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MESSAGES FROM PARADISE

Paradise Lutheran Church

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Treasure Island, FL 33706

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MISSION STATEMENT

Worship God

Walk with Jesus

Welcome all to Paradise



Vision Statement

To be recognized by God and the community as the premier anchorage for those on the Gulf Beaches and St. Petersburg who seek to praise and serve God.

FROM THE PASTOR

Last year, before Paradise Lutheran's tenth anniversary, I had expressed a wish that Paradise Lutheran would thrive for the next hundred years. That this congregation would continue to thrive, and grow, and survive beyond any single person's life in the room. But in order to do that, we have to build up the next generation of Christians. And while we may not have many youth or young adults of our own, we can still help. So, for my March newsletter, I would like to share a letter from Pastor Sarah Locke, Campus Minister in Jacksonville, FL:

There is one clear indicator of young people heading into ministry in the ELCA: participation in camp or campus ministry.

Studies show that young people need positive, regular faith interactions with at least five adults in order to stick with their faith after high school (Fuller Youth Institute). Campus ministry is often the link between high school youth groups and congregational engagement as young adults.

Thankfully, the ELCA is engaged and committed to campus ministry across the United States. "ELCA campus ministry is a Lutheran ministry for students, faculty, staff, and others on campus, not just a ministry for Lutherans. It provides an ELCA presence at more than 180 state and private colleges and universities with cooperating congregations in campus ministry at an additional 400 campuses nationwide" (ELCA.org).

I grew up in the Lutheran church and attended my grandfather's congregation while attending college, but it was Ohio State's Lutheran campus ministry that led me to seminary and eventually to Jacksonville Campus Ministry at the University of North Florida. Jacksonville Campus Ministry was founded in 1972 by a coalition of churches and judicatories of six denominations— Christian (Disciples of Christ), Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA), Presbyterian (PCUSA), United Church of Christ, and United Methodist. JCM's original mission was to serve all Jacksonville campuses.

There is a misconception that young people are unfaithful or simply uninterested in God. We have found that this is not the case at all. They are intensely curious about faith and God's action in their lives. Our students often come from religious households or congregations that denied their questions and doubts. By the time students arrive at college, their faith may be a swirl of questions that no one has taken the time to answer.

That is why campus ministry is so vitally important in the mission of the church. Young people 18-25 years old need a place to ask hard questions, be vulnerable in the midst of change, and love one another and themselves, all while learning about God's unchanging love for them and creation. It is our experience that campus ministry is often that space for young people.

You may not know that Jacksonville Campus Ministry is one of only two Lutheran campus ministries in the Florida-Bahamas Synod, despite the synod having more college students than any other synod in the ELCA. It is our hope that through JCM's example, the Church may see the importance and potential for campus ministry throughout the conferences and synod. In that way, our ministry is not just a ministry of the First Coast Conference or Jacksonville, but a ministry of each congregation in the entire synod.

There are many ways to be engaged with the young people of our synod, including supporting campus ministries across the state. We covet your prayers as we continue to grow this ministry and emphasize its importance to our church leaders. To learn more about how you can invest in the young people in your life, visit JaxCM.org/give. This ministry is impossible without the support from congregations and individuals like you. You are in our prayers of thanksgiving now and always.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Sarah Locke

Campus Minister

As part of our Lenten journey this year, we are going to focus ways we can give to ministries we support. I am going to move the bin we use to collect clothes for the Trinity Lutheran Homeless Ministry and Clothes Closet closer to the narthex. I invite you to bring clothes, particularly men's clothes, and fill this bin for the Homeless Ministry here in St Petersburg.

I am also going to bring out a lockbox. Here I encourage you to leave a donation for Jacksonville Campus Ministry. As Pastor Sarah indicated in her letter, Jacksonville Campus Ministry is not just a ministry for the Jacksonville area, but a ministry of each congregation in the entire Florida-Bahamas synod. By building up the young adults of today including through campus ministry, we can support the faithful church of the future.

