

TRINITY COURIER

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



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

"Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and give to God the things that are God's."

(Matthew 22:21)

When I preached on this text recently, I pointed out that Jesus wasn't dividing the world into two categories; he wasn't saying that some things belong to Caesar, while other things belong to God.

Everything in creation belongs to God, because God created everything. Some things are loaned to "Caesar," in the form of taxes. But we do that because we recognize that a good and effective government is put in place by God for our benefit. The government is one of the ways that God provides us with everything that we need in life.

What I didn't try to tackle in that sermon is that fact that everything in our wallet and everything in our bank account also belongs to God. It has just been loaned to us so that we can partner with God in the good stewardship of the world.

There's a line in the musical "Hello, Dolly!" that says, "Money, you'll excuse the expression, is like manure. It doesn't do much good unless you spread it around."

If that's true, a lot of us are staking our future happiness and security on how much manure we can collect and hold onto.

Jesus knew that money has way too much control over our minds and hearts. He talked about money more than any other subject. More than love, more than justice, more than the kingdom of God.

Even so, I very rarely preach about money; it makes me uncomfortable. But, in avoiding the topic, I'm also not providing some of you with the help and guidance you need.

In the gospel for Reformation Sunday, Jesus says, "If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed." Do you feel free from worries about money? Do you control your money, or does it control you?

This is a very old joke, but I hadn't heard it until recently:

Two well-worn bills arrived at the Federal Reserve Bank to be retired – a twenty-dollar bill and a one-dollar bill. As they traveled down the conveyor belt, they struck up a conversation. The twenty reminisced about the interesting life he had, traveling all over the country. "I've been to the finest restaurants, Broadway shows, Atlantic City, all kinds of clothing stores and shoe stores," he said. "I've been to Europe.

(Continued on next page)



Trinity Lutheran Church

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

Council Members

- Jan Dorr, President
- Lee Magnus, Vice President
- Gary Ruhl, Secretary
- Helen Mowrer, Treasurer
- Toni Durilla, Financial
Secretary
- Robert Burke
- Pastor Paul Gibson
- Norma Heinicke
- Anne Ruhl
- Lynne Tallon

Pastor Paul continued from page 1:

I even went on a Caribbean cruise. Where have you been?"

"Oh," said the one-dollar bill, "I've been to the Methodist church, the Episcopal church, the Lutheran church."

"What's a church?" asked the twenty.

To put it more bluntly than I usually dare, too many Christians put singles in the plate and are unwilling to devote their twenties to the creation of God's kingdom.

In a lot of churches, November is "Stewardship Month"—a series of sermons and classes and small-group meetings designed to convince participants that they can and should give more generously to their church.

As far as I know, Trinity has never had an organized stewardship campaign. But it's standard practice in most congregations.

This congregation needs someone blessed by God with the gift to get people talking honestly about "their money," the money entrusted to them by God, and how they spend, save, and invest it. One of those investments needs to be the kingdom of God and this church.

Even though we won't have a stewardship campaign at Trinity anytime soon, I hope that as we roll into the month of November,

and you think about the money you will be spending between now and Christmas, and maybe even about your budget for 2018—you'll remember that the Church Council is preparing Trinity's budget for 2018, and, while we've made some strides in getting the congregation on a more stable foundation, we are still far from the place that guarantees this congregation an assured future doing ministry in St. Petersburg.

Please prayerfully consider the role that Trinity should play and will play in your own 2018 budget.

I'll leave you with a few verses from 1 Corinthians, which are quoted (from a different Bible translation) elsewhere in this newsletter. After all, November is also the month when we celebrate Thanksgiving.

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work... You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God..." (2 Corinthians 9:7-11)

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Paul



Band of Angels

Thanks again to all who planned, worked and participated in the Oktoberfest.

I particularly want to thank Leah Heinicke for the fantastic table trivia and to Susan Amann for organizing the meal. Great teamwork and a fun event!

On November 26, the Angel Tree will return to the fellowship hall, but with a bit of a difference. This year, we are planning an ingathering of gift cards in different amount for different establishments. Our hope is that this will provide us with means to help more people. When you



choose an angel from the tree, instead of a specific item it will list a store and an amount.

