



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.

April 2019



Pr. Joshua W. Gyson

and the Prez says . . .

By: Nicole Aiello

Last year on Easter Sunday, we blew our attendance record out of the water! During the second service on Easter morning, our ushers scrambled to add chairs to an overflowing crowd. I remember looking out the door and thinking, "Where are they coming from...we must have run out of parking fifty people ago! I better check and see if we have enough Communion bread for everybody!"

It was such an amazing experience to see just how important the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is for our community, and this year I look forward to something like this again. But, and I hope I'm not getting too greedy now, I want more. And it's for this reason – There is so much more to Easter than just Easter Morning.

My question for you: Can you really know what happiness is, if you have never experienced sorrow? Maybe...but unless you go through the storm, you'll never really know just how beautiful a rainbow can be! My point being – What does a resurrection mean, if you haven't witnessed the death? You can't really celebrate the *true* meaning of Easter without experiencing the death of Jesus Christ, can you?

While it is wonderful that we have so many people join us in the joy of the Resurrection of Our Lord, I really want us all to experience the whole thing...and that means girding your loins and going through the hard crucifixion of Jesus. I desperately want for our community and our guests to come this year to experience not just Easter Morning, but also the Great Three Days leading up to Easter. They are called 'great' for a real reason! And missing them is just cheating yourself from experiencing what Easter really means.

This year, I'm going to try and not let you get away with skipping the hard part, the crucifixion...and jumping right into Easter Morning. Because, if you do it (and I know you won't) that would mean cheating yourself out of truly experiencing what the rainbow can mean after you go through the storm. Who wants to miss out on what God's promise really means? None of us, I know.

On Palm Sunday this year, instead of including the 'Holocaust Remembrance' in our liturgy, we are going to do something a little different...we are going to experience the death of Christ. Not much of an easier service, right? But I know that this experience will be very meaningful for us all, especially those who can't make it to the Great Three Days (the Triduum Services) that happen that week before Easter...you

From the Pastor continued on Page 2

Autism has affected my life in many ways. One might not expect the effect it has had on my faith.

When Bella was not even a month old I used to think, is she like Aunt Pina (my great aunt non-verbal autistic)? I saw little signs, but as a new mom I just thought I was just over worrying. Then, I saw more signs. At 18 months, I went to the pediatrician concerned because she would not eat anything chunkier than Stage 1 baby food. The pediatrician kept saying "she will start eating more food soon; don't worry".

I prayed for help and God answered through a member of All Saints who worked with special needs kids and saw signs as well. With a tentative approach, she let us know she thought Bella might need extra help. With a hug and thank you for answering a prayer, we were able to find help to start the process. This has happened several times throughout my autism journey. I am overwhelmed, can't find an answer, or need extra patience with insurance companies and I ask God for help. It is the knowledge that God is there with me that has seen me through sleepless nights, tantrums, and the poo drawing stage.

I also see the faith in Bella and am able to experience it in a different way through her. Bella has been going to church since before she was born. You can tell she enjoys it. The first time she said the Lord's Prayer, I don't think there was a dry eye in the building. She may not be able to tell you what she did at school but she knows every word of that prayer. Recently she has been having a hard time with the extra days off from school and we have found that listening to the song *Were You There* calms her day like nothing else has ever done. My favorite moments though are when she is just looks up at the corner of the ceiling for a few seconds and just starts laughing and her eyes will move as if she is watching something. I will ask her, "is an angel playing with you?", and she just grins at me as if to say yes. Her love and joy of God has strengthened my faith and allowed me to see God in more places and ways.

At All Saints we are all aware of Autism because of Bella. Help show your support by wearing **BLUE** on April 2nd for Autism Awareness Day!

Nicole

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know, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil).

This year there will be no escaping the real meaning of Easter at All Saints Lutheran Church. And I pray more than anything that you take the time to come and walk with Jesus through his trials and suffering...I promise that Easter morning will be more glorious to you because of it!

Maybe I'm getting greedy, but I want to blow our attendance records out of the water all week long this year, for the whole event of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, not just Easter Morning. I hope you're with me.

"Don't skip the storm...you might miss the rainbow."

Pastor Josh

On the Path to Awareness

By Melanie Werner

As I write this, it is still Lent and each Wednesday, our Lenten discipline has been to seek self-care through awareness. God comes to each of us in different ways; the unconditional love of a fur baby, the smile of a child, the rainbow after a storm, an undeserved gift from someone you've wronged, fill in the blank with your experiences. It is easy to overlook these gifts of grace by skimming the surface, or by having to deal with the daily busyness of life, adversity, sadness, or loneliness. When we dig deep, when we put out our antenna, when we practice awareness, we can find God's presence in our daily life. Easter is coming. It will be wonderful to acknowledge and celebrate the ultimate gift of God's grace. It can be equally wonderful to acknowledge and celebrate God's grace every single day because in the words of Richard Rohr: "We are already in the presence of God. What's absent is awareness".

Meals On Wheels in Critical Need of Drivers

Did you know that we already have several people in our congregation involved in the ministry of Meals on Wheels? Volunteer drivers are needed at various different drop off locations throughout Tampa, not just at All Saints. Meals are delivered Monday-Friday around lunchtime, and you can pick locations and days that work best for you!



Routes take about an hour and a half to complete, and turn by turn directions are provided. Volunteer drivers use their own vehicles and gas, must be 18 years old or older, complete a volunteer application and attend a short orientation.

MOW of Tampa has been committed to nourishing and enriching the independent lives of the homebound and seniors of Tampa since 1975. Today, MOW Tampa serves a hot meal to over 850 people, and is a 4-star charity that relies on its community for support by not accepting government funding.

For many recipients, the volunteer visit may be the only interaction they have all day. Do you have time to change someone's life? Please visit www.MOWTampa.org/volunteer or call (813) 238-8410 to find out more information.

A Brighter Community Bags

Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to our fall, winter, and spring break family bags! We know that these bags went a long way in helping the families provide food for their family over the school breaks.

Next, we will be gearing up for the summer and an increased number of students at A Brighter Community needing weekly bags.

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

Christian Social Services

The annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is Saturday, May 11th. Assistance is needed in the afternoon as letter carriers are returning from their routes. Food donations will need to be unloaded from the postal vehicles and sorted for storage. This is the largest single donation drive of the year and many hands will be needed. Please consider volunteering!

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

Free Little Pantry

As expected, visits to the pantry have been up during the time kids were out of school. Right now, we have plenty of food on hand. We anticipate the need will go up again when the kids are out of school. Please continue to place donations in the barrel in Malivuk Hall.

YES! of America

The Spring Fling is taking place on April 22nd from 10 am to 2 pm at the All People's Life Center on Sligh Avenue in Tampa. There will be a picnic, egg hunt, dance, and prizes.

Bring a side dish to share or make a donation to help with the cost of the meal. RSVP by calling 813-420-7708.

Mission Team Meeting

Our next Mission Team meeting is Tuesday, April 9th at 7 pm.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May Grapevine is Monday, April 15th.

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 students 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
May 21st at 6:30 pm**

This will be a follow-up class for all those who attended the Continuing Education Class with Sister Michelle Collins in March. We will begin exploring our ministries and see how they fit within the context of local accompaniment based on what we learned in class.

Musical Notes



The adult music group meets on Wednesdays during Lent after the evening worship service. There is a brief youth music practice on Palm Sunday, April 14th after worship and on Good Friday, April 19th after the 10 am bread-baking. There is a full practice on April 28th after Faith Formation with pizza. All this practice is in preparation for the youth to sing on Easter at the 10 am worship service.

**Bread-Baking
Friday, April 19th at 10 am**

It has become a tradition at All Saints to make fresh communion bread for Easter Sunday Service. This year, we will be baking on Friday, April 19th at 10 am. Please bring a rolling pin, and also a hair tie, if needed. After the bread-baking, the youth will have a brief music practice to rehearse for the 10 am Easter service.

**Book Club
April 26th at 6:30 pm**



The Book Club will meet at Marcia Greensfelder's house for dinner at 6:30 pm (main course to be announced). Please bring a side to share and your favorite beverage.

After dinner, we'll discuss I Am A Man by Joe Starita. The book is about what happens after the Ponca Indian tribe is forced to leave their land in Nebraska. Chief Standing Bear goes on a six-hundred-mile walk to return the body of his only son to their traditional burial grounds, and works to reclaim his lands and rights.

Enablers for Worship

Acolyte: April 7: Seannah McCarty. April 14: Emma Gyson. April 28: Aishlyn McCarty.

Altar Guild: Set-up: April 7 & 14: Donna Bryant. April 28: Cindy Kamp. Clean-Up: April 7, 14 & 28: Judy Callan and Joan Morris.

Assisting Minister: 8:00 am: April 7 & 28: Rick Kaiser. 9:47 am: April 7 & 14: Duncan Engel. April 28: Cindy Kamp

Lectors: 4/7: Judy Callan. 4/28: Terri White-Jones.

Crucifer: April 7 & 14: Trudy Heselton. April 28: Duncan Engel.

Ushers: Adam Blair, Gary Blair, Larry Bryant, and Stuart Krell.

Projector: 4/7: Anthony Williams. 4/28: Hannah Brown.

Tellers: Maxine Hiltbrand and Rob Sabatini.

Greeters: April 7, 14 & 28: David Sticklin.

Communion Bread: Kathy Miller.

Communion Wine: Julie Noya

There is only one worship service on Palm Sunday, April 14th at 9:47 am.

On Easter Sunday, April 21st, we will have worship services at 7 and 10 am. Please sign up to serve in the narthex.

~ ~ ENABLERS ~ ~



In April, we continue with our Wednesday Lenten Worship Services on "Inner Awareness and Self Care" at noon and 7 pm. Evening worship is preceded by a 6:30 pm potluck meal.

On Wednesday, April 17th, we will have a teaching Seder at 6:30 pm. Please see information on the Seder below.

We will take a week off after Easter, so no Supper and Study on Wednesday, April 24th. Supper and Study will resume on May 1st.

**Palm Sunday—April 14th
One Service at 9:47 am**

This year, instead of including the 'Holocaust Remembrance' in our liturgy, we are going to do something a little different...we are going to experience the death of Christ. Not much of an easier service, right? But one that can be very meaningful and can even make Easter morning more glorious to you. A brief youth music practice will take place after worship.

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 and sign up in the narthex as individual place settings are needed.



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.

**New Members Received,
First Second-Sunday Meal & Autism Walk**

New Members will be received during the 9:47 am worship service on Sunday, April 7th. And because Second Sunday is Palm Sunday, we moved the meal up a week, providing a great opportunity to get to know the new members!

The meal will be yellow rice, chicken, and black beans. A freewill offering will go to Autism Speaks. After the meal, we will participate in the All Saints' Autism Walk. We will not be having B.L.A.S.T. youth worship, so that the kids can learn more about autism and participate in the walk. We hope you will join us!

**Social Saints Cinco de Mayo Party
May 3rd from 6 to 9 pm**

John and Liza Stewart will host a Social Saints Cinco de Mayo party at their home. Social Saints events are for the adults in the congregation to get together for fun and fellowship. Please sign up in the narthex to attend and bring a dish to share and your favorite beverage.

**Tampa Conference Spring Meeting
May 11th from 10 am to 1 pm
at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour**

All are invited to attend this event which will focus on Modern Evangelism. We will have worship, Jose-Luis La Torre-Cuadros will provide the keynote, and there will be several workshop on the impact of sharing our faith. There is no cost for the event. Lunch will be provided and a freewill offering will be split between the Kaye Prox Food Pantry at LCOS and Faith Lutheran to help them recover after a fire caused extreme damage to their sanctuary.

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.

What to Do with All Those Oak Leaves?

By Donna Bryant

People are busy raking up their live oak leaves that are now falling to make way for new growth. The homeowners then drive to the lawn and garden center and buy roughly the same number of plastic bags full of mulch. And while the leaves are too acidic for our lawns, they are about the best mulch you can find for Florida. As the state's dominant hardwood species, the oak has leaves that are not only free but abundant. That they are tough — shell-like, even — makes them a great barrier against weeds that like to sprout between rosebushes and tomato plants.

As the leaves decompose, they create a nutrient-rich compost, attracting earthworms that generally have a hard time getting by in Florida's sandy soil; worms enrich and aerate the soil. And, because of the tannic acid in oak leaves, their compost tends to nicely neutralize Florida's often alkaline soil. Several native plants, including palmettos, evolved to thrive at the base of oaks and pines and love slight acidity. So do popular flowering non-natives, such as azaleas and camellias.

Why did we abandon the practice of simply raking oak leaves and pine needles into their gardens and flower beds in favor of buying ground-up trees? Probably because it looks neater, at least for a while. But, it can come at a steep environmental cost. Some mulch is chipped-up cypress trees—the backbone of vital wetlands. So, if you buy mulch, use the stuff from Melaleuca trees, which is a harmful exotic, but a safe mulch.

Excerpt taken from an article in the Tampa Bay Times by Dan DeWitt:

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/banish-the-oak-leaves-thats-just-squirrely/1213661>



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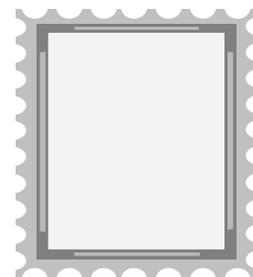
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Mission Team

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

Donation Options

- ♥ Sunday Offering Plate
- ♥ On-Line Banking



Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month!