

**Tender
Loving
Courier 2016**



November



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

401 Fifth Street North, Saint Petersburg FL 33701

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All Members and Friends of Trinity – The Ministers of the Church

Paul Gibson – Pastor

Lynne Tallon – Deacon

Thomas E. Hall – Organist & Director of Music

Diane Harrop – Administrative Assistant

Azur H. Abdić – Facility Administrator

Spring Smith – Sexton

Gayle Nelson – Missionary

2016 Church Council Members

Jan Dorr, President

Norma Heinicke, Vice President

Anne Ruhl, Secretary

Helen Mowrer, Treasurer

Jacque Bishop

Toni Durilla

Pastor Paul Gibson

Gary Ruhl

Lynne Tallon

NOVEMBER EVENTS AT A GLANCE

- Nov 5 Centering Prayer Workshop," 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
at Trinity
- Nov 6 All Saints Sunday
- Nov 7 Concert at Gibbs High School
- Nov 11 Church office closed for Veterans' Day Holiday
- Nov 11-13 Synod Women's Gathering at Lake Yale
- Nov 14 FAST Research Kick-off 6:45 pm
- Nov 19 Tampa Bay Conference Gathering, 8:30-12 @
Calvary Lutheran Church, Apollo Beach
- Nov 20 WELCA Bake Sale
- Nov 20 St. Pete Interfaith Thanksgiving Service @
Empath Health, 3050 1st Ave. S
- Nov 21 Finance Team;5:30 Church Council Meeting 6:00
- Nov 24-25 Church Office Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov. 27 " Giving Thanks" meal following worship

NOV 4 – Remember to change your clocks!!

- WEEKLY ACTIVITIES FOR OUR TRINITY FAMILY -



- Sunday **Worship** 10:00 a.m.
Sunday **Bible Study** 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning **Choir Rehearsal** - 8:30 a.m.
Tuesdays & Fridays 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Food Pantry Distribution
Wed 9:30 a.m. **Sew 'n Sews**
Wed 8:15 a.m. **Men's Breakfast** @Rae Rae's
Thurs 6:00 p.m. **Bell Choir**
postponed until further notice
Sat 8:00 a.m. **Loaves & Fishes Breakfast**
Saturday Elevation Worship
Every Saturday 5:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 1 | Jeanne Oakley |
| 13 | William Reichle |
| 14 | Betty Huddleston |
| 19 | Anne Ruhl |
| 20 | Abraham Barlee |
| 20 | Brian Taylor |
| 28 | Alexanda Barlee |
| 30 | David Morsonah |



Church Register

Death

October 14 - Alan Nickerson



Baptism

October 2 –

Blake William VanDerVliet.
Parents: Bryan and Tracie. Born
March 30, 2016.





FROM THE PASTOR

“God loves a cheerful giver.”

How many of you have heard that before? The phrase comes from the apostle Paul’s Second Letter to the Corinthians.

In the middle of the first century AD, the city of Jerusalem and its Christian community faced economic hardship and famine. Paul made it a regular part of his missionary journeys to request financial assistance for Jerusalem from the more prosperous and economically stable Christian communities in other parts of the Roman Empire.

The Christians in Corinth had been very generous in the earliest years after Paul founded their church, but then had begun to fall behind on their commitments. Paul felt compelled to remind them of the promises they had made. Having done that, he went on to say:

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. (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

It’s a passage that I hope all of us will take to heart as 2016 begins to draw to a close, and the church plans its budget for 2017. God can provide all of us with the financial resources we need so that we can also be generous to others.

Trinity receives no financial subsidies from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or from the Florida-Bahamas Synod. This church is completely dependent upon the generosity of its members: through their regular offerings and through bequests from estates.

Decades ago, when church membership levels were high and church giving was more generous, some financially savvy members of Trinity set up accounts and investments that allowed us to save for a “rainy day.” In recent years, we have tapped into our savings more than is prudent. We need to become more self-sufficient.

In these last months of 2016, Trinity is not receiving the same level of giving that was happening in the first half of the year. The church’s income is down but its expenses are staying the same.

The fact of the matter is that there is already very little “fat” in Trinity’s budget. In an attempt to reduce the church’s expenses next year, I am considering cutting the hours and wages of some staff members, sacrificing some nice elements of our worship life, and abandoning some outreach and evangelism efforts.

Two years ago, I said that if every member of Trinity could afford to give the church forty dollars a week in their offering, we would have enough money to cover all of our expenses.

Some members already give much more than that each week; if they weren't doing so, this church would have closed long ago. Many members cannot afford to give forty dollars a week, and shouldn't try. But if more of our members could increase their giving to that level, our financial future would be more stable.

In an effort to learn more about people's motivations for giving, I reached out to Trinity's top financial supporters to ask them why they give to the church as generously as they do. I was surprised to learn how many of them had been taught from an early age to give at least ten percent of their income back to the church.

Do you know what percentage of income you donate to this church and to other charities? How does that percentage compare to what you spend on yourself or save for the future?

I give ten percent of my income from Trinity right back to Trinity. I also support local and national charities that I believe are doing God's work in the world.

As you make your own financial plans for 2017, I ask you to consider how you might increase the amount that you give to support the life and ministry of this church.

Determine what percentage of your income you give and whether you could increase that percentage. Consider a set increase of dollars per week or per month.

If you only put money in the offering plate on the Sundays that you are present for worship, consider how you might give to the church **every week**, regardless of your attendance. You can give by mail or set up a plan to give "electronically," directly from your bank account to the church's. See our treasurer, **Helen Mowrer**, for more information on electronic giving.

But remember the words of the apostle Paul. Your giving should always be a joyful response to the generosity God has shown you.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Paul



THE JOY OF GENEROSITY

The most generous of Trinity's financial supporters were asked about their motives for giving. Here's what some of them had to say:

1. **Why do you give generously to your church?**

- "God has blessed me and I want to share God's blessings. I know the church needs the generous contributions of its members to successfully do the work God has called it to do."
- "Back in my teens, I was taught from scripture that a tenth part of my income should be set aside for my church. When I got married, I learned it was also my husband's practice. In later years, when I had more discretionary income and saw other people didn't feel the same about church giving, I started

trying to fill the gap. Year by year, I increased my giving until I reached the point of giving a double tithe.”

- “Because it is my church, which I receive a great amount of pleasure attending, and happiness that I feel no other place.”
- “Because God’s blessings to me and my family are far beyond what we deserve.”
- “Because I was taught to.”
- “Because we want to.”

2. Is it ever difficult for you to support the church as generously as you do? If so, please explain what inspires you to give sacrificially

- “I am not giving sacrificially; I am giving God what is my due. I hear Social Security may be reduced. I’ll try to maintain my current level of giving, because God has never ‘backed down’ on me.”
- “I can’t say I’ve ever given sacrificially; it has always been my joy to pitch in whenever and wherever I could. God has so richly blessed me—how could I do otherwise?”
- “Sometimes it’s difficult because of medical bills. But I bring my concerns to God, and somehow things always work out.”
- “Sometimes it’s difficult, but I start with the church and then I pay my other bills.”
- “When I was unemployed and anxious about money, I cut my spending in many discretionary areas to be able to continue to support the church.”
- “We went through tough financial times. We kept giving because we felt we were being taken care of.”
- “There are many organizations and charities that solicit support from us, but we prefer to give most of our support to our church.”

3. Please share a story about God’s generosity to you.

- “My father left us when I was a child; we were on welfare some years, but we made it through month after month. When I first became a widow, I had some monthly anxieties, but could always breathe a sigh of relief when income was enough to cover expenses. I was clearly aware of a faithful God who saw to our every need...and then some!”
- “I am amazed by the amount of money I receive from the government for the time I spent in the military. I make more in retirement than I ever earned in my employment.”
- “Never in my life have I felt deprived. There was always a meal on the table. I always had clothes to wear. God is so good; I love him so much. When I think of the victims of disasters, I thank God for my mattress and pillow!”
- “Growing up, my family never had a lot of money. But we always managed to have what we needed and were safe and secure. Over the years, God blessed us with opportunities and things got easier. Every good thing in our lives is a blessing from God.”

4. Is there anything else that you think people should know about giving generously to their church?

- “Do it. It will make you feel good.”
- “With faith in God’s promises to love you always and to never leave you or forsake you, I think people can be more generous. It’s a matter of choice.”
- “Our church has fixed expenses that are due every month and must be paid regularly and on time. Our giving has to be as predictable as these set expenses.”
- “When I didn’t have the means to give a lot financially, I gave what I could—my time, which is also a valuable contribution. Giving generously can take many forms.”



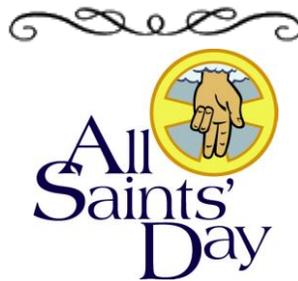
GIVING THANKS FOR MEMORIES

Our congregation will gather for a **“Giving Thanks Lunch”** after worship on **Sunday, November 27**. It’s a **pot-luck meal**; please prepare your favorite casserole dish (whether or not it contains turkey or other holiday meal ingredients).

One of the things for which we will give thanks are our family memories. Please bring some family pictures to share with other members. Of particular interest will be holiday gatherings, special events, pictures from the histories of Redeemer and Trinity churches, and pictures of St Pete from the past.

Bring those **pictures** with you on the 27th, but between now and then search for one picture of yourself to put on our **“Mystery Members” board**. A picture of you at a young age, or disguised in some way so that you think we won’t recognize you. Find that picture in the next few weeks, write your name on the back of it, bring it to the church as soon as you can, and put it in the “Mystery Members” envelope on the bulletin board.

We’ll create a game and offer a prize to the person who can identify the most “mystery members”!



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 6, 2016

We will commemorate many dear people and offer prayer for the persons who were commended to God by the ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church since All Saints’ 2015.

Alice Wolthoff
Hazel Koopman
Larry Kapsinow
Ray Guizzetti
Dorothy Metz
Alan Nickerson

The custom of remembering all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. Our All Saints Sunday also celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ.

The liturgy abounds with references to the saints and to our continual relationship with the faithful departed. The Preface for All Saints describes the relationship this way: “that moved by their witness and supported by their fellowship, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us and with them receive the unfading crown of glory.” At this special time during the year, all are encouraged to reflect on others – living and dead – who have moved and supported us in our lives of faith.



JUSTICE MINISTRY UPDATE

Twenty members of Trinity's Justice Ministry Network participated in the **annual FAST Assembly**, held at Holy Family Catholic Church on **October 24th**. We heard updates on all that has been accomplished since the Nehemiah Action at Tropicana Field in April.

Six candidates running for the state legislature were in attendance and promised to support the work of our justice ministry on a state-wide level. Three candidates for the Pinellas County School Board vowed to work with us in the coming year.

As members of FAST (Faith and Action for Strength Together), we voted to continue working on a state-wide level to ensure that children in every county have equal access to receiving a civil citation for a first-time non-violent offense, rather than being saddled with a criminal record.

We voted to continue working with the Pinellas County School Board to make needed improvements in our educational system.

We voted to seek more solutions to the lack of truly affordable housing in the county.

Any members and friends of Trinity who want to help to find achievable solutions in any of these three problem areas are encouraged to attend the **Justice Ministry Research Kick-off, which will be held at Trinity on Monday, November 14, 2016, at 6:45 p.m.**



From left to right: Don Dorr, Alan Due, Bob Burke, Kevin Boyd, Lynne Tallon, Alan Soli, and Jan Dorr at the FAST Assembly.



CENTERING PRAYER WORKSHOP November 5

Some of us were introduced to the practice of “centering prayer” at a congregational retreat day back in January. It is a form of prayer that calms and body and mind, placing us in the presence of God without the need for words or images.

Contemplative Outreach of Tampa Bay is offering a day-long workshop on centering prayer here at Trinity on **Saturday, November 5**, beginning at 8:30 a.m. During the day, you will have multiple opportunities to practice this form of prayer, along with other times for silence, reading, reflection, and sharing.

There will also be a lecture based upon the teachings of Thomas Keating, a Trappist monk who has been an advocate for centering prayer for decades.

Tea, coffee, and refreshments will be served throughout the day; participants are asked to **bring their own lunch** and to pay a “suggested donation” of \$10 to cover the costs of the event.

Please RSVP to the church office to attend the event or to get more information.

SUNDAY IS NOT A WORK DAY

Not even for pastors, and certainly not for other members of church staff. The pastor, the organist, and the paid members of our choir are certainly working on Sunday, but we're also trying to worship. The other members of church staff are not working on Sundays, they are only here to worship.

When people come to me (Pastor Paul) on a Sunday with a request or a complaint, I usually warn them that I won't remember what they've said because I can't make a note of it. I ask them to "remind" me on Monday when I'm in the office. I'd prefer we all just waited until Monday.

Sunday is the day for us to worship together and create a community of love together; we need to try and save "church business" for Monday morning.

A FINANCIAL NOTE

*Please know that all requests for checks need to go through the **Church Office**, before being passed on to our treasurer for signing. You can email your check requests or come by the office in person.*



ADVOCACY IN ADVENT

November 27 is the First Sunday of Advent. We will light the first candle on our Advent wreath and begin preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and the many surprising ways that God comes into our lives.

Advent is a season devoted to the idea of preparation, so we're putting together a series of programs to help our members be better prepared for medical emergencies and for the important choices we must make as we age.

We're negotiating with the **Red Cross** to have a day when our members can learn **CPR** and other life-saving techniques and we're putting together a series of programs with the staff of Empath Health.

On the **four Wednesdays of Advent** (Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, and 21) from **five to six p.m., members and friends of Trinity are invited to participate in "Advent Advocacy and Advice."** We will be advised on being better advocates for our medical treatment and on making decisions like having a living will and appointing health care surrogates.

The talks will be followed by a short service of evening prayer at 6 p.m. to conclude our time together and ensure that people can get home before it's too dark.

We'll offer more details of the events in the weeks ahead, but please mark the dates on your calendar now and plan to attend!

OCTOBER CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- **Toni Durilla** was welcomed as a new member of Council, to replace Don Werner until the next election at the congregational meeting in January.
- **Jan Dorr** was elected to be Council President and Norma Heinicke to be Vice President. Anne Ruhl and Helen Mowrer continue as Secretary and Treasurer.
- **Brian Alexander** was accepted as a new member of the congregation.
- Time and Talent sheets have been distributed. Members are asked to fill theirs out and return it.
- Missionary Support for Gayle Nelson was discussed and approved.
- A motion to join the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce was moved and approved.
- Council approved a 2017 budget worksheet and forwarded it to the treasurer and Finance Ministry Team for further work.
- There will be a meeting of the **Finance Team on Monday, November 21, at 5:30. The November council meeting will follow at 6 p.m.**



BAND OF ANGELS

There is much going on for Trinity Band of Angels during the month of November. We have begun our **Free Trade Candy Sales**, we have Dark Chocolate or Milk Chocolate, cost is **\$3 a bar or 2 for \$5**. Sales take place after worship on Sundays. On Friday, November 11th, 7 Band of Angels ladies will be traveling to Leesburg, Fl. to spend a weekend at Lake Yale. This is the **Yearly Fall Gathering**. Watch for a report upon our return.

Get ready to receive help for the holidays by buying home baked goodies made by the ladies and gentlemen of Team Trinity. The **second annual Band of Angels bake sale** will be on **Sunday, November 20th** following worship. Funds raised will be used for future events.

Watch for the bulletin insert later this month describing the **Angel Tree** event this year. We are asking you to let us know about those who would benefit from an Angel Tree gift. Fill out a flyer from Sunday bulletins, and submit to the office. The Angel Tree will be displayed at our **Giving Thanks Meal on Sunday, November 27th** following worship. Choose an Angel, purchase a gift, wrap the gift, put the Angel on your wrapped gift and bring to church **by Sunday, December 18th**. Gifts will be delivered to recipients during the week of December 18th through the 23rd.

TEAM TRINITY



Team Trinity and their friends will join on **Sunday, November 27th for our Giving Thanks Meal** following worship. Everyone is to bring a favorite casserole, side-dish or dessert to share. We would also like some cold drinks and ice. Church will provide the coffee and paper products. During worship on Sunday, November 27th the **quilts made by our Sew 'n Sews** will be blessed. These quilts will be given to the 2 Ronald McDonald houses in St. Petersburg.

Up coming events for December will include a **caroling event at Tyrone Mall** on Saturday, **December 10th between 1 and 2 PM**. We will be joined by other Lutheran Churches and the local chapter of Reconciling Works. Look for sign-up sheet on the fellowship bulletin board.

Other December activities :

- Bake Sale December 11th
- Angel Tree Gifts by December 18th

There is no formal Band of Angels meeting during November and December. If you have any suggestions or questions see Virginia Rooker, Lynne Tallon, or any Angel of the group.

God be with all,
Lynne Tallon



NOTES FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

Worship in November begins with **All Saints Sunday on November 6**. The Opening Voluntary will be a setting of the chorale *Before Your Throne I Now Appear* by **Johann Sebastian Bach**. The choir will present the motet *Blessed are the Dead* by 20th-century Lutheran composer **Carl Schalk**.

