



# THE EPISTLE

June 2018

Volume 63, Number 6

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

[www.stpaultampa.org](http://www.stpaultampa.org) ♦ [office@stpaultampa.org](mailto:office@stpaultampa.org)

*From  
the  
Pastor*



*The Rev. Dr. Russell L. Meyer*

## God Is Not Like the Weather . . . Just Saying

*But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.  
I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope ...  
(Psalm 130:4f)*

The May thunderstorms swamped the earth dried out by April's burning sunshine. We saw the effects at the GIIFT Center garden. The vegetables struggled as we tried to keep up the watering. Thankfully, irrigation tubing has been installed to ease the watering task and improve efficiency. Peggy Reineking helped secure the tubing through the UFAS extension.

The showers also prevented some members from attending church for a couple of weeks. The sudden downbursts made driving dangerous.

April and May are historically months of weather extremes. April trends as Tampa Bay's driest month. May opens the wet season. This year the extremes were clearly noticeable. Very dry for days, and then very wet for days.

The experience of God can run that way in our lives as well. We can go prolonged periods without taking notice of God about and with us; our lives caught up in everyday busyness that seems to have no break. Then a moment breaks, and the thought of God floods our mind. Feelings well up. Reading the psalms shows that those feelings range across all our emotions from fear to love, from hate to gratitude, uncertainty and confidence, trust and yet doubt as well.

Reading God from our experience and feelings can offer great rewards. I surely felt great blessing at the birth of our granddaughter Sloane Rene over the Memorial Day weekend. But I also know that elsewhere in Tampa General that Saturday night were no doubt families despairing that their child was not born well or with a future bright with opportunity as innumerable as the stars. Under such circumstances, the feelings can be very different from those of blessing and wellness, gratitude and love.

Within all our lives I suspect there are wet and dry seasons in our feelings toward the Creator, Jesus, and the Spirit which is the love by which all creation exists and is sustained. The Holy Trinity loves creation fully, thoroughly, and unconditionally. Theology affirms the reality of this love even as it acknowledges the mystery in which we experience it. For our experience of God's love does not equate with our theology on God's love. We know by Jesus' embrace of human suffering in his crucifixion that all human life is embraced by the God who raised him from the dead. Our Creator "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45). Our experience of the ups and downs of life does not portray God. God has made known forgiveness and hope in the history of the children of Israel and in the life and death of Jesus of Nazareth. On Christ, the solid rock, we stand; all other ground is sinking sand. Especially if that ground is simply our own experiences.

I am reminded, as I look at how the recent weather patterns have affected worship attendance, of the need we all have to hear in good times and in hard times that God's love for us is constant. God is not like the weather. God's love for us does not run hot and cold. We exist not just in the material give and take busyness of this world, which does run hot and cold. We also exist more profoundly in a spiritual realm whose mainstay is the declaration of God's forgiveness and mercy upon all. When we set apart time to receive what God truly says to us—I forgive you of all wrong you have done!—we are freed from whatever the experiences of this world offer to live renewed towards the world in which all do well. For me the regularity of hearing God's Word changes my experience of the world greatly, for in Christ the world no longer owns me.

I'll see you soon in church.

Grace and peace,  
Pr Russell Meyer

## *From the President*

Energy can be contagious. I see that with my granddaughter sometimes, she is bubbling with energy and joy and I find myself running with her (or at least trying to) and filled with the same joy she feels. She has taught me to be fearless in somethings. To try new things and to live each day to its fullest. With Callie I feel younger and stronger and happier.

I think the Parish is experiencing the same contagious energy when I look at Dr. Gabriel Morgan. Filled with energy and joy at what he is doing, he reminds me of Callie sometimes, fearless and spirit-filled. I look at Gabriel and am so grateful for our having found him, and he us. We are blessed with his energy and his vision and his youth. As the Parish moves together into our future we have his perspective, always reminding us that it's not about anything we do, but what God does for us. I really like that about Gabriel, he always brings it back to that.

We took a leap of faith when we called Gabriel for this internship. We knew how much he would bring to the table and he has shown us this every day. From Pastoral care, to new programs (Meditation, Pub Theology, Youth Education, Sunday School to name a few) I think he is helping to drag us into this century. As I remind people often our mission field is right here around us, in Seminole Heights. In a neighborhood filling with young couples and families I think Gabriel will help in our appeal to those families. Largely unchurched, we can strive to be that church for the families moving in, and those who have hung around watching the neighborhood change.

So as always, it comes to how are we going to pay for it. The Parish received a generous grant which expires this month, and we hope to receive Synodical support which should take us into the fall. The Parish board and the congregation councils are all behind supporting Gabriel's ministry, so we will be appealing for your help in continuing to support him. If you are able, your help will be very much appreciated. Let make it to the finish line, which in this case is the end of the year. Let's take Gabriel's contagious energy and grown into the church we will become. Not because of anything we do, but because of what God dies for us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Fritz, Council President



### JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST

Father's Day is on Sunday, June 17  
Bring your appetite and join us for  
**breakfast** at 9:00 am to honor all  
men.



### PLEASE JOIN US

#### Thrivent Day with the Rays!

**Tampa Bay Rays vs. Chicago White Sox**

**Join Us On August 4th at 6:10pm!**

\$26 ticket price is valid for groups of 10 or more.

Special offer for Members and Guests through  
Thrivent Financial!

Thrivent Financial invites Thrivent members and  
guests to enjoy a fun day at Tropicana Field, St.  
Petersburg.

**Lower Level Tickets are \$26 (up to \$60 value)** A  
portion of the proceeds will benefit Eckerd Con-  
nects.

*Don't Miss out! See you at the ballgame!*

## From the Parish Deacon

### Where Love is the Way

Last month, I was invited by our friend George Algozzina (who is currently contributing his musical gifts to our sister church Faith), to deliver a healing prayer on May 20 at the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial that was held at First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin. It was the first time I went to an event in my capacity as a Parish Deacon representing our parish. I ran into some old friends there and I also was reminded of the many friends I lost back in the 80s and 90s to AIDs. There were some amazing moments at this event but I have to say when the Keynote speaker, Rand Frew, Founder and Executive Officer at AIDS Action International, spoke about how big our faith should be, I was blown away. He was at Ground Zero right after 9/11 and he said that many people asked him where God was that day. He responded (and I am paraphrasing) that God was in the planes, and in the towers, and in the Pentagon and in the hearts and minds of all the people were directly impacted that day and if you don't believe that....., then your God is too small.

Ironically, the day before was the royal wedding of Britain's Prince Harry and American actress Meghan Markle. By now most of us have heard the about Bishop Michael Bruce Curry and his sermon at that wedding. His message also blew me away especially when he said:

*" Imagine our homes and families where love is the way. Imagine neighborhoods and communities where love is the way. Imagine governments and nations where love is the way. Imagine business and commerce where this love is the way. Imagine this tired old world where love is the way. When love is the way - unselfish, sacrificial, redemptive. When love is the way, then no child will go to bed hungry in this world ever again. When love is the way, we will let justice roll down like a mighty stream and righteousness like an ever-flowing brook. When love is the way, poverty will become history. When love is the way, the earth will be a sanctuary. When love is the way, we will lay down our swords and shields, down by the riverside, to study war no more. When love is the way, there's plenty good room - plenty good room - for all of God's children. Because when love is the way, we actually treat each other, well... like we are actually family. When love is the way, we know that God is the source of us all, and we are brothers and sisters, children of God. My brothers and sisters, that's a new heaven, a new earth, a new world, a new human family."*

As I sat in the church the next day and listened to Mr. Frew speak about the size of our faith, I remembered Bishop Curry's speech and it hit me that if we choose to love the way that Bishop Curry describes it, then our God can't possibly be too small, because this kind of love, the love that our Savior Jesus Christ taught us to share with each other is actually not beyond our imagination. Bishop gave us a vivid and tangible descriptions. Yes, both of these men are right, our God is Everywhere we can Imagine when dare to imagine and strive for a world where love is the way! Our God is Big and our faith is big! Go in peace and serve Lord by letting LOVE be the way!

Jeanine Romano, PhD

Parish Deacon, Lutheran Urban Parish

## Stewardship

Mission Support = Your Offering at Work

YOUR congregation

Your offering is stewarded by your congregation's council to support the work of your congregation. When your congregation votes to adopt its annual budget, your congregation designates a portion of your offering to be shared with your synod and the ELCA churchwide organization. These funds are called Mission Support.

YOUR synod

Your congregation's Mission Support dollars are then stewarded by your synod leaders to support the work of the synod. Your synod uses Mission Support to nurture ELCA congregations and rostered leaders, support local partners and accompany the synod's global companion churches in their ministry. Synods also share a percentage of the Mission Support funds they receive to be sent to the churchwide organization.

YOUR churchwide organization

Your churchwide organization uses Mission Support dollars to support congregations, respond to local and worldwide ministry opportunities, engage in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, and lead churchwide initiatives on behalf of the whole ELCA.

Why we give Our financial generosity is one expression of our love for God and our neighbors. Mission Support enables us to do God's work in ways that no individual, congregation or synod can do alone. We are church together for the sake of the world.

- ELCA Stories of Faith in Action

## 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 Fridays, 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 weekly, invite a friend; all are welcome! Please note that this event is BYOB.



**WRITE YOUTH  
GATHERING ON YOUR  
CHECK MEMO LINE!**

Dr. Gabriel Morgan along with Peggy Reineking, will lead three of our parish youth from Faith Lutheran: Kyrn Defreitas, Ahbasi Lattin, and Akimio Pickering, to the triennial youth gathering in Houston June 27-June 31. All registration money must be submitted by May 15. Your special offering for them makes a difference in reaching our \$6000 goal.

The Gathering seeks to open up pathways for attendees to discover someone to become, somewhere to belong and something to do. God has fierce love for them, just as they are, and by grace, through faith, they have been saved. Experiencing and claiming this reality, indeed changes everything!

Thank you for your support!



### **CARIBBEAN DINNER at Faith Lutheran Church**

**12703 N. Florida Ave., Tampa, 33612**

Please mark your calendars —**SATURDAY, June 16**, — Fund-raiser for the youth who will be attending “The Gathering” in Houston. Tickets are **\$10**. (before or at the door). Eat in or take out...**5 PM til 8 PM**. (We apologize to those kind people who came for dinner in March and didn’t know that the dinner had been canceled.)

## Music Ministry

*O God, make us instruments of your peace. O God, take us, we are instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; and where there is doubt, sow faith. For it is in giving that we shall receive, and it is in pardoning we’re pardoned. It is in our dying that we will be born into eternal life. O God, make us instruments of your peace. O God, take us, we are instrument of your peace.* (Dancing at the Harvest #81, stanzas 1 & 3 and refrain). This beautiful hymn was written by contemporary Lutheran composer Ray Makeever, with the text adapted from the Prayer of St. Francis. Look at the text carefully, and see how it speaks to you. We will sing it Sunday, June 10, as the Offertory Hymn.

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 first one will be **Sunday, June 17**.

Please save **Saturday, August 4 at 7pm** for what will be a wonderful concert/fundraiser by the 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: Ann Delach, Gabriel Morgan, Hilde Reno, Dave Stroupe, Jeanine Romano, and Michael Brannan (cantors); all of our choir members, for their time and dedication, rehearsing on Wednesdays from late August through the middle of May and singing at our services; and special thanks to Mariana Gordon (flute) and her brother Rico (guitar) who shared their time and talent with us to the glory of God on Pentecost Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>!

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

Dennis



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.



## Worship/Altar Guild

I hope everyone has a restful summer, as you may know we watch our six Grandkids, so there's not a whole lot of resting around here!! Wayne and I will join Ashley and her family on a trip to Cooperstown, NY to watch Cam and his team as they compete in a tournament, June 1-June 8. Prayers appreciated for a safe trip!

June 3 – Communion by Intinction

June 10 – Join us as we welcome Allen Kristan Austin Bhaskar into Baptism. Stay after for refreshments prepared by the Family. Congratulations to all!

**Father's Day** is a celebration honoring fathers and celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. In Catholic Europe, it has been celebrated on March 19 (**St. Joseph's Day**) since the **Middle Ages**. This celebration was brought by the Spanish and Portuguese to **Latin America**, where March 19 is often still used for it, though many countries in Europe and the Americas have adopted the U.S. date, which is the third Sunday of June. It is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March, April and June,

This year Father's Day is on June 17. Bring your appetite and join us for **breakfast** at 9:00am to honor all men.

Patty Tolzman, Chairperson  
Worship/Altar Guild

## Finances

### YEAR TO DATE (April 30 2018):

**Total Offerings ( pledged, non-pledged, loose plate): 35,159.00**  
**Total Special Offerings 187.00**

**Total Other Income (Building use donations, etc.): 7,655.00**

**Total Year-To-Date Income as of Apr 30: \$42,715.00**

**Total Year-To-Date Operating Expenses: 44,891.00**  
**(approximate)\***

**Year-To-Date Net Deficit as of Apr 30: (\$2,176.00)**

**Total Specified Donations - \$218.00**  
**(this amount is collected for other causes and not included in the church's income.**

### Fund Balances as of April 30 (Those over \$1,000.00):

**Northstar Investment Equity: 56,411.00**  
**Capital Improvement Fund: 6,528.00**  
**Thrivent Choice Fund: 2,246.00**  
**New Snyder Windows: 32,607.00**  
**Youth Gathering: 2,185.00**

## Pray for Healing

Michael Brannan	member
Jeanne Cameron	member
Winnie Clark	member
Carmen Hayes	member
Carolyn Kelley	member
Teresa Jones	member
Jeanne Pursell	member
Ron Tillis	member
Joyce Toledo	member
Wayne Tolzman	member
Danny Williams	member
Natalie Abreuhorne	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
Bishop Chuck Leigh	friend of St. Paul & Faith
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
Ed McFadden	friend of Jimmy & Eleanor Dunn

*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*



## Worship Schedule

### JUNE

#### June 3

**AM:** Tina Fritz

**AC:** Isaac Fritz

**Greeters:** Wayne & Patty Tolzman

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

**Refreshments:** OPEN

#### June 10

**AM:** Hilde Reno

**AC:** Isaac Fritz

**Greeters:** Brad & Arlynn Haarer

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

**Refreshments:** - Austin Bhaskar & Rachel Austin

#### June 17

**AM:** Peggy Reineking

**Acolyte:** Rico Gordon

**Greeters:** Jimmy & Eleanor Dunn

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

**Refreshments:** OPEN

#### June 24 - John the Baptist

**AM:** Lewis Balsizer

**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:** Tina Fritz & Danny Williams

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

**IF UNABLE TO ATTEND\*\***

**THANK YOU!**

### 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 Rosche

**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



### CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Sunday, June 10, during our morning worship service, we will celebrate the baptism of **Allen Kristan Austin Bhaskar**. Parents are Austin Bhaskar & Rachel Austin; sister Tanya Evangeline and Grandfather Sampath Selvadurai and Grandmother Jothi Violet. Please join the family for refreshments after the worship service. Congratulations!!



**Please join us this month at The Well!**

Our next scheduled day is **Saturday, June 16 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 16th!



**BLESSINGS  
ON YOUR  
BIRTHDAY**

#### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/2 - Martha Wegner

6/4 - Linda Rosché

6/9 - Linda Cox

6/9 - Jeanne Cameron

6/18 - Fred Tetlow

6/18 - Anthony Tolzman

6/24 - Joyce Toledo

6/25 - Mariana Gordon

6/28 - Bill Rosché

# JUNE 2018

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

<p><i>1st SUNDAY</i></p> <p>2 PM Suncoast Area Convention</p> <p>2-5 Ethiopian Church</p>	<p><i>WEEKLY:</i></p> <p>11-1 New Bite of Serenity</p> <p>6:30pm Together We Can</p> <p>9 pm Never Too Young</p> <p><i>MONTHLY: 2nd Monday Sierra Club</i></p>	<p><i>WEEKLY:</i></p> <p>11-1 New Bite of Serenity</p> <p>6 pm Men's Literature Study</p>	<p><i>WEEKLY:</i></p> <p>11-1 New Bite of Serenity</p> <p>5:30pm Sunset Solutions</p> <p>8 pm New Life</p>	<p><i>WEEKLY:</i></p> <p>11-1 New Bite of Serenity</p> <p>8 pm A New Way</p>	<p><i>WEEKLY:</i></p> <p>11-1 New Bite of Serenity</p>	<p><i>WEEKLY:</i></p> <p>10am Aging in Recovery</p> <p>7 pm Triple M Men's</p>
					<p>1</p> <p>6:30 pm Pub Theology</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <p>9:15am Sunday School</p> <p>10:30amWorship</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30 pm Lutheran Urban Parish of Tampa Board Mtg at St. Paul/Lounge</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12 Noon Meditation</p> <p>6:30 pm Music Ministry gathering at Magdalena's Pizzeria</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30 pm Pub Theology</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:15am Sunday School</p> <p>10:30amWorship/Baptism/Refreshments</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7 pm Council</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12 Noon Meditation</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:00 pm TEEM Vicar Internship Committee @ Faith</p> <p>6:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:00 pm Wedding</p> <p>6:30 pm Pub Theology</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30-11am The Well @ Good Samaritan Inn/Florida Ave.</p> <p>5-8 pm Caribbean Dinner @ Faith</p>
<p>17 Father's Day</p> <p>9:00 am Breakfast</p> <p>9:15am Sunday School</p> <p>10:30amWorship</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12 Noon Meditation</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 pm Pub Theology</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:15am Sunday School</p> <p>10:30amWorship/Refreshments</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12 Noon Meditation</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>