



# The Grapevine



God's Purpose at ASLC is to welcome and accept everyone, improving their lives by embodying Christ's love.

Volume 22, Issue 2

Mission: To be a family of faith, empowered by God, to proclaim Jesus Christ.

February 2019



*Pr. Joshua W. Gyson*

*and the Prez says . . .*

By: Nicole Aiello



What does it mean to be the Church? I'm betting you remember what you learned as a child. That Sunday School lesson, that all kids enjoy, where the teacher folds six of her fingers, puts her pointer fingers together pointing them in the air, thumbs line up, and then she started to recite: Here's the Church, there's the steeple, open the doors, and see all the people. You remember it, right? The hidden fingers are revealed, wiggling in Sunday morning praise.

I still find joy in singing this nursery rhyme. For me, I think this was my first lesson about the Church...though it is just that: a 'first' lesson. The theology, the underlying message, helped me to begin to think about what it means to be the Church. And there is good purpose in doing things like reciting this nursery rhyme; we use these tools to share our faith and tradition with our loved ones. One good thing about this teaching tool...we learn that in Church we find community gathered together in worship, the people sharing in the joy of the Gospel. But, so too, I have sort of a big concern with this overly simple model of the Church, primarily that it defines the building as the Church and the people as just attendees, it might make us think that going to Church is the important part (what it's all about), whereas being the Church is what we are really called to do as Christians. And being the Church means a whole lot more than just coming every, or every other, Sunday morning!

St. Paul said, "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. (1 Corinthians 13:11 NRS)" And so my biggest fear today for a church that is dwindling in membership in the United States is that we haven't put away our childish understanding of what it means to be the Church...we have not yet fully grasped truly what Jesus called us into as the Body of Christ on Earth. Being a Christian isn't about going to Church. It's about being Church. Being the Body of Christ on Earth (another definition of the Church), I think, is a much more solid and 'adult' understanding of Church that might help us to see it in a more healthy and holistic way. It might help to shake us from our comfortable and passive understandings (something that is literally killing the Church in America).

Let me put it this way... We know Jesus and his stories, and as the Church we are not just a worshiping people that listens to those stories once a week to help us feel the Good News. We are so much more than that! We are the people that live these stories and share these stories in the world every day of our God given lives, offering the Good News to the most vulnerable people that God puts in them. We even are the embodiment of Jesus Christ in this world, continuing the ministry of Jesus through our entire lives; its way more than just a Sunday morning thing! We are the Church, and that means that the Holy Spirit is pulsing through us and using us to change the world into the place that God wants it to be. If we

**From the Pastor continued on Page 2**

What a busy start we have had this new year!

The Florida-Bahamas Synod Bishop, Pedro Suarez, worshipped with us. Katie Elkin, a former YAGM, shared her experiences with us during worship and the Second Sunday Meal. Proceeds went to our very own YAGM, Courtney Noya. Our much anticipated labyrinth is complete, and we are in the process of re-homing plants. Our Annual Meeting gave an update on last year and shared our hopes for 2019. Even the Magi were moving and grooving this month! It is wonderful to see we still have the momentum going from last year, and I am very excited for all that is still to come.

With the upcoming Winter Fest, we have an opportunity to showcase not only our good works and welcoming attitude but also our facility. We have scheduled a work day for February 9th to plant, trim, clean (inside and out) the grounds in preparation. Work can be found for hands of all shapes, sizes, and abilities.

February looks like it may be just as busy with lots of opportunity to work, play, and learn.

*Nicole*

**From the Pastor continued from Page 1**

just show up to be wiggling fingers every once in a while...we miss the whole point of being Church.

So you see, going to church matters because it brings us together to do things that we could never do on our own, but being the Church out in the world is what really matters. Never forget that the Gospel of Jesus Christ tells us that together we are the Body of Christ on Earth. And through us we continue on in his earthly ministry, empowered by the Holy Spirit that pulses through our veins.

