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THE EPISTLE

APRIL 2019

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

www.stpaultampa.org ♦ office@stpaultampa.org

From the Parish Deacon

Christ the Ultimate Servant Leader

Last month on Ash Wednesday, we started the Lent Season. According to a recent article I read in Living Lutheran, "Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season when God calls us to reflect on the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection. The imposition of ashes – when you receive ashes in the sign of the cross on your forehead – sets the tone for Lent. Each moment you encounter your reflection, your ashes are a striking reminder that "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19b). But the cross, a symbol of Jesus' crucifixion, offers hope."

Source: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2015/02/lent-taking-faith-practices/>

In the last few years, I have spent Lent meditating daily about Jesus' crucifixion and the great sacrifice He has made for all our sins. One of my favorite hymns is the hymn "It is Well" by Horatio Spafford because, to me, this verse pretty much sums up how I feel about Christ has done for us:

"My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!

My sin, not in part but the whole,

Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!"

While I reflect on holy week and all the days leading up to Easter, I am always deeply moved by what took place on Maundy Thursday, not only just the washing of the feet, but what Jesus said while He was washing them:

"When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

John 13: 12-17.

Every time I read this passage of the Gospel, I am reminded that not only did Christ die for all our sins, but He left us with this example of what we are here on Earth to do. Jesus is telling us that He loves us and wants all of us to "wash one another's feet" i.e. take care of each other. Jesus set the example of what it means to be a servant leader. What a blessing it is that God's gives us the capacity to love and care for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Yes, our sins are "nailed to the cross" so that we can take the time to share in the joy of serving each other. Yes, we are "dust and dust we shall return", but in the meantime, we are here to follow Christ example and do Gods Work With Our Hands!

Happy Easter!

Jeanine Romano, PhD

Parish Deacon, Tampa Urban Parish

WELCOME
New Members

Dear friends, we give thanks for **F. J. Bachowski (Josie), Don Kiser, and Julie Ward**, who professed their faith in Christ along with us, and who became full members of this congregation at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 20, 2019. Welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

Council Treasurer

Thanks to everyone who helped make Pr. Gabriel's ordination a magical event. To those of you who contributed, who set up or broke down together we made it a successful event. I think the church showed very well, we were filled to the brim with pastors and well wishers celebrating this joyful day. I think my favorite moment was Pr. Gabriel's surprised face when we asked if we could load his gifts into his car for him, and he realized the gifts were for him! Filled with hope and joy, we move into our next stage at St. Paul, and this beautiful party really demonstrates how as a group we can pull together and create something magical.

Upcoming events:

Children's Sunday School - a great way to interact with our youngest members this class is taught during the sermon. Looking for volunteers

The Well - Every 3rd Saturday we meet to distribute food at the Good Samaritan Inn. If you are interested talk to Pr. Gabriel, Wayne or Tina

Fellowship after church - come a little early and set up the coffee and cookies

Tina Fritz

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



SATURDAY MAY 4TH is a clean up day at our sister church Faith Lutheran. Looking for volunteers to show up at **8:00 am** to help clear the fence line. This is a job we can do together as a parish, and will make the property safer.

We are looking for people with chain saws, and plan on renting a chipper for all the branches that will be removed. We are starting early since it will get hot very fast. Please talk to Pr. Gabriel or Jim Clark if you have any specific questions.

Music Ministry

St. Paul is honored to host *the United States Air Force Band of the West* brass quintet for a **FREE concert on Wednesday, May 8th at 7pm!** Please mark your calendars for what will be an incredible concert. We have hosted this group (twice) before, and they are impressive! Please invite family, friends and neighbors, and help us get the word out. The concert should last about one hour, so this gets everyone home early enough on a school night. Light refreshments will be served after the concert. You won't be disappointed!

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, James F.W. Clark and Michael Brannan (cantors); Jeanine Romano, Justin Fair (soloists); Mariana Gordon (flute); Rico Gordon (percussion); and George Algozzina (piano); and many thanks to those who sing in our choir: Hilde Reno, Julie Williams (soprano); Ann Delach, Linda Roche (alto); James F.W. Clark, Dave Stroupe, Gabriel Morgan (tenor); Bill Roche, Michael Brannan (bass).

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

Dennis

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR

A FREE CONCERT



The United States Air Force Band brass quintet will present a FREE concert at St. Paul on **Wednesday, May 8 at 7pm**. Please plan on attending, and be sure to invite your family, friends and neighbors to what will be a spectacular evening of music! The concert should last approximately one hour.

Stewardship

Stewardship of loving relationships

Jesus said, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." –

Mark 12:31b

Jesus said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." -- **Matthew 5:43b**

Our inner-circle of folks represent only a sliver of the people Jesus calls us to love. And let's face it: they're the *easy* ones to love. Jesus calls us to a higher plane of love; to love everyone. This means not just the people about whom we are ambivalent, but our actual enemies and those who persecute us.

Such love is a tall order, especially today, when hatred and demonization is rampant. Our political, media and social cultures encourage us to demean everybody with whom we disagree or who is different from us. Though it may be impossible to reach Jesus' ideal, as stewards and disciples of Jesus, we can do better.

- Turn from hate. It may be too much to love our enemies, but we can start by turning from hatred. When negative feelings arise, refuse to marinate in them. Pray for guidance and strength.
- Remember that loving your enemy doesn't mean approving of who they are, what they do, or letting them escape responsibility for their actions. It also does not mean you cannot protect yourself or others from harm.
- Imagine them as a broken, imperfect child of God (just like you!), who needs God's love and mercy.
- Pray for them. Ask God to lead them, guide them, fill their lives with healing. Ask God to give them the kind of loving heart that you are hoping to develop in yourself.

If you do these things consistently, with God's help you will have transformed your heart, your life and our world.

--Rob Blezard Copyright © 2019, Rev. Robert Blezard.
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Finances

YEAR TO DATE (February 28 2019):

Total Offerings (pledged, non-pledged, loose plate): 17,763.00

Total Special Offerings - 186.00

Total Other Income (Building use donations, etc.): 3,190.00

Total Year-To-Date Income as of Feb 28: \$20,982.00

Total Year-To-Date Operating Expenses: \$17,422.00

Year-To-Date Net Surplus as of Feb 28: \$3,560.00

Total Specified Donations - \$1,250.00
(this amount is collected for other causes and not included in the church's income.)

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

Northstar Investment Equity:	47,785.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund:	1,031.00
Capital Improvement Fund:	6,951.00
Thrivent Choice Fund:	2,325.00
Memorials:	1,189.00
Throwback Sunday Fund:	1,000.00

Game Tickets are \$26 each Reservations and payment are due no later than July 22, 2019. Make checks payable to St Paul, in memo line on check write "Rays Game". Place in offering plate, bring to church office or talk to Tina Fritz 813-420-7524



Thrivent Day at the Rays
Saturday, August 4th
6:10 PM

Gates open @ 4:10 PM

Rays vs Chicago White Sox

Pray for Healing

Michael Brannan	member
Jeanne Cameron	member
Winnie Clark	member
Eleanor Dunn	member
Tom Feagin	member
Carmen Hayes	member
Teresa Jones	member
Jeanne Pursell	member
Hilde Reno	member
Carol Swanson	member
Ron Tillis	member
Fabio Toledo	member
Joyce Toledo	member
Natalie Abreuhome	friend of Patty Tolzman
Dorothy Algozzina	mother of George Algozzina
Lynn Bowman	former member of St. Paul
Lillian Brown	mother of Pastor Meyer
Frieda E. Bachowski	Friend of St. Paul
Thelma Brumett	mother of Justin Fair
Alicia Cejas	Friend of Carmen Hayes
Sue Hiza	Sister inlaw of Rom&MargaretTillis
Diane Tolzman	mother of Wayne Tolzman
Linda & Ray Garret	mother & father of Curt Fritz
Ed McFadden	friend of Jimmy & Eleanor Dunn
Hailey Miller	great niece of Tina Fritz
Jeff Parker	Friend of Gary Levos
Gloria Tillis	mother of Ron Tillis
Alina Toledo	daughter in-law of Fabio & Joyce
Gary Toledo	son of Fabio & Joyce Toledo
Yolanda Villalobos	Friend of Patty Tolzman
Dot Ward	aunt of Eddie Malmquist



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.

From Pastor Morgan



I've spent the last month going through the book that I took away from the

Mission Developer Training in Seattle, *Church Planting in Post-Christian Soil*. The book really commends the neighborhood parish model, which the evidence suggests is one of the most sustainable models of ministry in urban contexts. The book also makes some suggestions about practices that we could adopt as a parish. One of those suggested practices is to go on "prayer walks" around our neighborhoods. The idea is not that we would be knocking on doors and trying to convert people. Instead, the idea is simply to walk in our neighborhoods, making ourselves present in a prayerful way, and reflecting prayerfully on what we see and on what the neighborhood needs. In this case, the interruptions really are the ministry. Sometimes we might be asked to pray for people as well, but the heart of that practice is simply being present in the neighborhood, and open to the people we encounter.

We will have prayer walks once a month for each congregation the **first Thursday of the month for Faith**, and the **second Thursday of the month for St Paul**. I will be present for every walk. We will start at about 4:00 pm and walk different areas of our neighborhoods for about an hour. If this sounds interesting to you, then come join me for our prayer walks.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Morgan



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** we're meeting at at Southern Brewing and Winemaking, 4500 N. Nebraska Ave., Tampa 33603. Pastor Morgan's # (813) 245-6812. Invite a friend; all are welcome!

MEDITATION



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 Pastor Gabriel Morgan and others. For those who feel the need, an optional time for debrief and discussion will follow.

Worship Schedule

APRIL

April 7

AM: Federico Gordon

AC: Isaac Fritz

Greeters: Wayne & Patty Tolzman

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

Refreshments: OPEN

April 14 - PALM SUNDAY

AM: Ann Delach

AC: Isaac Fritz

Greeters: Brad & Arlynn Haarer

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

Refreshments: OPEN

APRIL 21—SATURDAY, EASTER VIGIL

Worship Assistants TBD

April 21 - EASTER SUNDAY

AM: Erin Szwejkowski Morgan

Acolyte: Rico Gordon

Greeters: Jimmy & Eleanor Dunn

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

Refreshments: OPEN

April 28

AM: Linda Rosche

Acolyte: Mariana Gordon

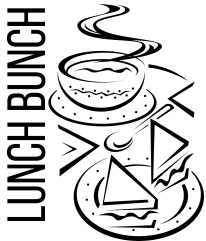
Greeters: Federico & Jessica Gordon

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

Refreshments: LUNCH BUNCH

Altar Guild: Patty Tolzman & Ann Delach

Counters: Jim Clark & Tina Fritz



LUNCH BUNCH: All are welcome to join us after worship today at Miller's Ale 2108 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, 33612 (University Mall parking lot). This will be our last Lunch Bunch until September.

Hope to see you there!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/7 Danny Williams

4/12 Julie Williams

4/25 William Benham

MAY

May 5

AM: Jeanine Romano

AC: Isaac Fritz

Greeters: Wayne & Patty Tolzman

USH: Bob Delach, Peggy Reineking

Refreshments: OPEN

May 12

AM: Ann Delach

AC: Isaac Fritz

Greeters: Brad & Arlynn Haarer

USH: Bob Delach, Peggy Reineking

Refreshments: OPEN

May 19

AM: Federico Gordon

Acolyte: Rico Gordon

Greeters:

USH: Wayne & Patty Tolzman

Refreshments: OPEN

May 26

AM: Tina Fritz

Acolyte: Mariana Gordon

Greeters: Federico & Jessica Gordon

USH: Wayne & Patty Tolzman

Refreshments: OPEN

Altar Guild: Patty Tolzman & Ann Delach

Counters: Rico Gordon

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



Please join us the third Saturday of every month at The Well! 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 there!

Springing Forward (John 20)

Every year before Christmas and Easter, one congregation regularly designs and sends postcards all over town inviting people to its services. Last year's Easter card showed two versions of the same photograph side by side. A family carefully poses in front of a Christmas tree: perhaps grandparents, two daughters, and a grandchild. Hair styles and fashion place them in the early 1960s. The photo on the left—cracked, faded, peeling—is labeled “Damaged.” The retouched photo on the right is labeled “Restored.” Linking the two is a giant “#Easter.”

What, besides the Christmas tree, is wrong with this picture?

If Easter is about turning back the clock, “we are of all people most to be pitied” (1 Cor. 15:19). Of course resurrection repairs the past, but not by pretending that damage never occurred. The glorified Christ bore wounds. So do we who have been buried and raised with him in baptism. Death no longer has dominion. Resurrection transforms us and the world into something new. We spring forward!

On the first Easter morning, the risen Christ tells Mary Magdalene, “Do not hold on to me . . . But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God’” (John 20:17). Christ is saying, “You will find me not where you did before, but in the community that bears my name.”

The beginning of John's gospel promised that all who receive Christ are given the power to become children of God. John 20 fulfills that promise. For the first time in the resurrection, Jesus uses the language of family: “my brothers.” Like Naomi speaking to Ruth, he uses the language of covenant: “my God and your God.” Cross and resurrection have formed a new family, a new people. With Mary Magdalene we see the risen Lord in the unretouched faces of sisters and brothers gathered from every nation to celebrate the joyous and everlasting feast.

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APRIL 2019

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1st SUNDAY 2 PM Suncoast Area Convention	WEEKLY: 11-1 New Bite of Serenity 6:30pm Together We Can 9 pm Never Too Young	WEEKLY: 11-1 New Bite of Serenity 6 pm Men's Literature Study	WEEKLY: 11-1 New Bite of Serenity 5:30pm Sunset Solutions 8 pm New Life	WEEKLY: 11-1 New Bite of Serenity 8 pm A New Way	WEEKLY: 11-1 New Bite of Serenity	WEEKLY: 10am Aging in Recovery 7 pm Triple M Men's
	1	2	3 12 Noon Meditation/ Sanctuary 6:00 pm Soup Supper @ Faith 7:00 pm Worship 7:45 Choir Rehearsal	4 4:00 pm Prayer Walk @ Faith	5	6
7 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship/ Refreshments	8	9 7:00 pm Council Mtg	10 12 Noon Meditation/ Sanctuary 6:00 pm Soup Supper @ St. Paul 7:00 pm Worship 7:45 Choir Rehearsal	11 4:00 pm Prayer Walk @ St Paul	12 11:00 am Worship meeting 6:30 pm Pub Theology @ Southern Brewing and Winemaking	13
14 PALM SUNDAY 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship/ Refreshments	15	16	17 12 Noon Meditation/ Sanctuary 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	18 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service @ Faith	19 7:00 pm Good Friday Service @ St. Paul	21 8:30-11am The Well@ Good Samaritan Inn/ Florida Ave. 7:00 pm Easter Vigil at St. Paul
21 EASTER SUNDAY 9:30 am Breakfast 10:30 Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 am Worship/	22	23	24 12 noon Meditation/ Sanctuary 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	25 7:00 pm Lutheran Urban Parish of Tampa Board Meeting @ Faith	26 6:30 pm Pub Theology /Southern Brewing and Winemaking	27
28 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship/ LUNCH BUNCH	29	30				