

Keynotes

News for the spiritual family and friends of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church

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BLYTH'S SPIRIT ...

I cannot possibly begin my first newsletter article at St. Armands, without expressing my heartfelt thanks to all those who have shown considerable love; warm hospitality; and tremendous support to the Blyth family. This support extended all the way from initial contact and interview, to my first day in the office and the pulpit. Thank you all, so very much.

So, a little about my life, by way of introduction. I was born and raised in Dundee, a city on the east coast of Scotland. I attended the University of St. Andrews, where I earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree. In the middle summer of my studies I visited Chicago, Illinois, to work in an ELCA congregation served by a friend. There I met Amy, and the rest is history. Upon completion of my degree I moved to Chicago, enrolled at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC), began the candidacy process with the Metro-Chicago Synod, and married the love of my life.

Amy and I have three children. Michael, my step-son, is thirty-two years old, and an army veteran of the war in Afghanistan. He will continue to live in Citrus County. Robert and Grace are our seventeen-year-old twins. Grace is a senior in high school, and an International Baccalaureate student, and so she and Amy will remain in Citrus County until her graduation in June of 2018. (We will spend weekends and holidays together as a family.) Robert is a high school junior, enrolled at Booker High School in Sarasota, and an excellent soccer player and swimmer. He and I are living in the church's guest house, which now becomes something of a bachelor pad. Pray for us.

My first call was to St. Mark's in Baldwinsville, just outside of Syracuse, New York, where I served for seven years. My next call was to Good Shepherd in Hernando, Florida, where I served for ten years. While at Good Shepherd (and thanks to their wonderful generosity of time and financial support) I earned a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, in Kentucky. My D.Min. (Pastoral Care & Counselling) project was titled: *Bullying And Its Effects On Images Of God For Adolescent Girls*.

Continued

September 2017

St. Armands Key Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Ken Blyth
Senior Pastor

Kim Heindl
Interim Ministry Coordinator

Pamela Becker
Administrative Assistant

Lois Habib
Church Musician

Lou Rippo
Church Custodian



My ministry has always included the wider church. In New York I served as the President of the Baldwinsville Ministerial Association; Director of the Mohawk Valley Lutheran Confirmation Camp; and on the Discipline Committee of the Upstate-New York Synod. In the Florida-Bahamas Synod I have served as Dean of the Pinelands Conference; member of a Bishop's Panel examining clergy conflict, and chairperson of a Consultation Committee examining alleged clergy misconduct. I served as Bishop Schaefer's representative to the Novus Way Task Force on same-gender wedding policy; chair of 2017 Synod Assembly Worship Committee; Chair of 2018 Bishop's Installation Committee; and as a member of the Synod's Reformation 500 Committee (and bishop's liaison to the Diocese of St. Petersburg.) I am an ELCA-trained Boundary/Misconduct Workshop Leader, and member of Florida-Bahamas Synod Sexual Misconduct Response Team. I also served as Vice-Pastor at Hope Lutheran Church, The Villages, while serving at Good Shepherd.

Of course, all that I have written thus far describes where I came from and what I have done: it does not say who I am. It does not convey my humor; my love of music (folk, alternative, classical,); my joy in singing; how very privileged I feel, every day, to serve as a pastor; the way my heart swells every time I look at my kids; the deep appreciation I have of working with colleagues, congregational leadership, committees, and volunteers; the tears that come when I see folks pour themselves out in service and love towards others. Nor can this article truly describe the twinkle in my eyes when I am 'up to no good' or hatching a ministry plan. These are aspects of your new pastor that you will come to experience – along with his faults and foibles – over time. This is but a beginning. But, what a beginning it has been!



An Invitation to attend the
INSTALLATION OF REV. DR. KENNETH C. BLYTH
SENIOR PASTOR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 at 4:00 pm

You are cordially invited to attend the installation of Rev. Dr. Kenneth C. Blyth as the Senior Pastor of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church, Interim Bishop Marcus Lohrmann presiding. A reception and meal will follow immediately in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome at our table!

Please **RSVP no later than the end of the day, Monday, September 4,**
by calling the Church Office 941-388-1234 or by email to connections@saklc.com or
office@saklc.com

*Have a Safe & Happy
Labor Day Weekend!*

**The CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th
in observance of the Holiday.**

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS:

Rule of Love St. Armands Key Lutheran Church

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious; or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; It is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

(1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Called by God in our baptism and filled with the presence of Christ through the Lord's Supper, we believe love should show itself through our lives in:

Thought, by talking to God through prayer, maintaining a calm demeanor and contemplative positive state-of-mind and thinking positively of others including yourself!

Word, by speaking the truth with respect for others, being aware of the way and context in which your words are being received, and a willingness to maintain constant dialogue.

Deed, through Interacting in an open, positive and accepting way and asking, "Is there something we can do to help?" Approach each situation in a nonjudgmental way, as a faithful witness. Underpin your actions with the greatest commandment, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind."

As members of the body of Christ and citizens of the kingdom of heaven, we will show this love in our life together at St. Armands Key Lutheran Church:

In what we do, by unconditionally showing we care through being present and attentive, always treating people with honor and dignity, and acting more like Christ who was kind, humble, merciful and open to interaction with all.

In responding to unloving or disrespectful behavior at the first opportunity with love, understanding and respect, seeking a solution which fosters God's love in our community of faith.

We will value The Rule of Love as leaders of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church through prayer (See Prayer Statement). We will include The Rule of Love in council meetings as part of the monthly agenda; in congregational meetings and meetings within the congregation, by reading the rule at the beginning of each meeting; in our communications by placing in Keynotes, Connections and the Sunday Worship Folder (bulletin). We will introduce it to new members. As leaders, we will keep The Rule of Love in our hearts and envision how to impart the rule in all our exterior efforts (servant, social ministries, etc.). We will keep the Rule of Love in all fellowship actions.

As we follow The Rule of Love, we will delight in God's will and walk in His ways to the Glory of His holy name.
AMEN.

2017 Council Members

Rudy Bruback, President

Jaclyn Campbell, Communications

Ronda Hewitt, Worship & Music

Rebecca Kohne, Columbarium

Dennis Maiotti, Health Ministry

Carilyn Reiter, Social Ministry

Ken Sulek, Treasurer & Finance

Ann Walborn, Secretary & Fellowship

Bob Webb, Property

Fred Wittlinger, Stewardship

Gary Yakes, Social Ministry

**St. Armands Key Lutheran Church's Purpose is
"To Worship Christ, Grow in Grace, Share God's Love with All."**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL
&
CONFIRMATION CLASSES
RESUME on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 at 9:15 am
In Ogram Hall

Calling all 6th - 7th - 8th Graders - Confirmation Class is starting

We will not only be discovering the Old & New Testaments and Catechism, but we will be deciding how the confirmation class can be involved with the environment - a social ministry focus - and worship.

If you have a child, grandchild, or know anyone entering 6th, 7th, 8th grade, please contact this year's teacher, Arlene Webb at arlene.webb@hotmail.com or Kim at kim@saklc.com or Pam in the office at office@saklc.com

Scholar in Residence (SiR) 2018

Save the dates! As we celebrate 50 years as St. Armands Key Lutheran Church, we are celebrating our passion, mission and future with an exciting roster for SiR in 2018. Please join us in welcoming this diverse group of leaders:

January 2-15, 2018

The Rev. Gabi Aelabouni, Director ELCA Fund for Leaders

SAKLC has a history and passion for equipping and encouraging new leaders in the church, and has done so in many ways. Pr. Gabi provides a lens into this work and its impact.



February 3-17, 2018

Dr. E. Louise Williams and the Rev. Phyllis Kersten

Dr. Williams will be the key note at the Women's Day of Renewal in February. In 2004, Louise and Pr. Phyllis were SiR. Their topic is planned to be Spirituality. We welcome them back to be part of our celebrations.



March 23-29, 2018

Paul Oman Fine Art, Opening Eyes to Visions of Hope

Pr. Paul is a very unique SiR – he will actually be our Artist in Residence! Paul opens the scripture through drawing/painting. He will be drawing to the Word at both worship services on Palm Sunday, in addition to learning and outreach opportunities.



Specific plans and dates are in the planning. Watch for more information and how you can help promote these opportunities in our community. On the Way Rejoicing!

THURSDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Mid-week Adult Study Program has been suspended for the fall months due to medical issues being addressed by facilitator, Pr. Herb Mohlenhoff.



Change is in the Air ...

It is September. Just as the community around is gearing up for “season”; we too at SAKLC are gearing up! Many plans have been made, many events are scheduled, people will be coming back from travels and summer homes, and a flurry of activity will get underway.

All of this activity has purpose. In and amongst the celebrations, music, memorials, studies, service projects, and especially in the worship, conversations and time together, we are growing into the community Christ has called us to be as St. Armands Key Lutheran Church. We are being transformed.

“God’s plan for all of us: to become a mature participant in the body of Christ. We grow when we stay connected to Jesus, the vine. Being connected to the vine is a practice that eventually becomes a habit. Like being married, it’s a set of habits that becomes an identity. Like marriage it’s a relationship that takes commitment. It takes courage to make this kind of commitment. Perfect love casts out fear, if you let it.” *Holy Purpose, The Blessings of Service, Obedience, and Faith.* p. 47. Carolyn Coon Mowchan, Augsburg Fortress 2007.

How is God transforming you at this time? How are we, as a community of faith, walking with you? How are we being transformed and transforming in the community?

As we, you and I, enter into this busyness, the invitation is to pause. Stay connected in worship and by joining the conversations. Give praise and thanksgiving to God, open our hearts to the Holy Spirit’s leading, and share Christ’s love in thought, word and deed.

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” Romans 12:1

Living in God’s Grace.
Kimberly Heindl, ELCA Deacon
Interim Coordinator of Ministries

Away in Atlanta

Deacon Kimberly Heindl

On August 7-10, I had the privilege to attend the Rostered Ministers Gathering in Atlanta. Thank you for this opportunity.



This Gathering is the first of its kind in the ELCA and it booked up quickly. With over 800 rostered leaders from across the ELCA (truly from Alaska to Puerto Rico) we worshipped, studied, learned, shared, served, and had fun.

Amongst our gathering were focused conversations in small groups “On the Way together. . . conversations about the Future Directions of this Church.” The small groups were designed to bring people of diverse backgrounds and callings together for dialogue. The first two (of 9) questions we were asked:

- As you experience leadership in your own setting, what do you see as the most important challenges that, if embraced, could help this church move forward?
- What are the ways we can inspire ourselves, our leaders, and our congregations to live out their baptismal vocations?



The Rev. Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Jr.

Our Key Note Speakers included Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, The Rev. Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Jr., and Rachel Held Evans. I encourage you to look them up, each has unique gifts they contribute to us all as people of God, and their addresses to the gathering were inspiring and challenging.

Bible Study leaders Rev. Dr. Shauna Hannan, Rev. Dr. Javier (Jay) Alanis, and Rev. Dr. Troy M Troftgruben led us into scripture and challenged us into conversation with our colleagues to explore God's Word anew.

Also during the Gathering there was time for service learning trips to Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum, Martin

Luther King Historical Site, National Center for Civil and Human Rights, St. John's Food Bank Ministry, and Gateway Center. Workshops were diverse with over 50 offerings over two afternoons, all the ELCA Seminaries were represented, and many of the ELCA support and service organizations were present with booths.

And, of course there is Worship! The Word Proclaimed, spoken and sung, the Meal served, in bread and wine, is a powerful affirmation that we are truly "On the way – Together!" in the name of Christ. Amen.



ELCA Future Directions 2025 Goals

Propelled by a commitment to Lutheran traditions and to being a community of faith that is always forming and being renewed, the ELCA's presiding bishop, Church Council and Conference of Bishops initiated Called Forward Together in Christ in late 2015. The process sought to engage the ELCA in conversation about future directions so that the Church Council might reach decisions that help this church journey faithfully and effectively together in the years ahead. Please go to elca.org/future

KEYNOTES DEADLINE -- Please submit your articles for the October edition of Keynotes to Pam in the Church Office on or before **Friday, September 15.**

Email: office@saklc.com or Fax: 388-1360

Thanks!

HEALTH MINISTRY



SAKLC provides the following Exercise Opportunities:

Tuesday Morning Exercise Classes: (with Debbie Leslie)

8:30 AM – “Get Fit”

9:00 AM – “Thera Band”

9:30 AM – “Balance and Stretching”

Thursday Morning Balance Class @ 9:00 AM

(with SMH Health Fitness instructor)

SAMARITAN COUNSELING - FURTHER CLARIFICATION

In the last issue of *Keynotes*, I reported to you about ongoing negotiations to formulate a Covenant between **SAKLC** and **Samaritan Counseling Services of the Gulf Coast**, which will result in that organization’s use of our campus (*a vacant office in Ogram Hall*) as one of their satellite offices. That announcement has resulted in an expressed desire among some church members to have further information about Samaritan.

Samaritan is an organization that believes it is called by God to provide outpatient mental health counseling from a perspective guided by our Judeo-Christian heritage. Consistent with Jesus’ approach with people, Samaritan meets people where they are and respects their wishes regarding the degree to which they desire their personal faith used as a therapeutic resource.

Since 1999 Samaritan counseling has been serving Sarasota and Manatee counties and the surrounding areas. It is a professional counseling service that is accredited by The Samaritan Institute, Denver, Colorado. Accreditation involves meeting or exceeding 33 standards which have been determined essential for a counseling ministry pursuing excellence.

How does Professional Christian counselling differ from other Professional counseling? While research continues to demonstrate the efficacy of including a person’s faith into the counseling process, many current mental health providers have been resistant and/or reluctant to include spirituality into the process for a variety of reasons including historic beliefs about the role of faith in dysfunctional mental health and lack of training on how the integration is most helpful. Samaritan’s counselors are committed to utilizing faith as a tool for therapy and have training and experience in how this is best accomplished.

Is Samaritan affiliated with one Church or a particular Denomination? Samaritan is NOT affiliated with one church or denomination. In the Sarasota area, it is accurate that this Counseling Service was introduced and started by the *Church of the Palms* (Bee Ridge Road). But, from the start, it was the desire of that congregation and Samaritan that this become a resource for all members of the community who desire Christian Counseling. The Sarasota regional main office is still located at Church of the Palms, but to satisfy growing needs there are now 10 satellite locations.

In next month’s issue of *Keynotes*, I will further report on Samaritan’s professional staff, their qualifications, and the financial arrangements available to clients.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth L. Mohlenhoff, Chair

PARISH NOTES ...



Shaun Williams

was born on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. Congratulations and Best wishes to the family! Kendra and Edward Williams, Parents; Samuel & Samaya, big brother and sister; and Grandmother, Beveta Hall-Lawes.



Sushane Minelva Lawes and Audley Anthony Fagan

were united in marriage at St. Armands Key Lutheran Church on Saturday, August 12, 2017.

The couple will be residing in Jacksonville.

Congratulations & Best Wishes to Sushane & Audley!

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS – Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

How quickly the months go by ... and, the summer office hours have come to an end.

Regular office hours will resume after the Labor Day weekend.



Sienna Palau Campbell

Was received into the Christian faith through the sacrament of Holy Baptism at St. Armands Key Lutheran Church on Sunday, July 9, 2017.

Parents are Brenton and Jaclyn Campbell

Sponsors are Kyle Bates and Sudhey Reyes



Jeffrey Acker

516 Madison Court
Sarasota, FL 34236



FOOD DRIVE

The ALL FAITHS FOOD BARREL -- Nonperishable food are always welcome and a blessing to those in need. Please place items in the food barrel located in the Narthex. **Protein items** are especially needed – canned meats, canned dinners, tuna, peanut butter, soups, & stews. Canned fruits & jellies are also needed – **Please, NO GLASS containers.**

Our church is having a Reformation 500 Bookstore!

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is fast approaching! Do you want to learn more about Martin Luther, his writings, and their impact on Christianity? Do you want to reflect on the ongoing impact of the Reformation today? Stop by our Reformation 500 Bookstore to shop for engaging books on the Reformation for readers of all ages and interests! Save up to 50% plus receive free shipping on all Bookstore titles.

The books will be displayed in the Narthex from Sunday, October 22 through Sunday, November 5 between 8:30am to Noon to get fascinating books on the Reformation for you and your family.



Our Bookstore is sponsored by Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA. The books will include bestselling biographies like *Luther the Reformer* as well as an atlas of the European Reformations, a graphic novel for young readers, and primary sources from The Annotated Luther series.

“There never yet have been, nor are there now, too many good books.”

- Martin Luther



STEPHEN MINISTRY

People resist change because they fear the unknown. It can mean adjusting your thinking, shifting attitudes and making deliberate choices to become assertive or to gather up your courage to act assertively.

Our church has a team of Stephen Ministers who can help you to make changes in your life and to help guide others who may be facing challenges.

Dr. Kenneth C. Haugk, pastor and clinical psychologist, founded Stephen Ministries to help others teach assertiveness, conflict resolution and other practical skills for Christian living. Our church will be offering classes to train more Stephen Ministers to help others build healthy relationships and learn how to handle anger, criticism and other relational issues, as well as how to work through a spiritual challenge.

Stephen Ministers learn how to depend on the strength and power of God for protection in the face of each day's challenges. Assertiveness is needed to live the Christian life, to decisively and actively put faith into practice. Scripture encourages us to step up and apply our faith to daily living and to be “doers” and not just “hearers” of His word. Let the church office know if you'd like to train to become a Stephen Minister or if you would like to have a Stephen Minister walk with you.

STEWARDSHIP

We are starting to enter the time of year for stewardship. Let's take a second and get back to basics as the summer time begins to end.

We read in Psalms 90:12 (ISV), "Teach us to keep account our days so that we may develop inner wisdom."

Going to church on Sunday is an important gift of time. It marks our time, giving us a rhythm to our lives and reminding us of our dependency on God. When we honor the Sabbath by going to church and also take a rest, we are reminded that for God, time is full of the promise of creation.



UPCOMING EVENTS ...



WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

The SAKLC Book Group will resume on **Tuesday morning, October 23rd at 10:30**

to discuss: **America's First Daughter**
by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie

Since the book is almost 600 pages,
Judy Matthies suggests that you get an early start.

We'll meet in Ogram Hall.
Looking forward to seeing you all again.



SAVE THE DATE: ADVENT DINNER-REJOICE!

December 6th, 5:30-9:30 PM

Sarasota Yacht Club

All Members & Friends of SAKLC are invited.

Join us and celebrate the Season of Advent
and the 50th Anniversary of SAKLC!

Details to follow.



SAVE THE DATE - April 8, 2018 SAKLC 50th Anniversary Celebration Worship Service & More!

A group of SAKLC Congregation Members met to begin planning for next year's 50th anniversary since the formation of St. Armands Key Lutheran Church. On April 7, 1968, SAKLC was officially organized as a congregation. Worship in those early days was held in a local nightclub called the Casino on Lido Key beach. The story unfolds from here for 50 years of witnessing the Gospel and generously donating time, talent and treasure to many activities and organizations in the community.

When the planning group met, the timing and the theme for the celebration of SAKLC's 50th Anniversary was determined. Celebratory activities will start with Advent, December 3, 2017 and culminate in a festive, worship service on April 8, 2018. The theme chosen for this celebration time is "Remember and Rejoice - Lift High the Cross." Five areas of interest were identified.

- Historical Aspects
- Special Events - Community/Congregation
- Worship & Spiritual Activities
- Outreach, Ministries/Projects, Thank Offering
- Publicity, Logistics, Office Coordination, Take Away

During the summer months, ideas are being sought for these five areas. Then on September 7, the planning group will meet and summarize the plan to present to Council. If you need more information or have ideas, contact any of the planning committee members listed below. Watch Keynotes for future updates and **Mark your Calendar Now! Plan to attend the April 8, 2018 worship service** and look for ways YOU will participate in December through April to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of this wonderful church community! Thanks be to God! Remember and Rejoice!

Planning Committee Members: Pastor Eric Wogen, Pastor Bob Zimmer, Shirley Zimmer, Kurt Wilkening, Carol Elliott, Louise Hauser, Mary Leeseberg, Lynn Blackledge, Gene Saunders, Rudy Bruback, Bruce Kuntz, Kim Heindl.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Christmas on the Circle

Featuring



SAKLC's Second Annual Live Nativity

Friday, December 1st

You are needed!

Happy Birthday!

September

- 1 Michael Andrae
Fran Merritt
- 2 Pete Bedessem
- 3 Jane Huff
Rosalie Serocka
- 4 Bebe Adams
Ashley Templeton
- 5 Lydia Bohn
Jane Born
Ed Miller
- 7 Lois Habib
Norma McDaniel
Shirley Zimmer
- 8 Julia Dinan
Sandy Wogen
- 10 Gary Moore
Hugh Tamassia
- 11 Janice Lorenz
- 13 Patricia Hall-Lawes
Maryanne Maier
Pam Schaezel
- 14 Marlene Wilkening
Mary Wiltse
- 15 Ronda Hewitt
Bill Olson
- 16 Becky Culp
Jim Templeton
- 17 Kay Coletta
- 19 Sandy Jorgensen
- 20 Margot Eagleton
Dorothy Evans
Lilliana Sultana
- 23 Larry Baker
Joel Nieting
- 24 Emerson Miller

- 26 Elaine Fuorry
Elle Lawson
- 27 Linda Schauer
- 28 Betty Hendry
- 29 Jeanne Barr
Phyllis Griffith
Bernie Kloppenburg
- 30 Klaus Lang



Happy Anniversary!

- 9/4 Crome & Joanna Dollase
- 9/6 Alan & Carey Morrisson
- 9/8 Jere & Carole Berkey
- 9/9 Erik & Sandra Lindqvist
- 9/10 Jon & Carole Culver
- 9/18 Vaun & Carol McAhren
- 9/19 Jerry & Judy Korte
- 9/24 Robert & Linda Schauer
- 9/28 Ken & Janet Sulek
- 9/29 Elliott & June Benowitz
- 9/30 Bob & Gloria Sullivan

St. Armands Key Lutheran Church
40 North Adams Drive
Sarasota, FL 34236

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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Come Worship With Us on Sunday ...

**One Worship Service at 10 am
June 4 – October 1**

