



THE EPISTLE

July 2018

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St. Paul Lutheran Church ♦ 5103 N. Central Ave. ♦ Tampa, FL 33603 ♦ (813)239-3113

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*From
the
Pastor*



The Rev. Dr. Russell L. Meyer

Our Daily Bread

Give us this day our daily bread. Matthew 6:11

Give us each day our daily bread. Luke 11:3

This summer our gospel readings take us on a journey. I call it the Bread Journey. First in Mark and then in John, we will hear over several weeks the depth and emphasis that Jesus put into breaking bread and giving himself to both the disciples and the crowds who follow. Jesus fed hungry souls with bread donated by a boy and with the words by which he renewed people's lives. Some wanted to crown him for his feeding abilities. Others rejected him because he made extravagant claims about himself and his perspective. He both broke bread and commanded his disciples to feed people, and he taught them to pray "Give us our daily bread".

Christians pray the "Our Father". Like Baptism and Eucharist, the Lord's Prayer is one of the few practices that is found among all Christians. The frequency and understanding of using this prayer and the sacraments varies among church bodies, but we all have all three.

What does it mean for us all to pray for "daily bread"? In the first century, hunger was driven by drought, flood, and the power of the empire to requisition food for its armies. Today the world has conquered crop failures. It produces enough food for everyone to have a daily diet of 3000 calories. Yet millions in the US and around the world are lucky if they have a 1000 calorie diet. If I could stick to that low level for a few weeks, I'd drop 40 pounds pretty quickly. People on average need 2000 calories per day, more or less, depending on age and activity. We have the food. Ours is a distribution problem that can be solved. We need the political heart to feed the hungry throughout the world. And of course, the calories can't all be from bread.

Daily bread plainly means more than bread by itself. Jesus ate barley bread probably more often than wheat bread, heavy with yeast, bran and minerals. Such bread would surely be healthier for us today, though perhaps not as popular. Fish,

figs, dates, eggs, and vegetables also made up an average diet in first century Palestine.

The prayer for daily bread also means something more than daily. What that more is has engaged theologians and scholars since the earliest days of the church. The term translated as daily is only used once in the Bible. It translates literally as super-substantial or super-essential. The meanings vary from what "what is truly needed" to "what is an overabundance". Are you praying for the essentials of existence or an abundance of the good of life? The range in meanings is that wide. It includes both what we need to live on today and a larger desire that is fulfilled when God's will is done on earth.

Jesus is pushing us in the prayer he taught the disciples. Every phrase speaks of our existence in full obedience to God's authority. That is what history is aiming for. Jesus gives us a vision of welcoming and participating in a world in which God's will is fulfilled among all people. That for which Christ would have us pray is a world where everyone gets royal rations, the debt society itself is canceled (forgive us our debts), we overcome the desire to possess our own security, and the politics of fear is vanquished. In Jesus' mind, his prayer welcomes the fulfillment of the law and the embodiment of the Spirit in humanity.

It's a stunning vision. We pray it weekly. As Luther writes in the catechism, we do not, by our praying, make it happen, but we pray we might be included in it as it unfolds. Luther's humility about the coming obedience to God's will also includes that we not resist it. And that is indeed the harder part, since the world has been resisting Christ's vision for millennia.

Thus, we journey in prayer and discipleship towards the world which prayer makes known; a world where all are fed, forgiven, belong, and safe. Come, Holy Spirit!

In grace and peace,
Pr Russell Meyer

From our Vicar

Grace and peace in the name of Jesus!

What a week! Kyron, Akimio, Ahbasi, myself, and Peggy Reineking returned safely from Houston early Monday morning after a long drive and much excitement. Let me tell you the story!

We left from Faith at 6:00am on Monday morning and headed for Montgomery. Our goal was to visit the new museum and memorial recently opened by the Equal Justice Initiative. We made such good time that we were in Georgia before ten o'clock. When we arrived, we went up to The National Memorial for Peace and Justice before visiting the Legacy Museum.

The National Memorial for Peace and Justice is the first memorial ever created to acknowledge the victims of racial terror lynchings in our country's history. More than 4,400 African American men, women, and children were hanged, burned alive, shot, drowned, or otherwise killed by mobs between 1877 and 1950. In the memorial, the names of the known victims, as well as "unknown" for those unidentified, were cut into metal coffin-like cubes that were standing, hanging, and lying in various places throughout the memorial. They were organized by state and county. Our very own Hillsborough County had six victims. If you'd like to learn more, you can visit their website at <https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/>.

From there we visited the Legacy Museum, which chronicled the history of how after abolition our institutions of slavery evolved into convict leasing, racial terror lynching, Jim Crow segregation, red lining, and finally into the racial disparities of our criminal justice system today. If you'd like to learn more about this history and its impact in the present, consider reading *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander.

Though heavy, this was an important learning experience for us moving into the National Youth Gathering, where we heard leaders in our church proclaim God's Word about this history and our present situation.

On Wednesday, our first day in Houston, Kyron, Akimio, and Ahbasi were able to let loose and enjoy the games and other activities available in the NRG Arena. Ahbasi climbed to the top of the rock-climbing wall on the first try!

From there we all headed to the NRG Stadium, where the Mass Gatherings took place each night. These are concert style events with live musicians and inspirational speakers drawn from various walks of life in the church. On that first night, we heard Rev. Tuhina Rasche tell her story of finding a home in the Lutheran church despite initial misgivings as a non-white of Hindu religious background. We also heard Bryan Stevenson of the Equal Justice Initiative speak of our current racial injustices in the criminal justice system and God's call for the church to fight for justice in our society.

On Thursday, we had Synod Day. On this day we joined others from the Florida-Bahamas Synod for activities and worship. We got to hear Bishop Suarez preach on the story of Jesus meeting

the Samaritan woman at the well. We also did activities to learn more about baptism and holy communion, as we went through Luther's catechism together as a synod. That evening, we had another Mass Gathering with more musicians and speakers.

On Friday, we had our Service Learning Day. On this day, we had to get up very early to catch a 7:00am bus to our work site. We did not know what we would be doing until we were on the way! It is important to recognize that God's call is not about what we want to do, but about what is needed by our neighbor. We arrived at a local cemetery that had been in disrepair for 50 or more years as a result of racial disparities in funding. The neighboring cemetery was in perfect condition, whereas the one in disrepair was for predominantly black families. Our work consisted primarily of manually cutting and removing downed trees and other brush with an axe and a few machetes. We probably sectioned and moved about ten trees that day.

That evening, we had another Mass Gathering. Among the speakers was Nadia Bolz-Weber, an inspiring Lutheran pastor who started her own congregation in Denver. She is well-known for combining an honest, edgy style with traditional worship and Lutheran theology. We all really connected with her stories and her clear teaching that God's grace allows us to be honest with ourselves, to stop chasing an ideal we'll never reach, and to find our rest in Christ. If you'd like to learn more about her, she has an excellent interview with Terry Gross on NPR's Fresh Air, which can be found at <https://www.npr.org/2015/09/17/441139500/lutheran-minister-preaches-a-gospel-of-love-to-junkies-drag-queens-and-outsiders>. Her address to the gathering can also be found on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBtyZbauH0g>.

On Saturday, we had our Interactive Learning Day at the NRG Center. This had a combination of physical games and sports, with various booths put together by hundreds of different groups and organizations of the ELCA. One notable experience came from ELCA World Hunger, who had created a virtual tour called "Seeds of Change in Malawi," which can be seen crunched into a YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8-78PW94&list=PL86D4914EF787269F>. That evening we celebrated a final Mass Gathering together and prepared to hit the road early the next morning back to Tampa.

I want to thank everyone from St Paul and Faith that helped make this experience possible by their faithful support of the ministries of our church. In particular, I would like to thank Peggy Reineking, who spent many hours in the car with us, taking the wheel at times to help me get through the drive, and providing various kinds of support to our group while we were there. We could not have pulled this off without you, so thank you!

I look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday as we gather together around God's Word and Sacrament.

Peace of Christ,
Vicar Gabriel





**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

WHAT IS AMMPARO?

AMMPARO stands for Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities. It is a commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany vulnerable children today and in the future.

**Join us for a potluck meal and discussion about AMMPARO.
The Lutheran Urban Parish is considering becoming a
Welcoming Congregation. What does it mean to
commit to accompany vulnerable children and families?**



When: Sunday, July 8, 2018 4:30 pm
Where: St. Paul Lutheran—Snyder Building
(behind the main church building)
5103 N. Central Ave., Tampa, FL 33603



Last month I attended our Florida Bahamas Synod Annual Assembly in Orlando where I join other members of ELCA churches in our Synod where we worshiped together and learned more about the many of the ELCA ministries. As most of you know, when I felt God calling me to be a ELCA Parish Deacon, I also felt Him calling me to serve our immigrant brothers and sisters. I have been researching Immigration and have attended several online webinars presented by Lutheran Immigration Services (an organization that has been around for over 80 years) and I have been searching for a way to become a part of the work they do. Last month at the Assembly I met a woman named Mary Campbell who is the manager for relations with ELCA Global Mission. She came to the Assembly to talk about AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) and how churches can become a Welcoming Church through AMMPARO. Pastor Meyer and I both spoke with Mary. She answered many of our questions and shared with us where we could find the resources we need to learn more about this ministry. On July 8, at St. Paul, New Parish Institute will be hosting a meeting where we will discuss how Tampa Urban Parish (Faith and St. Paul) can become a Welcoming church. Pastor Meyer and I will both present important information about AMMPARO and we will lead the discussion on what it means to be a Welcoming church.

According to the ELCA website, AMMPARO was initiated by the Southwest California Synod in response to a declaration signed by the ELCA bishops of the companion synods with the church in El Salvador and has now expanded through the AMMPARO strategy to other ELCA synods and congregations.

Welcoming Congregations make four commitments:

- welcome and minister to migrants and identify a contact person in the congregation who has the language skills necessary for basic communication
- physically accompany migrants as they make new lives in local communities;
- pray for justice for migrants;
- advocate for public policy that will positively impact the current immigration crisis – including working in partnership with the ELCA Washington Office and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service on immigration reform.

Welcoming congregations will be invited to:

- attend occasional meetings of the Welcoming Congregations Network or AMMPARO group in your synod for mutual support, fellowship and training; and
- participate in national AMMPARO network conference calls to be updated on the current situation of the migration of children and families and receive policy updates.

Becoming a Welcoming Congregation may not require a commitment by the whole congregation but rather a commitment by the pastor, leadership and a small team of members. Welcoming Congregations are not offering shelter, employment or other financial support but simply are willing to be a church home for migrant children and families in the same way that congregations of several generations ago welcomed Lutheran migrants from Europe and helped them navigate life in their new home.

I hope you will join me on this journey; I hope you will join me to do God's Work With Our Hands!

Jeanine Romano, PhD
Parish Deacon, Tampa Urban Parish

From our Vicar



Greetings family and friends of the Lutheran Urban Parish of Tampa! Martin Luther often invited friends and guests to his home to enjoy food and a good beer, and the conversations around the table were often so engaging that his students recorded them. Does that sound like fun? Well if you are ready to relax, have a pint, and speak easy about the big topics, then come join us for **Pub Theology on the second and fourth Fridays each month, at 6:30 pm in the Luther Tower**, which is located on the campus of St Paul, toward the back left corner of the parking lot. **We will meet July 13 and 27.** Invite a friend; all are welcome! Please note that this event is BYOB.



All are welcome to join us for meditation that **meets every Wednesday, at noon in the Sanctuary, for approximately 20-25 minutes.** Meditation will include silence, prayer, and the recitation of scripture, led by Gabriel Morgan and others. For those who feel the need, an optional time for debrief and discussion will follow.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR REFRESHMENTS AFTER WORSHIP

If you can help with refreshments, please add your name to our sign up sheet in the narthex. Thank you!

Music Ministry

This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is, here are my hopes, my dreams, my shrine; but other hearts in other lands are beating, with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine. (This Is My Song, ELW 887, st. 1). As we celebrate Independence Day this month, the above text, set to the tune Finlandia, is a beautiful expression of what it means to live not only in this country, but all the countries of God's world. We sang it as our Sending Hymn on Sunday, July 1.

Summer Choir sings once a month in June, July, and August. We welcome *everyone* who would like to sing to come join us 30 minutes before the service in the sanctuary. We keep the music simple and meaningful. If you don't have time for regular choir rehearsals, then Summer Choir is the perfect opportunity for you to sing with us. We encourage singers of ALL ages (including children) to join us! Our date this month is **Sunday, July 29**. Singers from Faith Lutheran will join us for a special joint parish choir, and we will all sing at both churches on that Sunday. If you can, please join us for **rehearsal at Faith at 8:30am on July 29**.

Please save **Saturday, August 4 at 7pm** for what will be a wonderful concert/fundraiser by the New Herrnhut Moravian Choir from the U.S. Virgin Islands. More information to come, but **this will be an important fundraising event for our Parish**. Please help us get word out, and invite your friends, neighbors and family. The concert will last about one hour, with a reception to follow.

Many thanks to our musicians for sharing their time and talents with us on a regular basis: Bill Benham, Ann Delach, Gabriel Morgan, Hilde Reno, Dave Stroupe, Jeanine Romano, and Michael Brannan (cantors); Mariana Gordon, flute; Cecile Keith, piano. Special thanks to all who sang in Summer choir in June. What a great turnout we had!

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

Dennis



WE ARE LOOKING FOR GREETERS ... We have a few people now that volunteer on regular basis but could always use a few more smiling faces to welcome our congregation at our morning worship service! Please contact Patty at no1fanof40@gmail.com

New Herrnhut Moravian Choir



WHEN: Saturday, August 4, 2018 –Reception to follow in the Snyder Building

WHERE: St. Paul Lutheran Church

5103 N. Central Avenue, Tampa, FL 33603

TIME: 7:00 PM

Music at the New Herrnhut Moravian church, on the island of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, has been an integral part of worship service for over **280 years!** Many members have served the church with the gift of singing. Early records indicate that, in 1757, approximately fifteen members started the choir at New Herrnhut. Today their membership has almost doubled.

The motto of the choir is “to share the message of Jesus Christ in song”, and because of this, concert touring came into existence in August 1993. A free will offering will be received to benefit ministries within the Lutheran Urban Parish of Tampa.

We hope you will mark your calendars and join us for an extraordinary night of music! Please bring your family and friends!

Worship/Altar Guild

We had a wonderful trip to Cooperstown! Cameron's team came in 3rd out of over 100 teams, we were so proud of him and Team Florida. He stayed another week in the other park affiliated with Cooperstown, All Star Village as a guest player and those boys came in 10th out of over 50 teams. He had a combined total of 9 home runs and played well on defense. It will be a fond memory for him for years to come.

July 1 Our Healing Service. Communion will be by Intinction.

July 8 Youth Service at both churches. We look forward to hearing about their trip to Texas.

Stay cool out there!



Patty Tolzman, Chairperson
Worship/Altar Guild

Finances

YEAR TO DATE (May 31 2018):

Total Offerings (pledged, non-pledged, loose plate):

32,774.00

Total Special Offerings

187.00

Total Other Income (Building use donations, etc.):

7,190.00

Total Year-To-Date Income as of May 31:

\$48,120.00

Total Year-To-Date Operating Expenses:

\$53,784.00

Year-To-Date Net Deficit as of May 31:

(\$5,664.00)

Total Specified Donations - \$260.00

(this amount is collected for other causes and not included in the church's income.

Fund Balances as of May 31 (Those over \$1,000.00):

Northstar Investment Equity: 54,802.00

Capital Improvement Fund: 6,529.00

Thrivent Choice Fund: 2,271.00

New Snyder Windows: 18,657.00

Memorials: 1,189.00

Throwback Sunday Fund: 1,000.00

Pray for Healing

Michael Brannan	member
Jeanne Cameron	member
Winnie Clark	Member
Tom Feagin	member
Carmen Hayes	member
Carolyn Kelley	member
Teresa Jones	member
Jeanne Pursell	member
Ron Tillis	member
Joyce Toledo	member
Danny Williams	member
Natalie Abreuhome	friend of Patty Tolzman
Lynn Bowman	former member of St. Paul
Lillian Brown	mother of Pastor Meyer
Christine Clifton	niece of Tina Fritz
Diane Tolzman	mother of Wayne Tolzman
Ray Garrett	father of Curt Fritz
Lou Hiza	mother of Margaret Tillis
Elaine Kennedy	sister-in-law of Patty & Wayne Tolzman
Bishop Chuck Leigh	friend of St. Paul & Faith
Ed McFadden	friend of Jimmy & Eleanor Dunn
Hailey Miller	great niece of Tina Fritz
Gloria Tillis	mother of Ron Tillis
Alina Toledo	daughter-in-law of Fabio & Joyce
Gary Toledo	son of Fabio & Joyce Toledo
Donna Reyes	aunt of Eddie Malmquist
Dot Ward	aunt of Eddie Malmquist
Lyle Wallin	cousin of Jim & Winnie Clark
Gary Wolcott	brother-in-law of Wayne & Patty Tolzman

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.



Worship Schedule

JULY

July 1

AM: Eddie Malmquist

AC: Isaac Fritz

Greeters: Wayne & Patty Tolzman

USH: Bob Delach, Jimmy Dunn, Jim Clark, Peggy Reineking

Refreshments: OPEN

July 8

AM: Linda Rosché

AC: Isaac Fritz

Greeters: Brad & Arlynn Haarer

USH: Bob Delach, Jimmy Dunn, Jim Clark, Peggy Reineking

Refreshments: OPEN

July 15

AM: Jeanine Romano

Acolyte: Rico Gordon

Greeters: Jimmy & Eleanor Dunn

USH: Curt Fritz, Brad Haarer, Wayne & Patty Tolzman

Refreshments: OPEN

July 22

AM: Ann Delach

Acolyte: Mariana Gordon

Greeters: Federico & Jessica Gordon

USH: Curt Fritz, Brad Haarer, Wayne & Patty Tolzman

Refreshments: OPEN

July 29

AM: Gabriel Morgan

Acolyte: Mariana Gordon

Greeters: Federico & Jessica Gordon

USH: Curt Fritz, Brad Haarer, Wayne & Patty Tolzman

Refreshments: OPEN

Altar Guild: Patty Tolzman & Ann Delach

Counters: Gabriel Morgan



CONGRATULATIONS Pastor Russell & Julie Meyer on the birth of their granddaughter **Sloane Rene Meyer**, born 5/26/18, 6lbs 7oz, 18.5 inches at TGH. Parent are Jacob & Lyndsey Meyer. May God continue to bless them all!!

AUGUST

August 5

AM: Tina Fritz

AC: Isaac Fritz

Greeters: Wayne & Patty Tolzman

USH: Curt Fritz, Brad Haarer, Wayne & Patty Tolzman

Refreshments: OPEN

August 12

AM: Jim Clark

AC: Isaac Fritz

Greeters: Brad & Arlynn Haarer

USH: Curt Fritz, Brad Haarer, Wayne & Patty Tolzman

Refreshments: OPEN

August 19

AM: Hilde Reno

Acolyte: Rico Gordon

Greeters: Jimmy & Eleanor Dunn

USH: Bob Delach, Jimmy Dunn, Jim Clark, Peggy Reineking

Refreshments: OPEN

August 26

AM: Linda Rosché

Acolyte: Mariana Gordon

Greeters: Federico & Jessica Gordon

USH: Bob Delach, Jimmy Dunn, Jim Clark, Peggy Reineking

Refreshments: OPEN

Altar Guild: Patty Tolzman & Ann Delach

Counters: Gabriel Morgan

Altar Guild: Patty Tolzman & Ann Delach

Counters: Mike Brannan & Danny Williams

****PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT FOR YOUR DAY**

IF UNABLE TO ATTEND**

THANK YOU!



Please join us this month at The Well!

Our next scheduled day is **Saturday, July 21 from 8:30-11:00 am..** We will be assisting in setting up the free market at the Good Samaritan Inn on Florida Ave., helping clients shop for groceries, entering data and restocking groceries. See you on the 21st!

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/3 - Pastor Dave & Debby Kruger

7/4 - Bill & Linda Rosché

7/21 - Brad & Arlynn Haarer

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/2 - Andrew Meyer

7/6 - Carmen Hayes

7/20 - Ann Delach

7/27 - Rico Gordon

JULY 2018

SUN

MON


TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1st SUNDAY 2 PM Suncoast Area Convention	WEEKLY: 11-11 New Bite of <i>Serenity</i> 6:30pm Together We Can 9 pm Never Too Young MONTHLY: 2nd Monday Sierra Club	WEEKLY: 11-11 New Bite of <i>Serenity</i> 6 pm Men's Literature Study	WEEKLY: 11-11 New Bite of <i>Serenity</i> 5:30pm <i>Sunset Solutions</i> 8 pm New Life	WEEKLY: 11-11 New Bite of <i>Serenity</i> 8 pm A New Way	WEEKLY: 11-11 New Bite of <i>Serenity</i>	WEEKLY: 10am Aging in Recovery 7 pm Triple M Men's
1	2	3	 The church office will be closed in ob- servance of the 4th of July holiday	5	6	7
8 9:15am Sunday School 10:30amWorship/ Refreshments 4:30 Potluck/ AMMPARO @ St Paul	9	10 7 pm Council	11 12 Noon Meditation	12	13 6:30 pm Pub Theol- ogy	14
15 9:15am Sunday School 10:30amWorship/ Refreshments	16	17	18 12 Noon Meditation	19	20	21 8:30-11am The Well @ Good Samaritan Inn/ Florida Ave.
22 9:15am Sunday School 10:30amWorship/ Refreshments	23	24	25 12 Noon Meditation	26	27 6:30 pm Pub Theol- ogy	28
29 9:15am Sunday School 10:30amWorship/ Refreshments	30	31	 Looking Ahead New Herrnhut Moravian Choir Saturday, August 4 at 7 PM			