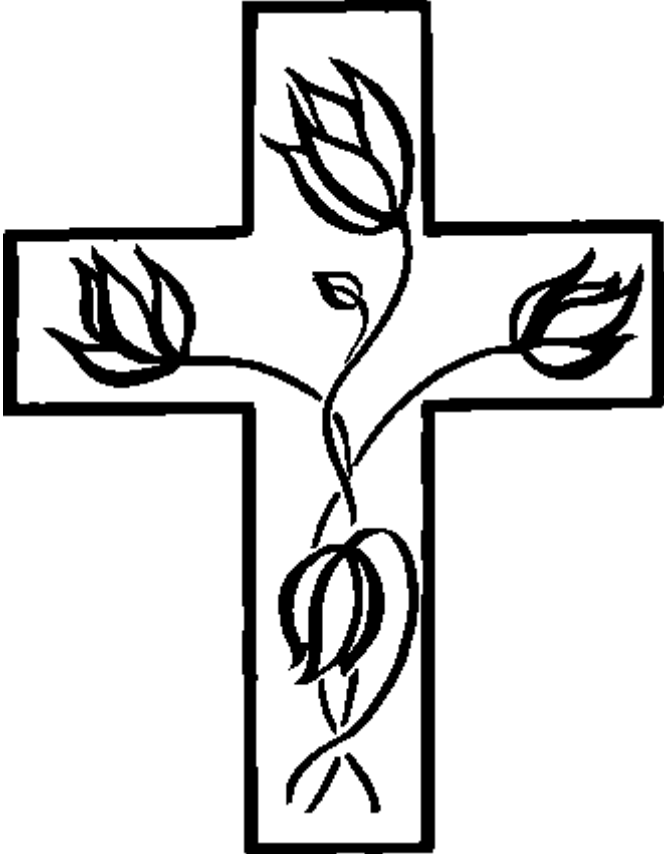




The Epistle

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

APRIL 2017
Volume 62
Number 4



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



Easter's Many Things

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:30-31

The great occasion of the church is the continuous liturgy of the Great Three Days, the Paschal Triduum, celebrating the passion and crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. The liturgy is begun on the evening of Maundy Thursday and concludes with the final benediction of the Feast of the Resurrection. The church looks upon the events of these days as a singular occasion of God's grace in the world. Each informs the others to render the meaning of the whole.

The mandate given on that Thursday "to love one another as I have loved you" arises in the context of the gift of the Eucharistic meal in which Jesus gives his very self as our bread and wine. Holy Communion finds its profound meaning in Easter's empty tomb. We do not just drink and eat in memory of his death; much more do we eat and drink of the power of his life. Remembering his death is an historical exercise; receiving of his life is an act of faith for the building up of our own lives.

Good Friday focuses on the cross, Rome's preferred method of torture and subjugation. The Romans crucified thousands of Jews but only Jesus was raised from the dead. His resurrection is the Great Vindication in that his manner of death by hanging on a cross rendered him cursed by humankind and until then supposedly by God too. Our domesticated cross necklaces lack the visceral symbolism the first church found in the cross. For the early disciples, drawing the cross was a faith gesture against political and economic oppression. Adopting the cross meant one had conquered the fear of Rome and embraced the conviction that God would soon establish a new heaven and earth. Three hundred years later the emperor will co-opt the power in the sign of the cross for his war emblem.

The parish has not observed the Easter Vigil of Holy Saturday. Its drama is rewarding. The Vigil rehearses the long train of scripture that leads toward the resurrection. In the history of the church it is the liturgy in which those who have been prepared for discipleship are presented and baptized, commemorating Jesus' burial and rising to newness of life.

Easter is for everyone. It's food and flowers and festive dress all speak of the joy and newness of life that comes with the Resurrection. The depth and breadth of the meaning of Jesus' rising from the dead are inexhaustible. The ways of understanding resurrection are innumerable, though I expect we usually speak of one or two. Eternal life is the most common. It surely means life beyond death. It also means the kind of life that works in every age, every place, with every people – life of the ages, which is the literal translation for the phrase eternal life. Christ's resurrection moreover shows its expansive power especially in the light of his accursed death; thus, there is no human situation that lies beyond God's favorable grasp.

In that grasp we find our hope and the life of faith. As we turn to it, drawn by the very Spirit of God, God claims us and sends us forth. We are redeemed people and in our redemption, liberated to embrace the new order of life coming from above and renewing Earth.

Indeed, the whole creation cries out for our liberation, and we sing "Alleluia".

So, I invite you to take in the whole Easter cycle, the Three Great Days. Together, let us praise God.

Grace and peace,
Pr Russell Meyer



My kids may think I was a bad mom, because I never bought them Easter baskets. Sure I liked the chocolate, maybe a little too much yet I never understood the whole Easter bunny thing. I get it more now, the rabbit emerging from it's warren indicating spring, and breaking Lent with enjoying delicious treats which we had sworn off of for the Lenten season.

But I never bought a basket. I let Grandma buy it, if she insisted. I didn't forbid it, but just didn't take part. I still don't, but confess I do buy the Cadbury eggs after Easter when they go on sale. I think it's a cool lesson though, which I try to gently teach my non church going relatives. We celebrate with a big dinner, and we gather together and rejoice. Easter has come, and we are after all an Easter people.

This Easter as we gather together for breakfast we celebrate the resurrection, the holiest of days in our calendar and welcome visitors and hide the eggs and eat the chocolate, let us be examples. Let us do something for others. Donate. Reach out. Give of yourself as you celebrate all that has been given to you.

Pr. Lee preached a sermon that has really stuck in my mind during Lent. We are rich indeed when we know we are going to eat every day. Those who don't have that certainty really think about things differently and as he preached - when they have nothing they share nothing, but when they have an abundance they share that abundance. I saw this many times when I volunteered at The Well. I saw things being given away by people who had nothing. I saw the way the guests helped each other and helped us. May we be an example of that love. May our light shine before others.

Happy Easter

Tina Fritz,
Council President

Council Highlights March 2017

As Spring approaches, we continue preparing for soup suppers and fellowship, Easter breakfast, the fantastic egg hunt, and beautiful worship services.

Preparations for the Congregational Retreat are underway. The goal of this retreat is to help congregations be as healthy as possible by giving the pastor and congregation a chance to learn common communication skills and providing us with a “toolbox” for developing and maintaining healthy relationships in a diverse setting. *Details coming soon!*

We are looking into hosting a VBS – vacation bible school. Stay tuned...

Mark your calendars! Gabriel will offer a class on the Augsburg Confession to begin after Easter.

Did you also know... The IRS indicates what constitutes a real property capital improvement as follows:

- Fixing a defect or design flaw
- Creating an addition, physical enlargement or expansion
- Creating an increase in capacity, productivity or efficiency
- Rebuilding property after the end of its economic useful life
- Replacing a major component or structural part of the property
- Adapting property to a new or different use

Source: <http://www.dbbllc.com/newsletters/focus/mar2012/irs-clarifies-capital-improvement-vs-repair-expense>

Next council meeting is **April 11th, 7:00 pm** in the lounge

Carmen Hayes,
Council Secretary

MUSIC NOTES

*Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of
grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions: All are
welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

(ELW641, st. 1)

On Sunday, March 26, I had the honor to participate in an amazing event at St. Paul. Hymn Singing: A Universal Catalyst for Racial Healing was well attended. If you were there, you were part of a discussion in how music and hymns can bring people together. The dialogue and questions/discussions were thoughtful, dynamic and interesting. The music was incredible. You've not heard Amazing Grace until you've heard it played like Dr. Ouida Harding played it on the piano, and the singing was magnificent. We certainly lived out the words of the above hymn "All Are Welcome". What a wonderful afternoon. Thank you Jeanine Romano and Pastor Meyer for bringing such an incredible event to St. Paul.

Many thanks to our musicians for their participation and sharing their time and talents with us: Miles Cameron, Gabriel Morgan, Hilde Reno, Michael Brannan, and Jeanine Romano (cantors); Miles Cameron (piano & flute); Curt Fritz (guitar). Special thanks to our choir for their dedication and gifts of time and talent.

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





REBECCA CIRCLE

Rebecca Circle met on March 16 at Ann Delach's home. She was dressed all in green and even made green desserts for refreshments. Carol Swanson was our leader and she had an inspirational/devotional program which gave us much to think about as we drove home.

I showed the group a large poster by Lutheran World Relief of where our health kits go each year. The map was last year's donations. We are happy and proud to be a part of the World Lutheran Kit donations. There are many different ideas for the kits. This year and last we did the Health kits.

Our next meeting will be **April 20 in the Lounge at the Snyder building**, We have been providing lots of food lately for events at St. Paul — so have decided to have pizza! Come join us! We are a casual group with our true focus on how to best serve the Lord and St. Paul.

Blessings,

Winnie Clark
clark07@verizon.net



WORSHIP/ALTAR GUILD MINISTRY

Please join us for our weekly Lenten services:

Lent 5, Wednesday April 5, at Faith
6 pm Soup Supper
7 pm Lenten Service

Maundy Thursday, April 13, 7 pm, Faith

Good Friday, April 14, 7 pm, St. Paul

Palm Sunday, April 9, 10:30 am at St. Paul. *Faith will have their service at 9:00 am*

Easter Sunday, April 16, 10:30 am at St. Paul. *Faith will have their service at 9:00 am*

Communion - We have had several changes to our Communion practices over the last few years and at our last meeting some additional ideas were presented. After some discussion it was decided that we would create a ***Task Force*** to discuss our current practices and hear new options that are available to us. Those interested are asked to contact Patty-813-966-8886 or let the office know. We can then determine a good time to meet.

Looking ahead to May:

Rachel's Day - May 7

Mother's Day - May 14

Patty Tolzman, Chairperson
Worship/Altar Guild

WITNESS MINISTRY
Sharing our Faith With Others



Easter is around the corner! Witness Ministry has been gearing up to promote our Easter service with Facebook ads, our Easter banner and invitation postcards mailed to visitors and church friends. Postcards will be available for everyone to invite neighbors and friends to come and enjoy our Easter morning. Please plan to send out a couple invitations!

What needs to happen before Easter? It's a good time to spruce up our church yard, playground area and be sure the Nursery/Play Room is clean and ready with toys. We'd like to see our sprinkler system repaired and operative during this dry spring time, and of course we look forward to an improved parking lot.

Now that the weather is beautiful, let's have refreshments outside under the tree. That way visitors would more likely stay after the service. We could use the Choir Room to set up the coffee pot and to serve if it's bad weather.

We will advertise St. Paul Lutheran in the Hillsborough High School football programs this fall with a quarter page ad. These professionally produced programs will be handed out at fifteen Hillsborough varsity and junior varsity games. Mike Delach is working to produce the ad.

Thanks go to Jeanine for handling the publicity for the Hymn Singing event in March, and continuing to keep St. Paul involved in social media.

In May Witness Ministry will offer coffee and donuts on Sunday mornings about 10am outside under the tree. Come a little early to enjoy good Fair Trade coffee and fellowship before church.



Our next meeting will be **Sunday, April 23** after the service in the Lounge. Please plan to join us then in planning future Witness projects!

Ann Delach

P.S.

Witness bought a narrow **banner** for \$57 for our 90th anniversary which was used at our banquet celebration on the front table. **It is missing!** If you were helping clean up at the venue, could you double-check to see if this banner is with the supplies you brought back to church or home? **We would like to hang this banner above the double doors in the Narthex for this 90th year!**

APRIL 10

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<p><i>1st SUNDAY</i> 2 PM Suncoast Area Convention <i>WEEKLY</i></p>	<p><i>WEEKLY:</i> 11-1 <i>New Bite of Serenity</i> 6:30pm Together <i>We Can</i> 9 pm Never Too Young <i>New Bite of Serenity</i> weekdays 11-1 2nd Monday Sierra Club</p>	<p><i>WEEKLY:</i> 11-1 <i>New Bite of Serenity</i> 6 pm Men's Lit Study 8 pm NA Speakers Grp</p>	<p><i>WEEKLY:1</i> 11-1 <i>New Bite of Serenity</i> 5:30pm <i>Sunset Solutions</i> 8 pm New Life</p>
<p>2 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Svc</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 6 PM Soup Supper @ Faith 7 PM Lenten Svc @ Faith No Choir Reh</p>
<p>9  PALM SUNDAY 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Svc</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 7 pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>12 7:00PM Choir Reh.</p>
<p>16  EASTER 9:30 AM Easter Breakfast @ St Paul 10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 AM Easter Worship Svc</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 7:00 PM Choir Reh</p>
<p>23 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Svc/ Witness Meeting</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 7:00 PM Choir Reh</p>
<p>30 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Svc/ Lunch Bunch-Cheddars</p>			

Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p><i>WEEKLY:</i> 11-1 <i>New Bite of Serenity</i> 8 pm <i>A New Way</i></p>	<p><i>WEEKLY:</i> 11-1 <i>New Bite of Serenity</i></p>	<p><i>WEEKLY:</i> 10am <i>Aging in Recovery</i> 4 pm <i>Our Common Welfare</i> 7 pm <i>Triple M Men's</i></p>
		<p>1</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
 <p>13 Maundy Thursday 6 pm Vargas/Hess Wedding rehearsal 7 pm Maundy Thursday Svc @ Faith</p>	<p>14 Good Friday 7 pm Good Friday Svc @ St. Paul</p>	 <p>15 6 pm Vargas/Hess Wedding</p>
<p>20 7:30 PM Rebecca Circle/ Lounge</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 EARTH DAY</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>

Looking Ahead: Rachel's Day, May 7
Mother's Day, May 14



IT'S THE SMALL THINGS

It's sometimes the small things that can add up to make a real difference. And this is true of our stewardship of creation. So just around our church, there may be some small things we can do that when added together, can make a real “green” difference.

Around the Church:

Avoid paper plates and plastic silverware

Use cloth napkins

Consider packaging and purchase what is more sustainable (how much packaging? what type? is the packaging recyclable?)

Purchase from and support local businesses

Coffee grounds and filters can be composted, and plants like azaleas like the resulting acidic soil.

Disposable coffee cups: Could we replace them with reusable mugs?

Recycling bins for paper, glass, aluminum, etc. in various areas of the church buildings so it's easy for us and outside groups to recycle.

Save lots of paper and toner by not printing all songs and entire service in bulletins

Email vs. print whenever possible

Electricity

Shut off lights when you leave a room and the building

Run the a/c a couple degrees higher in the summer and lower in the winter.

Consider automatic lights which turn themselves on and off in less-traffic areas (for example, in bathrooms)

Turn the printer and computer monitors off

“Vampire Electricity” is a term sometimes used for electronics that are plugged in but not actively used still pull electricity. Maybe we can tour our buildings to find any of these, such as appliances or electronics not often used.

What are your thoughts? What else can we do?

(List adapted from Rene Mehlberg article at <https://www.luthersem.edu/stewardship/default.aspx?m=6667&post=4489>)



YEAR TO DATE (Feb 28 2017):

Total Offerings (pledged, non-pledged, loose plate): \$15,393.00

Total Special Offerings: \$115.00

**Total Other Income (Building use donations, Seminole rent, etc):
\$9,317.00**

Total Year-To-Date Income as of Feb 28: \$24,825.00

Total Year-To-Date Operating Expenses: \$21,443.00

Year-To-Date Net Income as of Feb 28: \$3,382.00

**Total Specified Donations - \$128.00
(this amount is collected for other causes and
not included in the church's income)**

Fund Balances as of Feb. 28 (Those over \$1,000.00):

Capital Improvement Fund: \$6,308.00

Hamilton House Sale Proceeds: \$58,255.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$1,565.00

Thrivent Choice Fund: \$1,454.00



60th Anniversary Celebration

**You are invited
to the**

**60th Anniversary Celebration of
Faith Lutheran Church
Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday,
May 5th 2017
Breakfast brunch in the
Fellowship Hall at 10:30**

RSVP

**Evelyn Fernandez at (813) 886-2900 or
email Jane Wiley at rwjb4446@aol.com**



Faith Lutheran Church
12703 Florida Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33612



St. Paul begins Sunday School at 9:15 am regularly on Sunday mornings led by Gabriel Morgan

Topics for April:

2 April – The Resurrection of the Body (Lectionary)

9 April (Palm Sunday) – Luther’s Meditation on the Cross

16 April (Easter Sunday) – ****No Sunday School****

23 April – Office of the Keys

30 April – Evangelism: On the Road to Emmaus



EASTER SUNDAY, April 16
Easter Breakfast - 9:30 AM
Egg Hunt - 10:00 AM
Easter Service - 10:30 AM



Join us for our special Easter breakfast at 9:30, followed by a super fantastic egg hunt at 10:00 on April 17th.

