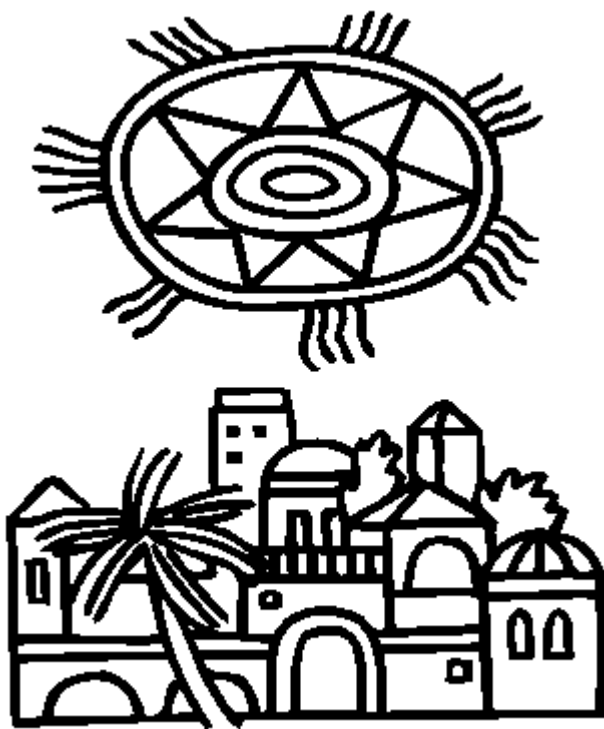




The Epistle

**The Monthly Parish Visitor of:
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Tampa, Florida**

**January 2016
Volume 61
Number 1**



**God's mission for St. Paul Lutheran
Church is to witness God's love and our
faith in the Resurrected Christ.**



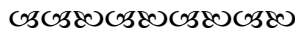
January Birthdays

1/14 Dorrett Jones
 1/15 Mike Delach
 1/26 Kevin Oliva
 1/27 Liz Wilson

Did you get married in this month? If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please let us know!



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation to approve the budget, elect council members and review our ministries will be Sunday, January 31, 2016, following the 11:00 AM service. *There are open seats on the Council. Please contact Wayne Tolzman if you are willing to serve.*



FROM THE PASTOR

Do you believe in miracles?

It's been a good start to our faith journey together. Our one-year agreement has now become a regular call. Your kindness, generosity and welcome to me and my family is inspiring and wonderful. Thank you for your confidence in me and the ministry which you perform!

Previously, I assisted two very different congregations to turn around and find long-term sustainability. There are many fond moments I recall of meeting challenges head on — and experiencing how God brought those congregations through their challenges to build life-changing ministries.

But those calls were separate — and full time.

The miracle God is about in New Parish of Tampa involves the transformation of two congregations simultaneously with only a half-time pastoral call. Why the Holy Spirit takes on

such challenges dumbfounds me sometimes. As the Christmas readings repeat, “and Mary pondered these things in her heart.”

The one thing I’m clear about is that the miracle underway involves the participation of every willing person. The old days – the former paradigm, of the pastor being the paid expert to handle the spirituality of the whole congregation — are over. It just doesn’t work anymore for a host of reasons better discussed at another time.

I’m beginning to see that my particular task as pastor of New Parish of Tampa (St. Paul and Faith Lutheran Churches) involves helping everyone live out their own spiritual expression of the faith in Christ which God has planted in their hearts.

How do you connect the gift of your faith with the actions that fulfill your calling in the world?

How do you live out your baptism? How do you love others as God has loved you?

How do you make forgiveness real in an often unforgiving world?

There are a lots of ways to express this question. Let me help you find the way you can make sense of your own spiritual work.

When I step back and look at this miraculous work underway – the gift of faith working itself out in love in the world – I see one larger question for the congregation. It’s the “Why?” question. Not so much “Why should St. Paul exist?” but “Why do we or anyone else connect our faith and spirituality through St. Paul?”

I think we need to talk together a great deal about this “why.” St. Paul has a great history of leadership in Tampa. That heritage is surely part of the “why.” The better we understand it, the more we will witness the miracle of God in our midst.

2016 promises to be a wonderful faith journey. Happy New Year!

Grace and peace,
Pr. Russell Meyer

P.S. A very heartfelt thank you from my family and me for your generous Christmas gift. We were not expecting such a thing. May you all be blessed richly in the new year!





MINISTRY NEWS: PASTORAL TEAM CREATED

With the approval of the Congregation Council, a new Pastoral Care Team has formed. Led by Pastor Meyer, the team includes Michael Brannan, Jeanine Romano, and Lewis Balsizer. Lewis and Jeanine are candidates for the synod deaconate and attending the diakonia training program. Michael has a long history of work in nursing homes. All are known as deeply caring disciples.

The Pastoral Care Team will help to make certain the congregation fulfills its caring ministry, especially for those facing disease and life traumas. They will also assist to enrich the climate of compassion and inreach in the parish.

The team is a great asset to the parish since Pastor Meyer is half-time in both St. Paul and Faith combined.

MUSIC NOTES



We will be hosting the **Pacific Lutheran University Chorale** in concert on Monday, **January 25, 2016** for what will surely be an amazing program of choral music. We are committed to **provide a meal** for the students and faculty at the church prior to the concert, and then **provide housing** for the students after the concert for one night. They will need to be housed in pairs.

We had a great turn out this past year when we hosted the Air Force brass band. Let's open our doors once again and invite the community in to hear this incredible Lutheran choir. Time is short, and we need your response as soon as possible! Please help bring this group to St. Paul. If you can host and/or help with the meal, please contact Dennis Douglas at 813-352-4748 or d.douglas2067@gmail.com.

Many thanks to the musicians of St. Paul Lutheran Church for sharing their time and talents with us: Pam Irwin, flute; Hilde Reno, Michael Brannan, and Jeanine Romano (cantors), and our Choir for their dedication, wonderful spirit, and music.

Soli Deo Gloria (to God alone be the glory),
Dennis



**St. Paul Lutheran Council
December Council Highlights**

- Budget, budget, budget – enough said.
- Gearing up for 2016 and the Annual Meeting on January 31st.
- Council openings: If interested, please see Wayne.
- Remember The Well - bring what you can from the list of needs every Sunday, and donate your time on the 3rd Saturday of each month.
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 12

Respectfully submitted,
Carmen Hayes, Council Secretary



**Worship Ministry/
Altar Guild**



WORSHIP

Happy New Year!!

I hope everyone had a great holiday season! December was busy for sure...we had great Wednesday Advent services with wonderful dinners, beautiful messages of The Gifts of Advent, along with the Holden Evening Prayer and Christmas carol sing-a-longs at the end of each service.

Our Sundays in Advent were just as special. Christmas Eve was a beautiful candlelight service that began with the Congregation singing Carols. It was wonderful to see the church full and all the candles lit while we sang Silent Night! Joy to the World was our final hymn and what a Joy it was to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

We will be removing the Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 9th, at 9:00 am — come join us! (cont.)

(cont.)

ALTAR GUILD

I am pleased to announce we have three teams once again for Altar Guild. Of course there's always room for more — so please, if you're interested contact one of us.

One of the first items of the Agenda for the new year is to have a wine tasting demonstration to determine a white wine we can agree on. More information to follow so keep an eye out for it.

Before we have time to catch our breath it will be Ash Wednesday (February 10th). The schedule of services will be printed in the February epistle. I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Patty Tolzman



Parish Orientation - Sunday, January 10, 1 pm at St. Paul. Gather with Pastor Meyer to converse about discipleship and church membership. Whether you're a recent worshiper

here or have been coming for a while, please come and share in what belonging to the Lutheran church is all about. Let us know you're coming so we can prepare for everyone; call 813.

239.3113, or email stpaulutherantpa@verizon.net and leave your name and how many you will attend with. The Lutheran Handbook II and lunch will be served.



Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke - Wednesdays in January at Faith, 12703 North Florida Ave., starting January 6th. A light supper will be served; a free-will offering will be received. Gather at 5:45 pm. Study is from 6:15 - 7:15 pm.



Witness Ministry

A big thank you to all St. Paul members who helped with our church **Yard Sale** on December 5th – donating items to sell, setting up tables & pricing, then cooking and selling on Saturday. Twelve neighbors or vendors spent their day with us and we sent \$70 to Metropolitan Ministries as a donation.

We also have **new furniture** in the Lounge, thanks to Suzan Hartnagle's donation of her mother, Alice Spafford's beautiful furniture. And, we were able to sell parts of the sectional that we took out of the Lounge. Hilde Reno is working on selling some of the more valuable yard sale donations at consignment, so there may be more profit coming in! Right now the total is almost \$650 with the addition of some late sales and football parking money.

Santa Lucia Sunday on December 13th was special with Liz Wilson's 10-year-old granddaughter, Sydney Burke, as St. Lucia. She was an especially sweet greeter that morning. Thanks to Isaac Fritz who was our Star Boy, plus acolyte, plus crucifer that morning!

Our **Christmas publicity** this year included a Facebook ad and a 250 postcard invitation mailing to residents in the 33603 zip code, plus the Christmas Eve banner and A-frame messages.

Pastor Meyer will be having an **Orientation Class** for information about church membership on Sunday, January 10th after the service.

St. Paul has a newly repaired **flag pole, rope & 5' x8' American flag**. Thanks for taking care of that, Glenn Williams!

We have four non-member **weddings** scheduled already for 2016 with a couple more requests in the works. The January 16th wedding is for a Seminole Presbyterian couple. On March 5th Pastor Meyer will be officiating and Dennis Douglas will be on the piano and organ for a wedding.

2016 New Year's Resolution: Bring a friend to church in 2016!

Witness Ministry: **Eleanor & Jimmy, Joyce & Fabio, Glenn, Lynn, Teresa, Carolyn and Ann**



Service Report

Thank you for your generosity in 2016! In addition to weekly deliveries to The Well, St. Paul was able to donate more than \$200.00 worth of educational toys to Metropolitan Ministries this year. As a founding member of Metropolitan Ministries, we continue to support this great organization each year with food and other donations.

Well update: next service opportunity is Saturday, January 16th. If you are interested in being part of the 3rd Saturday team, show up around 9:30 am and expect to work and have a great time.

This was a wonderful experience for all of us who were able to make it in November. The Well continues to need food, especially proteins like meat with pop tops. These are handed out daily. Also, clothes and blankets are always needed.

Tina Fritz



Some Things to Think About in the New Year

Here are a few thoughts related to stewardship to think about in this new year.

- Society says: You will find happiness and peace as you accumulate enough wealth to support your desired standard of living. Scripture says: You can be content in every circumstance as you follow the scriptural principles of how to handle your possessions.
- Stewardship of Time: The secret to time management is not learning how to save time or to get more of it; the secret is knowing how to use it. Contentment is not the fulfillment of what you want, but the realization of how much you already have.
- Charity begins at home but generally dies because of lack of exercise.
- Seek joy in what you give, not in what you get.

**Join Pastor Meyer at the
Annual Martin Luther King Jr Interfaith Prayer Service**
on

Monday, January 18, 4 pm

at Allen Temple AME in Ybor City.

Pr. Meyer will give the Invocation Prayer.

The speaker for the event is Eric Duggans of NPR TV.

The youth of New Parish of Tampa are encouraged to attend.

Dinner will be served after the service.



THE 27TH HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY INTERFAITH
**MARTIN LUTHER KING
SERVICE**
JANUARY 18, 2016
4:00 PM
ALLEN TEMPLE AME CHURCH
2101 N LOWE ST TAMPA FL

speaker
ERIC DEGGANS
NPR TV critic and author
of *Race-Baiter:
How the Media Wields Dangerous Words to Divide a Nation*

our lives begin to end
WHEN WE BECOME
SILENT

about things that
MATTER

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	
9AM SPC Svc.	WEEKLY: 11-1 <i>New Bite of Serenity</i> 6:30pm <i>Together We Can</i> 9 pm <i>Never Too Young</i>	WEEKLY: 11-1 <i>New Bite of Serenity</i> 6 pm Men's Lit Study 8 pm NA Speakers Grp	WEEKLY: 11-1 <i>New Bite of Serenity</i> 5:30pm <i>at</i> 8 pm <i>Ne</i>
27 10 AM Sunday Sch. 11 AM Worship Svc.	28	29	30 <i>Choir Re</i>
3 10 AM Sunday Sch. 11 AM Worship Svc.	4	5	6 6 pm Location 7:30 pm
10 10AM Sunday Sch. 11 AM Worship Svc. Orientation Class after Service Witness Ministry Mtg.	11	12 7 pm Council Meeting	13 6 pm Location 7:30 pm
17 10 AM Sunday Sch. 11 AM Worship Svc.	18 MLK Inter-faith Prayer @ Allen Temple w. Pastor Meyer	19	20 6 pm Location 7:30 pm
24 10 AM Sunday Sch. 11 Worship Svc. ANNUAL MEETING 31	25 Paci fic Lutheran Choral (time TBA)	26	27 6 pm Location 7:30 pm

2016

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>WEEKLY: <i>New Bite of Serenity</i> <i>Sunset Solutions</i></p> <p>Law Life</p>	<p>WEEKLY: 11-1 <i>New Bite of Serenity</i> 8 pm <i>A New Way</i></p>	<p>WEEKLY: 11-1 <i>New Bite of Serenity</i></p>	<p>WEEKLY: 7 pm NA Men's Step <i>Group</i></p>
<p>7:45 pm Ch.</p>	31	1	2
<p>Bible Study TBA Choir Reh.</p>	7	8	9 9 am- Decorati on Removal
<p>Bible Study TBA Choir Reh.</p>	14	15	16 9: 30 am @ The Well for 3rd Saturday
<p>Bible Study TBA Choir Reh.</p>	21 7:30 pm Rebecca Circle @ Ann Delach's home	22	23
<p>Bible Study TBA Choir Reh.</p>	28	29	30



Rebecca Circle News

What a great group of women at our December meeting! There were ten of us at Julie Williams' home enjoying Hilde's program about Advent. We really appreciated the delicious sugar cookie Advent wreath we all created!

Discussion included how to use the Yard Sale money to benefit the church. We felt the kitchen needs upgrading and some redesign. Carmen volunteered to organize the pantry clean-out. Carolyn Kelley volunteered to research selling the old dishes on CraigsList.

We decided to have a plaque from Rebecca Circle hung in the Lounge in memory of Pat Smith. Thanks to Lynne Bowman for writing the sentiment.

Our **January meeting** will be on Thursday, January 21st at 7:30pm at the home of Ann Delach with Lynn Bowman presenting the program. All St. Paul women and friends are invited.

At the January meeting we'll put together the Health Kits for *Lutheran World Relief*. Items include: **bath size towels, bath-**



If
to

size bars of soap, toothbrushes, combs and metal nail clippers. Especially needed are towels and nail clippers to complete the kits. you can donate any of these items, please give a Rebecca Circle member.



*So...How can I help?
What need does my church have?
Can I sponsor something special?*



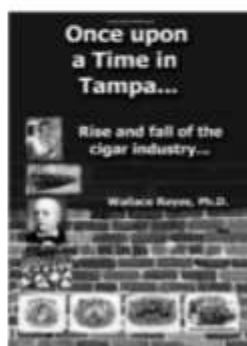
Ongoing needs:

- *Paper Goods (Plates, forks, napkins, cups)
- *Coffee



Seminole Heights Public Library
Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries

Once Upon a Time in Tampa
Monday, Jan. 11 6:30 p.m.



While researching for his book, *Once Upon a Time in Tampa: Rise and Fall of the Cigar Industry*, Wallace Reyes, Ph.D. unearthed many fascinating facts about Florida, Key West, Tampa, and Ybor City. Join him as he discusses the historical, cultural and social diversity of Tampa and how the cigar industry transformed the state economy.

For Adults

hcplc
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The views expressed in this program are those of the presenter(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or opinions of Hillsborough County, Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries, or the Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County, Inc. who do not endorse the presenter(s).

4711 N. Central Ave. Tampa, FL 33603 813-273-3652 | hcplc.org



Seminole Heights Library
Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Libraries

Guardianship Basics **Monday, Jan. 25 6:30 pm**



Join Joshua C. Eberle, Esq. as he explains what is involved in guardianship. The term guardianship describes a legal relationship between the guardian and the ward. The term ward describes a person whom the court has declared legally incapacitated and has had some or all of his or her rights removed.

For Adults

hcplc
o r g

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4711 N Central Ave., Tampa, FL 33603 | 813-273-3652 | hcplc.org



PRAYER LIST

Watch dear Lord, with those who wake, watch over, or weep. Tend the sick, rest the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous. In your love give us all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE PRAY FOR:

Lillian Arnold	member
Michael Brannan	member
Winnie Clark	member
Annie & Russell Goldsmith	members
Jeanne Purcell	member
Fred Tetlow	member
Debbie Tubbs	member
Marilyn Weisz	member
Family of Pat Smith	member
Family of Mel Stroupe,	father of
Family of James Steel	father of
DeeAnn Bennett	sister of
Kathy Busek	aunt of
Kenneth Campbell	brother of
James Ellis	friend of
Corey Hartnagle	grandson of
Lou Hiza	mother of
Glenn Hommert	cousin of
Geraldyn Levos	sister of
Family of Traci Lodivico	niece of
Catherine Malmquist	mother of
Sharon Olenski	friend of
Elaine Schweinsburg	friend of
Betty Sherrill	friend of
Rena Smith	sister in law of
Gracie Sontoro	friend of
Gloria Tillis	mother of

