

The Grapevine

Volume 25, May/June 2022

**The Mission of All Saints Lutheran Church is:
To be a family of faith,
empowered by God,
to proclaim Jesus Christ.**

**We welcome all who
are seeking God's love
and grace. Our unity
is in Christ.**



Congregational Calendar

[\(Click here for the full calendar\)](#)

The Mission Team continues to monitor the CDC guidelines in regards to COVID-19. This is the schedule as of now and new information will be shared if changes are needed. We strive to put the needs of the most vulnerable in our community first, so if you are not feeling well, please do not attend worship.

In-Person and Zoom Livestream Sunday Worship Service at 9:45 am

At the March meeting, the Mission Team reviewed our mask policy and have agreed that as long as the positive rate for Hillsborough and Pasco counties is below 5% then masks will be optional for those who are fully vaccinated. This number is available on Fridays by clicking [here](#).

This link will be available at the bottom of each week's Two for Tuesday, so you can track the numbers and know if masks will be required or not. You can also check signage at church.

Our mask policy is subject to change as the situation changes and we will continue to follow CDC recommended guidelines.

Lysol Wipes are in each pew and you are encouraged to use them to disinfect all surfaces you touch before leaving the worship space. When you are done, wipes can be placed in the basket on the pew.

**Wednesday Dinner Church at 7 pm
Potluck Meal – Bring a dish to share!**

**Thursday Morning Zoom Bible Study
Every Thursday at 10 am**

**Sunday In-Person and Zoom Live
Stream Worship at 9:45 am**

**Sunday School at 11 am through May 15th
(unless there is a Ministry Meal)**

**Lectio Divina – May 1st at 7 pm and
March 3rd at 1:30 pm**

National Day of Prayer - May 5th at Noon

Book Club - May 6th at 6:30 pm

Zoom Mission Team – May 10th at 7:30 pm

**Postal Carrier Food Drive at C.S.S. –
May 14th at noon**

Advocacy Meeting – May 16th at 7 pm

Ministry Meal - May 22nd at 11 am

Synod Assembly June 3rd, 4th and 5th

Bloodmobile–June 5th from 10 am to 12:15 pm

VBS – June 13th to 17th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Zoom Mission Team – June 14th at 7:30 pm

Advocacy Zoom Meeting - June 20th at 7 pm



We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace.

We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status (LGBTQIA+). We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, differently-abled or anything that too often divides us. **Our unity is in Christ.**



Pastor's Paragraphs

by Interim Pastor Ed Benoway

Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!

It has been a very busy first month serving as your Interim Pastor here at All Saints congregation! These early weeks have included the conclusion of the Lenten Season, Palm/Passion Sunday, Holy Week and of course, Easter Sunday! We now bask in the afterglow of Easter as we move through the Easter Season.

I want to thank the people of All Saints for the warm welcome that Linda and I have received from you. We appreciated the reception after our first service of worship with you on Sunday, April 3rd, providing opportunity to begin meeting one another. It is helpful that many of you continue to share your names in greetings as I strive to put names and faces together. I am beginning home visits primarily on those among us who might be homebound, but also stopping by other homes simply to bring greetings. I call these visits “doorstep visits” and they are usually spontaneous (I’m in the neighborhood) and the purpose is to say “hi” if I am fortunate to catch someone at home. These visits are usually brief and even conclude as we visit together at the door. However, if you desire to visit longer, or wish to set another more convenient time for a home visit, I am very open to doing that.

Part of the expectation of the interim time is to take time to reflect upon what we do together in God’s mission and assess what we might prefer to consider doing differently. I have begun such conversations with the Mission Team and the Worship Team and with various leaders or individual members of the congregation. As we do Lord’s work, the involvement of all the church family is important. Please don’t hesitate to call the church office and set up an appointment to meet with me

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Dinner Church Reflections on Types of Psalms

At past dinner church gatherings, we spent time reflecting on various psalms from Sunday morning readings to talk about their meanings using questions to guide our conversation.

Pastor Ed Benoway will wrap up our series with four sessions before summer break as he invites some general reflections on the various types of psalms.

The last Wednesday in April we discussed Prayers of Lament which make up the largest percentage of the Psalms. While we won't be able to cover all the types of songs, we will follow this outline:

**May 4 – Songs (psalms) of Thanksgiving
Focus on Psalm 100**

**May 11 – Liturgies (psalms for ceremonies)
Focus on Psalm 121**

**May 18 – Psalms of Confidence and Trust
Focus on Psalm 23**

**May 25 – Hymns (psalms) of Praise
Focus on Psalm 150**

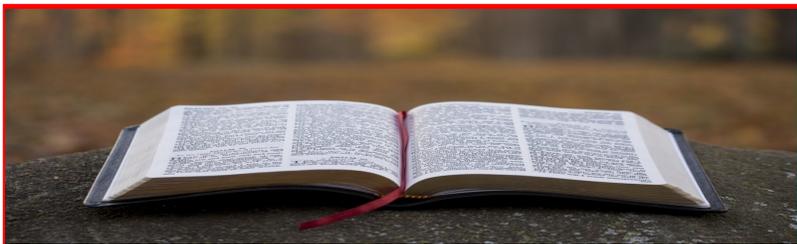
With psalms, we are able to explore the highs and lows of our lives and faith journeys. They are an ever present resource in times of trouble and times of celebration.

Please join Pastor Ed for these Dinner Church conversations and fellowship.

Zoom Bible Study Thursdays at 10 am

This class will take a brief hiatus as we transition to an Interim Pastor.

Look to the Two for Tuesday for more information on when this Bible study may return.



Lectio Divina

For summer, we will be looking for one day that will work for everyone as schedules can change during the summer.

It is never too late to join the group as each month the session prays a different scripture, so you can easily participate whether you have done it before or not. If you have been considering joining, summer may be the best time to begin!

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Beth Lawniczak.



Facility Maintenance

Perhaps you've noticed the All Saints' grounds look like they have been receiving a little extra love lately. From the removal of an overabundance of years worth of leaves, tree trimming, pressure washing, and the removal of vines and invasive plants, a lot has been happening.

To maintain this peaceful sanctuary along a now busy throughfare takes some work and there are always jobs that need to be done, including the need for some painting to be done soon.

If you have a particular interest in gardening, painting, lawn mowing (see schedule), please reach out to the church office. Thanks for considering!



Mission Team
President,
Judy Callan

and the Prez says ...

It was great to get back to a “normal” Easter with all of the festivities, and to once again see some of the faces we have been missing over the past two years. It was encouraging to once again have an “overflow” crowd! I hope that everyone felt comfortable to be back to our church “home” again! As most folks say when reuniting with old friends, “We need to do this more often”! Hopefully we will continue to see our friends and family on a regular basis. WE MISSED YOU!

Easter brings a sense of renewal and reminds us of what our faith and focus should be—sharing our faith in our risen Lord! Over the next few months, as school comes to a close and families venture away on vacations, I hope that the wonder of Easter morning stays with us and reminds us of “WHO” and “WHOSE” we are!

Just as our homes and families require commitment, effort, and maintenance, so does our faith and our church. Please keep All Saints in mind as you plan your summer. Whatever time, talent, or treasure you have—it can always be used to the glory of God! Vacation Bible School is coming, as well as other opportunities for all to serve and participate- young or old!

THE LORD WILL PROVIDE!

Judy

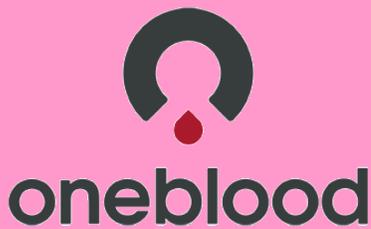
in the pastor's office. I appreciate everyone's perspectives and observations.

On Easter Sunday, we exchanged our Easter morning greetings "Christ is risen!" and "He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!" That greeting is so much at the heart of our Good News sharing. It is a greeting and affirmation of faith that is worthy of year-round attention.

