

TLCOURIER

Sharing Christ's Love by Welcoming, Worshiping, Learning, and Serving



Trinity Lutheran Church
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Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
727-822-3307
www.trinitylutheranstpete.org



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?" (Psalm 116:12)

We live in relationship with a God who loves us. Our love for God and love for our neighbor are offered in response to all the love God first shows us.

In response to God's love, the members of Trinity have always been generous with their time and their labor. In times of special need, members make generous donations of cash. But, aside from a few people, this congregation has had difficulty creating a culture in which every member gives generously in order to cover the day-to-day operating costs of the church.

Trinity is, as I said in a recent sermon, the most loving and welcoming congregation that I have ever encountered. We find our sense of purpose in feeding the hungry, speaking up for the powerless, and inviting society's most invisible people into our fellowship.

There is much more to a

church than money but, unfortunately, it's money that pays a church's bills.

The offerings given at our worship services and the rent paid by the tenants in our facility should be enough to pay the salaries of our employees, pay for things like office supplies and altar candles, pay our utilities and do general maintenance on the building, and fund our educational and outreach ministries. But, far too often, this congregation is compelled to tap into its savings and investments in order to cover those costs.

Our congregational "savings account" is a pool of money created from generous gifts of the past—much of it came from people remembering the congregation in their wills as a beneficiary of their estate. For decades, that money has been available for major building repairs, facility improvements, and emergencies.

Unfortunately, at some point in our long history, we got used to tapping into that money whenever we had a shortfall in income.

(Continued on next page)



Trinity Lutheran Church

Paul Gibson—Pastor
Lynne Tallon—Deacon
Thomas E. Hall—Organist &
Director of Music
Kim Forcino—Administrative
Assistant
Azur H. Abdic' - Facility
Administrator
Gayle Nelson—Missionary

Council Members

- Lisa Johnson, President
- Jan Dorr, Vice President
- Daryl Stewart, Secretary
- Helen Mowrer, Treasurer
- Toni Durilla, Financial
Secretary
- Robert Burke
- Barbara Macomb
- Lee Magnus
- Pastor Paul Gibson

Pastor Paul continued from page 1:

Every year, we predict that we will have to rely on money from our investments to cover the regular operating costs of the church when we pass a “deficit budget” at our annual congregational meeting—one in which we accept that our expenses will exceed our income.

The primary challenge that I faced when I was called as Trinity’s pastor was that we were in danger of exhausting our investment savings—very soon.

The council and I have done what we can to encourage people to increase their giving. We’ve also made difficult choices to reduce spending. Jobs have been eliminated, salaries and hours reduced, and spending on education and outreach reduced, as well.

Even so, in January of this year, the congregation passed another deficit budget, accepting that we would have to spend more than 263 thousand dollars to do ministry in the city of St. Petersburg but could count on receiving an income of a little over 161 thousand.

Thanks to computers and the hard work of volunteers, the church council keeps track of our budget from month to month. We know when we’re spending more than we should and when our income is lower than expected. But we also know that the bills have to be

paid even when there isn’t income to cover them.

I’m sorry to report to you that, as of the end of August, we’ve had to spend a little more than we had expected. That trend can be corrected by some belt-tightening between now and the end of the year.

But I’m extremely concerned to report that our income is far below what we had anticipated. Based on increased giving in 2017, our prediction had been that, through offerings on Sunday mornings and during Holy Week, we would have received about \$76,000 by this time. We’ve actually received less than \$69,000.

It’s too soon to say what is causing this. Our prediction may have been too ambitious, people may be making a conscious choice to give less, or maybe people just aren’t aware that they’ve been less generous to the mission of the church this year.

The church council has already started the difficult task of creating a congregational budget for 2019. Everyone has different ideas about where a church should and should not be spending its members’ contributions. Your elected council members consider all of those possibilities and try to determine what God’s will for the congregation is.