Prayer Works



Dave Stroupe
Beckie McKenzie
Donna Priskey
Pam Oliva
Pete Campbell
Danny Williams
Alice Spofford
Margaret Tillis
Lou Falter
Gary Levos
Eddie Malmquist
Eddie Malmquist
St. Paul
St. Paul
Lou Falter
Pat Smith
Ron Tillis
Ron Tillis

(continued next page)

Gary Toledo
Diane Tolzman
Wade Williams

son of
mother of
friend of

Fabio & Joyce Toledo
Wayne Tolzman
Carolyn Kelley



Seminole Heights
BRANCH LIBRARY



**Master Gardener: Eat My Garbage:
Vermicomposting**

Monday, Jan. 25, 6:30 p.m.



Learn how to compost using nature's incredible recyclers: Worms! Fed with paper, fruit and vegetable scraps. Worms produce incredibly rich compost that will give your vegetable, herb or flower gardens a nutritional super-boost! This talk will be given by Extension Compost Coordinator Lisa Meredith.

FOR ADULTS

4711 Central Ave., Tampa, FL 33603
(813) 273-3652

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Worship Schedule January 2016



Jan 3 AM: Ann Delach
AC: Isaac Fritz
USH: J. Clark, F. Toledo, C. Fritz, B. Haarer
Greeters: Joyce & Fabio Toledo
Refreshments: Fritz Family

Jan 10 AM: Adrian Snow
AC: Isaac Fritz
USH: B. Delach, J. Dunn, W. & P. Tolzman
Greeters: Jimmy & Eleanor Dunn
Refreshments: WELCA

Jan 17 AM: Carmen Hayes
AC: Isaac Fritz
USH: J. Clark, F. Toledo, W. Tolzman, B. Haarer
Greeters: Curt & Tina Fritz
Refreshments: Austin Family

Jan 24 AM: Tina Fritz
AC: Isaac Fritz
CA: Lewis Balsizer
USH: C. Fritz, B. Delach, J. Dunn, P. Tolzman
Greeters: Liz Wilson

Jan 31 AM: Jeanine Romano
AC: Isaac Fritz
USH: J. Clark, B. Haarer, F. Toledo; W. Tolzman
Greeters: Curt & Tina Fritz
Refreshments: Lunch Bunch

Altar Guild: Ann Delach & Carolyn Kelley

Counters: Tina Fritz, Ann Delach





St. Paul Lutheran Church (ELCA)

A member of New Parish of Tampa with Faith Lutheran Church.

The church is located just west of I-275 at the Hillsborough Avenue exit and three blocks south on Central Avenue.

Worship services with Holy Communion are held at 11 a.m. each Sunday.

You may reach the church office at (813) 239-3113, or by email: stpaulutherantpa@verizon.net.

Pastor Meyer’s Office hours are by appointment only. Pastor Meyer can be reached by calling (813) 435-5335, or emailing him at pastor@newparishtampa.com.

Church Office Hours: Monday 9:00 a.m.– 6 p.m. Wednesday 9:00 a.m.— 5 p.m., Friday 9:00 a.m.— 4 p.m.

Find us on the web at www.stpaultampa.org.

EPISTLE ARTICLES ARE DUE by the 16th of the month. Thank you for your timely submissions!



December Financial Statement

“The degree of loving is measured by the degree of giving.” — Edwin Louis Cole

Average Weekly Attendance: 52
Average Weekly Offering: \$1,374



Thanks for both your continued generosity and your presence!



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL™**

Combining faith & finances for good.™

Tampa Bay Lightning Hockey



3rd Annual Thrivent Night @ The Lightning!

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING VS. Florida Panthers

Sunday, January 17th @ 5:00 PM

Amalie Arena, Tampa

\$18.00

(\$26.00 Value!)

We have a bus and will take the first 50 that sign-up. Bus will depart Messiah Lutheran Church at 3:00pm with a stop at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 3:30pm.

Seating is limited! Last day to order tickets is January 12th.

Each package will include a game ticket and a \$20.00 certificate towards food and drink at the Holy Hog Barbecue setup on the Bud Light Party Deck.

Call or Email for your tickets

Jerry Hansen, 813-443-5088 jerry.hansen@thrivent.com

SEE YOU AT THE ARENA!

Appleton, Wisconsin • Minneapolis, Minnesota • Thrivent.com • 800-THRIVENT (800-947-4836)



**St. Paul Lutheran Church
5103 N. Central Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33603-2215**

**RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED**