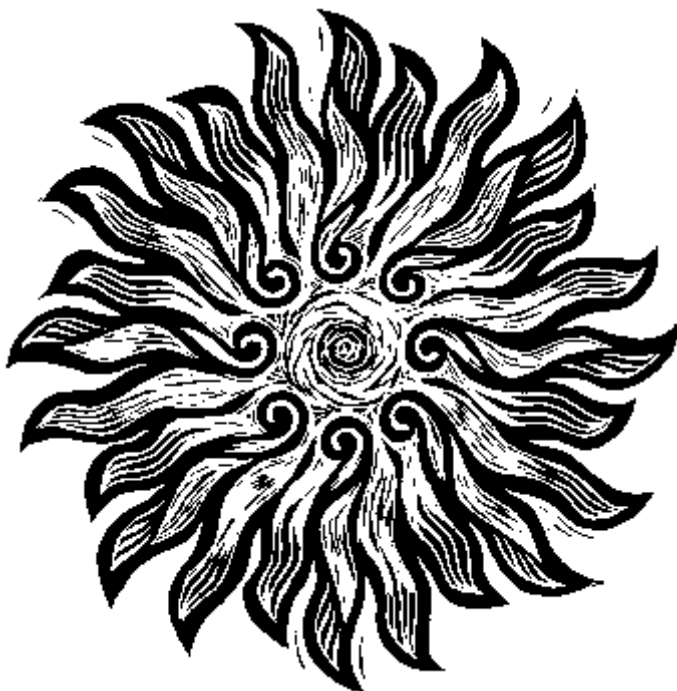




The Epistle

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

**February 2016
Volume 61
Number 2**



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



February Birthdays

2/3	Eddie Malmquist
2/8	Glenn Williams
2/12	Carolyn Kelley
2/14	Ryan Williams
2/21	Ron Tillis
2/24	Christie Roberts
2/25	Mary O'Dea

February Anniversaries

2/5 Sandi & Adrian Snow

Did you get married in this month?

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please let us know!



FROM THE PASTOR



Journeying with Jesus

That great festival of Mardi Gras has Christian roots. "Fat Tuesday," as it's called, once was devoted to cleaning the lard out of the larder. With Spring on the way in Lent (from the word we get length from, referring to the lengthening of daylight), the warming temperatures meant that the winter stores of meat and lard would soon become rancid. So the village would throw a big feast to consume those supplies all at once, and then hunker down during the early Spring until the first fruits of harvest came in. Prayer and fasting were part of the seasonal ritual: praying for good weather and cutting back on the diet while supplies were low during the growing season.

I get why the church often seems irrelevant. After all, our Lenten rituals of prayer and fasting and extra services for practicing those disciplines don't tie in well with the demands of our day to day life. Good ritual has real purpose in structuring life in a meaningful way. Once the connection between daily life and faith practices is lost, church activities can seem out of place in our quick-paced lives.

Some faith leaders find fault with the culture for ignoring the church. You know, too many weekend sports leagues, too much social media, and so on. Such complaints are not my bag of tea. When we look at the real power of Christianity, we see it transcending the fashions of the culture. Online pastors tweet sermons over Twitter; social media turns out to be a friend more than a foe.

Most especially, Christianity is about relationships. Our

relationships with ourselves, our neighbors, strangers, and God.

These days, good ritual seems to tie in with how well it helps us make new relationships and be nurtured in them. Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday and Pancake Suppers might do that, but they're not the only way. As we Journey with Jesus this Lent in the Wednesday Midweek Prayer Service, we'll see how Jesus makes relationships through blessings, healings, conversation, and calling.

