



The Grapevine



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

Volume 21, Issue 3

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

March 2018



Pr. Joshua W. Gyson

Stewardship has become a focus here at All Saints. During a recent Temple Talk, the Mission Team shared with the congregation that our 2018 Spending Plan does not seem to have the funding that we anticipated. What are we going to do?! is the underlying question.

Here is my answer. There is a simple and trustworthy formula for Stewardship. All we need for stewardship to increase is two things: Awareness and Appreciation. Truth be told, I think that we are filled to the brim with both! We now have been shared an awareness of the needs for our ministry, the Mission Team made us aware in the Temple Talk. Also, I believe that we all have a genuine appreciation for this congregation and our ministry together. Our joy in fellowship and worship is intoxicating. Our ministries are growing. We have many new faces in worship. God is here and active! And so we remain faithful that God has always provided, and God always will.

I know that this topic can bring anxiety, as the idol of money often can, and so I want to share with you that as your pastor there is a comforting sense that has come over me about this issue. I have genuine faith that we are becoming the community that God wants us to be, and I am confident that God will provide for us in our need. I want to share with you the comfort that the Holy Spirit has shared with me. As Philippians 4:19 says: "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Please, join me in prayer: Lord, you have called us together to be your Church, to be good stewards of the gifts that you have shared with us. Continue to provide us with your bounty. Bring us joy in our giving and sharing. Lead us to be the people that you want us to be, and help us in our ministry. Share with us your joy in sharing our first fruits, faithful to your faithfulness. Bring us a peace that transcends understanding. We thank you for making us aware and appreciative. And may our response as disciples always be to your glory. –Amen

Blessings,

Pr. Josh

and the Prez says . . .

By: Paul Oldenburg

Last month, I talked about the importance of self-reflection as a way of deepening our relationship with God through Christ Jesus during Lent. And, I challenged you to look for ways to help others. Now that we are several weeks into Lent, how's that going?

I have found the Wednesday Lenten services (Noon and 7:30 pm) are a great opportunity for self-reflection and it is helping me to recognize Christ in others. When we can see Christ in others, it compels us to look for ways we can help improve the world. Sounds crazy doesn't it? But each time we help someone, we are doing as God asked and it does help to improve the world, even if it is just one person at a time.

The gospel readings on Sundays during Lent can be hard because they challenge us to recognize our sins caused Jesus' death on the cross. Fortunately, we know this is not how it ends. On Easter morning, we will be reminded of the fulfillment of God's promise through Jesus' resurrection which guarantees all our sins are forgiven, filling our hearts with hope and joy.

So, continue to challenge yourself during Lent to be the Face of Christ to others. Go help someone in need. Be the reason that someone is smiling today and know you are doing His work and making an impact in the world.

God Bless,

Paul

The Path through Lent

By Melanie Werner

When was the last time Ash Wednesday and Easter fell on Valentine’s Day and April Fool’s day respectively? Certainly not in my life time. Originally, I felt unsettled for some reason. But as I travel through the sermons and lessons of this Lenten season, I see a wonderful twist of irony. The Pastor at the Ash Wednesday service I attended claimed that Valentine’s Day was a perfect start to Lent. She called Lent a love letter from God because in the weeks leading up to the cross, Jesus shows His love for us. Having Easter fall on April Fool’s day seems appropriate too. What better “trick to play” on sin than for Jesus to die for our sins and then rise in Glory. It’s the laughter of the redeemed! That is God’s love letter to us. What does our love letter to God look like?

YES! of America

The Spring Fling is March 20th from 10 am to 2 pm at the All People’s Life Center on Sligh Avenue in Tampa. You’re invited to participate in the picnic, egg hunt, and dance . You can also win prizes! Call 813-420-7708 to RSVP. Participants are asked to bring a side dish to share or make a donation to YES! of America to help with the cost of the meal.

Bloodmobile—March 4th from 9 to 11 am

You can make a difference ~ each donation can help three people! Donors will receive a free t-shirt and a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening. Donors must be at least 16 years (with parent permission) or older.

Second Sunday Meal—March 11th after Worship

Join us for a potluck meal after worship as we join in fellowship and fun. For a monetary donation in support of the youth going to the Gathering, you will have the opportunity to guess at a who’s who of baby pictures. The winner will be announced on Sunday, March 18th.

Church Work Day—March 17th at 9 am

We will be working both indoors and out to clean up and beautify the building and the grounds before Easter visitors arrive. There are many little projects to do that can be completed in no time with enough hands to do them. Please join us.

Book Club—March 23rd at 6:30 pm

We will be reading Luther’s Table Talk as translated by Henry F. French for the Book Club being held at the home of Marcia Greensfelder. French has chosen some of the best conversations with many guests who frequented the dinner table in the home of Martin and Katie Luther. The reader will join the conversation as they wrestle with important questions of the day. Marcia will provide pulled pork for the meal. Participants should bring sides and their favorite beverages. Come, pull up a chair to the table and join the discussion!

