Undaunted by the recent upheavals, she plans to return to Africa in January 2017 and will share some of what God is now calling her to do. St. Paul is very proud of Carolyn and her missionary work. Let's all come hear her story and show our love and support by giving her a great send off as she sets out on her next African adventure for our Lord. Carolyn's Support Team will provide refreshments.



Lighting the Advent Candles

During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us as we light the four candles of the Advent Wreath. At St. Paul we use three blue candles, and one pink candle to represent joy, along with one larger, white candle in the middle as the Christ candle. The lighting of the first candle symbolizes hope and expectation, while the second symbolizes peace, the third joy and the fourth love. The white Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.



Children Infant– 5th Grade, Kaitie Johnson, Director of Children's Ministry, Kaitie.j@stpaulumc.org

Sunday Morning: Lil' Kidz Care

Lil' Kidz Care is available every Sunday for infants to 4year-olds, at 8:45 a.m. in the nursery building (Bldg B) next to the sanctuary. Sign in and be given a pick-up card that you will need to pick-up your child.

Sunday Morning: Preschool & K-5

Kids ages 3-5 and K-5th grade are invited to join us in the Children's Ministry Center in Bldg C at both 9 and 10:30 a.m. for Children's Worship and age-appropriate lessons.

Wednesdays: Worship Arts

Children in K-5th grade are invited to join us on Wednesday nights. Each week kids will have the opportunity to sing, and worship God in creative ways. Kids are currently working on a Thanksgiving song.

Drop off begins at 6 p.m. in the Mariposa Café (Christian Life Enrichment Center). We'll have snacks and then move to Room 201 (Community Room) of the CLEC. Pick-up is at 7:30 p.m. in the gym.



FOOD AND FUN ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS INFANT-5" GRADE!

Parent's Night Out This Saturday!

Take the night off while your kids have fun at a special PJ party with lots of activities, food and more. It's free! Infant through 5th grade children are welcome. Register by Thursday for this free event: www.stpaulumc.org





Student Ministry

6th-12th Grade Alison Van Duyne, Student Ministry Director, alison.v@stpaulumc.org

SPUMCLighthouse

Sunday Student Worship

There is no Student Worship this week. Join us next Sunday at 5:30 p.m. as we begin a new series "Another Christmas Story."



It's Christmas. Nativity scenes are everywhere. You know, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, and the drummer boy (who wasn't actually there). Maybe you grew up seeing these scenes and wondered what they were all about. Or maybe you've heard the story a million times. Either way, there's another story we bet you haven't heard, characters you barely know, scenes you don't see in the plastic nativity on your neighbor's lawn. As we explore two oftenuntold parts of the Christmas story, we discover that God had something bigger in mind from the very beginning.

Wednesday Nights

6-7:30 p.m. | Student Room

Students are invited to a Wednesday Bible study to get into God's Word. Students will hang out, play in the gym and have a Bible study in the Student Room. Snacks provided.

Confirmation Reminder

Confirmation Class begins with a retreat on Friday, January 6. This class challenges students to think theologically and ask deep questions about the Bible, Methodist history and doctrine, and their lives as people of faith. Cost for the class is \$35 and it is open to students in Grades 6 and above. You can register or find our more about what the class will cover on our website: www.stpaulumc.org

Service Opportunity

Students in grades 6 through 12 are invited to volunteer at the Parents Night Out PJ Party. Come and have fun with the kids while serving the Lord on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 5 to 9 p.m.

GIUE IN LOUE



Open Arms Angel Trees

Please take a tag from one of the Angel Trees in the lobby to help our Open Arms Resource Center provide toys for over 500 children.

- Buy a gift for the gender and age marked on the tag you choose, and drop your unwrapped gift off in the blue shopping cart in the sanctuary lobby or at Open Arms by December 19.
- Leave all presents unwrapped so parents can "shop" for their children's toys in our Christian Life Enrichment Center. Please bring a roll of wrapping paper or a gift bag with your donation. Parents will use these to wrap their gifts after they choose them.

This is a wonderful way to share the joy of Christmas with children in need, and we are counting on you to help us again this year. If you can't donate, consider helping with set up and distribution. Call Open Arms Director, Yvette Carter at 727-586-5380 or mark the Connect Card if you would like to volunteer.

Help with Christmas Eve Worship

Each year we welcome many visitors during our Christmas Eve services, and we need lots of friendly and warm people to help as ushers, greeters and parking lot attendants at our 6 p.m. contemporary and our 8 p.m. traditional Christmas Eve worship times. Both worships will include the lighting of candles. These services are so important as an opportunity to open our doors and show the love and kindness of St. Paul with new people, as well as old friends. If you can help with any of these jobs at either worship time, fill out the Connect Card or contact our Senior Director of Music and Worship Arts, Laurel Fortuna at laurel.f@stpaulumc.org.

Knitters and Crocheters Needed

Stephen Ministry and the Prayer Shawl Ministry are joining together to provide prayer shawls and scarfs to 120 residents at Highland Pines Nursing Home with physical and memory disabilities. Many do not have family here and would be the love of Jesus at this special time of year!

Anyone who knits or crochets is invited to help with this Christmas project. You can join the Prayer Shawl Ministry on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Arts and Crafts Room if you would like to knit or crochet with others. You are also welcome to knit or crochet on your own and turn in your finished items at the church office. We only ask that as you are knitting or crocheting, you pray for the people who will be receiving these special gifts this Christmas. Stephen Ministry will deliver the prayer shawls and scarves along with some personal care items in mid-December.

We have some yarn available at the church, or you can buy your own. For more information about the project or to request yarn, contact Patsy Halliburton by e-mail at butterflyplants6@aol.com.

L VING HEARTS MEMORIAL FOOD MINISTRY

Loving Hearts Memorial Food Ministry

When families are suffering with grief over the loss of a loved one, there is a need for the church family to rally around them and care for them. In 2017, St. Paul will begin a new ministry called the Loving Hearts Memorial Food Ministry to serve grieving families by providing food for memorial receptions. We need volunteers who are willing to help provide food from one of three menu choices (desserts, finger sandwiches, or pot luck). Because of the nature of the event, volunteers should be aware that there would probably be a short notification period for food preparation. If you would like to join in the Loving Hearts Memorial Food Ministry beginning 2017 and are willing to provide food for memorial receptions, or if you have questions, call the church office at 584-8165 or fill out the Connect Card in this bulletin.

Coming this Week

Sunday, Novembe	er 27
Courtyard Coffee	8:30 AM
Lil' Kidz Nursery	8:30 AM
Traditional Worship	9:00 AM
Children's Worship	9:00 AM
Half Truths Study	9:15 AM
Bereans	10:15 AM
Crusaders	10:15 AM
Friendship	10:15 AM
Inspirations	10:15 AM
Contemporary Worship	10:30 AM
Children's Worship	10:30 AM
Homeless Feeding	3:30 PM
IGNITE	7:00 PM

Monday, Nove	<u>mber 28</u>
Girl Scouts	6:30 PM
Boy Scouts	7:00 PM

Tuesday, November 29		
Sonrise Men's Study	6:30 AM	
JOY (Just Older Youth)	10:30 AM	

Wednesday, November 30		
UMW: Dorcas	9:00 AM	
Griefshare	6:00 PM	
Students: Amplify	6:00 PM	
Fellowship and Snacks	6:00 PM	
Advent Study	6:30 PM	
Worship Arts	6:30 PM	
Handicapable	6:15 PM	
Volleyball	7:45 PM	

Thursday, December 1

Men's Bible Study	7:00 AM
Prayer Shawl	5:30 PM
Handbells Rehearsal	5:30 PM
Intercessory Prayer	6:00 PM
Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
AA Meeting	7:00 PM

Friday, December 2 Church Office Closed Candlelight Christmas 6:30 PM

Saturday, December 3		
Basketball	8:15 AM	
Parents Night Out	5:00 PM	

E-mail church@stpaulumc.org or call the church office if you have an event to schedule.



Flower Ministry Volunteer Needed

After the last service on Sunday a member of the Flower Ministry takes the flowers out of the brass containers and arranges them in glass vases that can be taken by the member who ordered them. If the pur**chaser doesn't want to keep the flowers,** the Flower Ministry volunteer takes the flowers to someone in our church family who is in the hospital or one of the rehabilitation centers. In this way the sanctuary flowers not only help to beautify the sanctuary for worship, and recognize a special event or person for the purchaser, but al-

so share the love of our church family with someone who is sick, hurt or recovering in a rehab facility.

We need a volunteer to remove and deliver flowers each 4th Sunday and the on five 5th Sundays in 2017. Can you help this wonderful and caring ministry by volunteering one Sunday a month? Call the church office at 727 -584-8165 or fill out the Connect Card if you can help.

Donate Toilet Paper to Open Arms

In addition to food and clothes, Open Arms distributes personal necessities like diapers and toilet paper that are not covered by food stamps and other assistance. We are currently in need of toilet paper. The next time you're at the store, think about buying an extra pack of toilet paper for someone in need. You can leave your donations in the blue shopping cart in the sanctuary lobby on Sunday or the church office during the week.



Change in Office Hours

Our office hours have changed. We are now open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We are still open on the same days, Monday through Thursday.

GOOD NEWS



Handi Leads Celebration of God's Blessings On Wednesday, November 16, almost 250 gathered for an evening of praising the Lord. Members of Handicpable led the worship through singing, prayer, scripture, and more. Videos also celebrated our Handicapable ministry in action and our message asked "What If..."

Twenty children from our Worship Arts class, led by Kaitie Johnson, Director of Children's Ministry, offered a song and shared what they are thankful for. Our Contemporary Worship Leader Josh Hardin and long-time Handi member David Sauter also provided beautiful music for our service. Hearts were moved and filled with joy during this powerful time of worship! How wonderful to witness **the talents of God's "Special People" and our children.** We are so blessed to have these powerful ministries!



St. Paul Golf Tournament In our first inaugural golf tournament, we netted \$4,205! Thanks to everyone who supported the event through sponsorship or by playing. And thanks to all our volunteers! A spring tournament is being planned for next year, so look for more details soon and get ready to have a fun day in support of St. Paul!







STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Strategic Initiative #1 Introduce Jesus to 20,000 persons in a 5 mile radius of our church, so that they experience and share Him.

Strategic Initiative #2 **Follow Jesus' lead to reach out to those experi**encing poverty and strive to reverse its effects on our community.

SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS!

Is your ministry touching people's lives and accomplishing things for the Lord? Share your Good News with all of us! You can send Good News and pictures to Communications Coordinator, Rebecca Carefoot at rebecca.c@stpaulumc.org

The Reverend Bob Martin, Senior Pastor The Reverend Pam Dubov, Minister of Outreach and Missions



Address: 1199 Highland Avenue in Largo, 33770 Phone: (727) 584-8165 | Prayer: (727) 559-PRAY Office Hours: 9 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday-Thursday E-mail: church@stpaulumc.org | www.stpaulumc.org