To help fund this project (in addition to the tree angels) watch for the return of the famous BOA Bake Sale! We are planning two holiday-themed events, the first of which will be on November 19, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Bring a few extra dollars and enjoy some yummy maple, cranberry and pumpkin treats!

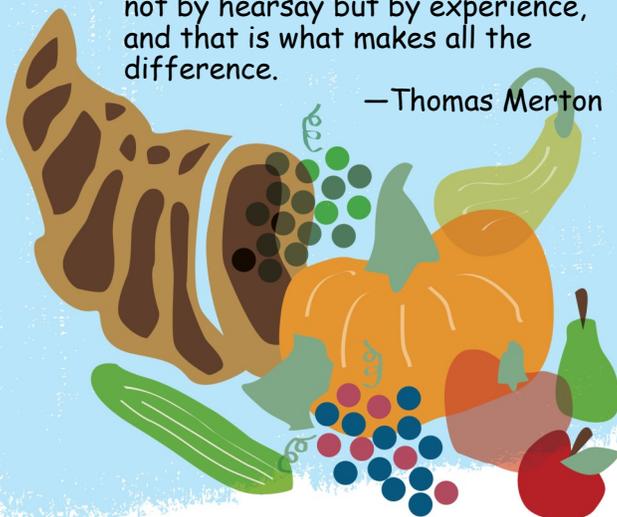
We appreciate your support!
Peace,

- Lisa Johnson

To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything he has given us — and he has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of his love. Every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from him.

Gratitude, therefore, takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God; for the grateful person knows that God is good not by hearsay but by experience, and that is what makes all the difference.

—Thomas Merton



Fall Back

**Set your clocks
back one hour
November 5**

Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.
—William Arthur Ward



November 26

Scenes from



Leah, Janet, Barb, Emily, Anne, Gary, Norma



Lisa played Alex Trebek for a challenging game of "Reformation Jeopardy!"



Carol and Bert enjoy good food and good conversation.



...and some of the questions stumped the contestants.



David, Susan, Matthew, Brendan, Rebecca



Fred and Joyce Due, Alan, Marty, Ann, Tyra, Dylan



Sew-N-Sews

It is drawing toward the time of year when we've traditionally participated in the "blessing of the quilts" - that Sunday when the annual output of the quilters group of our church lines the altar rails, and the pastor includes prayers that the quilts will be given to worthy causes, and received by those in need.

We quilters feel blessed that our works of love can find homes with persons whose lives can be cheered in receiving such a gift. We are grateful for the generosity of members and friends who have donated the materials for these items. We've occasionally wondered if perhaps we should make use of one of them from each batch, perhaps, to auction off to the highest bidder, and use the funds for purchasing the batting and binding we often use to complete the quilts, but each year, we seem to find ways to complete our projects



without resorting to such measures.

