



The Grapevine



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

Volume 21, Issue 1

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

January 2018



Pr. Joshua W. Gyson

and the Prez says . . .

By: Paul Oldenburg

As the pastor of All Saints, my goal for 2017 was to get this congregation 'outside of our doors.' I dreamt of worshiping with new people and serving our community in new ways. I wanted to see our wonderful ministries grow and expand. I wanted to see us do new things in new places. I wanted us to live in the 'newness' of life that Jesus Christ shares with us.

In my Annual Report to the congregation, I 'paint a picture' of what we looked like in 2017...and I am happy to announce that we definitely did some new and amazing things. (Please view my report here: <https://youtu.be/GNUzLM5dijI>) We worshiped with many new people; some have even become new members: 12 new members, 6 through baptism. We also witnessed God increasing our ministries of caring, especially with the families of Carol Crisafi, Dr. Darrell Fasching, and Beverly Wells. I am also happy to share that we answered God's call to feed his children with the Free Little Pantry and other expanded food ministries. When I looked back through our social media feeds, I noticed that we have a lot of pictures of this congregation out in the community witnessing to Christ. We did it!

We have actually become a living body, through which Christ does his work in our community. We truly lived our Mission Statement: To be a family of faith empowered by God to proclaim Jesus Christ. I thank you for your dedication to the Gospel and the many ways that you helped to witness to Christ's inbreaking in this world. May God continue to feed us and grow us into the people that God wants us to be. I trust in this with all my heart!

For this next year...I think we ought to keep a good thing going. And so my goal for 2018 is to keep dreaming about worshiping and serving our community in new and exciting ways; I invite you to share this dream with me. I still want to see the wonderful ministries that we have at All Saints grow; and I want to share the harvest with you all. And, yes, I still want us to do new things in new places, always reaching past our comfort zones, to include all those God wants for us to be with. I want to feel that 'newness' we get from Christ, and I want to feel it often!

The spiritual gifts of the people in this congregation complement each other in ways that could have only been spun together by God. I thank God for you, and for calling us to serve together in this unique and wonderful family of faith. I thank God for allowing us to discover our purpose in being a family of faith, whose perpetual goal is always to proclaim Christ. I ask God to continue to guide us this year and to keep us active in the Spirit. This entire congregation is in my prayers...and in God's hands. For you, I give thanks.

Blessing,

Pr. Josh

Christmas morning is over - Jesus is born! Now we await for the Magi to come bringing gifts to the baby on Epiphany, January 6. We are very lucky this year because Epiphany falls on a Saturday. Hopefully you can join Pastor Josh and others in Tarpon Springs for the Greek Orthodox celebration. I heard from those who went last year it was very interesting and a great experience.

At our December Mission Team meeting, we elected new officers for 2018. They are:

President: Paul Oldenburg
Vice President: Cindy Kamp
Secretary: Nicole Aiello
Treasurer: Anne Sylvester

We also welcomed the two new members to the Mission Team elected by the congregation at the last meeting, Rob Sabatini and Anthony Williams. They are quickly learning what is necessary to keep our church operating smoothly, while focusing on mission.

I am looking forward to an exciting year. Please, if you have any ideas, questions or concerns do not hesitate to ask anyone on Mission Team. We are always looking for ideas to grow and to shepherd this congregation.

God bless you all!

Peace,

Paul

The Waters are Calmer

Reprinted and edited with permission from a blog by Courtney Noya

Have you ever stood on one of those floating piers? Where it seems sturdy, so you're feeling pretty good about it, but then a wave comes, or you step wrong, and then all of a sudden you're thinking: *I'm not so sure about this pier.* The first time I came home from an I AM ART camp (fall of 2016), I was standing on my metaphorical floating pier in the middle of some kind of raging storm. I was not at all prepared for all my heart had been through for those 10 days and my reentry was difficult to say the least. I struggled with coming home after experiencing such a powerful kind of passion and desire for God's work through Athentikos.



When I was preparing to go on my trip this year, I was filled with anxiety, then I realized I was afraid of stepping off the comfort of solid land and back onto the floating pier. However, this year I joined a few of my team members for an additional three-day stay at Lake Atitlán to relax and process following the camp. My time there gave me a sense of peace, reflection, and meditation. I can see the difference in where I am now versus where I was last year. For one thing, the waters are calmer.