Come along on the journey. Simple supper is at 6:15 pm and prayer at 7:00 pm:

Journeying with Jesus
2016 Wednesday Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday	2/10	St. Paul
Luke 5:1-11		The Great Haul
Wednesday 1	2/17	St. Paul
Luke 5:12-26		Power to Heal
Wednesday 2	2/24	St. Paul
Luke 5:27-39		Inviting You, Too!
Wednesday 3	3/2	Faith
Luke 6:1-12		Free to Worship
Wednesday 4	3/9	St. Paul
Luke 6:12-26		Prayer Enacted
Wednesday 5	3/16	Faith
Luke 6:27-49		The Way on the Journey
Maundy Thursday	3/24	St. Paul
Good Friday	3/25	Faith

Let the drum roll begin for **Wayne Tolzman**. Having a great, long run as President of the Congregation, Wayne is stepping aside due to term limits. I can't begin to say everything that Wayne has done over the years. It would be a very long and substantial life. Thank you, Wayne for your time and dedication to St. Paul Lutheran Church!

The new council for St. Paul will elect its leadership, on Tuesday, February 9. On the following Sunday, February 16, new council members will be installed at both Faith and St. Paul.

Grace and peace,
Pr. Russell Meyer



MUSIC NOTES

What an incredible night we had on Monday, January 25. We were privileged to host the Pacific Lutheran University Chorale in concert that evening, and if you were there, you know what a remarkable evening it was, in every way, for our church. The music was amazing – this group was on fire that night! Take a look at the church’s Facebook page for pictures and video clips.

Everyone that I spoke with who hosted students told me what a wonderful experience it was to have these gifted and ambitious young people stay with them. Getting this group here took a tremendous amount of work and planning, and without a lot of you stepping up and saying “yes,” it would not have happened. Special thanks to Pastor Meyer for encouragement to move forward, to Julie Williams and Hilde Reno for their work in planning the meal, to Thrivent for paying for the meal, to Curt Fritz, Harold Dolphin, Dave Stroupe, Liz Wilson and Lynn Bowman for set up and clean up, to Jeanine Romano for social media publicity, and to the Witness Ministry team for print media publicity.

Many thanks to EVERYONE who hosted students – some of you hosted 4 and 5 students (we had to house 42 students)! And thanks to all of you who came to hear this extraordinary group! I’m sure that somewhere along the way I’ve missed a few names since many of you just jump in where needed. Know how much it was appreciated.

Our choir will be singing at Faith Lutheran on Transfiguration Sunday, February 7, and then at St. Paul for a festival service on this last Sunday before Lent. We will also be singing for the Vets at the James A. Haley VA Hospital later in February. We will announce which Sunday a week or two prior. Know that you are always welcome to join the choir. We rehearse Wednesday evenings, September through May at 7:30pm, though the start time may be a bit later during Lent since we have services both at Faith and St. Paul.

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

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

Dennis



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

IN MEMORIAM

The Rev. Dr. Royall Austin Yount, Sr., 93, passed away January 23, 2016 at Trinity Village in Hickory, NC. Born May 19, 1922, in Catawba County, NC, he was the son of the late Floyd Stephen Yount and Lottie Mae Austin Yount.



Royall was a longtime member of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Hickory and was a graduate of Lenoir- Rhyne University and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. He began his pastorate in Florida in 1945 and became President of the Florida Synod, Lutheran Church in America, in 1950 and retired in 1987 as its only Bishop.

During his service as Pastor and Bishop, Royall was awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree from Newberry College in 1956 and Doctor of Laws degree from Lenoir-Rhyne University in 1987. Royall was named as an Honorary Lifetime member of the Board of Trustees of Newberry College. He was Dean of Bishops of the ELCA when he retired in 1987 after 42 years of active ministry. In retirement, he served as a supply pastor to numerous NC Synod congregations and as Vice Pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Hickory from 1990-1991. He served on the Board of Trustees of Lutheran Services for the Aging, Inc. from 1989 to 1998.

Royall is survived by his wife of 70 years, Martha Lee Townsend Yount of Trinity Village; sons, Rev. Dr. Royall A. Yount, Jr and wife Joyce of Raleigh, NC, and John Timothy Yount and wife Kale of Stallings, NC; nine grandchildren; and fifteen great grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 29, 2016 at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Hickory with Rev. Dave Keck officiating. Bishop Timothy M. Smith of the NC Synod, ELCA, is preaching. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 2780 N. Center Street, Hickory, NC 28601 or the Bishop Royall and Martha Yount Scholarship Fund, c/o Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, 4201 North Main Street, Columbia, SC 29203.

Service Report: 3rd Saturday at The Well Ministry Outreach



Catfish was not allowed in the building. Chris was kind, but adamant about this. It was the first thing he told us when we gathered for our Saturday shift. Catfish, he explained, had exhausted all his chances to act right and was no longer allowed in. “Don’t be surprised if you find him staring in the window,” Chris told us, “but don’t worry – he’s harmless.” Chris was our shift supervisor, and explained that he had once been good friends with Catfish, an old fisherman who was just down on his luck these days, like most of the people we would work with that day.

We gathered for the 2nd time at The Well in January, excited, and a little nervous. Wayne had cooked 2 big pans of lasagna, Judy brought her son River and I was there with Isaac. We were joined once again by Martha (an appropriate name) who owned the kitchen, and her young son and Tom Feagin joined her there.



We prepped food, Isaac and River sorting bags of fruit — some old and plopped into a bucket for the compost pile, and others fresh and added to large bowls placed on coffee tables to be eaten.

It was a cold day, and word had gotten out that The Well was open on Saturdays. When the doors opened at 10, the guests rolled in. I sat at the front desk, checking each guest in by name. Asking if they wanted to sign up for a hot shower or clean clothes. Many did, thankfully. The room filled quickly, people glad to be out of the cold, glad to be greeted by name and to sit comfortably, watch a movie and munch some oranges and apples and cake. A huge vat of sweetened coffee waited for them, and I let



them know we were serving lasagna a little later. I was asked more than once, “With meat? And Cheese?” I assured them it had both, and that Wayne made it, and as a former fire fighter he was a pretty good cook – almost as good as me.

Isaac started the showers at 10:30, calling each guest by name. “Mr. Smith, you’re up for shower. Would you care to get some clean clothes first?” By the second or third guest he had it down, reminding them that they had 10 minutes as he handed them a towel and a chunk of soap, and that he would flash the light at 8 minutes, and knock when time was up. To see the men and women emerge with wet hair and clean clothes and a smile was really nice; they looked fresh, new. Judy organized the clothes and became a personal shopper offering clean pants and shirts. Wayne served lunch bringing out the plates, telling Eddie “this one has extra cheese,” just as he had requested. Tom and Martha washed dishes and cut apples, everyone doing what they wanted to do.

Our time went quickly. It was joyful, meeting Ed and Eddie, Will, Chicken Wing, even Cat Fish staring through the window. Stephany, Lisa, Kaya, Angel and Angel Z, Lauren and Shorty. Shorty fell asleep immediately, face down on the oversized ottoman. I asked Eddie if he was ok and was told he was comfortable – that he usually slept on the ground. Hunter and Abdul, our last 2 showers, nervous that we would run out of time before they got theirs. I told Isaac to change the time to 9 minutes to make sure we got everyone in and not tell them about the change — but he did tell them, explaining that we were running out of time.

At 2:00 we shooed them out to thanks and kind words. We told them to be safe and that we would see them again. We cleaned up, wiping down the surfaces, sweeping and mopping and thinking about the people we had met. I thought of how blessed I was not only for all I have, but for the experience of serving. I found this shared by others; Isaac felt great, smiling and happy. Wayne could not wait until the next month and Tom told me the next day that everyone from St. Paul should come at least once.

It was a good day, and we all felt somehow changed. I find myself looking at the people I see in the doorways at night. I think about the rain differently. I can’t wait to go back.

Tina Fritz

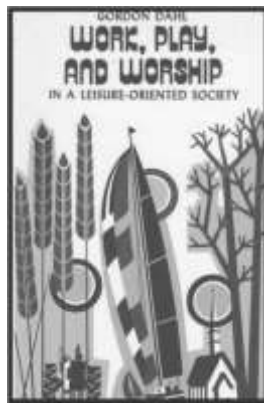


Stewardship as a disciple of Jesus

Stewardship is an important daily activity in the life of a disciple. Jesus spoke throughout the Gospels about money and possessions. (See Luke 12 as an example.) Mostly he warned about the power and ability of possessions to separate you from your relationship with God. Your possessions have the power to get in the way of your relationship with God. You might look to them for security, put your trust in them, and therefore treat them as idols worthy of worship.

Your possessions may be joined in this idolatry by your work, your recreation, or your use of time. In his book “Work, Play and Worship in a Leisure-Oriented Society,” Gordon Dahl challenges our

American attitudes. He writes, “We worship our work, we work at our play, and we play at our worship.” What he critiques here is how society has come to misplace its priorities and focus. When you put in 60-80 hours a week in the office and come home on Friday with a briefcase full of work for your weekend, maybe work has become a form of worship. If you force yourself to exercise, what has happened to your sense of play? And when you describe your worship experience only in terms of not getting anything out of it, what is your focus on the purpose of worship?



As a disciple of Jesus, you can find a broader role for stewardship in your daily life. You are called to be the body of Christ in the world — to do God’s work, share your blessings received from God, do God’s will. That understanding of stewardship is both corporate and individual. How do you take care of all that God has blessed you with? How do you use those blessings to accomplish God’s will for the world? This might mean tending to your health, your relationships, your work, your possessions, your finances, your recreation, God’s creation, your congregation, your community or your faith life.

— Adapted from Stewardship 101 as found in “Make It Simple” via www.elca.org



Witness Ministry

Check out our St. Paul Facebook page and our church website – www.stpaultampa.org. Those sites will keep you up to date on church happenings. Pastor Meyer worked to re-construct our Facebook page and it was an advertising site for our Christmas ad. Please send any special news and photos to Ann Delach for posting on our church website.

Witness Ministry met in January and went over expenditures in 2015 from our Witness budget. We planned publicity for the Pacific Lutheran Chorale concert on January 25th. Eleanor handled the press releases with the Penny Saver weekly newspaper and Tampa Tribune.



Pastor Meyer is designing a new pew card for visitors and we sampled a slim pen that will fit in the pew racks and be imprinted with our church name. They could be a gift to our visitors.

Pastor Meyer held an Orientation Class for possible new members on January 10th and we accepted new members on January 31st. Witness Ministry provided new members with a gift bag.

Our next meeting will be in the Lounge on Sunday, February 21st after the service. Please join us with your refreshments to talk about how to promote St. Paul in the community.

Ann Delach



FEBRUARY

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>
31 10 AM Sunday Sch. 11 AM Worship Svc. <i>Annual Meeting</i>	1 11 am Worship Ministry Meeting in Lounge	2	3 6 pm 5:45 me 7:30 pm
7 10 AM Sunday Sch. 11 AM Worship Svc. Transfiguration Sunday	8:00 HOPE Board Meeting	9 7 pm Council Meeting	10 7 pm 7:30 pm
14 10AM Sunday Sch. 11 AM Worship Svc.	15	16	17 7 pm 6:15 su 7:30 pm
21 10 AM Sunday Sch. 11 AM Worship Svc. Witness Ministry Mtg.	22	23	24 7 pm 6:15 su 7:30 pm
28	29	1	2 .

2016

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>WEEKLY: <i>New Bite of Serenity</i> <i>Sunset Solutions</i></p> <p>W 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>Bible Study @ St. Paul Choir Reh.</p>	4	5	6
<p>As h Wed @ St. Paul Choir Reh.</p>	11	12	13
<p>Lent 1 @ St. Paul Choir Reh.</p>	<p>18 7:30 pm Rebecca Circle in the Lounge NAACP General Meeting— Fellow. Hall</p>	19	<p>20 9:30 am @ The Well for 3rd Saturday</p>
<p>Lent 2 @ St. Paul Choir Reh.</p>	25	26	27
	3	4	5



Rebecca Circle News

Rebecca Circle met in January and put together sixteen Personal Care Health Kits for *Lutheran World Relief*. The kits were delivered to Good Shepherd Lutheran for truck pick-up in early February. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the kits.

We volunteered to assist with the *Pacific Lutheran Chorale's* meal before the concert January 25th. Julie Williams and Hilde Reno organized the meal with a Thrivent grant.

We're working on ordering a plaque in memory of Pat Smith, selling the old kitchen dinnerware, organizing the pantry and improving the look of our kitchen cabinets.

Our February meeting will be in the Lounge on Thursday, February 18 at 7:30pm. Carolyn Kelley will be our hostess and Julie Williams will present the program. All St. Paul women and friends are invited.



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

(continued next page)



Marilyn Weisz	member	
Family of Pat Smith	member	
Family of Mel Stroupe, Dave Stroupe	father of	
Family of James Steel	father of	Beckie McKenzie
DeeAnn Bennett	sister of	Donna Prisley
Kathy Busek	aunt of	Pam Oliva
Kenneth Campbell	brother of	Pete Campbell
James Ellis	friend of	Danny Williams
Corey Hartnagle	grandson of	Alice Spofford
Lou Hiza	mother of	Margaret Tillis
Glenn Hommert	cousin of	Lou Falter
Geraldyn Levos	sister of	Gary Levos
Family of Traci Lodivico	niece of	Eddie Malmquist
Catherine Malmquist	mother of	Eddie Malmquist
Sharon Olenski	friend of	St. Paul
Elaine Schweinsburg	friend of	St. Paul
Betty Sherrill	friend of	Lou Falter
Rena Smith	sister in law of	Pat Smith
Gracie Sontoro	friend of	Ron Tillis
Gloria Tillis	mother of	Ron Tillis
Gary Toledo	son of	Fabio & Joyce Toledo
Diane Tolzman	mother of	Wayne Tolzman
Wade Williams	friend of	Carolyn Kelley
Family of Debbie Andrews	cousin of	Eddie Malmquist



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

Worship Schedule February 2016



Feb 7 AM: Danny Williams
AC: Isaac Fritz
CA: Julie Williams
USH: J. Clark, B. Delach, C. Fritz, B. Haarer
Greeters: Wayne & Patty Tolzman
Refreshments: TBA

Feb 14 AM: Lewis Balsizer
AC: Isaac Fritz
CA: Sandy Snow
USH: F. Toledo, J. Dunn, W. & P. Tolzman
Greeters: Curt & Tina Fritz
Refreshments: Fritz Family

Feb 21 AM: Mike Brannan
AC: Isaac Fritz
CA: Tina Fritz & Patty Tolzman
USH: J. Clark, B. Delach, C. Fritz, B. Haarer
Greeters: Jimmy & Eleanor Dunn
Refreshments: TBA

Feb 28 AM: Eddie Malmquist
AC: Isaac Fritz
CA: Ann Delach
USH: F. Toledo, J. Dunn, W. & P. Tolzman
Greeters: Marty Wegner, Curt Fritz

Altar Guild: Carmen Hayes, Carol Swanson

Counters: TBA





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.



St. Paul Lutheran Council January Council Highlights

- Budget, budget, budget, and preparing for the Annual Meeting on January 31st.
- Remember The Well - clothes, blankets, jackets, gloves, mittens, hats, new underwear and socks, canned foods with pop tops, and donate your time on the 3rd Saturday of each month.
- Next Council meeting is February 9, 2016.

Respectfully submitted, **Carmen Hayes, Council Secretary**



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

**RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED**