

# TRINITY COURIER

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



Trinity Lutheran Church  
401 Fifth Street North  
Saint Petersburg, FL 33701  
727-822-3307  
[www.trinitylutheranstpete.org](http://www.trinitylutheranstpete.org)



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

*"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)*

As we come to another annual meeting in the life of this congregation, these are the verses assigned to be heard in worship on Sunday, February 3. They are perhaps the most well-known Bible verses in the world, thanks to their popularity for use at weddings. The apostle Paul wasn't thinking about romantic love when he wrote them, though; he was describing the kind of love that needs to exist within Christian communities.

I am grateful to God for allowing me to serve a congregation that is so loving. You are patient with me and with one another; if there is an arrogant or rude person in this congregation, you hide it very well! Most importantly, this is a congregation that "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things."

Seventy to eighty of you come every week to worship God in a sanctuary that could seat four hundred. Some of you remember when this building was full of children and teenagers, and you continue to be faithful, even as we worry about keeping our doors open from month to month.

This continues to be a congregation without financial security, but with a great sense of mission. We're always looking for ways to get more people sitting in our pews and participating in our ministries, increase generous giving to our mission and our daily operation, and find creative ways to generate more income than what is put in the offering plate.

At the same time, we offer life-changing love and service to our neighbors, not only through our food pantry, Saturday breakfast, and cold night shelter, but by providing meeting space for a number of twelve-step groups.

This is why I continue to be confident about this congregation's future. We need to love and serve God and our neighbors and remain open to the Holy Spirit's guidance on how to become financially stable. I want to thank Daryl Stewart, Larry Truglio, and Kevin Boyd for their

(Continued on next page)



### **Trinity Lutheran Church**

**Paul Gibson—Pastor**

**Lynne Tallon—Deacon**

**Ron Turner—Organist and  
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
- Pastor Paul Gibson

*Pastor Paul continued from page 1:*

suggestions and hard work in securing financial opportunities for the church.

Our Sunday morning worship is of the highest quality, enabling people to praise God and grow in understanding their individual call to discipleship. In my preaching, I strive to explain the original context of the scriptures and make them relevant to people's 21<sup>st</sup>-century faith journeys.

The biggest changes in our worship have been the option of bread in Holy Communion and the addition of some newly-written hymns and contemporary worship songs. Special thanks to Leah Heinicke, Marty Snapp, Lynne Tallon, and other bread-bakers and to Brendan Hall for accompanying the hymns and for helping to teach them to the congregation.

Our Sunday morning Bible studies and Wednesday evening "supper time studies" gave people opportunities to delve even deeper into the words of scripture and questions of faith and discipleship. On Sunday mornings, we discussed the gospel of Matthew and the book of Judges; Wednesday evenings were spent watching and discussing videos by Pastor Rob Bell, working through the ELCA's draft social statement on women and justice and discussing the songs of Mary, Simeon, and Zechariah that are found at the beginning of Luke's gospel.

Our confirmation student, Danny Burtless, received a thorough immersion in the cultural background of the Bible, the content of the Old and New Testaments, and how Lutherans

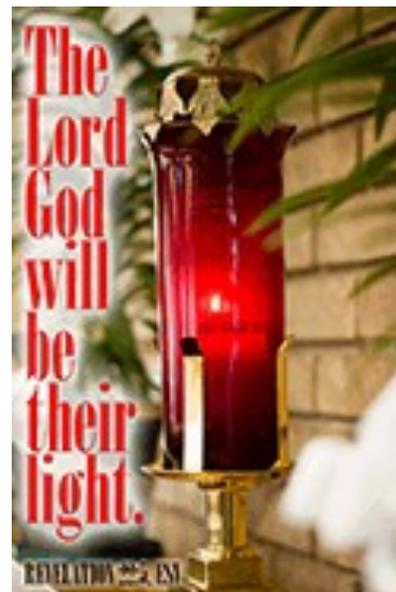
read and interpret the words of scripture. And he kept coming back for more!

We've had a lot of changes to church staff this year; the most positive change has been the hiring of Kim Forcino to take control of the church office and try to keep the pastor on track. Margie Smith was forced to retire, but continued to take care of the church's bookkeeping on a temporary basis. She can no longer do that; we need to find a volunteer from the congregation who has accounting experience or hire another paid staff person.

The members and friends of Trinity love one another, love our neighbors, and love the word of God. For these reasons and more, I encourage all of you to "rejoice in the truth" that God has great plans for us and will also empower us to do them.

Your brother in Christ,

*Pastor Paul*



# Souper Bowl of Caring

## Each One Bring One!

On Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Trinity will be launching its annual **Souper Bowl of Caring** drive with a Chili Cook-off luncheon. The **Souper Bowl of Caring** originated with church youth across the nation working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl. This year, we will be aligning our drive with Lent, a time to “give up” something for the benefit of those in need within our community. Each week in Lent will have a different focus, a different way to meet basic needs, a different opportunity for making a difference:



Week	Focus	Needed Items
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	Food	Canned soups, tuna, saltine crackers, peanut butter
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Clothing	Coats, belts, men’s clothes, visors, caps
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Water	Reusable water bottles
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Energy	Shoes, socks, and sandals for both men and women
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Transportation	Bus passes
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Gratitude	Time, talent, treasure (more information coming)

The above dates represent the Sundays in Lent. For the worship service each week, we are requesting that every member, who is able, brings one of the items listed in the third column. There will be large bowls or pots located in the sanctuary to collect your gifts. All items will go to support Trinity’s Food Pantry and Cold Night Shelter ministries.



## Notes from the Organ Bench

Hello, Trinity Church!

My name is Ron Turner, and I became your new organist on February first. I'm excited to meet everyone, and work with the choir and staff to enhance our worship and outreach. Please email me at [tlorganist@mylutheran.org](mailto:tlorganist@mylutheran.org) or call me at 727-772-3268.

My office will be on the second floor so I can be easily accessible to other staff members and to you. Hopefully you will see some new faces in the choir in the next few months as we work to grow.

I am preparing a concert series to assist with raising money for the music program, and to make us more visible as a music venue in downtown. I have four guest artists I am discussing dates with, and hope to line up more in the next weeks. I am also hoping that some of our resident talent will be amenable to performing as well.

Many projects are in the works, and I ask for your prayers and support. Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

Ron



## Join the Church Choir



The brilliant Christian psychiatrist, Dr. Walter Menninger, said that singing in a church choir was very helpful to him. After an exhausting day at work, he found it inspirational and soothing to go to choir practice at his church. The music enabled him to put the stress of his day behind him, get in touch with something beautiful and holy, and end the day relaxed and uplifted.

Ask a choir member what singing in a choir does for him or her. It's very likely that you'll find he or she gets great joy in serving the Lord through singing. And remember, also, there is wonderful fellowship among choir members. Singing in a choir is a good way to make new friends. Try it.

(Sundays and Seasons, September 2002 Issue)



## **Worship and Music Committee**

Mary Cassaday Jones

The Worship and Music Committee met for the first time in years last month to facilitate the job search for a new Organist and Director of Music for Trinity. Committee members are: Mary Cassaday Jones, Gretchen Frederick, Craig and Helen Mowrer, Phil Rearick, Chris Burtless, and Toni Durilla. The group discussed the many different ways the music ministry could grow and wrote the job description for the new position. We had a candidate recommended by other church musicians and interviewed Ronald Turner. The interview lasted over an hour and included discussion as well as an audition in which he played a contemporary organ work, a piece for organ by Bach and a hymn. Members of the committee also contacted all of Ron's references and recent employers. The recommendations were stellar!

Ron has received a copy of the job description, part of which is included here. The part-time Organist and Director of Music leads the music ministry. This position reports to the church council and plans music in collaboration with the pastor and the worship and music committee. Additional compensation is available by providing services as Organist and Director of Music for special events, such as weddings and funerals.

Moving forward, the committee will facilitate Ron's transition into his new role as our Organist and Director of Music. Additionally, Worship and Music Committee members are available to discuss Trinity's music ministry with YOU! We are here to continue building the music program and make worship services as meaningful as possible. I've already received feedback that using the piano more often during services is a welcome addition.

Finally, the committee wishes to thank the entire choir, section leaders Lauren Brautigam, Mary Wyatt, Jim Beaty, Brenden Hall, Doug and Kim Forcino, Pastor Paul and Lisa Johnson, council president, for keeping this transition time positive! We've been having fun and there is lots of joy to share!

## **ORGANIST AND DIRECTOR OF MUSIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- 1) Plan/coordinate seasonally with pastor and worship and music committee appropriate music/liturgy for all worship opportunities
- 2) Select appropriate hymns, anthems and other music, in conjunction with pastor and worship and music committee, reflective of the liturgical season and designated scripture texts
- 3) Recruit and build the choir and develop a larger music ministry
- 4) Prepare the choir for services
- 5) Hire and supervise choir section leaders and other service musicians
- 6) Play the organ or piano for worship services, seasonal services, and occasional services
- 7) Coordinate with the bell choir director for service music
- 8) Organize and manage the existing music library
- 9) Select and purchase music and resources within budgetary parameters
- 10) Oversee maintenance of musical instruments within the approved budget and provide reports specifying maintenance needs to the church council
- 11) Participate in tasks such as staff meetings and meet other staff expectations as designated by the church council
- 12) Submit information about the music ministry for bulletins, social media, newsletters and annual reports
- 13) Arrange for qualified substitutes for all personal absences
- 14) Complete other job duties under the direction of the church council



## Feed My Sheep Update

This past month the pantry was able to provide for 325 friends in our community.



There has been a reorganization of our space through the efforts of Jeanette, Alan, Ruth, and Norman, new members of the Trinity family. We have been blessed with heavy duty shelving, cupboards, clothing racks and large vinyl containers. The addition of shelving allows us to store canned goods for easy access, the vinyl containers hold items not canned which keep pests from helping themselves to a treat and with the heavy duty clothing racks we can now put like clothing sizes together for easier browsing.

We have begun a process whereby the food pantry will have 501c3 status (non-profit). The purpose for this change is so more corporate organizations will be willing to support our mission. I'll keep you posted on its progress.

May God continue to bless this ministry and those who serve and are served.

God be with you,  
*Lynne Tallon*

### FEBRUARY PANTRY NEEDS

**Canned Soup**

**Canned Pasta (pop-top cans)**

**Crackers (saltines, Ritz, and club)**

Donations made by our Trinity family and friends have helped tremendously. Our friend Martha is a wiz at on-line shopping for hygiene products, Janet Crim and the other residents at Peterborough send over weekly food donations, members of the Stamp Club provide laundry soap as well as food items, and of course members and friends continue to provide financial support.



Hours donated by volunteers is a source of joy. Along with the "founders" of the pantry we now have several new to the group- Jeanette, Alan, Ruth, Norman, Elizabeth, Gretchen, Martha, Sandy, Clark, Marcus, and Ed. All are welcome to stop by and volunteer as you are able.



***A heartfelt thank you to our awesome Pantry volunteers!***

# Band of Angels Update



## Priceless Products



A few of our group got together after church on January 20th to create products with the mounted flowers they had pressed over the past month. Check out the beautiful notecard created by Karen Toth and the pressed flowers in the lovely antique frame

done by Helen Mowrer.

Helen's thoughts about her experience: I would like to thank Yvonne Ast for suggesting such a fun, artsy project for the Band of Angels. This was a creative project we had to plan and prepare for in advance. Karen Toth sent out an email to the group when she saw pansy's at Home Depot - I went down that afternoon and picked 6 plants up. Our next instruction was to cut blooms and leaves off the plant and press in a heavy book, between sheets of tissue for at least a week. Boy was it hard not to sneak a little peak. After about 3 weeks, I opened the book and transferred the beautiful pressed blossoms to a box for safe keeping. Initially the thought was to do thank you cards but I text and email my communications more often. I found cute little picture frames to complete my pressed flower craft. For an hour after church, it was fun to sit, chat and laugh with Karen, Lynn and Yvonne while exploring our creative sides. I will "PRESS" on!



## Let 'Em Eat Cake Danielle Anderson

To God be the glory and all thanks be to Him as well. I am so happy to say that the first official Let 'Em Eat Cake meeting was awesome! Not only did we have some of the women from Band of Angels, but also some of my close girlfriends and new faces in the church, like Miss Violet, came out to support and discuss our first topic of being a woman.

Not only did the discussion go smooth but the sweet ending came when everyone enjoyed the cake provided by DDW Sweet Pounds!

What's next? Well, February 4, 2019, the first Monday evening of the month, same time, same place, we will meet again. Hopefully with some new faces, we will discuss additional topics and continue to learn from one another and grow together!

## BOA 2019 PLANNING MEETING

Sunday, February 24th

After Fellowship

Think of what you have to offer and come prepared to discuss how each of us will serve and support.

# TLC Updates

## Cold Night Shelter Update

On Monday night, January 28, ten volunteers opened the Trinity cold night shelter in the third floor fellowship hall and welcomed 21 guests who needed a warm, safe place to sleep. The guests were treated to pizza, iced tea and lemonade for dinner, unlimited coffee during the night and a breakfast of instant oatmeal, fruit, muffins, juice and coffee. Our guests were genuinely grateful for what we did for them. We created trust and built relationships with this segment of our community.

The Pinellas County shelter system was also open on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, but due to a problem with the heating system in the third floor fellowship hall that we discovered on Monday and was diagnosed by a service technician on Tuesday, we were closed both nights. Instead, we met our guests in the parking lot both nights to help them board buses and vans to another shelter in Pinellas Park and to hand out blankets, socks and gloves to those who were in need of those items. Word about our shelter must have spread quickly through the community because our group of 21 guests on Monday had grown to 35 or more on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Be ever mindful that we are doing good things for those on the fringes of society that so many people simply overlook or avoid. And we should be mindful as well that it is a blessing to be able to do it.



## CONGRATULATIONS BRENDAN!



Trinity's own, Brendan Hall, was honored at the Optimist Clubs of Zone 9 North Florida District Youth Appreciation Banquet on January 31st. He was one of

four students that the combined clubs honored this year for their academic, community, and personal accomplishments. The purpose of the award is to draw attention to the good things that youth are doing in our midst.

Karen Toth, a member of the Breakfast Optimist Club, shared a touching history of Brendan's growth and development as a church member and musician over several years. After graduation from high school, Brendan plans to continue his studies at the college level to pursue his interest in music, majoring in music education and piano performance.



# TEAM TRINITY IS SUPPORTING THE



The Honor Ride is a non-competitive cycling event that raises crucial, life-changing funds in support of Project Hero's local programs, which have proven results helping wounded, ill and healing veterans improve their physical and mental health at no cost to them.

Members of Trinity have committed to cycling 25 miles on Saturday, February 16. How much will you donate in support of them? Donation forms will be available at church for the next two weeks. You can also call the church office to make your pledge.

Team Trinity has been meeting regularly on Saturday mornings to train for the upcoming ride. We've covered miles of the Pinellas bike trail from the Saturday morning market to Dunedin Main Street, as well as side trips to Gulf Port and other places south. We've enjoyed the beauty of nature, breaks by the waterside, wildlife sightings, and food and beverages along the way.





## ALTAR FLOWERS



- 02/05 Art Pass
- 02/05 Marty Snapp
- 02/06 Ginni Truglio
- 02/13 Craig Mowrer
- 02/18 David Amann
- 02/23 Sean Reynolds
- 02/26 Alan Due

- 02/03
- 02/10
- 01/17
- 02/24

*Lots of openings  
this month. Please  
consider  
sponsoring  
flowers!*



Trinity's  
Annual  
Congregational  
Meeting  
February 3,  
2019



## FEBRUARY SERVERS

	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
<b>Acolyte</b>	Matthew Reitz	Phil Rearick	Danny Burtless	Doug Forcino
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Matthew Reitz	Phil Rearick Lynne Tallon	Alan Due	Doug Forcino
<b>Lector</b>	Pastor Tom Snapp	Amanda Moffitt	Alan Due	Charlie Hahn
<b>Greeters</b>	Jan Dorr Karen Toth	Charlie Hahn Matthew Reitz	Janet Crim Barbara Macomb	Bill Diefel Charlene Diefel
<b>Ushers</b>	Trudy Daniels Jan Dorr Helen Mowrer Rebecca Reitz Karen Toth	Charlie Hahn Lisa Johnson Barbara Macomb Matthew Reitz Rebecca Reitz	Janet Crim Jan Dorr Lisa Johnson Barbara Macomb Amanda Moffitt	Bill Diefel Charlene Diefel Charlie Hahn Rebecca Reitz Karen Toth



# Trinity Lutheran Church Calendar

## FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Church office hours:</b> <b>Monday - Thursday</b> <b>9 am - 3 pm</b></p>					<p>1 10:00 Food Pantry</p>	<p>2 8:00 Loaves &amp; Fishes breakfast</p>
<p>3 8:30 Choir 9:00 Bible study 10:00 Worship</p>	4	<p>5 10:00 Food Pantry</p>	<p>6 8:15 Men's Breakfast 5:45 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Suppertime Study</p>	<p>7 10:00 Food Pantry</p>	8	9
<p>10 8:30 Choir 9:00 Bible study 10:00 Worship</p>	11	<p>12 10:00 Food Pantry</p>	<p>13 8:15 Men's Breakfast 5:45 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Suppertime Study</p>	<p>14 </p>	<p>15 10:00 Food Pantry</p>	<p>16 8:00 Loaves &amp; Fishes breakfast <b>Wounded Warrior Honor Ride—Go Team Trinity</b></p>
<p>17 8:30 Choir 9:00 Bible study 10:00 Worship</p>	<p>18  <b>PRESIDENTS DAY</b> Office Closed</p>	<p>19 10:00 Food Pantry</p>	<p>20 8:15 Men's Breakfast 5:45 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Suppertime Study</p>	21	<p>22 10:00 Food Pantry</p>	<p>23 8:00 Loaves &amp; Fishes breakfast 9:00 <b>Congregational Breakfast</b></p>
<p>24 8:30 Choir 9:00 Bible study 10:00 Worship <b>BOA MEETING PLANNING FOR 2019</b></p>	25	<p>26 10:00 Food Pantry</p>	<p>27 8:15 Men's Breakfast 5:45 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Suppertime Study</p>	28	<p> <i>Happy Valentine's Day!</i></p>	