Brown Bags

It cost about \$100 per week to pack 60 meal bags for the kids at A Brighter Community. The children in this preschool are living below the poverty level even though their parents are either working or going to school and these meals help the family immensely.

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

Christian Social Services

This is a tough time of year for the C.S.S. food pantry. Donations are generally down as people pay off their holiday bills. The need is still there and the Postal Carrier Food Drive which brings in a lot of donations is not until May! You can assist those in need by bringing non-perishable food items and placing them in the bin in Malivuk Hall.

“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 free little pantry provides an option outside of traditional pantries which run on limited hours and provide only food. Along with non-perishable food, this pantry also contains personal hygiene products and baby supplies such as diapers and wipes. What a great addition this is to all the wonderful things C.S.S. is already doing in our community.

**Luther Springs Camping
March 14th to 16th**

Please contact Cindy or Marcia if you are interested in camping. Plans include lots of outdoor cooking, walking to the lake, watching the sunrise, and enjoying the rocking chairs on the screen porch. Motel room and tent sites available.

Mission Team Meeting

Because of Lenten Services, our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 8th at 7 pm.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the April Grapevine is Monday, March 19th.

Faith Formation

Infant to Age 5—Nursery

A short Sunday school lesson, art project and play time!

Kindergarten to Grade 5—Classroom 1

Spark Sunday School Curriculum

Students will hear a kid-friendly version of the same readings we learn about in worship.

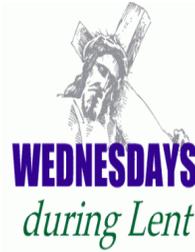
Grades 6 to 8 Confirmation—Upstairs Youth Room

Faith Inkubators—Come explore the Old Testament with Anthony & Lindsay Williams

Adults—Malivuk Hall

The class will explore ELCA Social Statements, which are documents that assist us in thinking about and discussing social issues in the context of faith and life.

These educational opportunities are open to all and our hope is through Christian education you will have a closer relationship with God and a greater understanding of your faith.



Join us on Wednesdays, for Lenten Worship at noon and 7:30 pm. We will have a potluck meal at 6:30 pm in Malivuk Hall.

Worship will be based on the ELCA Lenten Study: The Faces of Christ. Join us as we seek who Jesus Christ is, what it means to be Christ for others, and to see Christ in others. Worship includes an interactive sermon, as well as a service project to benefit the Free Little Pantry.

Also, a weekly Lenten devotional video will be posted to our Facebook page on Wednesday. So like our page, then watch and comment on the videos as part of your Lenten discipline.

**Deacon Continuing Education
Monday, April 23rd at 6:30 pm**

This class is for Synod Parish Deacons as part of their continuing education, but is also open to anyone interested in the topic of the Historical Jesus. Is there real historical evidence to prove that the man, Jesus of Nazareth, really walked the face of the earth? We will look at the latest evidence and arguments presented for and against the Historical Jesus concept. Is this just another attempt to convince people that Jesus really existed so that they will believe? How does proof, or lack thereof, impact how we view our faith?

Teaching Seder

A Seder tells the story of God’s grace in history and calls the participant to experience and share in the story.



Our Teaching Seder is on Wednesday, March 28th at 6:30 pm and in the Jewish tradition, it is customary to invite guests to share the meal with you. Please bring a “kosher” style food item to share.

Worship Time is 9:47 am

Acolyte: 3/4: Mackenzie Gyson. 3/11: Jackson Kamp. 3/18: Aaliyah Caynor. 3/25: Keller Gyson.

Altar Guild: Set-up: Bruce Emberton. **Clean-Up: March 4 & 11:** Tina Breede and Erin Brown.
March 18 & 25: Cindy Kamp and Anne Sylvester.

Assisting Minister: March 4 & 11: Rick Kaiser. **March 18 and 25:** Duncan Engel.

Lectors: 3/4: Duncan Engel. 3/11: David Walkowiak. 3/18: Scott Sanderson. 3/25: Cindy Kamp.

Crucifer: March 4 & 11: Duncan Engel. **March 18 & 25:** Trudy Heselton.

Ushers: Gary Blair, Larry Bryant, Jim Donegan and Stuart Krell.

Tellers: Scott Harris and Trudy Heselton.

Greeters: March 4 & 11: Kathy Miller. **March 18 & 25:** John Prox.

Breadbaker: Sherri Ninnemann.

~ ~ ENABLERS ~ ~

ELCA Youth Gathering Fundraisers

We are looking for a few Prayer Partners to pray for each participant as we prepare for and attend the Youth Gathering in Houston in June. The group consists of Anna Breede, Emma Brown, Sophie Thomas, Anne Sylvester and Marcia Greensfelder. Let Marcia or Anne know if you are interested.

The deadline for submitting Baby Contest photos is Wednesday, March 7th at the dinner before the Lenten evening Service. At the second Sunday meal on March 11th, you will have one final opportunity to vote for the CUTEST baby! For a donation, you will also have the chance to guess who each of the photos belongs to from a list. On March 17th, the winners will be announced and receive a gift card prize.



 Join us on Earth Day, Sunday, April 22nd from 2:30 to 5 pm for a fundraiser at **Crystal Springs Preserve**. We will learn about Florida's aquifer and springs systems. Explore the Hillsborough River using dip net to catch cool critters that live in the water.

All participants must be prepared to wade in river and wear close-toed shoes that can get wet and muddy! We will also visit the Learning Lab to get an up close look at some of Florida's native reptiles. All ages are welcome. The cost is \$5 per person and you must RSVP with Anne to attend.

The **Flamingo Surprise** fundraiser is ongoing with flamingos landing on lawns throughout the area! Costs is \$5 to purchase Flamingo Prevention Insurance so they won't roost on your lawn, or \$10 to have flamingos roost on someone else's yard. If you have flamingos fly in, cost is \$15 to have them removed, or \$10 to have them shooed to another location, and \$5 to insure that they will not fly back to you!



Rent-A-Teen Youth are also available to assist with those chores you need done around your house. Please contact Marcia to schedule.

What creative ways to help our youth raise funds!

Music Practice



The Adult Music Group generally practices every Thursdays at 7 pm in the sanctuary. However, because of Lenten worship, practices will be moved to Wednesdays after the 7:30 pm service. Our regular Thursday practice returns in April.

The youth will practice on March 4th and 25th after Sunday School with pizza for lunch. The youth will sing for the choral introit for the 10 am Easter Worship service.

Holy Week Dates

March 28th at 6:30 pm
Teaching Seder

March 29th at Noon and 7:30 pm
Triduum 1—Maundy Thursday

March 30th at Noon and 7:30 pm
Triduum 2—Good Friday

March 31st at 7:30 pm
Triduum 3—Easter Vigil at Sunset

April 1st—Easter Sunday
Worship at 7 and 10 am
Easter Breakfast at 8 am
Easter Egg Hunt at 9 am

Camping at All Saints

Ever thought about camping at Luther Springs, but the idea of packing up the car and driving that far seems daunting. One of the wonderful benefits of All Saints is having a park like landscape in the middle of the city. With our fire pit, it makes it the perfect spot for a camping adventure. So join us on Friday, April 13th. Pitch a tent (or sleep inside), cook outdoors and enjoy a Florida camp-out before the weather gets too hot!

Building an Inclusive Congregation Training April 21st from 9 am to 3 pm

One way we can be more inviting is to learn how to intentionally welcome all people to All Saints. This workshop will provide the tools to empower us to create a grace-filled welcome to all who come through our doors. The cost is \$10 (includes lunch). Please sign up in the narthex.

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.

Green Team—Swimming Upstream

By: Donna Bryant

As a child of the sixties, I grew up questioning the status quo and as I called it swimming upstream. That meant even annoying hippies because I didn't agree or go along with the lifestyle but focused on the ideal. From the time of Eve, we know human nature being what it is will have those who will present the ideal to their benefit.

The American Dream was to be rich enough to have every luxury money could buy. Today, the show of this kind of wealth is considered poor taste. In reality, it really always was!

In the early seventies, I read where the dyes used to print a pattern on paper goods was not biodegradable. I immediately switched to all white paper goods, which was not easy to find in those days. Even the toilet paper had print on it!. That is no longer the case, and all it took was for enough people to just say no.

In the eighties, I moved into a home with a solar water heater. A rarity then. Today, the ability to power your entire home with solar power is a real possibility.

What is the point of all this rambling? If you think one small change cannot make a difference in the future, you are wrong. The tide has turned and it is getting easier to swim upstream. Won't you please join me?



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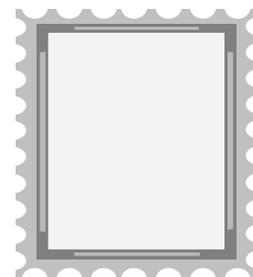
PastorJosh@allsaintstampa.org
office@allsaintstampa.org

Mission Team

Pastor:	Joshua Gyson
President:	Paul Oldenburg
V President:	Cindy Kamp
Secretary:	Nicole Aiello
Treasurer:	Anne Sylvester
Larry Bryant	Larry Hickman
Rob Sabatini	Anthony Williams

Donation Options

- ♥ Sunday Offering Plate
- ♥ On-Line Banking
- ♥ Use the "Give" option on our website



Meets 1st Thursday of the month!