My experience reminds me of the story of Jesus calming the storm in the Bible (Matthew 8:23-27). My first year, I felt kind of angry; I wanted to wake Him up and ask "why aren't you doing anything to stop this?" Then this year, I could feel His reply: "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" And as I sat in the dark, on a literal floating pier in Lake Atitlán, seeing my first shooting star, I knew there was no reason to feel afraid.

Being at Lake Atitlán gave me the time to sit with God and listen to Him tell me not to be afraid. To learn to trust in His plan for me, for Athentikos, and for the children we work with each camp. When my heart is breaking, it's because I am experiencing the extraordinary fullness of it that God intended when He formed us. When I step foot onto my floating pier, it's because God recognizes that we can't know all of His wonder by staying on land.

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, January 14th. We will be discussing year-end financials as well as how we can continue to grow and move forward in ministry together. There is no second Sunday meal or B.L.A.S.T. worship.

Deacon Continuing Education

The next class is scheduled for Monday, February 19th at 6:30 pm. We will be taking a look at the ELCA Social Statement "Caring for Creation". This class is open to anyone interested in exploring this Social Statement. If you plan to attend, please call the office to find out about the required and optional reading. We had a great discussion last month about the history of Islam and how it compares to our own faith beliefs, and this promises to be a great discussion as well.

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

Thank you to everyone who donated funds and gifts for C.S.S. We were able to give gifts to 199 angels and Christmas dinner for 87 families. Please continue to bring non-perishable foods for the pantry.

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

YES! of America

Happy New Year! We had a successful Holiday Smiles with 705 individuals having a smile on their faces Christmas morning. We provided 58 food and cleaning baskets and 25 full Turkey meals. Now we are working to providing 100 pounds of bird seed a month to Baldomero Lopez Veteran's Home. Donations can be placed in the YES! bin. We would also like to continue to collect yarn throughout the year. Blessings from the YES! Team

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.

Mission Team Meeting

Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 10th at 7 pm. .

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the February Grapevine is Monday, January 14th.

Faith Formation

Classes return on January 21st

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 New Testament with Anthony & Lindsay Williams

Adults—Malivuk Hall

The curriculum is entitled “Adult Confirmation”
We will cover some very important and interesting topics!

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.

**Wednesday Night Supper and Study
January 17th at 6:30 pm**

After Advent worship services and a little break during the holidays, we will resume our Supper and Study on Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30 pm.

We will have a tray of Enchiladas we will be preparing. You are also welcome to bring sides, or other items, to share. For the study, please read the 6th chapter of the Gospel of Mark.

Book Club

We will be reading the book Daughter of the Reformation by Mary Helene Rasmussen Jackson for the book club on January 19th at 6:30 pm at the home of Marcia Greensfelder.

Marcia will make stir fry. Participants should bring sides and their favorite beverages.

It should be a great book to discuss about the historical perspective of the life of the wife of Martin Luther, Catharina von Bora.

Installation of Bishop Pedro Suarez

All are welcome and invited to attend the service of Installation for Bishop Suarez on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in New Tampa. The services will begin at noon, with a light reception following. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, along with several other bishops and special guests, will be in attendance.

To register, go to fbsynod.com and click on the link in the red square at the bottom of the page to “Go to the Installation service page to learn more and to Register”.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the installation service, please send an email to fbsynodvolunteers@gmail.com.

Worship Time is 9:47 am

Acolyte: 1/7: Mackenzie Gyson. 1/14: Jackson Kamp. 1/21: Aaliyah Caynor. 1/28: Keller Gyson.

Altar Guild: **Set-up:** David and Jeanne Carlson. **Clean-Up:** January 7 & 14: Dorothy North and Ann Noya. January 21 & 28: Brenda Schwarzkopf and Maureen Sherman.

Assisting Minister: January 7 & 14: Anthony Williams. January 21 & 28: David Sticklin.

Lectors: 1/7: David Sticklin. 1/14: Paul Oldenburg. 1/21: Anna Breede. 1/28: Anthony Williams.

Crucifer: January 7 & 14: Cindy Kamp. January 21 & 28: Mackenzie Gyson.

Ushers: The Danielson and Walkowiak Families.

Tellers: Erin Brown and Gwen Walkowiak. (Volunteer needed for 1/7 & 1/14)

Greeters: January 7 & 14: The Moore Family. January 21 & 28: Bob Sticklin.