-Pastor Tom

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

A small but dedicated group took down Christmas decorations on January 5 (or before): Sharon Koelsch, Pastor Tom and Jaci Mitchell, Joan Smith, and Debbie Yost. Although the tree was dismantled and boxed, a subsequent decision by the Congregation Council to purchase a pre-lit LED tree before the next Christmas season led to the old tree being discarded. Stephanie and Taylor Leslie picked up the two billboard signs from the City of Treasure Island and wrestled them back to the church. By the end of January, the Christmas and Easter signs and the nativity scene found new homes in the recently-cleaned out storage shed. As there was no Newsletter in February, we have two months services to report:

January 6 (10:00am)	98	January 6 (12:00pm)	8
January 13 (10:00am)	105	January 13 (12:00pm)	10
January 20 (10:00am)	98	January 20 (12:00pm)	14
January 27 (10:00am)	99	January 27 (12:00pm)	15
February 3 (10:00am)	97	February 3 (12:00pm)	9
February 10 (10:00am)	118	February 10 (12:00pm)	9
February 17 (10:00am)	110	February 17 (12:00pm)	6
February 24 (10:00am)	112	February 24 (12:00pm)	11

Linda Macy continues to serve as cantor and violinist at many of our services. Musicians at the noon services include Gail Clark (piano), Jaci Mitchell (guitar), and Ken Upleger (saxophone). The Adult Choir sings at most of the 10:00 a.m. services and the Chime and Bell Choirs played on February 24. And we couldn't even have a service without Sunday bulletins. Thanks to Robin Hurst for drafting them and to the Congregation Council for contracting to lease a new photocopier that is not only faster than the old one, but sorts and staples, as well. We also appreciate Joan Kirschner who sets up communion and all those who light candles, serve as ushers, and read scripture.

The Nokumbaya Medical Mission team was commissioned on February 17. They'll be heading to Belize early in March. Among the six members commissioned were Danell DeBerg, Nancy Farrington, Joan Smith, and Marilyn Wambold from PLC.

Lent is right around the corner. If you are looking for Lenten devotions, Luther Seminary has a free downloadable booklet on their website. "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" includes either scripture or a hymn and a short essay and prayer for each day in Lent. You can find it at luthersem.edu/lent/2019_Devotional.pdf

The Worship and Music Committee meets at 2:00 pm on the third Wednesday of the month in the church library. We could use some new faces and ideas! Join us!

Sharon Koelsch

Member

Church Women United Will Have a Presence at PLC

On January 18 Sharon Koelsch was elected president of Church Women United of Greater St. Petersburg for a two year term. CWU is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive ecumenical Christian women's movement. Its headquarters are located in New York City, but there are units throughout the United States. Founded in 1941, women from a wide variety of Christian churches still work together for peace and justice.

Sharon will be having their monthly planning meetings here in the fellowship hall at 10:00 a.m. on the third Friday of each month (except Good Friday and June through August). She also anticipates that the Area 3 Annual Meeting will be held here in the fall. Women from churches in Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties will gather here for a program and lunch. The planning committee is currently planning their annual May Friendship Day service to be held on Friday, May 3 at a location yet to be decided.

All women of Paradise Lutheran Church are invited to participate in any of their activities. Local Women of the ELCA Plan Their Spring Gathering

The Suncoast Conference of the Women of the ELCA will have their 2019 Spring Gathering at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Dunedin on Saturday, March 23. The theme is "Welcome One Another." Registration starts at 9:00 a.m., the program runs from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., followed by lunch. \$12 covers lunch and the registration fee. For more information, see Sharon Koelsch. Don't Let the New Members Feel Left Out!

A handout containing contact information for our newest members and several corrections to our 2018 directory is available on the glass table in the rear of the nave.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Paradise Lutheran Church members are amazed it's March already. I feel like we are the wind, going this way and that way.

Next Outreach meeting March 6th after Ash Wednesday Service, please join us.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner will be held March 5th from 5 - 7. Twenty-nine people have signed our reservation sheet. If you forgot to sign up or had a change of plans, come on down or over, we always have plenty of food.

Treasure Island Market is almost at the end of another season, only Three more Fridays March 1st, March 15th, and April 5th. If you have time stop over to say Hi.

Please pray for Nokumbaya Mission Team's. We really appreciate your prayers and support.

Yard Sale/Bake Sale March 30th from 8-1 for the public! Sign-up sheets are on the table in the fellowship hall. Everyone has a great time working together and showing people our beautiful church.

Please remember Trinity Lutheran and Hope Lutheran's needs.

Sister in Christ, Joan Smith

SECOND ANNUAL NOKUMBAYA MEDICAL MISSION

Thank you Paradise Lutheran for hosting our second Nokumbaya Medical Mission fundraiser dinner on Saturday, January 19, 2019. As many of you know, Paradise Lutheran has been a supporter of Nokumbaya for the past several years, and many members on PLC have been volunteers on our medical mission trips: Rolf Pagel, Herb Karkheck, Joan Smith, Ellen Fine, Marilyn Wambold, Nancy Farrington, Renee Diebler, Gail Clark, Debbie Reiter, and Danell DeBerg.

Our Nokumbaya mission statement is to provide medical care to the poor and needy of third world countries and to do so in a manner that serves and praises God. Our service is our worship, and we seek to see Jesus in the face of each person we serve. We also hope and pray that the love and unity among the members of our team reflect His love for all people.

We serve four villages in Belize and two villages in Haiti. We return to the same places yearly in Haiti and twice a year in Belize, so that we can become part of the community we serve, recognize the needs and progress, and come to know the people. Our team is made up of volunteers from all over the U.S. and Canada, local Belizeans and Haitians, an occasional German, Russian, or Brit, and the village health workers who carry on after we leave.

You do not have to have a medical background in order to serve. We have lots of opportunity for lay volunteers in our school clinics. Please let me know if you are interested in participating. If you feel called, there is a place for you.

In 2019 we will have teams going to Belize in March and April, to Haiti in May, and back to Belize for a two week clinic in October.

Danell DeBerg, mission coordinator 727-644-7678

PARADISE LUTHERAN MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men's breakfast will continue on Wednesdays at 7:45 a.m. The location will be at Foxy's, 160 107th Ave, Treasure Island. Come and enjoy a good breakfast and good company as well.

Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education Committee will meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month @ 5:30. Deb Yost, Chairperson

PARADISE LUTHERAN HELPING TRINITY LUTHERAN HELP THE HOMELESS

The homeless program at Trinity Lutheran Church needs clothing and new underwear for men and women, especially knit caps and hoodies. Also, clothes, shoes, bath towels and wash cloths are needed. Please put your donations in the bin located in the fellowship hall to the right of the entrance. Thank you for your donations. They are very much appreciated by the people that this program serves. Also, if you would like to volunteer and spend some time with grateful people there are openings available. Please check the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.



Sunday, March 3

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm: Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Gospel: Luke 9:28-43a

Sunday, March 10, 2018

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, March 17, 2018

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm: Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

Sunday, March 24 2018

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm: Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, March 31 2018

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm: Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY

Ellen Fredericks	6
Peter Dieck	7
Joy Kosten	7
Marilyn Wambold	7
William Vanderford, Jr	11
John Flieman III	13
Ruth Mathews	14
Eleanor Soucy	26
Tom McCarville	27

MARCH

Terry Hartzell	4
Debbie Yost	7
Brittany Leonard	9
Helen Crook	13
Carole Lyons	25
Virginia Proulx	25
Bonnie Wolfe	30
Janet Fisher	31



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Robert & Joy Kosten

16

Congratulations to all our February and March celebrants



Income and Expense
February 2019

Income as of 02/28/2019	\$ 7,069.92
Expenses as of 02/28/2019	\$10,739.13
Net Income as of 02/28/2019	\$ (3,669.21)

March 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1 Friday Morning Market 9 am—2pm Steppers 5:30 pm Steppers 7:30 pm	2 Confirmation at Hope Lutheran Church 9am
3 Adult Sunday School Class 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am & 12:00pm Fellowship 11am—Noon	4	5 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5:00pm to 7:00pm	6 Men's Breakfast 7:45 am Ash Wednesday Service 12:00pm & 6:00pm Outreach Meeting 1:00pm	7 Bell Practice 6 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm	8 Steppers 5:30 pm Steppers 7:30 pm	9 Beach Clean-up 9am
10 Daylight Savings Time Starts Adult Sunday School Class 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am & 12:00pm Fellowship 11am—Noon	11 Council Meeting 6:00pm	12 Weekday Bible Study 7:00pm	13 Men's Breakfast 7:45 am Weekday Bible Study 1:00pm Lenten Services 6:00pm	14 Bell Practice 6 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm Christian Education Meeting 5:30pm	15 Friday Morning Market 9 am—2pm Church Women United 10:00am Steppers 5:30 pm Steppers 7:30 pm	16
17 Adult Sunday School Class 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am & 12:00pm Fellowship 11am—Noon	18	19 Clergy Gathering 11:30am Weekday Bible Study 7:00pm	20 Men's Breakfast 7:45 am Weekday Bible Study 1:00pm Worship & Music Meeting 2:00pm Lenten Services 6:00pm	21 Bell Practice 6 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm	22 Steppers 5:30 pm Steppers 7:30 pm	23 Highway Clean-Up 9:00am Crafter's Group 10:00am
24/31 Adult Sunday School Class 8:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am & 12:00pm Fellowship 11am—Noon	25	26 Weekday Bible Study 7:00pm	27 Men's Breakfast 7:45 am Weekday Bible Study 1:00pm Lenten Services 6:00pm	28 Bell Practice 6 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm	29 Friday Morning Market 9 am—2pm Steppers 5:30 pm Steppers 7:30 pm	30 Yard & Bake Sale & Raffle 8:00am to 12:00pm