We need your help to make this year's celebration a success! See Carmen to sign up in person. You can also sign up via the email which has also been sent to everyone. Below is a list of teams, their responsibilities, and items we need:

Team 1: set-up and clean-up crew; includes table cloths w/clips to tack down the cloths if used outside

Team 2: drinks -- coffee, flavored creamer, juice (orange juice, apple, cranberry, grapefruit), water

Team 3: food – egg casseroles, assorted muffins/Danish/donuts, bagels w/cream cheese/fruit spreads, fresh fruit

Team 4: Egg Hunt – plastic eggs, candy (no chocolate, please), people to fill the eggs and hide them!

Thank you for your support!





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/7 - Danny Williams

4/12 - Julie Williams

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4/16 - Brian & Yasmin Tolzman

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the church office at 813-239-3113



LUNCH BUNCH—Please join us the *last Sunday of every month* for Lunch Bunch. This month we will meet on **Sunday, April 30** after the worship service and head over to Cheddars, 11004 N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa, 33618 for a great lunch and lively conversation. Hope to see you there!



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 you love give us all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER LIST

Jeanne Cameron	member
Carolyn Kelley	member
Teresa Jones	member
Jeanne Pursell	member
Patty & Wayne Tolzman & family	member
Marilyn Weisz	member
Danny Williams	member
Diane Tolzman	mother of Wayne Tolzman
Tommy Bell	friend of Danny Williams
Lou Hiza	mother of Margaret Tillis
Catherine Malmquist	mother of Eddie Malmquist
Gloria Tillis	mother of Ron Tillis
Alina Toledo	daughter in-law of Fabio & Joyce
Gary Toledo	son of Fabio & Joyce Toledo

**The prayer list is generated monthly.
If you wish to continue to have a name on the prayer list,
please call the church office 813-239-3113
by the 25th of each month.**

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Apr. 2

AM: Tina Fritz

AC: Isaac Fritz

Greeters: Jim Clark & Marty Wegner

USH: Curt Fritz, Bob Delach, Jimmy Dunn, Jim Clark

Refreshments: The Fritz Family

Apr. 9 Palm Sunday

AM: Ann Delach

AC: Isaac Fritz

Greeters: Jimmy & Eleanor Dunn

USH: Wayne & Patty Tolzman, Brad Haarer, Fabio Toledo

Refreshments: Celebration for Dr. Gabriel Morgan

Apr. 16 Easter Sunday

AM: Lewis Balsizer

AC: Isaac Fritz

Greeters: Brad & Arlynn Haarer

USH: Curt Fritz, Bob Delach, Jimmy Dunn, Jim Clark

Refreshments: Easter Breakfast @ 9:30 AM

Apr 23

AM: Mike Brannan

AC: Isaac Fritz

Greeters: Curt Fritz & Marty Wegner

USH: Wayne & Patty Tolzman, Brad Haarer, Fabio Toledo

Refreshments: Ann Delach

Apr 30

AM: Adrian Snow

AC: Isaac Fritz

Greeters: Wayne & Patty Tolzman

USH: Curt Fritz, Bob Delach, Jimmy Dunn, Jim Clark

Refreshments: Lunch Bunch—Cheddars

Altar Guild: Patty Tolzman & Ann Delach

Counters: Carmen Hayes & TBD

****PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT FOR YOUR DAY IF UNABLE TO ATTEND****

THANK YOU!

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 10:30 a.m. each Sunday.

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

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

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. -2 p.m.

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



St. Paul Lutheran Church
5103 N. Central Avenue
Tampa, FL 33603

RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED