



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.

May 2019



Pr. Joshua W. Gyson

and the Prez says . . .

By: Nicole Aiello

Courtney Noya has spent the last eight months in Mexico as part of the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program. Through her blogs and newsletters, she has opened her heart and emotions to us, and taken us along on this journey with her. I would like to share her most recent one with you, called "This Is My Daughter" and encourage you to go check out all her other blogs at <https://theeucharistandthe stranger.wordpress.com/>.

"This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased."

This phrase came into my head the other day and I wanted to know which verse in the Bible it came from, the full context. So I did what any good missionary would do and I consulted my Bible, which actually means I asked Google to tell me where in my Bible I should be consulting. And thanks to the lovely resource that is the internet, I found that the phrase (or a likeness of it) is used multiple times throughout the Gospels (Matthew 3:17, Matthew 17:5, Mark 9:7, Luke 9:35) and once in 1 Peter as a reference to the Gospels. Now, I grew up in the Lutheran church, specifically at All Saints, where the pastor for the majority of my life (as well as our current pastor) put a strong emphasis on faith formation. It wasn't enough for youth to simply memorize Bible verses during Vacation Bible School each summer. Rather, we were taught to pursue the cultural, historical, and literary context of our religion's Holy Text. All of that to say, in literary tradition, when something is said repetitively, it's usually important. The Gospels tell the story of Jesus's life four times over because it was significant. For God to speak and say a variation of "This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased" over and over again is significant. But for my blog, I want to explore why it's significant and what that means for me.

My first thought on this is inspired by my friend Kerri's blog, where she discusses the truest form of love—God as human: scarred and damaged, imperfect and blemished. Though the scars from the crucifixion come chronologically after Jesus's baptism (the event in which the verse above is most commonly associated), the concept remains the same. Regardless of the society-deemed flaws of the human form, God chose to embody it anyways and God chose to be pleased. Even back in the stories of Genesis, when Adam and Eve were formed, God said that what She had done was good. This tells us that Jesus isn't the only person with whom God is pleased. God is pleased with the creation of humans regardless of the sins committed or the self-doubt we have about our bodies and abilities. We are loved, in the truest form, notwithstanding gender, race, sexual orientation, disability, economics, legal documents or anything else. And I have always been struck by how amazing it is for God to love people so unconditionally as Her children when I have friends whose parents have rejected them or attempted to change them because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. That's something miraculous.

From the Pastor continued on Page 2

As we come to the conclusion of the busy time in the Church year, the Easter season, we also enter a slower much less event-filled time, summer vacation. A time when the normal flowing schedule of the school year stops, and the struggle for a new routine amidst Summer school, ABA therapy, 4th of July, vacations and the nightly prayer for year round school starts. No..., just me. Seriously though, it is a time of summer camps, fun, sun, pools, and the beach. As for the adults, we still have to work.

The Church has also made plans for the summer. Luther Spring Day Camp brings to our congregation outside youth counselors to share their faith with the children through fun and games. VBS, which promises to take us out of this world using a space theme. And the wonderful new opportunity we provided this year to send all kids who signed up a chance to go to Luther Springs sleep away camp. This truly is a full summer for the kids to grow in their faith, and probably outgrow all of their clothes!

The Church does not take vacation or slow down from the work God calls us to do. More Brown Bags are provided during the summer and the Free Little Pantry sees more activity during summer as food insecurity is higher during this time.

Please remember as you go on vacation the many ministries of All Saints are still serviced and funded, and everyday operations at the Church are still on going.

Summer or not, we can't do God's work without your help.

Nicole

From the Pastor continued from Page 1

And then I attended orientation in Chicago before my year in Mexico, where I met Anneka, the girl who served in my site two years ago. We had a meal together one night and she told me “the family is so excited to have you. They love you so much.” And I thought to myself: that’s crazy. How could anyone love me when they’ve never even met me (and not be the inspiration for the next CSI or Criminal Minds episode)? But they did. I arrived in Mexico and I was loved. They are a family who is social and loves to party and have big comidas together and I am an introvert and a bit of a homebody who just wants to curl up with my journal in the quiet. And yet I am loved.

We recently attended the 6th birthday party of the son of one of my cousins. As I have come to expect at these parties there’s 3 groups of people: 1) My core group of family that I see on a fairly regular basis 2) the extended family that always comes to parties but that I see infrequently enough that I struggle to recall who’s who and 3) people I’ve never seen before that must be somehow specifically connected to the party’s guest of honor. I usually stick pretty close to group 1 and the 6th birthday party was consistent with that behavior. I do this because they’re a comfort to be around but also because I know eventually, I will end up talking to people at the party anyways because Mexico is a social place and groups love intermingling. I also do this because inevitably, someone from groups 2 or 3 will ask my mom or sisters “so who is this?” and I love waiting for the response. Sometimes it’s a simple explanation of me being a volunteer who lives with them for a year, but more often than not, they’ll look the person straight in the face and say “this is my daughter” or “this is my sister,” which is normally met with confusion and awkward laughter from the person who asked. If I had to guess, I’d say maybe my pale skin, light brown eyes, light brown hair, and height may be giving me away as someone who is not biologically related. And usually my sisters will then laugh as well and explain that their family has adopted me and four other people over the past 5 years. My mom usually laughs too and then just goes “yes, this is my daughter.” No further explanation required or given.

For quite a while after I arrived here, I had a fear of not being enough for my family. I constantly fretted over how I was spending my time, how often I was engaged in conversation, whether they seemed to like me, whether I was disappointing compared to the past volunteers, and further on into my perfectionist, anxious, people-pleasing black hole. Then, with time and practice, I started to get more comfortable and let myself off the hook a little bit. I took it to heart when my mom or sister told me they loved me before I went to bed and to take care whenever I left the house. And then finally, I realized that when my family tells people at parties, “this is my daughter/sister,” what they’re saying isn’t too far off from “this is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Our identities are so entangled in our interpersonal relationships, whether we want them to be or not. Rejection can make us feel small and worthless, while inclusion can help us flourish. God includes all of us; those who have been baptized, those who haven’t, the believers, the skeptics, the ones who celebrate other faith traditions, the ones whose identities clash with societal norms, the ones who cross borders without papers. And I look at the world we live in, where my friends are rejected by their parents, where the people I meet at work are rejected by our government, where skeptics are rejected from the church and it’s easy to think that we are never going to be able to be the good, kind, welcoming people that God designed us to be. And then my family, who seems to be my opposite in every way, tells someone, “this is my beloved daughter, with whom I am well pleased.” And THAT is when I am reminded once again that God is present and that God is pleased.

Courtney Noya, The Eucharist and the Stranger, April 29, 2019

We too, in all our scarred, damaged, imperfect, and blemished selves, are beloved, with whom God is well pleased.

Pastor Josh

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.

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.

YES! of America

YES! of America United is kicking off its 12th Annual F.A.I.R. (Family Abilities Information Rally) on Saturday, October 5th from 10 am to 3 pm. Although our amazing leader and founder has passed, her legacy lives on.

The theme this year is "Looking Beyond Disability". The F.A.I.R. is loads of fun but you also need to know that it is by far much more than that. Networking opportunities, inclusion for people with disabilities in a barrier free environment, a great educational opportunity for people with disabilities to meet with those without disabilities sharing in the same goals and aspirations, and a wonderful showcase for our vendors to provide resources, referrals, opportunities and information to all interested attendees.

It may be early but we have vendors signing up already. We have 200 locations inside. Last year all 200 plus were filled and they served over 2,000 F.A.I.R. participants.

Again this year the YES! F.A.I.R. will have our Safety Street site which fills up incredibly fast. Enterprise Village provides enterprising businesses an opportunity to sell their wares. Exploration Hall is like a Discovery Channel in our world. And, hey –we will have non-stop entertainment and food trucks.

So please register now online at www.yesunited.org to secure your place early for an educational good time on October 5th at All People's Life Center, 6105 E. Sligh Ave., Tampa, FL 33617. Please let us know if you have any questions-yesofamericaunited@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing you at the YES! F.A.I.R.!

A Brighter Community Bags

We are now gearing up for the summer months, when the number of weekly bags we provide to ABC increases substantially to make sure each child that attends is able to take home a Brown Bag each week.

This increase means additional cost, and more hands will be needed to pack the weekly bags. We hope you will help pack bags on May 5th after Sunday School!

"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!

You can also help various food ministries by placing your donations near your mailbox on May 11th.

"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 it did last summer, we are expecting the number of people using the pantry will increase once kids are out of school for the summer. It is a time when families have more difficulty making ends meet.

Right now, we have plenty of food on hand to restock the pantry, but please continue to place donations in the barrel in Malivuk Hall, so we can insure there is a full pantry throughout the summer months.

Mission Team Meeting

Our next Mission Team meeting is Wednesday, May 8th at 7 pm.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the June/July Grapevine is Monday, May 20th.

Education Wrap-Ups

As the school year comes to a close, so do some of our faith formation opportunities.

The last Sunday school class is on May 5th, Rite of Confirmation is May 12th during worship (followed by Second Sunday Meal and B.L.A.S.T. Worship), and a Faith Formation Celebration will take place on May 19th after worship.

Our last two Wednesday Night Supper and Study classes will be on May 15th and 22nd. We will have a study on Paul's letters to the Romans. A potluck meal will be at 6:30 pm and the intergenerational study at 7 pm.

We hope you've found these educational opportunities have helped you to better understand the stories of the Bible and your faith.

To learn about educational opportunities throughout the summer, please check out the bulletin, newsletters, and announcement boards in the narthex.

Rite of Confirmation

Sunday, May 12th at the 9:47 am Service

Hannah Brown, Joshua Chellarajan, and Sarah Walkowiak are being confirmed. Come join us in celebrating their efforts and join together in praying for their continued walk in faith.

Musical Notes



Starting on the first Sunday in June, we will return to one worship service at 9:47 am for the summer months, and the church choirs will take a little hiatus.

This presents a wonderful opportunity for our youth and adults to provide special music during the offertory and/or communion portions of our worship service. This can be singing or instrumental. Marcia Greensfelder will be able to provide accompaniment if needed. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. If you have questions or want more details, please see Marcia.

**Deacon Continuing Education Class
May 21st at 6:30 pm**

This will be a class for Deacons and Deacons in Training, as we begin the process of exploring our ministries and see how they fit within the context of local accompaniment based on what we learned from Sister Michelle in our last class. While attendance at that class will be helpful, you can still participate even if you were unable to attend the last class.

Book Club at the Movies



Book Club goes to the movies! The Other Side of Heaven 2 will be coming to theaters in late June. It is the story of a missionary in the 1960's who's child is born with a serious illness, and the Tongan community that surrounded them with hope. Please keep a look out on date and time of our outing.

Enablers for Worship

Acolyte: May 5: Nya Williams. May 12: Keller Gyson. May 19: Kahlie McCarty. May 26: Jackson Kamp.

Altar Guild: Set-up: May 5 & 12: Cindy Kamp. May 19 & 26: Melanie Werner.

Clean-Up: May 5 & 12: Ilse Corydon and Trudy Heselton. May 19 & 26: Erin Brown and Anne Sylvester.

Assisting Minister: 8:00 am: May 5 & 12: Suzy Tkacik. May 19 & 26: Rob Sabatini.

9:47 am: May 5 & 12: Cindy Kamp. May 19 & 26: Anthony Williams

Lectors: 5/5: Anthony Williams. 5/12: Anna Breede. 5/19: Andy Malivuk. 5/26: Paul Oldenburg.

Crucifer: May 5 & 12: Dave Sanders. May 19 & 26: Cindy Kamp.

Ushers: James Shewbarran, John Stewart, and Volunteers.

Projector: 5/5: David Walkowiak. 5/12: David Sticklin. 5/19: JB Williams. 5/26: Judy Callan.

Tellers: Maureen Sherman and David Sticklin.

Greeters: May 5 & 12: Kathy Miller. May 19 & 26: John Prox.

Communion Bread: Lisa Stewart

Communion Wine: Melanie Werner.

Summer Worship

Starting June 2nd, we will return to one worship service at 9:47 am.

~ ~ ENABLERS ~ ~

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 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.

A carpool will be leaving from the church parking lot at 9:15 am

Bloodmobile

May 19th from 9 am until Noon

The Bloodmobile will at All Saints on Sunday, May 19th from 9 am until Noon. All donors receive a free t-shirt and a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse, and cholesterol screening.

All donors must be at least 16 years old (underage donors require parental consent). Please sign up in the narthex to donate. Each donation has the potential to save three lives. Be the Wave of Change. Donate blood!

Youth Gathering in Minneapolis
June 29—July 3, 2021

We will take a few minutes to gather during the Faith Formation Celebration for those interested in finding out more about the upcoming Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. This includes those who might be interested in chaperoning, all eligible youth, which are those entering 9th grade, those in high school and those graduating from high school in 2021, and their parents. Marcia Greensfelder will be organizing the meeting.

Luther Springs Day Camp
June 17 to 21
9 am to 3 pm

Camp is for completed Kindergarten through 8th grade and is led by trained college-age staff from Luther Springs. Camp is designed to help youth grow in faith through worship, Bible Study, music, arts, crafts, games and nature programs. Middle school camp includes daily service field trips. The cost is \$85.

Vacation Bible School
July 15—19 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Free Meal for the kids at 6 pm

We'll explore the wonders of the universe, and discover God's miraculous mission to save you, me, and the whole world. Through worship, music, science, Bible study, snacks, and arts & crafts, children will learn that the stories in the Bible are relevant now and for a lifetime. This VBS is for completed Pre-K to 5th grade.

Registration forms can be found in the narthex or at www.allsaintstampa.org.

Congregation BBQ & Pool Party
Saturday, May 11th at 3 pm
at the Williams' House



Hamburgers, hot dogs, and french fries will be provided. Please bring a side to share and your favorite beverage. Please RSVP to Lindsay or the church office for the address.



Second Sunday Meal

On Sunday, May 12th, we will have a Second Sunday meal after the 9:47 am worship service to honor those in our lives who nurture and guide us. We will also have a celebration of the newly confirmed confirmands. We hope you will join us in these celebrations!

The purpose of the Second Sunday meals is to raise funds or awareness for ministries that are important to members of our congregation. Funds raised must be in support of a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

If you are interested in hosting a meal, please contact the church office or sign up in the narthex.

Wednesday Night Supper and Study

Our last two sessions before summer break will be a study of Paul's letters to the Romans on May 15th and 22nd. A potluck meal will be at 6:30 pm and the intergenerational study at 7 pm. We hope you will join us for the brief but informative study.

Save the Date for Camping Week-end!

We will camp at Luther Springs the weekend of November 1-3! Motel style rooms, bunkhouses, and tent sites will be available. Join in on the fellowship, worship, fun and good food! More details will be coming. For questions, please talk to Marcia.

Florida Friendly Landscapes

By Donna Bryant

It's never too early to begin to prepare for hurricane season and that includes our landscaping. Check trees for damaged or weakened branches. Call a certified arborist if your tree's health worries you, and especially if you think your trees need pruning to prevent damage to your house or other buildings.

Summer heat doesn't have to kick you out of the landscape. Summer brings in high heats and heavy rains. Gardening during the summer takes care and patience. As always think about placement and plant variety. If the heat overwhelms you, follow these easy steps to keep your yard beautiful through the long days of summer:

Flowers that thrive in high heat such as coleus and ornamental peppers will do well in the summer. Plant gladiolus until about mid-summer. Lilies such as spider, aztec, and butterfly can be planted throughout the summer.

Test your irrigation systems to insure they are working properly and not leaking. Consider installing a detector to turn off sprinklers and irrigation when it rains.

The summer months are the perfect time to plant palms. This gives them time to establish themselves before any cold snaps. Don't cover the trunk with soil and keep lawn fertilizers away from the root system. Check for yellowing on older growth fronds. This can show a potassium or magnesium deficiency.

Taken from an article by Robert Miller



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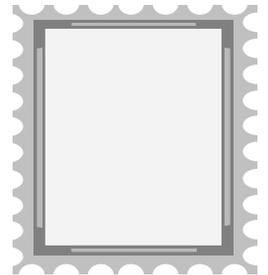
office@allsaintstampa.org

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!