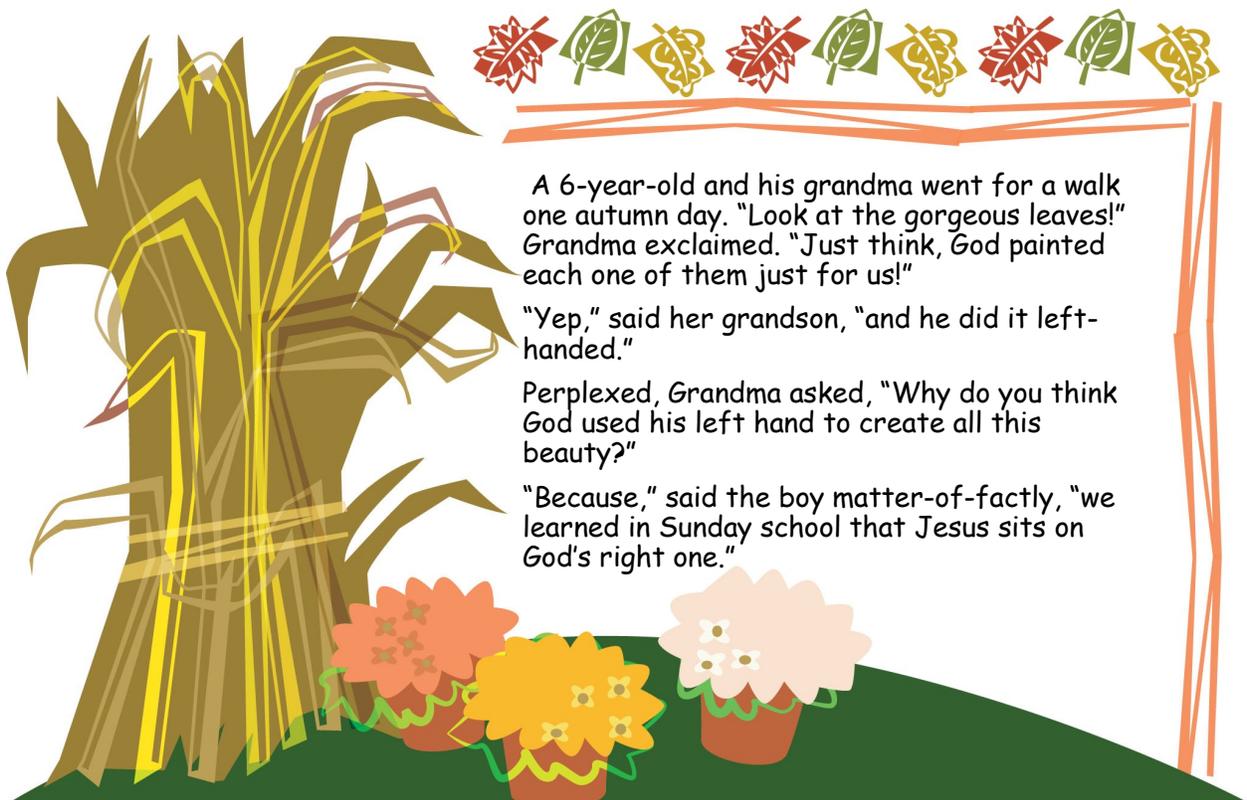
Some of our sewing machines are in need of repair. The husband of one of our former members used to spend his time in repairing the

machines as he waited for his wife. This couple is no longer with us. If you know of someone who is mechanically-minded and has some time to look over the "lame" machines, please let our needs be known.

Our output would also be increased should our numbers increase. Join us some Wednesday morning next door to our basement Pantry. We work from 9:30 to 11:30 each Wednesday morning and would enjoy welcoming you.

Sew 'n Sews

Norma, Anne, Maritta, and Janet.



A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."

A
Note from
the
Music
Director

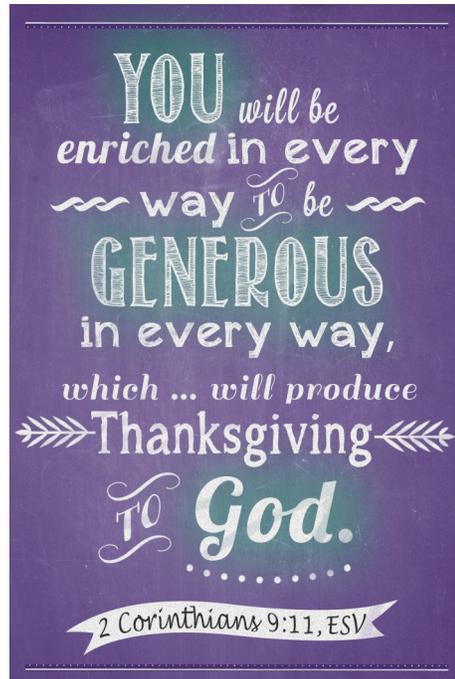
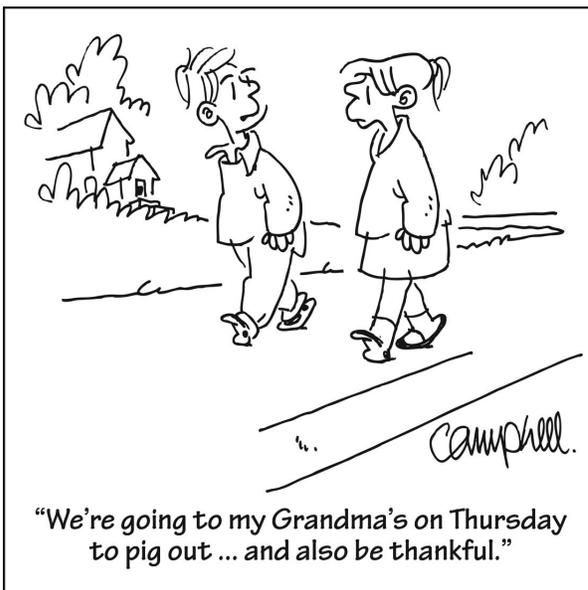
The music library is in the process of being reorganized. It was previously housed in the undercroft where the St. Pete AA group now meets.

This group carefully boxed the music and moved it to the third floor. This past month, Azur installed shelves in the rear alcove of the auditorium to hold the music. Hearty thanks to Azur for his hard work on this project.

Thanks to Pastor Paul Gibson for his help and computer expertise in preparing Gospel Acclamation sheets for the choir, and to Nancy Soli and Phil Rearick for help in organizing the choir robes.

In November we continue to use Reformation-era service music in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the 95 Theses. Beginning in Advent, we will use the service music in ELW setting 5.

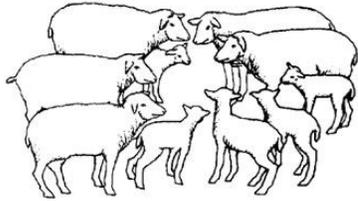
Tom Hall
Organist and Director of Music



A priest told the children of his parish they could come trick-or-treating at the rectory, but only if they dressed up as a saint. So a group arrived on the eve of All Saints' Day: one dressed as St. Anthony, one as St. Joseph, another in a St. Clare costume — and then a child dressed as a dog.

"My boy," exclaimed the priest, "you were supposed to come as a saint."
"I did!" replied the child. "I'm St. Bernard."





NEWS FROM THE FLOCK



Pastor Tom was one of those recognized at Synod Assembly for 45 years of ministry.



Carol Dunn was honored at the AIDS Partnership dinner served by members of Trinity.

Martin Rinkart, a German Lutheran minister, wrote the hymn “Now Thank We All Our God” in 1636. At the time, the Thirty Years’ War was ravaging central Europe, claiming millions of lives. Rinkart served as pastor in Eilenburg, a walled town that became a crowded refuge for starving fugitives. Although Rinkart was struggling to provide for his own family, he opened his own home to people in need.

After the plague entered Eilenburg, Rinkart conducted up to 50 funerals a day — including services for his wife and the only other two pastors in town. Amid the despair, he wrote many hymns, including “Now Thank We All Our God.” Originally intended as a table prayer, it’s now sung at Thanksgiving to remember God’s “countless gifts of love” — even during hardships.

Now Thank We All Our God

1. Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.
2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us still in grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
and free us from all ills,
in this world and the next.
3. All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given;
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Feed My Sheep November Update



252 people were served in October.

The decrease from September was due to the Food Pantry being closed on Friday, October 13, because most of the volunteers were attending Synod Assembly.

A member of Trinity went to the general meeting of the American Legion Post 125 on Monday, October 16. During the meeting, the Commander, John Sloat, told the membership that there were funds available for charitable contributions. Our member took that as an invitation to speak about Trinity's Food Pantry - first thanking them for a previous contribution - then speaking up

for the possibility of another contribution. The group asked how much Trinity needed, with no definite amount in mind our member left it to their discretion. The Commander gave an amount of \$1000 which was voted on and approved. Following this approval another member of the American Legion spoke of how many are helped by Trinity's Pantry and by the Saturday breakfast. While this was happening, back at Trinity we were discussing our balance in the pantry fund and wondering how we could finish out this year. The moral behind this story goes back to Pastor Paul's comments at Bible study that we need not fear speaking out about our ministry needs - you'll never know who is out there available to help. Thank you Jim Tallon for speaking out.

Monday, November 27, 2017 is the Trinity Food Pantry fundraiser at Hamburger Mary's on Tyrone Blvd. in St. Petersburg. Bingo starts at 7:30 pm. Join us about 6:30pm to

get ready for good food and good fellowship for a good cause. Reservations can be made by calling Hamburger Mary's at 727-851-9386, be sure to tell them you are with Trinity Lutheran. We must guarantee 100 people so invite friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. Trinity is responsible for 10 Bingo prizes. If you have any connections with businesses who would be willing to donate a prize valued at \$25, now is the time to ask. If you need a letter of introduction and/or our tax exempt number please contact Margie, our awesome Administrative Assistant, and she will provide you with this information. On the evening of this event we will also need "bold" participants to sell 50/50 raffle tickets. See Lynne Tallon if you can help.

May God continue to guide our efforts,

*Alan Due
and Lynne Tallon*





11/8/2014 Lisa & Whitney Johnson (3)



- 11/1 Jeanne Oakley
- 11/10 Paris Smith
- 11/19 Anne Ruhl
- 11/20 Abraham Barlee
- 11/20 Brian Taylor
- 11/28 Alexandra Barlee
- 11/30 David Morsonch

*What
we're
thankful
for*



NOVEMBER SERVERS

(Note openings for flowers and fellowship)

	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26
Acolyte	Karen Toth	Alan Due	Phil Rearick	Alan Due
Assisting Ministers	Karen Toth, Phil Rearick	Alan Due	Lynne Tallon Phil Rearick	Alan Due
Lector	Leah Heinicke	Craig Mowrer	Daryl Stewart	Alan Due
Greeters	Betty Napolitano, Anne Ruhl	Bert Bertoluzzi, Pat Kapfhammer	Jen Durilla, Vanneita Anderson	Tyra Humphrey, Pat Kapfhammer
Ushers	Helen Mowrer, Betty Napolitano, Rebecca Reitz, Anne Ruhl, Gary Ruhl	Vanneita Anderson, Bert Bertoluzzi, Pat Kapfhammer, Matthew Reita, Rebecca Reitz	Vanneita Anderson, Jennifer Durilla, Toni Durilla, Betty Napolitano, Rebecca Reitz	Tyra Humphrey, Pat Kapfhammer, Rebecca Reitz, Anne Ruhl, Gary Ruhl
Flowers	Lisa Johnson	Wilson/Valentine		
Fellowship				



Trinity Lutheran Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 November			1 All Saints Day 8:15 am Men's breakfast 9:30 am Sew n' Sews 6 pm Supper Study	2	3 10 am Food Pantry	4 8 am Loaves & Fishes breakfast
5 All Saints Sunday <i>Daylight Savings Time ends</i> 8:30 am Choir 9 am Bible study 10 am Worship	6	7 10 am Food Pantry	8 8:15 am Men's breakfast 9:30 am Sew n' Sews 6 pm Supper Study	9	10 10 am Food Pantry 5 pm Wedding rehearsal	11 Veterans Day 8 am Loaves & Fishes breakfast 4:30 wedding
12 8:30 am Choir 9 am Bible study 10 am Worship	13	14 10 am Food Pantry	15 8:15 am Men's breakfast 9:30 am Sew n' Sews 6 pm Supper Study	16	17 10 am Food Pantry	18 8 am Loaves & Fishes breakfast
19 8:30 am Choir 9 am Bible study 10 am Worship	20 6 pm Council	21 10 am Food Pantry	22 8:15 am Men's breakfast 9:30 am Sew n' Sews 6 pm Supper Study	23 Thanks- giving Day 2 pm homeless dinner	24 10 am Food Pantry	25 8 am Loaves & Fishes breakfast
26 8:30 am Choir 9 am Bible study 10 am Worship	27 Newsletter deadline	28 10 am Food Pantry	29 8:15 am Men's breakfast 9:30 am Sew n' Sews 6 pm Supper Study	30		Church office hours: Monday - Thursday 9 am - 3 pm