Breadbaker: Ben and Kaye High.

~ ~ ENABLERS ~ ~

Epiphany Cross Dive

For those who are interested in attending the Epiphany celebration in Tarpon Springs on January 6th, the Orthros worship begins at 8 am at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Afterwards, we will go to the water for the Blessing of the Bayou and Casting of the Cross which will take place at 1 pm.

ELCA Youth Gathering Fundraisers

The Youth Gathering group, heading to Houston in June, are having several fundraisers to help with the cost.

****NEW** Baby Photo contest!** Please give baby photos to Marcia Greensfelder or Cindy Kamp by Sunday, January 21st. Charge to submit photos is \$5. Before being displayed, copies will be made and the originals returned to you. The photos will be displayed in two categories: Adult (18 and up) and youth (birth to age 17). People will have the opportunity to vote with their dollars by category for the cutest baby. There will be a prize for the winner of the cutest baby vote in each age grouping. People are encouraged to vote early and often! The winners (and the names belonging to each baby photo) will be revealed at the Second Sunday meal in February, which will be sponsored by the Youth Gathering families.

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 an awesome way to help our youth raise funds!

Luther Springs Camping

We are waiting on confirmation of the date, but pencil in the weekend of April 27th for camping at Luther Springs.

Bonfire at All Saints

Come out and enjoy the unusually cooler weather in Tampa Bay around a bonfire at All Saints on Friday, January 5th at 6 pm. Bring a food item to share and chairs for sitting around the fire.

Music Practice

The Adult Music Group practices every week on Thursdays at 7 pm in the sanctuary.

The youth did a wonderful job presenting their Christmas program in December entitled "How Lovely Are Your Branches". You can tell they put in a great deal of practice to bring this to the congregation.

The first youth music practice of 2018 will take place on January 21st after Sunday School with pizza. Also save the following dates for practice:

February 4th
After Sunday School with pizza

February 11th
Youth sing during worship

March 25th (Palm Sunday)
After Sunday School with pizza

April 1st (Easter)
Youth will sing for second service
worship as a choral introit

April 15th
After Sunday School with pizza

May 6th
After Sunday School with pizza

May 13th
Kids will sing in Church
(last music event for youth until the fall)



2018 Altar Flowers and Bulletins

Please sign up in the narthex to sponsor altar flowers and bulletins in 2018. Flowers are \$30 per Sunday for two arrangements and bulletins are \$10 each Sunday.

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—How to Sustainably Handle your Gift Wrap/Packaging

By: Donna Bryant

Recycling of holiday gift wrap and shipping supplies tends to boost recycling plant production by up to 15% in the weeks immediately after Christmas. Depending on the item, however, there may be different things to consider before tossing them in your recycling bin or bringing them to the paper recycling bin in the church parking lot.

Wrapping paper that includes gold or silver shapes, glitter, certain dyes, or is laminated may not be able to be recycled. Check first with your municipal recycling program before placing in your recycle bin. Many areas set up gift-wrap drop-off spots to handle the tons of paper used each year. As with wrapping paper, gift bags are often unable to be recycled by typical means. Gift bags easily store flat and can be reused next year.

Styrofoam is not accepted for recycling in many areas, but some similar products are biodegradable. If you're not certain, the best bet is to simply save and reuse them which cuts down on the need to produce new ones.

The smaller, thin gift boxes are typically made of "paperboard". These boxes can be recycled with other mixed paper products, given that you've removed any ribbon, wrapping paper, or tape from the outside.

Corrugated cardboard shipping boxes are by far the easiest to reuse or recycle. Quality boxes can also be reused multiple times for lots of different purposes. Many moving companies will also accept gently used boxes, making them available for free. There is also the Box Exchange message board that allows anyone with extra boxes to connect with people in their area who will be moving soon.

Information for this article was taken from Moving Insider.



5315 Van Dyke Rd
Lutz, FL 33558

Office: (813) 963-0969

www.allsaintstampa.org

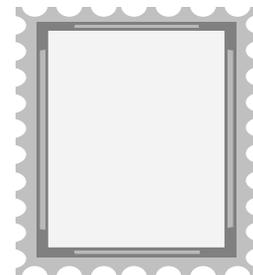
PastorJosh@allsaintstampa.org
office@allsaintstampa.org

Mission Team

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

Donation Options

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



Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month!