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The primary goal of our new small group gatherings is to identify what is good and effective about this congregation and to imagine new areas of ministry and service, but our first few gatherings will also give people the opportunity to discuss the church's income and expenses.

As the year draws closer to its end, and before the frenzy of Christmas spending starts, now is the time to prayerfully review how you have been using and investing your money in 2018. If God has blessed you so that you can give a little more to the church between now and the first of the year, it will help us to get back on track and save us from tapping into our savings even more than we had anticipated.

At the same time, I want to thank you again for being such a wonderful faith community, consistently participating in worship and ministry, and dedicated to making God's kingdom a reality for ourselves and our neighbors.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Paul

OFFERING ENVELOPES

One of the ways the church can help its members to give regular offerings is by issuing them a box of offering envelopes. It used to be our standard practice to give every family a box of envelopes, whether they wanted them or not. One of the ways we can reduce the church's expenses is by only purchasing the offering envelopes that we really need and not letting them go to waste.

It is not essential to use envelopes; they are just a convenience. Some people are just accustomed to them; some keep track of their offerings by the envelopes they have and have not used.

If you pay your offering with a personal check, you don't need to use an envelope at all; just fold the check in half for privacy and toss it in the offering plate. As long as your check has your name on it, you will get credit for it—in the form of a tax statement at the end of the year.

If you want to give cash as your offering, you can always use an envelope from the racks in the pews. But then you should write your name on outside of the envelope.

One thing that envelopes can help with is if you want to split your offering

into categories: a portion for the operating expenses, a portion for building repairs, a portion for the food pantry, etc. But if you don't have an envelope, there are other ways to make your wishes known.

You always have the option of "electronic giving"—setting up a regular program of transfers from your bank account to the church's that will happen whether or not you make it to worship on a Sunday morning. In the weeks to come, we'll be announcing new forms of electronic giving for the congregation.

But now is the time for us to order boxes of offering envelopes for 2019 and we're planning to order fewer of them than in the past. If you want to make sure you will get your own box of envelopes, you need to tell the church office. Give us a call or an email or make a note on the pew clipboard soon.





Feed My Sheep Update

**405 friends were
helped during the
month of
September.**



Thank you to all volunteers who help at the pantry and all who support financially or donate items. We have not received feedback concerning our grant applications yet, but will keep you posted. Please continue to keep this ministry in your prayers.

We have welcomed several new volunteers John, Gretchen and Debbie. These individuals heard of our program through word of mouth and attendance at Sunday worship. It's exciting to see so many willing to help.

The friends who come to the pantry for their food, hygiene, and clothing needs also help in a variety of ways. Some assist with unloading the food delivery on Fridays and cleaning up at the end of the day. They also have a sign-up sheet for clients

each pantry day, which has resulted in a more efficient distribution of numbers. This enhances the organization and flow of clients through the pantry. Our pantry has received many blessings through this community involvement.

You are invited to an "Open House" celebration on Sunday, October 14, 2018 following worship. Come to check out our facilities and enjoy some light refreshments.



As we head into the Fall months it's time to begin our canned soup gathering. So for the month of October, please bring cans of soup, with pop-top lids. Client favorites include New England Clam Chowder, Chicken with dumplings, Chicken Noodle, and Beef

Vegetable. Watch for the sales of buy one get one free.

We are also in need of men's clothing and shoes, as our supply is very limited.

May God continue to bless this ministry and all who serve.

God's blessings,
Lynne Tallon

Soup Service



**October brings
about the return of
our soup
distribution. We will
be collecting canned
soup with pop-top
lids. Favorites
include New England
Clam Chowder,
Chicken with
Dumplings, Chicken
Noodle, and Beef
Vegetable.**

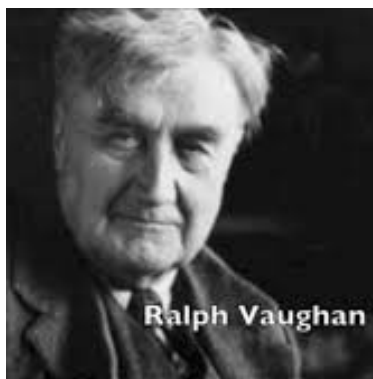
A Note from the Music Director

On 12 October we celebrate the birthday of British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958). His works include operas, ballets, chamber music, secular and religious vocal pieces and orchestral compositions, including nine symphonies. Strongly influenced by Tudor music and English folk-song, his output marked a decisive break in British music from its German-dominated style of the 19th century.

Vaughan Williams was born to a well-off family with strong moral views and a progressive social outlook. Throughout his life he sought to be of service to his fellow citizens, and believed in making music as available as possible to everybody. He wrote many works for amateur and student performance. He was musically a late developer, not finding his true voice until his late thirties; his studies in 1907–1908 with the French composer Maurice Ravel helped him clarify the textures and techniques of his composition.

Among the most familiar of his are *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis* (1910), *The Lark Ascending* (1914), *A Sea Symphony* (1910), which

includes chorus in all movements, *Sinfonia Antartica* (1952), the *English Folk Song Suite* (1923), and the *Fantasia on Greensleeves* (1934). His ballet *Job: A Masque for Dancing* (1930) is frequently staged. His output of sacred music includes the Five Mystical Songs, Three organ Preludes on Welsh Hymn Tunes, as well as anthems and hymn tunes, including *Sine Nomine (For All the Saints)*. In addition to writing original hymn tunes, Vaughan Williams also harmonized several British folk tunes for use as hymns including *Kingsford* and *Forest Green*.



He composed through his mid-eighties, producing his ninth symphony months before his death at the age of eighty-five. His works have continued to be a staple of the British concert repertoire, and all his major compositions and many of the minor ones have been recorded.

Organ Update

Restoration work on the Trinity organ is progressing well. We are awaiting the availability of more funds in order to complete the project. In the meantime, numerous minor and anticipated adjustments continue to be made to the work already completed. As the work is completed on each section, the pipes of that section are meticulously retuned pipe-by-pipe. Organs are normally tuned by correcting the pipes which are obviously and obtrusively out-of-tune, but the instrument benefits immensely from the complete and thorough tuning done following the re-leathering of each chest.

FLORIDA PRO MUSICA CONCERT

A Renaissance Christmas

Sunday, December 16 at
3:00 PM.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Benefit the Historic Pipe
Organ

Tickets are available
through

floridapromusica.org or
the Trinity Lutheran
Church office.

(727) 822-3307 or:
office@trinitylutheranstpete.org

Individual tickets: \$20.00
Group of 10+: \$18.00/ticket

TLC Updates

Cold Night Shelter

Trinity is moving forward to be part of the cold night shelter program for homeless people in Pinellas County this winter. There are currently no downtown St. Petersburg churches that participate in the program, so Trinity's involvement is important to provide safe, warm shelter to up to 30 people who live on the streets in the immediate vicinity of our church on the few nights a year on which the temperature drops below 40 degrees F.

To date, we have fourteen people from Trinity and Paradise Lutheran Church who have volunteered to either spend a few hours in the shelter or to provide a hot evening or morning meal. We also have access to volunteers from a local residential treatment program and we are speaking to other downtown churches about providing volunteers or other support. At no cost to Trinity, we have obtained thirty new sleeping mats and a private donor has made a very generous offer to provide a new washer and dryer to launder the blankets that our homeless guests will use. Church Council is working with the Facility Manager to identify the best place within our building to place the washer and dryer gift that we will receive.

Although we will need to staff the shelter from 6 pm to 6 am the next day, we hope to have enough volunteers to have at least three shifts of no more than four hours each. The more volunteers we have, the more shifts we will have, which will reduce

the length of each shift.

We will need donations of gently used blankets and we will be putting out a request to the members of Trinity as well as other downtown congregations to provide blankets in order to keep the operating costs of the shelter as low as possible.

A meeting of all interested volunteers will be held in early November at which policies and procedures for operation of the shelter will be presented and discussed.

Please prayerfully consider ways in which you may be able to support this important new Trinity ministry to our homeless neighbors.

Parking Lot Sale

On September 21, Trinity sold the small parking lot across the alley to Michael Andros, the owner of the Hollander Hotel. This has provided a chance to speak with Mr. Andros and develop our relationship with the Hollander. We hope that this will lead to partnership opportunities related to our wedding ministry.

Our finance team will be meeting to determine responsible ways to invest and manage the proceeds of the sale. Please speak to any member of council if you have suggestions or need information.

Women of the ELCA

Band of Angels Update



The Band of Angels were extremely proud of our Bold Women's Day event that featured our first Bold Woman honoree, Dr. Kanika Tomalin, Vice Mayor of St. Petersburg. In

her moving and powerful address, she immediately connected with Trinity in sharing that the message, "Please join us," speaks to her every day as she passes our church. Along with her support of our initiative to

celebrate the contributions of women, she mirrored our mission of acceptance and support for all people.

"Underrepresented people, women and minorities, immigrants and the impoverished, are being marginalized in dangerous ways and all who respect diversity and the value that it brings have a moral and ethical obligation to speak up, live accordingly and demonstrate why such damaging positions, policies, and practices have no place among us."

It was both moving and inspiring to hear her journey, as part of six generations of bold women in St. Pete. "Women who were bold in spirit. Bold in love. Bold in effort. Bold in Christ." Though different from her experience, her ancestors

whose names she shared with us, "made a difference as housekeepers, homemakers, nurses, and entrepreneurs."



As we celebrated our first bold woman, it was evident her beliefs and values reflect those of TLC—faith, family, acceptance, and service.

(If you would like a copy of the text of Dr. Tomalin's speech, contact the church office.)

Upcoming Activities and Meetings

- ◇ September 30: BOA Meeting
- ◇ October 28: Jesse Tree Craft
- ◇ November 9-11: BOA members attending the Fall Gathering at Lake Yale
- ◇ December: Angel Tree Project—more information to come

OCTOBER HAPPENINGS



Our Oktoberfest celebration will be held after worship on Sunday, October 21st!

As in previous years, it will be a celebration of food and faith! What a great opportunity to meet someone you don't know or catch up with fellow TLC members. Bring your friends and family.

Brats and hotdogs will be provided. A sign up sheet will be posted in Fellowship Hall in early October so that members can sign up to bring a side dish, dessert, condiments or drinks. Bring your favorite German dish to share!

Let us know if you have suggestions for games and activities.

Hope to see you there!



Use these alphabetical reminders of how to treat your pastors:

Accept them as people.

Build them up. Say "thank you."

Communicate with them.

Defend them when someone tries to run them down.

Entertain them. They like to have fun, too!

Family. Allow them to have a family life.

Genuine. Be honest with them. Be yourself around them.

Honor them. Don't put them on a pedestal, but respect them.

Income. Pay them enough so money isn't a concern.

Judge not! Avoid being critical.

Kind. Treat pastors as you want to be treated.

Love. See 1 Corinthians 13.

Maintain. Their families have the same needs as other families.

Nurture. Help them grow in grace.

Offer to help. The list of things you can do is endless.

Pray for them. Lift up their names to God daily.

Quelch not. Encourage instead!

Rejoice in and with them.

Surprise them — in little and big ways.

Trust them. Believe in them.

Understand them. Put yourself in their place.

Vacation. They need time away.

Welcome them into your home. Don't wait for an invitation.

eXpend yourself, not them.

Yoke. Help them bear their burdens with grace and dignity.

Zap all gossip!



Pastor Paul supports my efforts to continue my faith journey. He answers my questions, reminds me to focus on the main idea, and encourages me to speak from my relationship with God and our church family.
Lynne

On behalf of your congregation, thank you for sharing your faith, your love and your caring for all people. Your message continually reminds us that God loves us - yes, even us - with all of our flaws and imperfections. Thank you for believing in us and encouraging us to continue in our mission to be God's hands in the world.
With love and gratitude,
Lisa



I was here at Trinity BPP...Before Pastor Paul. And I am WPP...With Pastor Paul. I Love the message he brings. I enjoy listening to the church come alive and fresh. We are truly a church family. Alan brought icing on the cake. Thanks be to God. Amen.
Jan



We are grateful for the manner that Pastor Paul teaches as he preaches. He explains the historical and religious context of the readings from the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel in a way that helps us understand why the people, the disciples and Jesus did what they did or said what they said. It enriches our understanding of the readings in a way that we haven't experienced in other churches. We're also grateful to him for maintaining an atmosphere at Trinity that welcomes everyone. Doug and Kim



10/04 Shirley Carter
10/04 Lynne Tallon
10/06 Esther Marshick
10/08 Virginia Rooker
10/11 Phil Rearick
10/23 Carol Bertoluzzi
10/23 Monaye Kearse
10/27 Michael Soli
10/28 Robert Burke
10/30 Larry Truglio

Oct. 7th Elisa Osman
Oct. 14th Betty Napolitano
Oct. 21st Laura McLemore
Oct. 28th Craig & Helen Mowrer



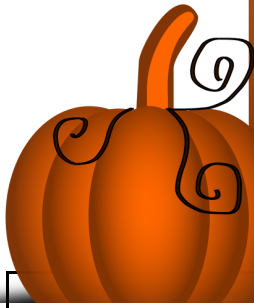
10/20 Craig & Helen Mowrer

October Servers

	October 7	October 14	October 21	October 28
Acolyte	Matthew Reitz	Doug Forcino	Danny Burtless	Brendan Hall
Assisting Ministers	Alan Due	Doug Forcino	Matthew Reitz	Lynne Tallon
Lector	Doug Forcino	Amanda Moffitt	Sean Reynolds	Mishelle Richards
Greeters	Mishelle Richards Karen Toth	Matthew Reitz Amanda Moffitt	Barbara Macomb Bill Diefel	Carol Bertoluzzi Lisa Johnson
Ushers	Barbara Macomb Amanda Moffitt Rebecca Reitz Mishelle Richards Karen Toth	Jan Dorr Lisa Johnson Amanda Moffitt Matthew Reitz Rebecca Reitz	Janet Crim Bill Diefel Charlene Diefel Barbara Macomb Rebecca Reitz	Lisa Johnson Helen Mowrer Rebecca Reitz Mishelle Richards Karen Toth

Trinity Lutheran Church Calendar

OCTOBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 10 AM Food Pantry	6 8 AM Loaves & Fishes Breakfast
7 8:30 Choir 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship	8	9 10 AM Food Pantry	10 5:45 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Suppertime Study	11	12 10 AM Food Pantry	13 8 AM Loaves & Fishes Breakfast 9 AM Congregational Breakfast
14 8:30 Choir 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship	15 6:00 Council Meeting	16 10 AM Food Pantry Patriot Day	17 5:45 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Suppertime Study	18	19 10 AM Food Pantry	20 8 AM Loaves & Fishes Breakfast
21 8:30 Choir 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION	22	23 10 AM Food Pantry	24 5:45 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Suppertime Study	25	26 10 AM Food Pantry	27 8 AM Loaves & Fishes Breakfast 1st Day of Autumn
28 REFORMATION SUNDAY 8:30 Choir 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship	29	30 10 AM Food Pantry	31 5:45 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Suppertime Study		Church office hours: Monday -Thursday 9 am - 3 pm	
10/28 After Worship BOA Jesse Tree Craft						