I look forward to our time together as God's people in this place. My prayer is that God will stir up the gift of the Holy Spirit in each of us and encourage us in our ministry to do God's mission in this community. Again, thank you for your welcome!

In Christ and His Love,

Pastor Ed Benoway



2022 Donation Dates

Thank you to everyone who donated blood at our April blood drive. Your gift can help as many as three people. It is amazing how such a small act can help so many people!

The Bloodmobile will be at All Saints on the following dates:

**June 5, July 31,
September 25 and November 20**

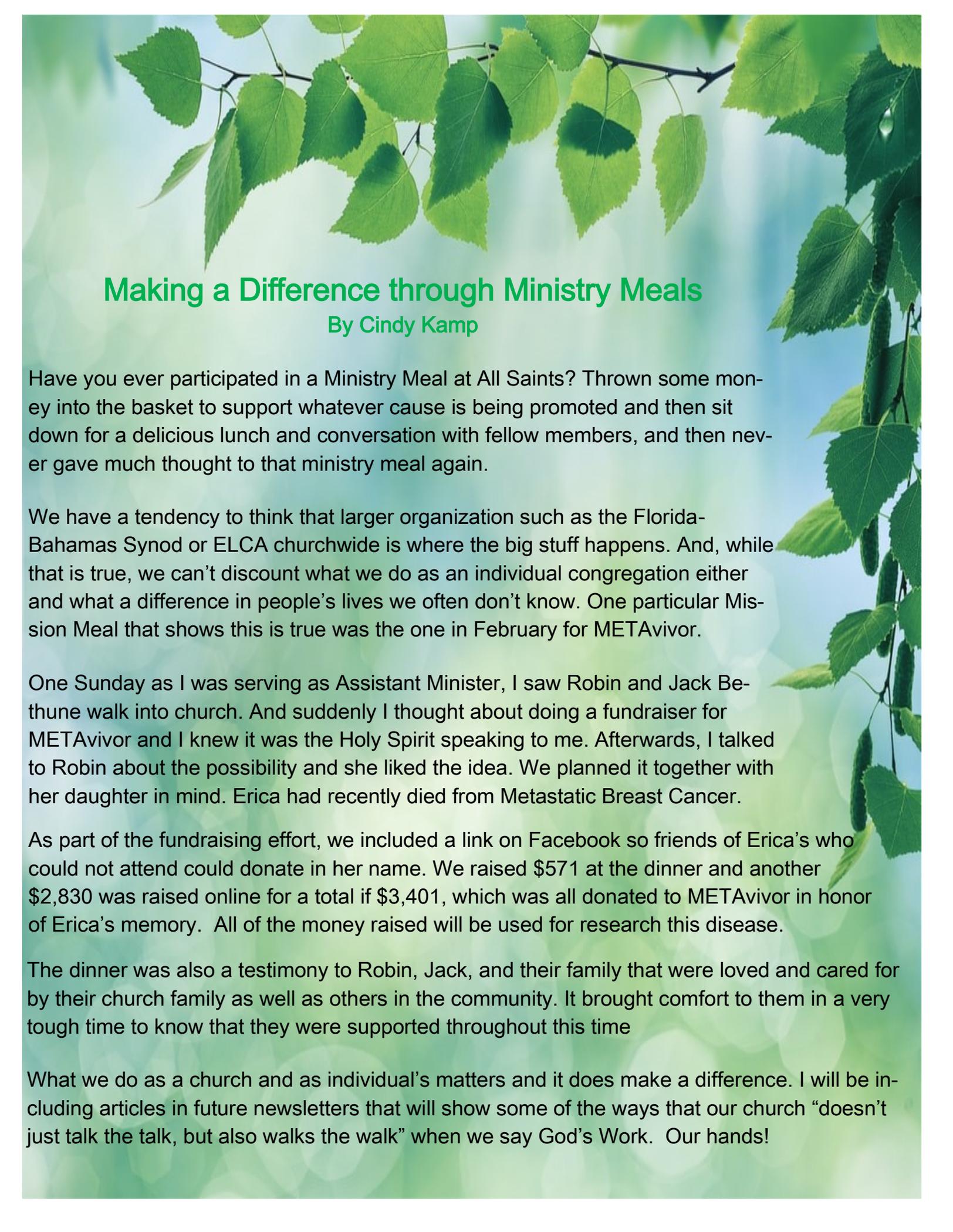
Please mark the dates on your calendar and make plans now to help save a life in the future.

Vacation Bible School June 13th to 17th 6:30 to 8:30 pm

The dates are set for VBS and now it is time to get down to business and get things planned!

One of the first things is for youth to invite their friends to participate. Don't have young kids in your house? How about neighbor kids or grandkids that are between the ages of 3 and completed 5th grade.

What about middle/high school youth, they make great leaders and helpers for VBS. We also need planners and idea people to make this year a success. You are encouraged to reach out to Sandra Odle or Sophie Thomas if you are available to help with pre-planning or during VBS. Thanks!



Making a Difference through Ministry Meals

By Cindy Kamp

Have you ever participated in a Ministry Meal at All Saints? Thrown some money into the basket to support whatever cause is being promoted and then sit down for a delicious lunch and conversation with fellow members, and then never gave much thought to that ministry meal again.

We have a tendency to think that larger organization such as the Florida-Bahamas Synod or ELCA churchwide is where the big stuff happens. And, while that is true, we can't discount what we do as an individual congregation either and what a difference in people's lives we often don't know. One particular Mission Meal that shows this is true was the one in February for METAvivor.

One Sunday as I was serving as Assistant Minister, I saw Robin and Jack Bethune walk into church. And suddenly I thought about doing a fundraiser for METAvivor and I knew it was the Holy Spirit speaking to me. Afterwards, I talked to Robin about the possibility and she liked the idea. We planned it together with her daughter in mind. Erica had recently died from Metastatic Breast Cancer.

As part of the fundraising effort, we included a link on Facebook so friends of Erica's who could not attend could donate in her name. We raised \$571 at the dinner and another \$2,830 was raised online for a total of \$3,401, which was all donated to METAvivor in honor of Erica's memory. All of the money raised will be used for research this disease.

The dinner was also a testimony to Robin, Jack, and their family that were loved and cared for by their church family as well as others in the community. It brought comfort to them in a very tough time to know that they were supported throughout this time

What we do as a church and as individual's matters and it does make a difference. I will be including articles in future newsletters that will show some of the ways that our church "doesn't just talk the talk, but also walks the walk" when we say God's Work. Our hands!

Zoom Bible Study Thursdays at 10 am

This class will take a brief hiatus as we transition to an Interim Pastor.

Look to the Two for Tuesday for more information on when this Bible study may return.

Ministry Meal May 22nd after Worship

This event was originally schedule for March but got postponed when it became the Gyson Family's last Sunday.

Our original intent was to join in fellowship, share information about local environmental issues, and have a fun quiz show with prizes to raise funds to plant some trees next to our building that would eventually provide shade and therefore lower electric bills. We still intend to do that eventually, but for now the team felt it was more important to advocate for the ongoing ministries of this congregation that need funding.

We will be having Shepherds Pie, salad, rolls, drinks, and Village Inn Pies for dessert. Our prayer is that this delicious meal will bring you in and you will give generously to the ongoing work and ministries of our congregation that are important in our community.

FAITH

O The Sunday School year is quickly coming to a close. Our last class is May 15th because of the Ministry Meal taking place on May 22nd.

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T The whole purpose of Sunday school is to help us better understand Scripture and how God uses Biblical stories to show us how we live in the world today that is so in need of seeing the beautiful power of God!

I
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N We hope you will keep that in mind and consider joining us in the fall!



National Day of Prayer May 5th at noon

You are invited to the National Day of Prayer Service sponsored by Christian Social Services at the Land O Lakes Church of God, 8337 Land O Lakes Blvd. After the service, there will be 'to-go' lunches provided.

If you are unable to attend, you are encouraged to take some time at noon on May 5th to pray for the whole world and all of God's creation.



Advocacy Matters

Advocacy Team

***He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)***

My time as Chair of the Advocacy Team is over. I have handed over the chairpersonship into the capable hands of Brian Scott. The Advocacy Team came into being on March 9, 2021, when its formation was approved by the Mission Team. Our efforts over the past year have been focused primarily on advocacy at the national level and on educating our members. We have learned much and have a solid foundation upon which we will build our local and regional advocacy efforts.

I realize as I write this message that we have not clearly stated to the congregation what we are all about. There may be some misperceptions or assumptions that I can provide clarity to. Our identity and purpose can be found in our Mission and Vision Statements, which follow:

Mission Statement: We follow our Christian calling to speak out, to defend the rights of the poor and needy, to be a voice for the voiceless. We advocate for policies that end injustice, oppression, and suffering. We use our voice to speak to political and economic power in order to effect changes toward restoring and reconciling our world. We are courageous, intentional and goal oriented.

Vision Statement: To be a unified Christian voice that promotes a more just, fair, and peaceful world.

The Advocacy Team neither supports nor opposes any politician or political party.

Our primary areas of focus are *racial and ethnic justice and equity*, and *LGBTQ+ rights and inclusion*. We focus on other areas, such as regional environmental issues, when the need arises.

The Advocacy Team meets on the third Monday of each month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. We meet via Zoom in the church Zoom room. Anyone is welcome to become a member. We would love to have you join us!

God bless you all,

Brett Hill

ASLC Advocacy Team

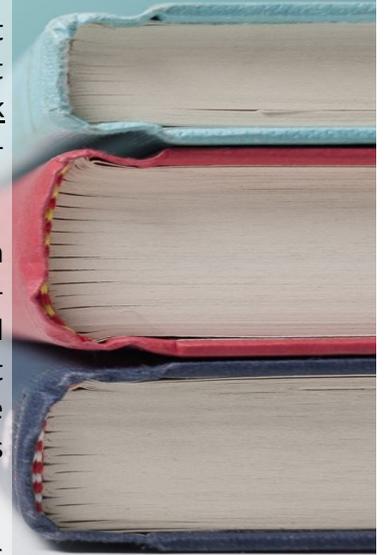
Book Club News

May 6th at 6:30 pm at Marcia's house

The Book Club picks their next selection from suggestions made from many different genres in hopes that the book selection might entice someone to attend for the first time based on their enthusiasm for a particular book. The next book is called The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd, who is also the author of the widely popular book entitled The Secret Life of Bees.

Though a work of fiction, this novel is grounded in meticulous research and written with a reverential approach to Jesus' life that focuses on his humanity. It is the inspiring, unforgettable account of one woman's bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place and culture devised to silence her. It is a book that will draw you in, make you wonder about who Jesus was as a young adult before he started his ministry, and what life was actually like, especially for a woman, during this time in history.

Marcia said lasagna is on the menu! Please bring a side to share. If you need directions to her home, please reach out to her at mgreens@tampabay.rr.com or 813.753.2335.



Seminarian Courtney Noya

We are coming up on the end of the Spring semester here at seminary. This has certainly been one of my busiest semesters yet between my course load, working as a teaching assistant for two professors, and filling all of my abundant extra time with catering. It is pretty unbelievable how quickly two years have passed already!

About a month ago, we had internship reveals and I have been selected to go to Clemson, SC to work at University Lutheran Church and with the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Clemson University. I will be moving in June to start my year long internship there. Unfortunately, that means I will not be spending my summer at ASLC, but I will be back to visit towards the end of May for a week!

The continued support from ASLC has been incredibly meaningful to me and I often turn towards my roots with ASLC to inform my education here at seminary. I am grateful to come from a church that has allowed me to grow, lead, love, and be loved.

Thanks to you all! I hope to see you in May.

Courtney Noya

Christian Social Services
5514 Land O Lakes Blvd.
813-995-0088



Postal Carrier's "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive
May 14th from noon to 6 pm

Help is needed to sort the non-perishable food that comes in from the postal carriers. That food is later distributed to those in need in our local area. Come for an hour or two or all afternoon if you can. They expect to be especially busy between 2 and 6 pm. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Please RSVP with Judy or Beth.



Seminarian Brett Hill

When I last wrote, I had just completed the Winter 2022 semester. One course I took was Christian Mission, Witness, and Evangelism in a Secular Age. From this class stemmed a class of my own creation, Sharing the Good News, which I am currently teaching to the Adult Sunday School. If you want a brief synopsis of my class, here it is: the gospel message must be shared to be heard; it must be heard to be believed; we, ambassadors for Christ, are the ones to share it.

I cut back my schedule this semester due to some personal issues I and Susan are dealing with. I am taking Lutheran Confessional Writings and Christian Public Leader II: Being Leaders in Public Church. This course, in a nutshell, is learning to be a Christian public leader in a multicultural setting. It has great speakers and engaging discussions. Lutheran Confessional Writings covers the writings contained in the Book of Concord, which some of you may be familiar with. One of the central themes in Lutheran theology is justification by faith. I find it interesting how this theme runs through the entire Bible, especially the gospels and the letters of Paul, yet it was reintroduced by Luther in 1520ce. So much of our Lutheran understanding about God's work in us and in the world hinges on this very issue of justification by faith.

During the Summer 2022 semester, I am taking the following: New Testament Greek, and Church and Theology in the Global South. The Church and Theology class will be my first in-person trip up to Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. I will be there for 4 days. Class will be all day long. I am also doing an independent study on "moral injury", the Biblical understanding of moral injury, and how we can help those with moral injury through ministry. More to come on this.

I continue to grow in faith and understanding. The Lord continues to mold and shape me on this journey. Thank you all for your love and support. I am so grateful for every one of you.

God bless,

Brett

Basket of Love through Lutheran Services Florida

Help build stronger families, keep children safe in their homes, and support those who enter foster care. Building a Basket of Love (containing diapers, baby products, Pack N Play, car seats, etc.) is more than filling a laundry bin with needed items, it helps make a difference for those who are in need of God's healing hope, and help! This program benefits at risk children in the Tampa Bay region. Items can be dropped off at church labeled "Baskets of Love'. Items will need to be delivered to LSF on Waters Avenue by May 31st. If you can help with this, please contact the church office. You can also order items off their Amazon [wish list](#), and these items will be shipped to LSF directly.

Summer Food Program for A Brighter Community Preschool

Do you have time on Thursdays between 10 and 10:30 am that can pick up donated food (Florida Food Force - 11523 Prosperous Dr., Odessa) and deliver it to A Brighter Community (1613 N. Marion St., Tampa) in downtown Tampa. These weekly deliveries are a blessing to the families at the school. If High School students get pre-approved, this is a great opportunity to earn volunteer hours. If you are unable to lift or move items, it is not a problem - all the food is placed in your vehicle at the pick-up site and there are people to unload at the drop off. Thursday dates are between May 19th and August 4th. If interested, please contact Lindsay or Anthony Williams to sign up.



5315 Van Dyke Rd
Lutz, FL 33558

Office: (813) 963-0969

www.allsaintstampa.org

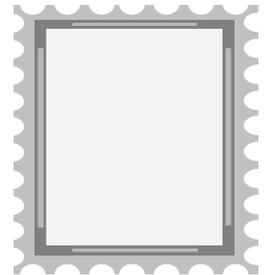
PastorJosh@allsaintstampa.org
office@allsaintstampa.org

Mission Team

Interim Pastor:	Ed Benoway
President:	Judy Callan
V President:	Brett Hill
Secretary:	Sophie Thomas
Treasurer:	Cindy Kamp
Shirley Hamilton	Kelly Mende
Sandra Odle	Brian Scott
Suzy Tkacik	

Donation Options

- ♥ Sunday Offering Plate
- ♥ On-Line Banking
- ♥ On-Line Giving through our Website



Meets Second Tuesday of the month on Zoom at 7:30 pm!