



+ 20 C M B 19 +

THE EPISTLE

MAY 2019

Volume 64, Number 5

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

FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings of the risen Christ to the Lutheran Urban Parish of Tampa!

What a blessing and an honor it has been to lead our parish through Holy Week for the first time as the new pastor. I have to say, I was initially feeling intimidated to preach on Easter morning, thinking about all those potential visitors. But after that long Vigil, Easter felt like a walk in the park! Thanks to everyone who showed up for our Maundy-Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil services. Once again, I want to give a hearty welcome to our new members, whom we received at the Easter Vigil this year: Josie Bachowski, Julie Ward, and Don Kiser. Thank you for becoming a part of our life together in the body of Christ!

I would also like to say how truly grateful I am for the extremely generous gifts given at my ordination. I really did not expect that! I received new stoles and chasubles, an espresso maker, new socks, and probably a dozen gift cards! Thank you so much!

I'd like to take the opportunity in this May epistle to brief the parish on some of our upcoming activities for ordinary time after Easter.

First, I want to say that I am excited to start a series of new studies for the parish. It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4). What good news that God feeds us with a Word of mercy! It is essential for a vital church to be in God's Word. We are going to establish a regular weekly study together. There will be one scheduled meeting time with varying content. Most of these sessions will be Bible studies, maybe 70-80%. However, there won't be a bunch of worksheets with strange questions on them to "answer." We will use a practice of reading, discussing, and re-reading to discover what God's written Word says to us today. We will reflect together about Christ's call for us, as well as about our personal spiritual needs and daily life. The other 20% of these sessions will be on special topics, from 4-6 weeks at a time, then returning to regularly scheduled Bible study. For example, some of these special topics might include: ancient church and the Nicene Creed, Reformation, religious pluralism, social justice, science and religion, immigration, and worship and liturgy. The first of these studies will be on James Cone, who was one of my professors at Union Seminary and who was the founder of black liberation theology. These topics will be integrated with scripture readings as well.

Secondly, work on the nursery at St Paul is ongoing. That space will soon function as a multi-purpose classroom without losing its capacity to serve as a nursery if needed. Once the space is finished, we will start to reach out to other families in the area for tutoring. We will need volunteers. You don't have to have teaching or tutoring experience to be a volunteer. Sometimes we simply need people present.

Lastly, I am very excited and proud to share with the parish that we are self-sufficient in the Well ministry at the Good Samaritan. We now have our own key to Waters Avenue Church, and have the volunteers needed to staff it ourselves.

However, this does not mean we can just relax and go on auto-pilot! Poverty in the Tampa urban core is a deep and ongoing challenge. The need in the neighborhood around Faith is as great or greater than it is around St Paul. There are numerous poor and homeless individuals that come through the campus of Faith daily. Now Christ calls us to care for the poor where we are, for he says, "give to everyone who begs of you" (Lk 6:30). This is a simple call, though we may have our reasons for not wanting to do it. We may not think that is how we grow our ministry, or we may be uncomfortable interacting directly with the poor. Yet our wisdom and experience isn't what matters most. What matters most is what Christ says to us, and that simple call is often the difference between a vital ministry and being stuck in old habits with no fish in our nets.

In the Eblast, I spoke of how Christ gave his disciples a simple yet odd command: to throw their nets over the other side of the boat. They could have followed their own wisdom and experience, and said, "that's absurd; obviously, if there's no fish on this side, there aren't any on that side!" Yet they did what Christ said, and they were blessed with more fish than they could haul. Christ's powerful Word brought about a new reality, a bounty of fish that their experience told them was impossible.

We have the ability and we have the call from our Lord. It is time that we began planning to start a second Well ministry at the campus of Faith Lutheran. And this will also be a great way to connect the people of that neighborhood to the garden at Faith. Because of the schedule on which the Well receives food donations, it would have to be the second or fourth Saturday. I am confident we can replicate this powerful ministry, and I ask you to plug in and support it as you are able, either with additional food and clothing donations or with your time.

Peace be with you,
Pr. Gabriel

Council President

“Do not be afraid to ask if it is something you believe in.” Desmond Tutu, as relayed by a member of HOPE
This month, I wanted to ask for your participation in several events that St Paul supports.

The first is the fence clean up that Pastor Morgan spoke about in his sermon last week. There is a fence on the south border of Faith Lutheran Church that is overgrown with bushes and trees. Passersby can see our community garden but from the street, it is not clear if the garden is connected with the church and the ministry of Faith Lutheran. This Saturday, May 4th, we are assembling a group of volunteers to assist in clearing the fence line of bushes, plants, and trees that may be blocking the view from the street. While we are looking for individuals who have chain saws, power saws, or hand saws, the more people who volunteer to help, the faster the job will go and the sooner we get done. Starting time is tentatively set for 8:00 am in the Faith Lutheran Church parking lot.

The second item that could use a few more volunteers is our food distribution ministry at [The Well](#). Every third Saturday of the month, volunteers meet at the [Waters Avenue Church](#), 609 Waters Ave., at 8:30 am, load donated food, drink, and clothing, and then drive it to the Good Samaritan Inn, 3302 N. Florida Ave, where tables are set up, and the items are distributed free of charge to individuals living in the transitional housing located on the property. The residents are always appreciative of the gifts that we distribute there. I've done this for about one year and I find the experience very rewarding.

Finally, as Saint Paul's representative to the organization [Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality](#), a.k.a. HOPE, I would like to invite all of our congregants, especially those who attended the Nehemiah Action on April 1st, to attend the [Justice Ministry Celebration](#) – Monday, May 13, 2018, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm at The Portico, 1001 N Florida Ave, Tampa, FL 33602. We will unite to share a potluck meal, enjoy music, get updates on issues, celebrate and build community. This year, HOPE was instrumental in convincing a majority of Hillsborough county board [members to establish a recurring fund of \\$10 million for the purpose of building, preserving, and rehabbing housing for low income individuals and families](#). We have members, both at Saint Paul and Faith that struggle with housing costs. This fund could help them and many others in need of affordable housing.

One of the functions of the event is to encourage individuals to invest in the organization so that it can continue its mission. The Justice Ministry Celebration seeks individuals to invest \$200 or more for the ongoing efforts by HOPE. I believe in the organization and I've pledged \$250 as an investment in HOPE and I encourage those who can afford it to invest as well. HOPE will of course accept investments of any amount. If you are interested in attending or contributing, you may contact James Clark at (312) 388-2258 /or Pastor Morgan at (813) 245-6812.

James Clark,

Council President

JOIN US

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019 AT 7:00 PM

U. S. AIR FORCE GATEWAY BRASS QUINTET

AT

ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

5103 N. CENTRAL AVE., TAMPA

Bring your family and friends! Free Concert



Gateway Brass is a brass quintet which proudly showcases military professionalism at DoD ceremonies and entertaining public concerts throughout the Gulf Coast region on behalf of the United States Air Force. This virtuoso group of active duty Airman musicians performs an exciting range of musical styles spanning five centuries.

The ensemble is a component of the USAF Band of the West located at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas where Air Education & Training Command conducts Basic Military Training for over 30,000 young men and women every year. Because all enlisted Airmen must first pass through JBSA-Lackland, it is known as "The Gateway to the Air Force" which became the inspiration for the group's name.



Stewardship

Possessed by Possessions?

Here are a couple things Jesus says relating to what we have or need. The commentaries raise some good issues to mull over. Having less makes it easier to focus on what is really important.

Luke 6:30 – Jesus said, “Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again.”

What’s your relationship with money? Most of us have been acculturated to hold onto our worldly possessions with an iron grip. Do you? Jesus suggests a way of life where we are not attached to our possessions, and where we feel free to allow our money and the things we own slip through our fingers. If you open your fingers and let your possessions go, what Godly treasures could you grasp?

Mark 6:8, 9 – Jesus ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics.

What do you need for your journey in life? Most of us think we need far more than we actually do, and our lives become weighed down with our possessions. When Jesus sends out the disciples with very little, he reminds us that we, too, need very little in life. What could you do without?

Finances

YEAR TO DATE (March 31 2019):

Total Offerings (pledged, non-pledged, loose plate): 24,108.00

Total Special Offerings - 30.00

Total Other Income (Building use donations, etc.): 7,841.00

Total Year-To-Date Income as of Mar 31: \$31,979.00

Total Year-To-Date Operating Expenses: \$28,387.00

Year-To-Date Net Surplus as of Mar 31: \$3,592.00

Total Specified Donations - \$2,477.00

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

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

Northstar Investment Equity: 49,277.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: 1,031.00

Capital Improvement Fund: 6,951.00

Thrivent Choice Fund: 2,530.00

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
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
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.

From Pastor Morgan



I went to the Mission Developer Training in Seattle, *Church Planting in*

Post-Christian Soil, and the book 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 (May 2) of the month for Faith**, and the **second Thursday (May 9) 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 (May 10) and fourth Fridays (May 24) each month, at 6:30 pm** we're meeting at Southern Brewing and Winemaking, 4500 N. Nebraska Ave., Tampa 33603. Pastor Morgan's # (813) 245-6812. Invite a friend; all are welcome!



Our heartfelt sympathy to the family of **Carolyn Kelley**, our dear friend and long-time member of St Paul Church, passed away in her sleep Sunday, April 7. There was a **Memorial Service at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Tuesday, April 16**. Please keep Carolyn's family in your prayers.



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

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**

MAY

- 5/1 Annie Goldsmith
- 5/1 Fabio Toledo
- 5/3 Ashley Mallo
- 5/4 Pete Campbell
- 5/4 Yvonne Feagin
- 5/13 Carol Swanson
- 5/18 Liz Mayer
- 5/26 Suzan Hartnagle
- 5/27 James Clark III
- 5/28 Jeanine Romano



JUNE

June 3

AM: Jim Clark
AC: Isaac Fritz
Greeters: Wayne & Patty Tolzman
USH: Curt Fritz, Brad Haarer
Refreshments: OPEN

June 10

AM: Hilde Reno
AC: Isaac Fritz
Greeters: Brad & Arlynn Haarer
USH: Curt Fritz, Brad Haarer
Refreshments: OPEN

June 17

AM: Peggy Reineking
Acolyte: Rico Gordon
Greeters:
USH: Bob Delach, Peggy Reineking
Refreshments: OPEN

June 24

AM: Erin Szejkowski Morgan
Acolyte: Mariana Gordon
Greeters: Federico & Jessica Gordon
USH: Wayne & Patty Tolzman
Refreshments: OPEN

June 24

AM: Jeanine Romano
Acolyte: Isaac Fritz
Greeters:
USH: Wayne & Patty Tolzman
Refreshments: OPEN

Altar Guild: Patty Tolzman & Ann Delach

Counters: Jim Clark & Wayne Tolzman



LUNCH BUNCH is off for the summer but will resume in September!



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 **May 18 at 8:30 am**. See you there!

LUTHERAN URBAN PARISH OF TAMPA

The Lutheran Urban Parish of Tampa, a collaboration of Faith and St. Paul Lutheran Churches. Our two congregations have pooled resources in order to strengthen the mission of God in our midst. We pray, work and fellowship together, sharing the same pastors. Yet our congregations are distinct incarnations of Gospel ministry in their specific locations.

The Lutheran Urban Parish Board met on April 25 and have scheduled a busy, mission & fellowship filled summer! Please check out these activities and mark your calendar to join everyone to share work, fun and fellowship.



FENCE LINE CLEAN UP 127TH AVE - PROPERTY BY COMMUNITY GARDEN at

FATIH LUTHERAN CHURCH, 12703 N. Florida Ave. Tampa, 33612.

Saturday, May 4 starting at **8 AM** lots of volunteers are needed at Faith to help us clean up the fence line along 127th Ave. This is a job we can do together as a parish and will make the property safer and allow a view of the community garden. 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. Have specific questions, speak with Pastor Gabriel.

We will be providing coffee and energy food in the AM and a sandwich/salad lunch at noon. If you would like to donate food, please sign up at the front table. Sandy Ehlike and Lynne Leigh will be in charge of the kitchen but could use others to help (this will be the cool job!)

THE 'GIFT' CENTER

GARDENING IN FAITH TOGETHER



The first Saturday is also our work day for the Community Garden at Faith There will also be garden projects to do on **Saturday the 4th**. So many choices!

NOTE FOR FAITH & ST. PAUL COUNCILS:

RETREAT: *New Pastor Retreat* will be **Aug 23 & 24** our facilitator will be Pastor Don Reiter. More information and location will come your way soon but we hope you will put this event on your calendar and plan to attend.



PARISH FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

St. Paul – Sunday, July 7 5 PM

Faith – Sunday, Aug 4

More details will be coming/will you???

MAY 2019

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

<p>1st SUNDAY</p> <p>2 PM Suncoast Area Convention</p>	<p>WEEKLY:</p> <p>11-1 New Bite of Serenity</p> <p>6:30pm Together We Can</p> <p>9 pm Never Too Young</p>	<p>WEEKLY:</p> <p>11-1 New Bite of Serenity</p> <p>6 pm Men's Literature Study</p>	<p>WEEKLY:</p> <p>11-1 New Bite of Serenity</p> <p>5:30pm Sunset Solutions</p> <p>8 pm New Life</p>	<p>WEEKLY:</p> <p>11-1 New Bite of Serenity</p> <p>8 pm A New Way</p>	<p>WEEKLY:</p> <p>11-1 New Bite of Serenity</p>	<p>WEEKLY:</p> <p>10am Aging in Recovery</p> <p>7 pm Triple M Men's</p>
			<p>1</p> <p>12 Noon Meditation/ Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4:00 pm Prayer Walk @ Faith</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8am Clean up day (along fence line) @ Faith</p>
<p>5</p> <p>10:00 am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 am Worship/ Refreshments</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>12 Noon Meditation/ Sanctuary</p> <p>7 pm CONCERT-U.S. Air Force Brass Band</p>	<p>9</p> <p>4:00 pm Prayer Walk @ St Paul</p> <p>5:00 pm Suarez/ Beason Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11:00 am Worship meeting</p> <p>6:30 pm Pub Theology @ Southern Brewing and Winemaking</p>	<p>11</p> <p>4:00 pm Suarez/ Beason Wedding</p>
<p>12 Mother's Day</p> <p>10:00 am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 am Worship/ Refreshments</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 pm Council Mtg</p>	<p>15</p> <p>12 Noon Meditation/ Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00 Choir Rehearsal</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>10:00am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 am Worship/ Refreshments</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>12 noon Meditation/ Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00 Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 pm Pub Theology /Southern Brewing and Winemaking</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>10:00 am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 am Worship/ Refreshments</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	