



+ 20 C M B 19 +

# THE EPISTLE

August 2019

Volume 65, Number 8

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



## Pastor's article

Grace and peace to you from Christ Jesus!

I have a few updates for you this month. Once again, please note that pub theology is now meeting once a month on the fourth Friday. *However*, for August we will have pub theology on the *fifth Friday* rather than the fourth, in order not to conflict with the parish retreat.

As the parish retreat is right around the corner, we need to confirm who will be attending, so it is possible you may receive a phone call from me at some point to check in. I am so grateful to Larry and Aniko for offering their beautiful home for the retreat. Their address is 527 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW, Lutz, 33548. We were out there recently for parish fellowship, and I got to do some kayaking and swimming. It was so much fun! Although I look forward to more of that, the purpose of the parish retreat is for building communication skills and understanding our parish as a "system." Please note that the retreat will not be facilitated by me, but rather by Pr. Don Reiter, who's done a lot of work in leading congregations in developing healthy group systems. Please also note that this is not a "working retreat" where we try to come up with mission goals; this is about inter-personal relationships and communication skills, which are meant to help us navigate challenges and potential conflicts in a healthy manner. Everyone is encouraged to attend, and particularly those in leadership positions, whether formal or informal. I look forward to seeing you there!

In other news, Parish Bible Study is up and running. Thanks to everyone who's been joining us and bringing food! The conversations are getting good. We've covered the first four chapters of Luke's Gospel, and we will now be exploring various connections with our contemporary world. Starting on the 26<sup>th</sup> we will look at the theology of James Cone, who was one of my professors at Union, and a scholar often credited as the founder of black liberation theology in the United States. The timing is especially poignant as our Churchwide Assembly just passed the

Declaration of the ELCA to the People of African Descent. An explainer to this document has been published to the Dropbox folder, which can be accessed here: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c2qrx2kbqe9nfsW/AADeG\\_aPgg-kNxG1nXmsO5Tta?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c2qrx2kbqe9nfsW/AADeG_aPgg-kNxG1nXmsO5Tta?dl=0)

Finally, I am very pleased to share that the new Kinship Market at Faith has been an incredible success. Our first market in July had 19 people, and the most recent had 25, with at least ten volunteers each time.

This new ministry is very promising, and it's been noticed. When I spoke with Pastor Meyer, Pastor Khader El-Yateem from the Synod office, and Joel Anderson from Village on the Isles over a Zoom conference recently, we discussed potential pathways forward for the campus at Faith. In particular, we discussed the vision for affordable housing with a community center, integrating a food pantry ministry with our church garden, and even the possibility of an elder care ministry that could do cross-generational ministry with the UTAH academy. These are all open possibilities, and we want to hear your feedback. Please stay tuned as we look to schedule a congregational meeting in the style of a town hall sometime in September to discuss these possibilities and to share your feedback on the direction you believe the Holy Spirit is calling us to go.

When John the Baptist went about preaching, he called all people to repentance, and to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. When the crowds asked him what they should do, he replied, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise" (Lk 3:11). We are doing that in our parish, and now I ask that you join me in prayer as we ask the Lord Jesus Christ to come among us again in the power of God's kingdom to do something new in our midst.

May the peace of Christ be with you always,  
Pr. Gabriel Morgan

## LUTHERAN URBAN PARISH OF TAMPA

The Lutheran Urban Parish of Tampa, is a **united ministry of Faith and St. Paul Lutheran Churches**. Our two congregations pray, work and fellowship together, pool resources, and share the same pastors. We are one body of Christ in two locations, in service to the single mission of God in our midst.

### PARISH BIBLE STUDY

Join us for our **NEW PARISH BIBLE STUDY** which will meet every **Thursday at 6:30 pm**.



We started at **St Paul for July**, and will alternate locations every month. We are meeting at **Faith for August**, and back at St Paul in September, and so on.

Our first study will be on the Gospel of Luke, which will take us through the rest of the year and compliment the Sunday morning Gospel readings.

This will differ from a traditional Bible study in some ways. For one thing, although we will go through the overall narrative of Luke's Gospel to get a sense of how it all fits together, we will not be responding to or filling out worksheets with pre-determined questions. The process will be more conversational. Secondly, our study will be interspersed with short topical studies that help us to draw connections between the text and the present time. Sometimes we will look at writers from the ancient church or the Reformation. Other times, we will look at modern authors. For example, after a few weeks of looking at the early chapters of Luke's Gospel, I would like to take a detour through the writings of James Cone, who was one of my professors in seminary at Union. His writings focus on the Gospel as a message of liberation for oppressed people, specifically for black people throughout the history of white supremacy in the United States. In this way, I hope to combine both historical and spiritual methods of reading the Bible, recognizing the historical contexts and limitations of the Bible, while also recognizing that it was written to be God's living Voice for us through the ages.

Peace and joy of Christ be with you all,  
Pr. Gabriel



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. This month we will meet on **August 17 at 8:30 am**.

See you there!

### NEW PASTOR RETREAT - A HEALTHY START

#### AUGUST 23 & 24



All members of the Lutheran Urban Parish are invited to attend this retreat to promote a healthier, stronger, and more mission-focused congregations in the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Topics covered will be communication skills, inter-

personal relationships, understanding the congregations as a "system" and much more. Pastor Don Reiter will be the retreat facilitator. Participants will be asked to purchase retreat materials for \$12. If you plan on attending, please sign up in the narthex on Sunday or call the church office at 813-239-3113. You may place your check in the offering plate (please earmark "Retreat material")

Larry and Aniko Solomonson (members of Faith) have invited us to their home (527 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW, Lutz, 33548) for the Friday evening and Saturday retreat. HOURS; Friday evening (7:00 - 9:15) and Saturday (8:20 a.m. - 5 p.m.). *If you have questions, please contact Jane Wiley or Pastor Gabriel. More logistics will be published soon.*

More details will be coming/will you???

the **KINSHIP**  
— free market —

Fresh produce, bread, dairy, and some  
shelf stable items are available.



Jesus teaches us to ask God for our daily bread, yet this world often makes it difficult to get our needs met. Our parish has responded to the call of our Lord with two mobile food markets that are open to all. Our next

**Kinship Free Market will be Saturday, August 3rd, at 9:30am at Faith Lutheran Church, 12703 N. Florida Ave. Tampa, 33612. If you are looking for ways to serve, or you would benefit from some groceries for yourself or your family, please join us!**

## Music Director

*Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in the place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.* ELW #752

We've sung the above hymn quite a bit in recent weeks as our Gathering Hymn. Short, simple hymns such as this one are easily learned and are meant to be repeated a number of times. It helps settle us, and prepare our hearts. Many of these short hymns come from the Taizé community, though the above one does not. They are best sung in harmony. As we learn a number of these lovely hymns, it is my hope that they will touch your heart and draw you closer to God in prayer. I also hope that if you hear one of these hymns played, even if the music is not printed in the bulletin, you will know it well enough to sing the words. Please do this with any hymn that you know, such as Amazing Grace. Just start singing, and if you don't know the words, hum along. The sound can be amazing if enough people do it.

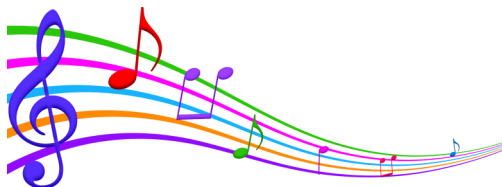
**Summer Choir** in August will be Sunday, August 25. Please join us in the Sanctuary at 10:30 for a quick rehearsal. The music is simple and meaningful. We welcome everyone to join us, regardless of singing ability. Families are especially encouraged to join us!

**Choir rehearsals resume Wednesday, August 28!** We rehearse at 7pm, and we would love to have *you* join us. No auditions or anything like that. You just have to enjoy singing. If you're not sure it's for you, just come to a rehearsal and see what a fun group we are! Or, better yet, join us for our **Choir Kick-off on Monday, August 19 at 6:30pm** at Yummy House, 2620 E. Hillsborough Ave.

Many thanks to our musicians for sharing their time and talents with us on a regular basis: Ann Delach, Pastor Gabriel Morgan, Hilde Reno, Mariana Gordon, Dave Stroupe, Jeanine Romano, James F.W. Clark, and Tom O'Reilly (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 Rosche (alto); James F.W. Clark, Dave Stroupe, Gabriel Morgan (tenor); Bill Rosche, Tom O'Reilly (bass).

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

Dennis



## Treasurer

St Paul has started to support online giving, and it seems to be working well. If you are one of those people who don't have a checking account, or prefer to do your banking online, you might want to give it a try. [See links below.](#)

We are still working out the bugs, so if you want to designate your giving (like to The Well, or Metropolitan Ministries or something like that), please send Hilde an email to let her know, and choose the designated drop down on the site.

Speaking of The Well, the Parish is now offering a free market for 2 days a month, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays. On the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month we meet at The Church on Waters at 9:00 to load the food and then distribute at our sister church Faith Lutheran. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday we meet at The Church on Waters at 8:30 to load then distribute at The Good Samaritan Inn. Both are great service opportunities and frankly a lot of fun.

If you would like to support these ministries additionally, we are now teaming with Feeding America to purchase food, at greatly reduced prices. Our goal is to collect \$200.00 per month for food, which would translate to roughly a pallet of food at each place. Can you help with that? If so, please designate your giving as The Well. We will also continue to collect non-perishables, specifically tuna, peanut butter, beans and feminine hygiene products. Those can be placed in the bin in the narthex. Thanks for your continued generosity.

Tina Fritz  
Treasurer

**INTERESTED IN ONLINE GIVING? FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW.**



**Give On Secure Link**

<https://onrealm.org/StPaulTampa/Give/>

Or Text **STPAULTAMPA \$50** (or your preferred gift amount) to **73256** to give to Operating using your text messaging. Standard text message rates do apply.

Or use this QR code.



## Stewardship

Stewardship Is...



Love in Action

### Develop a heart of generosity

*Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

Acts 20:35b

A friend who regularly volunteers to serve meals to the needy illustrates the truth of Jesus' teaching.

"It's so rewarding to help," she says, explaining that the time and hard work is worth it. "I think get more out of it than they do."

It feels good to give, but we are blessed with so much more when we give generously. The act of giving truly blesses us by shaping our personalities and developing our character. That's a truth affirmed by research. (Check out "The Science of Generosity" white paper from the University of California at Berkeley, or "The Science of Generosity Initiative" at Notre Dame University!)

Generous people tend to be the kind of good folk we want as friends and neighbors. We often think of generosity only in terms of financial giving, but generous people go way beyond that, embodying generosity with all they have and all they are. They are not merely generous, they are *generous-hearted*.

Anyone can develop a generous heart, or a *more* generous heart. Begin by deepening your relationship with God, seeking guidance and wisdom in daily prayer. Then simply begin to pour yourself out for the sake of others, giving generously as a spiritual exercise and discipline. Here are five action steps:

**Give smiles.** Smile at everyone you see. You may be surprised at how it changes your outlook.

**Give nice words.** Say something nice to everyone – family and friends, coworkers, parishioners, store clerks, folks in an elevator.

**Give courtesy.** Hold a door open for the person behind you; stop for pedestrians; let someone go ahead of you in line.

**Give your time.** Serve people *face-to-face*: tutor schoolchildren, serve meals, visit a shut-in, teach ESL, volunteer at a homeless shelter.

**Give your resources:** Slowly increase your giving to God's ministry. Make tithing a long-term goal.

Jesus said it is more blessed to give than receive. When we give our time, talents and possessions, God blesses us by developing in us a generous heart.

--Rob Blezard Copyright © 2019, Rev. Robert Blezard.  
Reprinted by permission.

## Finances



### YEAR TO DATE (June 30 2019):

**Total Offerings ( pledged, non-pledged, loose plate):**  
45,442.00

**Total Special Offerings:** 162.00

**Total Other Income (Building use donations, etc.):**  
14,144.00

**Total Year-To-Date Income as of June30:** \$59,748.00

**Total Year-To-Date Operating Expenses:** \$62,927.00

**Year-To-Date Net Deficit as of June 30:** (\$2,179.00)

**Total Specified Donations - \$2,814.50**  
(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:** 49,409.00

**Pastor's Discretionary Fund:** 1,531.00

**Capital Improvement Fund:** 6,951.00

**Thrivent Choice Fund:** 2,544.00

**Memorials:** 1,189.00

**Throwback Sunday Fund:** 1,000.00

### Pray for Healing

Michael Brannan	member
Jeanne Cameron	member
Winnie Clark	member
Eleanor Dunn	member
Jimmy 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 Abreuhorne	friend of Patty Tolzman
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
Ingé Jarvis	friend of Jim Sampson
Diane Tolzman	mother of Wayne Tolzman
Linda & Ray Garret	mother & father of Curt Fritz
Debbie McCormack	friend of St. Paul
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
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.*



Before scriptures are read on Sunday, the children will be gathered and escorted to their own classroom (at the entrance of the Sanctuary). They will have activities built on the scripture of the day, then they will be brought back to worship during the passing of the peace. We hope to see you and your little ones on Sunday!

### From Pastor Morgan



#### PUB THEOLOGY WILL MEET ONCE A MONTH

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**. **We will meet Friday, August 30 at 6:30 pm** 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 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**There will be a meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 10:00 am in the Lounge**

# Worship Schedule

## AUGUST

### August 4

**AM:** Hilde Reno  
**AC:** Isaac Fritz  
**USH:** Bob Delach  
**Refreshments:** OPEN

### August 11

**AM:** Tina Fritz  
**AC:** Isaac Fritz  
**USH:** Wayne & Patty Tolzman  
**Refreshments:** OPEN

### August 18

**AM:** Ann Delach  
**Acolyte:** Rico Gordon  
**USH:** Wayne & Patty Tolzman  
**Refreshments:** OPEN

### August 25

**AM:** Jeanine Romano  
**Acolyte:** Mariana Gordon  
**USH:** Brad Haarer & Curt Fritz  
**Refreshments:** OPEN

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

**Counters:** Hillary Vass

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

## SEPTEMBER

### September 1

**AM:** Erin Szwejkowski Morgan  
**AC:**  
**USH:** Brad Haarer, Curt Fritz  
**Refreshments:** OPEN

### September 8

**AM:** Federico Gordon  
**AC:**  
**USH:** Bob Delach & Peggy Reineking  
**Refreshments:** OPEN

### September 15

**AM:** Jim Clark  
**Acolyte:** Rico Gordon  
**USH:** Bob Delach & Peggy Reineking  
**Refreshments:** OPEN

### September 22

**AM:** Linda Rosche  
**Acolyte:** Mariana Gordon  
**USH:** Wayne & Patty Tolzman  
**Refreshments:** OPEN

### September 29

**AM:** Jeanine Romano  
**Acolyte:** Mariana Gordon  
**USH:** Wayne & Patty Tolzman  
**Refreshments:** OPEN

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

**Counters:** Wayne Wheeler

### OOPPS!

Because we decided to do a combined June/July Epistle  
 we missed our July birthdays & anniversaries.

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/2 - Andrew Meyer  
 7/6 - Carmen Hayes  
 7/16 - Frieda Bachowski\*  
 7/20 - Ann Delach  
 7/22 - Cristina Adetula  
 7/26 - F.J. (Josie) Bachowski  
 7/28 - Rico Gordon

### JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/3 - Pastor Dave & Debby Kruger\*  
 7/4 - Bill & Linda Rosché  
 7/21 - Brad & Arlynn Haarer

BELATED

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

& ANNIVERSARY



### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/3 - Eve Dolphin  
 8/7 - Erin Szwejkowski Morgan  
 8/7 - Elsie Mayer  
 8/14 - Curt Fritz  
 8/22 - Lewis Blasizer, Margaret Tillis  
 8/23 - Jimmy Dunn  
 8/25 - Lorena Muniz Adetula  
 8/26 - Leslie Tuzee

### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/6 - Jack & Ashley Mallo  
 8/9 - Pastor Russell & Julie Meyer  
 8/14 - Bob & Ann Delach  
 8/19 - Curt & Tina Fritz  
 8/28 - Dennis Douglas & Mike Brannan



### **\*Frieda E. Bachowski**

Fairway Oaks Nursing Home-  
 Room 302B  
 13806 N. 46th St.  
 Tampa, FL 33613

**\*Pastor Dave & Debby Kruger**  
 8110 Colonial Village Dr. #105  
 Tampa, FL 33625-3191

*In case anyone missed getting Carol's  
 new address:*

**Carol Swanson**  
 The Arbor at Bridge Mill  
 700 Freedom Blvd.  
 Canton, GA 30114

# AUGUST 2019

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

<b>1st SUNDAY</b> 2 PM Suncoast Area Convention	<b>WEEKLY:</b> 11-1 New Bite of Serenity  6:30 pm Together We Can 9 pm Never Too Young	<b>WEEKLY:</b> 11-1 New Bite of Serenity 6 pm Men's Literature Study	<b>WEEKLY:</b> 11-1 New Bite of Serenity 5:30 pm Sunset Solutions 8 pm New Life	<b>WEEKLY:</b> 11-1 New Bite of Serenity 8 pm A New Way	<b>WEEKLY:</b> 11-1 New Bite of Serenity 7-8 pm Step Verse	<b>WEEKLY:</b> 10 am Aging in Recovery 7 pm Triple M Men's 8:15 pm Keep the Faith
				<b>1</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Faith	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30 am The KINSHIP free market @ Faith
<b>4</b> 11:00 am Worship Lutheran Urban Parish Fellowship @ The Solomonson's 2pm Outdoor activities 5pm Potluck Supper	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 12 Noon Meditation/ Sanctuary	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Faith	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 11:00 am Worship	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Worship Meeting 7:00 pm Council Mtg	<b>14</b> 12 Noon Meditation/ Sanctuary	<b>15</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Faith	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:30-11am The Well@ Good Samaritan Inn/ Florida Ave.
<b>18</b> 11:00 am Worship	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm Choir Kick - off at Yummy House	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 12 noon Meditation/ Sanctuary	<b>22</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Faith	<b>23</b> 7-9:15 pm New Pastor Retreat	<b>24</b> 8:20-5:00 pm New Pastor Retreat
<b>25</b> 10:30 Summer Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 12 noon Meditation/ Sanctuary 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Faith	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm Pub Theology	<b>31</b>