



# THE EPISTLE

August 2018

Volume 63, Number 8

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*

## A Parish of Providence

*Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal. John 6:27*

School is around the corner, and next week is school supply tax break. Soon the roadways will fill up with traffic again.

The rainy season is upon us and we head into our most likely months for hurricanes. So far the named storms have been limited, as meteorologists expected. But a deluge of rain can come at any time. That's one of the telling signs of climate change. On an annual basis our overall rainfall remains constant, but we have drier dry months and wetter wet months. This shift in weather patterns means more standing water and potential flooding because the ground becomes too saturated for the rain to dissipate quickly. These months are also when the full moon is closer to us, pulling the tides to their highest yearly levels.

August and September are when big storms hit us. Think about the supplies you need and where you will shelter. During Irma, many people tried to flee inland only to find the storm went that way too. It's best to find a local shelter and be prepared to go when it opens. It will be easier to get home when the storm passes. Last year St. Paul proved to be a very adequate shelter and we may consider that again – especially since we now have hurricane windows in the Snyder Building.

You might want to do your storm preparation shopping next week during the school supply tax break.

When Jesus talks about toiling over things that perish, he's talking about how we get caught up in making things

work out nicely for ourselves. He wants us to listen to him so that we focus on the good that endures for everyone. Every generation faces the question of staying alive and how to get by. Truth be told, our generation here in North America has it easier than just about any that has come before us. But nonetheless we worry – perhaps we worry even more because of the many ways our various conveniences could break down and what challenges that would do to our schedules. I'm currently ruminating over my seven-year-old car with high mileage and looming repair bills. It would be nice to have a new car. But that one won't last forever either.

Researchers have learned that our brains wire themselves based on where we focus. Give attention to daily anxieties, worries, and concerns and the brain creates quick pathways for being upset by what's going on around us. Pay attention to matters that have longevity and produce goodness for others, and we see hope and possibility everywhere. Our brains don't tell us where to go; they follow our consciousness.

The Gospel readings for August come from the Bread Discourse in John 6. After feeding the 5000 families in a remote verdant meadow, Jesus returns to Capernaum. The disciples and crowds follow him there. Much of John 6 is a homily from the synagogue contrasting the former understanding of the manna of Moses with the bread that Jesus gives. Scholars find in the discourse elements of the deep rifts that arose from Jesus' ministry in the years following the resurrection. Those rifts eventually led to the people of the Way leaving or being ejected from the assemblies of the people of the Torah. Many of the disagreements centered around keeping well-established traditions or focusing on life-giving elements in the prophetic tradition. The challenge involved accepting the presentations of Jesus as authoritative or staying with the perspectives of the elders. Jesus focuses

*continued. next page . . .*

### *Pastor's article continued.*

on the ongoing work of God as key. So in the Bread Discourse, Jesus contrasts the traditional reading that Moses gave the manna in the wilderness with understanding that even as God provided manna then, God gives what is needed now for the journey into the future. With Jesus, there is a prophetic understanding that we are always leaving the slavery of false security behind and journeying through the unknown to a place of providence. He intentionally takes the crowd to a remote verdant meadow to show them the reality of reliance on God. But the crowds want to make it a reliance on him (to make him king) and he hides from them. I think we might reflect more upon what it means when Christ hides from us. He will not be a prop to make sure things work out nicely for us.

Our parish is on this journey from seeking the false security of a well-established past through the unknown to a place of providence. We receive manna along the way, like the recent grant of \$8000 from the Florida-Bahamas Synod to support the Parish TEEM Internship with Vicar Gabriel. It's just enough for now – the synod sent \$3000 upfront and will send a \$1000 per month for the rest of the year. We'll still need to match that amount. Over the fall Vicar Gabriel and I plan to trade pulpits with our Tampa Lutheran colleagues to tell the parish story and allow other pastors to experience our story. We'll look for more manna along the way. I trust that we'll raise enough to meet our need. Where I'm really focused is on what a parish of providence looks like for all who enter it. What is God doing among us to make St. Paul and Faith – to make the Lutheran Urban Parish of Tampa – a place of refreshment and restoration for all? Let's toil and labor and work on that question. It has the life of all ages in it.

And don't forget to prepare your storm kit next week. You'll be glad you have it when the time comes that you need it.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Russell Meyer

#### **LUTHERAN URBAN PARISH OF TAMPA**

**Please note:** Our August board meeting has been changed to **Tuesday, Aug 7 at Faith, 6:30 PM.**

### *Music Ministry*

*I am the Bread of life. You who come to me shall no hunger, and who believe in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me unless the Father beckons. And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day.* (ELW 485, I Am the Bread of Life, stanza 1 and refrain.) During the month of August, our Gospel readings are from John 6. We hear of the miracles of Jesus feeding the 5,000 and walking on water. Jesus describes himself as the bread of life. The connections to the above hymn and Holy Communion are obvious. I hope that every Sunday you will notice a connection between the hymns that we sing, and the Word of God that we hear.

**Summer Choir** sings once a month in June, July, and August. We welcome *everyone* who would like to sing to come join us for a rehearsal 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, August 19.**

#### **Choir rehearsals resume Wednesday, August 22!**

Please consider sharing your time and talents by singing in the choir this year. We especially need sopranos! Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7pm until 8:30pm. We have some awesome music scheduled, but we can't sing if we don't have the singers. All ages and abilities are welcome. We're a fun and friendly group!

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. Special thanks to all who sang in Summer choir in July. We sang at both Faith and St. Paul. Also, special thanks to Justin Fair, for sharing his time and talents with us on Sunday, July 22 with a wonderful solo (How Great Thou Art).

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

Dennis

# 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!



## *From our Vicar*

Grace and peace to you from Christ our God! I would first like to extend my gratitude, once again, for the support and generosity of the members of our parish for sending Kyron, Akimio, and Ahbasi to the National Youth Gathering. A special thanks again to Peggy Reineking for helping us to drive there and back, as well as providing assistance in organizing and planning our activities while there. As we heard from our youth the following Sunday, it was one of the best experiences of their lives. If you'd like to learn more about how the trip went, please see my article in last month's epistle.

Pub theology picked up some new steam in July. Thanks to Tina's boost to our social media, we've attracted some newcomers to pub theology from outside of the congregation. Our topics have ranged from current events to theology and science. Our next topic is on how judges should interpret the constitution. If you want to learn more about our current schedule of topics, check out the [pub theology](#) page on St Paul's website.

I've dedicated many hours this past month to improving other aspects of St Paul's website. I want to thank those who have given me feedback on the changes made so far. Your recommendations will be implemented in the majority of cases, but I have not yet had time to sit down with each one. I thank you for your patience in this regard. These changes have included improvements to the website's appearance, as well as adding additional content about our beliefs and activities as a congregation of the ELCA. These and other improvements will continue through the end of the year, so feel free to send me feedback.

The next improvement to the website will be updating our online photos. If anybody has quality pictures of recent events that they would like me to include on the website, please email them to me at [gmorgan@stpaultampa.org](mailto:gmorgan@stpaultampa.org). Please include brief descriptions so that I know how to organize them. It would also help me to organize your emails if you title these messages as "Website Photos."

As many of you know, summer tutoring at Faith did not work out as hoped. However, we did successfully tutor Ahliel, Ahbasi's younger brother. I have also continued to connect with and learn from administrators at Mort Elementary, other retired teachers, and staff at HCTA to

understand how to offer this service effectively. To a person, educators have said that this tutoring is badly needed, but that it is often hard for parents to utilize these resources in certain school districts. Although these school districts present unique challenges, I am confident we will figure out how to serve our neighbor in a more effective manner.

I want to thank everyone who helped with this effort. I want you to know that your labor was not in vain (1 Cor 15:58). For we all walk in the good works that God has prepared beforehand for us to walk in (Eph 2:10). We scatter the seed, but God provides the growth (1 Cor 3:6-7). So join me in scattering the seeds of God's Word and kingdom on every path, not worrying beforehand which will fall on good soil (Mk 4:1-20).

Pax Christi,  
Vicar Gabriel



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 (August 10 & 24)** We will meet at **Southern Brewing and Winemaking, 4500 N. Nebraska Ave.** Vicar Gabriel's # (813) 245-6812. Invite a friend; all are welcome!



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.

## *From the President*

My family took a long vacation in July. We were away from church for 2 weeks and were fortunate enough to tour a great deal of the Eastern Coast of the US. Starting at Niagara Falls, we made our way south and ended at GA Tech, where Isaac hopes to attend college.

It was a great vacation, filled with new sights and sounds. One thing remained the same wherever we went however – diversity. I was struck by the brown faces and accents at Niagara Falls, families enjoying the 4<sup>th</sup> of July week visiting America's tourist destinations. We traveled to New York City and then to Washington D.C., where we saw the White House and the Smithsonian, and again, the American families there reminded me that we are indeed a nation of immigrants,

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July we were in Virginia, we perched on a slope across the river from the capitol along with hundreds of other families waiting to see the fireworks. I think this is where it became crystal clear to me, I heard the accents in the crowd and saw the smiling moms and dads herding their children in clothes that were different from mine and realized that this was America.

As a nation we are blessed with this diversity. From the interesting food we ate to the people we met, again and again we witnessed how our great country was a patchwork of cultures. Yet we were all the same. We were touring our nation's landmarks, teaching our children about our nation's history and enjoying the sights that belong to all of us. That made me really proud to be an American!

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Fritz, Council President

## *From the Parish Deacon*



Last month, on July 8<sup>th</sup>, a small group of us met at St; Paul to learn about AMMPARO and to discuss how our Parish will become a Welcoming Church. Pastor Meyer and I presented some information regarding the history of AMMPARO and the history of ELCA's involvement regarding immigration and refugee services. Pastor Meyer also led a very informative discussion about the history of immigration laws in the United States and why there has been a surge in immigrants from South and Central America in recent years.

We also explained what it would mean to become a Welcoming Congregation.

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:

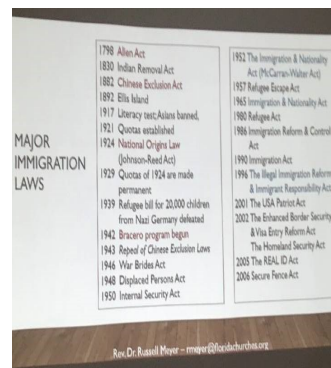
- Attend occasional meetings of the Welcoming Congregations Network or AMMPARO group in your synod for mutual support, fellowship and training; and
- Participate in national AMMPARO network conference calls to be updated on the current situation of the migration of children and families and receive policy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

We plan on holding another meeting sometime in early September where we hope to invite other immigration advocacy organizations in the Tampa Bay Area, along with having a panel consisting of individuals who serve as immigration attorneys in the Tampa Bay Area.

We hope you will join us on this journey. We hope you will join us to do God's Work With Our Hands!

Jeanine Romano, PhD  
Parish Deacon, Tampa Urban Parish



## Stewardship

### Time Out

**Psalm 46:10a** - "Be still, and know that I am God!"

How busy are you? Do you have time for the things you value most? Most people report they chronically feel rushed. Here God invites us to stop our busyness and take some minutes to feel God's presence in our lives. We often think of stewardship as how we use our money, but it's also how we use our time.

**Mark 6:31** – Jesus said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.

In our time and culture, busy-ness has emerged as a major source of stress. Being good stewards of our own peace of mind, we know that Jesus' words to the disciples are for us, too. We need to get away from our sources of busy-ness and stress to rest.

As we get into the Autumn season (based on the calendar, not the temperatures!), schedules start to fill up again. We need to remember to build in time to de-stress, and include time to give of yourself to others. And don't forget the Sabbath, keeping it as a day of rest, rather than work, or running errands. It is hard at times to fit in restful periods, which makes them all the more important.

## Finances

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

**Total Offerings ( pledged, non-pledged, loose plate): 46,195.00**  
**Total Special Offerings 187.00**

**Total Other Income (Building use donations, etc.): 12,230.00**

**Total Year-To-Date Income as of June 30: \$58,612.00**

**Total Year-To-Date Operating Expenses: \$68,183.00**

**Year-To-Date Net Deficit as of June 30: (\$9,571.00)**

**Total Specified Donations - \$260.00**  
**(this amount is collected for other causes and not included in the church's income.**

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

**Northstar Investment Equity: 54,802.00**  
**Capital Improvement Fund: 6,548.00**  
**Thrivent Choice Fund: 2,293.00**  
**New Snyder Windows: 17,796.00**  
**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 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
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

## 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:** Mike Brannan & Danny Williams

## SEPTEMBER

### September 2

**AM:** Lewis Balsizer

**AC:** Isaac Fritz

**Greeters:** Wayne & Patty Tolzman

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

**Refreshments:** OPEN

### September 9

**AM:** Eddie Malmquist

**AC:** Isaac Fritz

**Greeters:** Brad & Arlynn Haarer

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

**Refreshments:** OPEN

### September 16

**AM:** Peggy Reineking

**Acolyte:** Rico Gordon

**Greeters:** Jimmy & Eleanor Dunn

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

**Refreshments:** OPEN

### September 23

**AM:** Jeanine Romano

**Acolyte:** Mariana Gordon

**Greeters:** Federico & Jessica Gordon

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

**Refreshments:** OPEN

### September 30

**AM:** Ann Delach

**Acolyte:** Mariana Gordon

**Greeters:** Federico & Jessica Gordon

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

**Refreshments:** OPEN

**Altar Guild:** Patty Tolzman & Ann Delach

**Counters:** Tina Fritz & Gabriel Morgan



**\*\*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, August 18 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 18th!

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/6 Jack & Ashley Mallo  
8/9 Pastor Russell & Julie Meyer  
8/14 Bob & Ann Delach  
8/14 Jim & Winne Clark  
8/17 Mike & Liz Wilson  
8/19 Curt & Tina Fritz  
8/28 Mike Brannan & Dennis Douglas

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/3 Lou Hiza  
8/3 Eve Dolphin  
8/7 Erin Szwejkowski Morgan  
8/7 Elyse Mayer  
8/14 Curt Fritz  
8/22 Lewis Balsizer  
8/22 Margaret Tillis  
8/23 Jimmy Dunn  
8/24 Corey Tillis  
8/27 Jack Clark

# AUGUST 2018

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

<p><i>1st SUNDAY</i></p> <p>2 PM Suncoast Area Convention</p>	<p><i>WEEKLY:</i></p> <p>11-1 New Bite of Serenity 6:30pm Together We Can 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 6 pm Men's Literature Study</p>	<p><i>WEEKLY:</i></p> <p>11-1 New Bite of Serenity 5:30pm Sunset Solutions 8 pm New Life</p>	<p><i>WEEKLY:</i></p> <p>11-1 New Bite of Serenity 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 7 pm Triple M Men's</p>
			<p>1</p> <p>12 Noon Meditation</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal Williams/Williams</p>	<p>4</p> <p>4:00 pm Wedding Williams/Williams 7:00 pm Moravian Choir Concert/ Reception to follow</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:15am Sunday School 10:30amWorship/ Refreshments</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30 pm Lutheran Urban Parish Board Meeting @ Faith</p>	<p>8</p> <p>12 Noon Meditation</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 pm Pub Theology @ Southern Brewing &amp; Wine-making</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:15am Sunday School 10:30amWorship/ Refreshments</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7 pm Council</p>	<p>15</p> <p>12 Noon Meditation</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30-11am The Well @ Good Samaritan Inn/ Florida Ave.</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:15am Sunday School 10:00 am Summer Choir Rehearsal 10:30amWorship/ Refreshments</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>12 Noon Meditation 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 pm Pub Theology @ Southern Brewing &amp; Wine-making</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:15am Sunday School 10:30amWorship/ Refreshments</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>12 Noon Meditation 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	