So...what might an 'adult' definition/answer be to the question: What does it mean to be the Church? It means that we are the continued presence of God in the world. WOW! That's big! So go out and live it today, don't let it waste away in acedia. Have the faith that through you, God's work is being done, and when you need a fill up, come to worship...but don't make Sunday morning your primary part of being the Church. God has called us to be so much more than that!

Blessings,

*Pastor Josh*

**Winter Fest—Florida Style!**

All Saints will be holding a Winter Fest on February 23rd for the whole community. Start inviting your friends to attend with you now! There will be crafts, food, games for the children, a raffle, and a bake sale.

We are one body with many hands, and it will take many hands to make this a fun, successful day. Here's how you can help:

- Take a flyer from the table in the narthex and post it in your clubhouse, community center, or at a grocery store you frequent.
- Make a craft to sell at the All Saints craft table.
- Make something for the bake sale.
- Volunteer to help man our tables the day of the event.
- Volunteer for set-up or tear down.
- Donate a raffle item or something for a raffle basket. We are currently working on a Pamper Basket, so any items or gift certificates to pamper someone would be appropriate. If you have items, questions, or need a donation letter to take to your favorite business, please see Jodi McCarty.
- Attend the day of the event and bring neighbors and friends!

Please sign up in the narthex to help or see David Sticklin, Duncan Engel or Melanie Werner for any questions.

**Meals on Wheels**

MOW is a private non-profit community organization that provides hot nutritious meals on weekdays to the elderly and homebound.

MOW is looking for volunteer drivers to deliver a route in their own vehicle, which takes about an hour. Drop off at All Saints is around 11 am, but there are other locations throughout Tampa with earlier and later times.



For more info, please visit [www.MOWTampa.org](http://www.MOWTampa.org) and click the green Volunteer button or call (813) 238-8410 to get started!

**Brown Bags**

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our ministries with A Brighter Community preschool. Supporting these children and their families is an important outreach of All Saints Lutheran Church! Please be on the look-out for our next packing date.

*"These are all of our children. We will all profit or pay for whatever they become." - James Baldwin*

**Christian Social Services**

The "Soup"er Bowl of Caring is a very important way to help this ministry of All Saints be able to provide food for those in need in our community. Whether you are in to football or not, bring a non-perishable food item to church with you on Sunday, February 3rd, making C.S.S. the ultimate winner!

*"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these, you did it for Me" (Matt. 25:40)*

**Free Little Pantry**

The Reverse Advent calendars went a long way in restocking our supply. Recently, we had a family with no transportation walk to the church. We provided them with some additional items we received that couldn't be put out in the warmer weather. They happily walked away with more than they expected. Isn't it wonderful when God provides more than we expect?!

**YES! of America**

Donations of \$25 can help YES! purchase a single birdfeeder with the pole to hang them. 60 feeders are needed to put one outside the rooms of all 120 residents at Baldomero Lopez State Veteran's home. The goal is to complete this project by the end of the year. Will you help us bring some joy to veterans?

**Mission Team Meeting**

Our next Mission Team meeting is Tuesday, February 19th at 7 pm.

**Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for the March Grapevine is Wednesday, February 20th.

**Faith Formation**

Our Faith formation classes resumed and we are back into the swing of things. We meet every week, except Second Sundays. On those days you are encouraged to participate in the Second Sunday meals.

Nursery age to Pre-K will be in the nursery where they will hear a Bible study and have coloring time.

Kindergarten through 5th grade will be in Classroom 1, learning to connect what they hear in worship with their everyday lives.

Those in grade 6 to 8 will participate in Confirmation instruction upstairs in the youth room.

High School student will meet in the sanctuary and hear how the Bible stories connect with real life stories in the here and now.

Adults will review the day's lessons in Malivuk Hall.

**Deacon Continuing Education Class  
March 25th at 6:30 pm**

Sister Michelle Collins from the Florida-Bahamas Synod will lead our time together and present information on charity and the accompaniment ministry model. Sister Michelle is a wonderful resource and excellent speaker. This class is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

**Musical Notes**



The adult music group meets on Thursdays for practice at 7:30 pm. There is youth music practice on February 24th after Faith Formation with pizza. If you are interested in doing special music, please see Marcia Greensfelder.

**Family Night and Service Project  
March 29th from 6:30 to 9:30 pm**

This is one of those nights we plan to pack a lot into. We start with a potluck meal at 6:30 and move on to a service project called Homeless Blessing Bags. Items will be packed into a bag that you can then give out to someone when you see a need. After we are done, we will play some games, and if the weather is appropriate, we will have a fire. Bring a dish to share, beverages, games, and outside chairs for the fire pit.

**YAGM Thank You!**

Hola All Saints y gracias por su apoyo!  
(Hello All Saints and thanks for your support!)

Though I was unable to be there for this fundraiser (as I am a bit occupied living in Mexico), I was able to see photos and heard great things from my friend, Katie. I am grateful to have a community that has provided me support in my pursuit of global mission projects both in Guatemala and here in Mexico and I am glad we are such a welcoming space for my friends as well. Thank you for all you have done to support me in this year,

La paz sea contigo (peace be with you), *Courtney Noya*

**Enablers for Worship**

**Acolyte:** February 3: Jackson Kamp. February 10: Volunteer. February 17: Emma Gyson.  
February 24: Aishlyn McCarty.

**Altar Guild:** Set-up: February 3 & 10: Melanie Werner. February 17 & 24: Ben & Kaye High. Clean-Up: February 3 & 10: Brenda Schwarzkopf & Maureen Sherman. February 17 & 24: Erin Brown & Anne Sylvester.

**Assisting Minister:** 8:00 am: February 3: Suzy Tkacik. February 10: Dave Sanders. February 17: Rick Kaiser. February 24: Cindy Kamp. 9:47 am: February 3 & 10: Mackenzie Gyson. February 17 & 24: Bob Sticklin.

**Lectors:** 2/3: Cindy Kamp. 2/10: David Walkowiak. 2/17: Sophie Thomas. 2/24: Scott Sanderson.

**Crucifer:** February 3 & 10: Trudy Heselton. February 17 & 24: David Sticklin.

**Ushers:** Pete Lacko, James Shewbarran, John Stewart, and Volunteer.

**Projector:** 2/3: Sarah Walkowiak. 2/10: Jasmine Chellarajan. 2/17: Hannah Brown. 2/24: Mackenzie Gyson.

**Tellers:** Ilse Corydon and Liza Stewart.

**Greeters:** February 3 & 10: Paul Lunseth. February 17 & 24: Kathy Miller.

**Communion Bread:** Julie Noya.

**Communion Wine:** Larry and Donna Bryant.

~ ~ ENABLERS ~ ~

**Wednesday Night Supper and Study**

Wednesday night study is back and for our first two get togethers, we learned the stories of Jezebel and Bathsheba; both of these stories could rival any daytime soap opera!

We start the evening with a potluck meal at 6:30 pm and the study of Women in the Bible starts at 7 pm. We end the evening with Holy Communion.

Come join us and see what interesting stories we explore next!

**Lightning Watch Party  
February 1st at 6:30 pm**

Watch the Lightning take on the Islanders, and learn more about the game of hockey from an off-ice official. On Friday, February 1st, we will have dinner at 6 pm and then watch the game at 7 pm.

Dinner will be on the outside deck of Panini's in the Publix shopping center on Van Dyke. The reservation is under Cindy Kamp's name. If you did not have an opportunity to sign up, you are still welcome to come and participate.

**"Soup"er Bowl of Caring/Chili Cook-off  
February 3rd**

The "Soup"er bowl of Caring is a great way to collect donations for C.S.S., while voting on the team you think will win the big game. Simply bring non-perishable food items and place them on the side of the table for the team you think will win!

Come back in the evening around 6:30 pm to watch the game and have a chili cook-off. Not making chili? Bring a dish to share and your favorite beverages. You may also wish to bring comfy chairs!

**Work Day  
February 9th from 9 am until noon**

Don't let the word "work" scare you away. It is as much about fellowship as it is about making our facility look its best.

New plants will be here and waiting for their home in the beds we will be preparing. Old worn out plants in front of the stained glass windows will be removed. They will be replaced with hibiscus, iris and Nile Lilies. If the weather cooperates, we will be in full bloom by Easter. The flower bed in front of the cross will also get a make-over with plants who prefer full sun and very little water. The goal is to have the property look tended but requiring minimal upkeep.

Not the outdoor type? There will be projects indoors as well!

**Labyrinth Blessing & Second Sunday Meal  
February 10th after Worship**

Come participate in the blessing of the new addition to our prayer life here at All Saints, the Prayer Labyrinth. The path is complete and we have already had our first visitor! The beautiful native ground cover (weeds) which adorned the area should be back with the spring and fill in the spaces between the stones.

We will gather around the Prayer Labyrinth on February 10th after worship for a blessing, and then we will join together for a Fellowship Meal.

So what is a pray labyrinth and how do I use it? A labyrinth is simply a place to walk and pray. It gives you the freedom to walk around while focusing your mind on God – and not worry about getting lost. In Christian usage, the purpose of the labyrinth is for personal and spiritual transformation. As you walk toward the center of the labyrinth, focus on letting go of worldly concerns or come to God with a question, concern or intercession. At the center, you come to the center of your relationship with God. As you leave, walk with Jesus back into the world renewed and at peace, giving him praise. We invite you to walk the labyrinth and pray.

**Book Club Goes To The Movies!**

The Book Club will go see "Run the Race" on the afternoon of February 24th. This movie is a faith-based film. Tim Tebow and his brother, Robby, are the executive directors. It features football and track, but is also about overcoming problems, and the importance of family. Mark your calendars and save the date! More details soon.

**Save the Dates**

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner**  
March 5th at 6:30 pm

**Ash Wednesday Services**  
March 6th a noon and 7:30 pm



Evening Worship will be preceded by a Mardi-Gras themed event at 6:30 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. 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.**

## Winter Gardening Tips for Florida

By Donna Bryant

Plants have continued to grow and sprout due to our fairly mild winter. Wonderful, unless February brings freezing temperatures. That tender new growth will not survive without a little help.

So, when the weather man says freeze warnings, irrigate the ground thoroughly, apply an insulating layer of mulch that will help to absorb the sun's radiation during the day and help to keep your plants warm at night.

Cover cold sensitive plants with cloth, sheets, or blankets and be sure the material reaches all the way to the ground to catch heat escaping into the air. You can purchase old bedspreads from thrift stores for a few dollars each or cold blankets specifically made for gardens from home improvement stores. Always avoid using plastic. While it might work well to protect the roots, it can cause condensation to form on the leaves from the freezing temperatures. Wherever the leaf touches the plastic will result in the leaves burning in the sunlight.

When possible, for the best protection, move container plants indoors. If this is not possible, follow the instructions above for covering the plant.

And, be sure to shut off irrigation that is set to run automatically. While putting water on plants with careful monitoring may work for strawberry farmers, this will only leave you with damaged plants!

Don't worry too much if your plants take a hit, usually with a little pruning, new growth will return once again.



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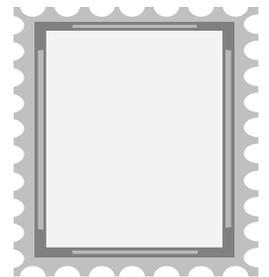
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### Mission Team

<b>Pastor:</b>	Joshua Gyson
<b>President:</b>	Nicole Aiello
<b>V President:</b>	Anthony Williams
<b>Secretary:</b>	Emma Brown
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Cindy Kamp
Larry Bryant	Heidi Lacko
Paul Oldenburg	Rob Sabatini
Anne Sylvester	David Walkowiak

### Donation Options

- ♥ Sunday Offering Plate
- ♥ On-Line Banking



\*\*Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month!\*\*