



# The Grapevine



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

Volume 22, Issue 3

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

March 2019



*Pr. Joshua W. Gyson*

*and the Prez says . . .*

By: Nicole Aiello

The Season of Lent is hard for many people. I equate it to the winter blues, if you've ever lived in the north and experienced that. It's like this time of year everything just starts to add up. Anxiety and depression seem to get worse for some reason. We are in an in-between time when Christmas has come and gone and the joy of Easter just isn't quite here yet. As a pastor for a few years now, I have noticed this trend in the Spiritual lives of our community, and as we enter this season of the liturgical cycle I raise some concern.

If this sounds familiar to you, I want to remind you that you are not alone. That first off, Jesus Christ is walking hand in hand with you no matter how dark the world seems to get. And secondly, so is your faith community with you. We are here for each other, and happy to help you carry the burdens of life. The song "He ain't heavy, he's my brother"....do you remember those lyrics? Because they ring true here at this Church. God has brought us together as All Saints to walk with each other, to share our lives with each other...we are a family of faith, and we keep that conviction close to our hearts.

My go to response, when somebody tells me they can't come to church (I should keep a list of reasons just for entertainment) is "Oh, I understand. Don't worry about it." And then I smile thinking 'God knows I've missed a few Sundays in my life!' But truth be told, I'm really just making sure I don't lay on the guilt; I know we all have a legitimate excuse once in a while, or just need to sleep in as a treat sometimes. What I really want to say, what I really should say, what bothers me after I give the answer that people want to hear: "Please come, you don't know how many people need you there."

Back fifty years ago, when people said that they were 'Regular Church Goers,' they meant every week, or even more. But in the past 10 years or so it has changed greatly; going to Church regularly now means 1-2 times a month. This is scary for the future of the Church, huh? (Bishop Eaton shared some really scary statistics about this in an article recently.) The problem is, I think, we don't really realize how important each member is to the Body of Christ and how Jesus does his healing through the people that show up. This community needs each other, and it really is an important thing for you to be here on Sunday, when the majority of us are gathered. And during the Season of Lent, I believe this more than ever!

It is going to be Lent soon, and so I invite you to consider making your "Lenten Discipline" this year simple: Come to Church Every Week. Come on Sunday 8am or 9:47am. Come on Wednesday 12pm or 7pm. Sure, as your pastor, I should remind you just how important Church is for you, but the reason I ask you to consider this "Lenten Discipline" is because we really need to be together this time of year...it's for those of us who aren't doing so well. Please, don't discount yourself, you

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March 6<sup>th</sup> begins the Lenten season. In the Roman Catholic Church, it is often a time of sacrifice through fasting, no meat on Fridays, and/or giving up some other luxury.

While some in the Lutheran Church may still follow some or all of these practices, it is not required. The discipline of Lent is about spending time in prayer and reflection. Lent is not just an inward focus on personal growth, but also about focusing outwardly to the growth of the Church and community. What is faith leading us to do as an individual and as a Church? What can we bring to our community that spreads the Good News of Jesus Christ?

One of our newest ministry, the Prayer Labyrinth, provides a unique opportunity, especially during Lent, to spend time in the "wilderness" reflecting, praying, and asking questions. You could start the Labyrinth with the question, "What does it look like to live a life of faith?" As you walk, let the answers evolve and deepen.

Another way to reflect on your faith at this time in your life, would be to join in the intergenerational mid-week Lenten Worship Services. It is when we come together that we are able to help and guide each other, sometimes we learn from the wisdom of experience, and others times through the unhindered ideas of the youth.

*Nicole*

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are a gift to this community, and I ask, please share yourself with those who need you to be here.

Disclaimer: We are Lutheran, and guilt does not define our actions... gratitude and service do. I hope to see you in Church for some mutual consolation.

See you in Church!

Pastor Josh

On the Path to Winter Fest

By Melanie Werner

My heartfelt thanks to ALL who contributed to Winter Fest. The event was a wonderful success! The path to this day, however, was anything but tranquil.

Will we have enough vendors; will we have too many vendors; what if it rains; what if no one comes? I stood on the cliff to quitting several times, thankfully brought back by Pastor Josh's words of faith and a good friend who patiently listened to my frustrations and offered welcomed suggestions.

Vendors enjoyed the day and expressed their desire to come back. Vendor comments like "You have all been so nice" and "it's obvious your members love and respect each other," gave me pause though, because to me that's just what we do and who we are. A living proof that it was ALL OF OUR hands doing God's work.

As the day closed, a very integral person in the planning and execution of this event said, "Thanks for the opportunity to be a part of this." Humbling words I need to make my own.

YES! of America

Our hearts are still heavy after learning of the passing of the founder of YES! of America, Becki Forsell. For many in our community with disabilities, this is the Becki they have come to know and love: an advocate who worked tirelessly to assist in any way she could, even going as far as to lobby for disability rights in the state legislature.

For many in the All Saints' community, our relationship goes back long before Becki lost her vision and began the YES! ministry. For her church family, the organization's slogan of "YES! I Can", was something we never doubted in Becki, and she brought us into this ministry alongside her.

And during times such as this, the question is always what can we do? First, we can continue to pray for the family, as well as her work family and the YES! Board of Directors. And, we can continue to support the YES! ministry as if Becki were still here urging us to, because her ministry of enriching the lives of those living with disabilities lives on until such times as having a disability no longer makes a difference. We're doing it, together.

A Brighter Community Bags

Donations are needed for the Spring Bags for ABC. The kids at ABC are fed two meals a day, so having a week off puts an extra burden on families. These bags will help to provide much needed food. To donate, click this link. The bags will be packed on Sunday, March 10th after the meal and your assistance would be greatly appreciated! Thanks for all you do to support this ministry.

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

Christian Social Services

It's Spring Cleaning time in Florida! As you make your way through this task, please keep the C.S.S. Thrift Store in mind for those items that at one time brought you joy, but now are no longer wanted or needed. Profit from the Thrift Store sales help to provide support for those seeking assistance from C.S.S. Donations can be taken there directly or placed in the barrel 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

We expect our pantry will be busier than normal with schools in the area closing for Spring Break. It is difficult for families on free or reduced lunches to provide those meals while the students are off school. Please place donations in the barrel in Malivuk Hall.

Meals on Wheels

MOW provides hot, nutritious, weekday meals to the elderly and homebound. If you would like to volunteer to drive or know of someone who needs food, please visit www.MOWTampa.org or call (813) 238-8410.

Mission Team Meeting

Our next Mission Team meeting is Tuesday, March 12th at 7 pm.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the April Grapevine is Monday, March 18th.

**Faith Formation**

Our Faith formation classes have something for all ages. 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 Wednesdays during Lent after the evening worship service. There is youth music practice on March 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.

**Property Maintenance Needs  
and Work Day Scheduled**

We are getting back into the season where the lawn will need to be mowed on a regular basis. And, for a while longer, we still need volunteers who can blow leaves off the parking lot. If you are able to help with either of these, please sign up in the narthex.

We will also have a clean up day on March 30th from 9 am until noon to make sure we are looking our best for Easter. This will include projects both inside and out.



**Enablers for Worship**

**Acolyte:** March 3: Keller Gyson. March 10: Nya Williams. March 17: Kahlie McCarty. March 24: Aaliyah Caynor. March 31: Jackson Kamp

**Altar Guild:** Set-up: March 3 & 10: Cindy Kamp. March 17 & 24: Melanie Werner. March 31: Volunteer. Clean-Up: March 3, 10 & 17: Donna Bryant & Vi Ficarrota. March 24 & 31: Dorothy North & Ann Noya.

**Assisting Minister:** 8:00 am: March 3: Suzy Tkacik. March 10: Rob Sabatini. March 17 & 24: Dave Sanders. March 31: Sophie Thomas. 9:47 am: March 3: Bob Sticklin. March 10 & 17: Rick Kaiser. March 24 & 31: David Sticklin.

**Lectors:** 3/3: Rick Kaiser. 3/10: Bob Sticklin. 3/17: Steve McCarty. 3/24: Erin Brown. 3/31: Scott Harris.

**Crucifer:** March 3 & 10: Dave Sanders. March 17, 24 and 31: Mackenzie Gyson.

**Ushers:** Walkowiak and Williams Families.

**Projector:** 3/3: David Walkowiak. 3/10: JB Williams. 3/17: Judy Callan. 3/24: Joshua Chellarajan. 3/31: Sarah Walkowiak.

**Tellers:** Scott Harris and Trudy Heselton.

**Greeters:** March 3 & 10: John Prox. March 17, 24 & 31: Bob Sticklin.

**Communion Bread:** Joy Malivuk.

**Communion Wine:** Vi Ficarrota

~ ~ ENABLERS ~ ~

**Wednesday Night Supper and Study**

We had a wonderful study on Women in the Bible, which resulted in a better understanding of the significant impact women make as leaders of the Church, in an often male dominated society. In March we will move from the study to Lenten Worship.

**Ash Wednesday**

We begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on March 6th. We will have services at noon and 7:30 pm. The evening service will be preceded by a Mardi Gras inspired theme meal at 6:30 pm in Malivuk Hall.



The theme of this year's Wednesday Lenten Worship Services is "Inner Awareness and Self Care", and is about the type of wholeness you get with true Shalom. There will be a variety of unique worship services, including ecumenical opportunities. Lenten Worship will be held at noon and 7 pm. A potluck meal will be held at 6:30 pm.

**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 will be held on Wednesday, April 17th 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.



**Holy Week Dates**

**Maundy Thursday—Triduum 1**  
April 18th—noon and 7 pm

**Good Friday—Triduum 2**  
April 19th—Communion Bread Baking at 10 am  
Worship at 12 pm and 7 pm

**Easter Vigil at Sunset—Triduum 3**  
April 20th—8 pm

**Easter Sunday—April 21st**  
Worship Services at 7 and 10 am  
Easter Breakfast at 8 am  
Egg Hunt at 9 am

Please bring individual wrapped candy for the Easter Egg Hunt and place in the designated basket in the narthex.

**Second Sunday, March 10th**

In the wee hours of March 10th, we return to Daylight Savings time and then begin an especially busy day at All Saints with worship at 8 am and 9:47 am and the Bloodmobile accepting donations from 9:40 am until noon for those who wish to donate.

We will have a Second Sunday meal after worship, around 11 am. We will eat a "campfire" dinner, which will include vegetarian options, with funds raised from this event being used to send our kids to sleep away camp, where they can have real campfire dinners!



When the kids are done eating they will participate in B.L.A.S.T. worship with Pastor Josh in the sanctuary.

Around 12:15 pm, we'll pack Spring Bags for A Brighter Community. While on break, the kids will miss out on the two meals a day they receive from ABC. These bags will help the families immensely. If you would like to purchase items for the bags, please click [HERE](#) for the link to the registry.

It is a lot but will be a great day of worship, food, and service. We hope you'll join us.

**Book Club**

Our next book is [I Am a Man: Standing Bear's Journey for Justice](#) by Joe Starita. Meeting date to be announced.

**Receiving New Members**

New members will be received on Sunday, April 7th at the 9:47 am worship. If you are interested in becoming a member of All Saints Lutheran Church but were unable to make the New Members Class, please speak with Pastor Josh about membership.

**Medical Mobility Devices Available**



At All Saints, we have a collection of walkers, shower seats, canes, wheelchairs, and other medical devices. If you know anyone that needs any of these items, permanently or temporarily, please let the office or David Sticklin know. We would be happy to loan or give these devices to people who need them.

**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.**

## Has Spring Sprung in Florida?

By Donna Bryant

The Labyrinth is built, the Winterfest has come and gone, Lent and Easter are around the corner, and the church grounds are being updated and reworked to reduce maintenance. That being said, the grass still needs cutting and the leaves still need blowing. If you have any ability at all in this department, please sign up in the narthex or see Rob Sabatini or Larry Bryant for more information.

For Floridians, March is early summer, but being a native I have learned not to wash and store the blankets just yet. Considering how warm February was, it is very tempting to start trimming and planting summer blooms, but we are not completely safe from frost until April. It still feels like we are cutting it a bit close with a work day on March 30th, but we want to be sure the church grounds are ready for Easter.

So the question is, what needs tending in a Florida garden in March? Here are some ideas from the University of Florida Extension Service:

- Azaleas: Prune azaleas when they have finished blooming to reduce their size and improve their form. See Azalea Tips Here: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_azalea](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_azalea)
- Shrubs and trees: Prune when the dormant season ends and new growth begins. See Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_tree\\_pruning](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning)
- Palms and shrubs: Fertilize palms (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep261>), azaleas, camellias, and other ornamental shrubs if needed. Choose a fertilizer in which at least 30% of its nitrogen is slow release. See Palm Nutrition and Fertilization: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_palm\\_nutrition](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_nutrition) and Landscape Fertilization: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_fertilization](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_fertilization)
- Irrigation: Check your sprinkler system for problems such as broken or misaligned spray heads. See Landscape Irrigation: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic\\_landscape\\_irrigation](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation)



5315 Van Dyke Rd  
Lutz, FL 33558

Office: (813) 963-0969

[www.allsaintstampa.org](http://www.allsaintstampa.org)

[PastorJosh@allsaintstampa.org](mailto:PastorJosh@allsaintstampa.org)

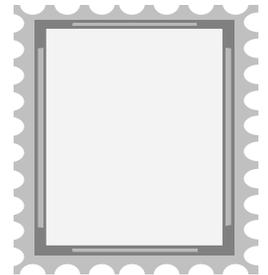
[office@allsaintstampa.org](mailto:office@allsaintstampa.org)

### 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!\*\*