Between 1965 and 2004 Schalk taught church music at Concordia University Chicago. During this time, he guided the development of the university's Master of Church Music degree, which has since graduated more than 140 students. Schalk was a member of the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship, which produced *Lutheran Book of Worship* in 1978. He was also the editor of the journal *Church Music* from 1966 to 1980. He is a member of the Music Advisory Committee of Concordia Publishing House.



On November 13 Dr. **Linda Pointer** will return as guest organist, and **Mary Wyant** will be the mezzo-soprano soloist.

November 20 is the **Festival of Christ the King**. Our celebration will include **Henry Purcell's** popular anthem, *Rejoice in the Lord, Always*. Then, on **November 27**, we begin a new church year with the **First Sunday of Advent**. We will switch our service music, mostly to ELW setting 5, with a Hymn of Praise from LBW setting 3. Psalm tones and Gospel Acclamations will also change for the new season.

Yours in ministry, *Tom Hall*



We could make use of some used **mattress covers** if folks happen to have some they won't need. They make great fill for our quilts! We are currently finishing off the dozen or so we've put together this year. Come lend a hand if you are available one of these Wednesday mornings. Thanks from the Quilters!

We meet on **Wednesday mornings, 9:30 am until 11:30 am**, at Trinity. We're always looking for new members!

FEED MY SHEEP

More Than a Number

In Pastor Paul's sermon about the one grateful Samaritan Leper delivered a couple of weeks ago, he talked about the difference between just looking at something and **really seeing** it. He reminded us that a big part of our calling as followers of Jesus is to "really see" the world and the people around us and not just look at it and them. This month, we, wanted you to "see" a couple of the **163 people** you helped serve in the month of October:



Meet **Cheryl Johnson**. One of 8 children, she was born in Camden, New Jersey. Desiring to start anew and find a better life, she moved to Florida at the age of 18. Having graduated from high school, Cheryl did production work in factories until she was declared mentally disabled. Since she lost her job, she has no income and, for the last 5 years, has received a supplement to live at the Cara House, located behind the church. When asked about her future, she believes that anything can happen and is waiting to see what the Lord will bring.

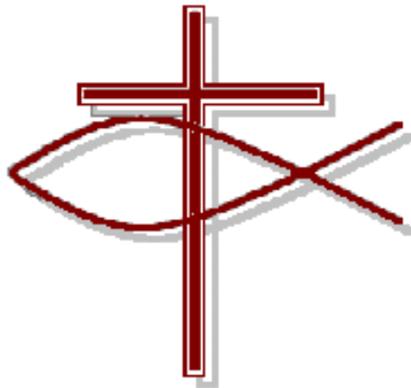
One can often find **Darrell Williams** cleaning up the grounds around the church. The youngest of 9 children, he was born in St. Petersburg in the era of segregation. Though he ultimately graduated from High School, he was arrested as a juvenile for stealing a walkie talkie from his school. Growing up, he found it difficult to escape an environment in which drinking and drugs were prevalent. The combination of limited skills and the arrest record made it difficult for him to secure employment. He describes himself as a "yard man without any tools". Believing that God has given him a second chance, he proudly declares that he has been drug free for the past 6 years. You only have to spend a moment with Darrell to realize the strength of his faith and that he sees his glass as half full.



If you would be interested in "seeing" some of the children of God served through this ministry, please contact either **Lynn Tallon** (727-343-1060) or **Alan Due** (904-616-1818). And if time does not permit, we still greatly appreciate your donations of **non-perishable food and personal hygiene items** (bags included).

TAMPA BAY & SUNCOAST CONFERENCE FALL/WINTER GATHERING

- ⊕ **COME MEET OTHER ELCA LUTHERANS IN OUR AREA!**
- ⊕ **SHARE AND HEAR WHAT'S HAPPENING BEYOND YOUR LOCAL CONGREGATION!!**



Keynote Speaker – **Bill Horne - VP of ELCA**

**Four one hour workshops
to choose from:**

- Leadership – Pastor Jim Graeser Assistant to the Bishop FBS
- Using Social Media in the church – Adam Fox Technology Director Calvary Lutheran Church
- Understanding church finances – Kim Raymond (synod staff accountant)
- 8 Faith Practices for Healthy Youth & Adult Development – Sister Michelle Collins

(Continental Breakfast will
be available in the morning)

November 19, 2016 8:30 am - Noon
Calvary Lutheran Church, 5309 US Highway 41
North, Apollo Beach, 813-645-1305