

THE COURIER

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



MAY 2017

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



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

Many of you who grew up in this congregation have fond memories of classes and activities going on in the basement under the sanctuary. I've seen the photos to prove it!

In recent years, the area had lost its former glory, being relegated to little more than a storage area, full of dust, and subject to flooding. But I and the members of council have always recognized its potential as a place where ministry could still happen or as a source of much-needed revenue if it could be rented out to a business or a non-profit organization.

The obstacle to renting the space has always been the amount of renovation that it would require if we were to get it in compliance with city codes for safety and accessibility.

One of the benefits of joining the city's Chamber of Commerce has been contacts with many local businesses and organizations. It was through those business contacts that we learned of a potential renter for the sanctuary basement.

The "St. Pete Group," one of the oldest and largest 12-Step organizations in Pinellas County,

had outgrown their previous home and needed a larger space in which to offer AA meetings seven days a week. After negotiation with the council, we reached an agreement under which they would fully renovate the basement and then rent it from us.

For the past few weeks, they have been hard at work, as have volunteers from Trinity, clearing out the trash that had accumulated, sorting through the archive material that had been stored, and boxing up and moving the choir music that had been filed.

Walls have been knocked down in one part of the basement and put up in another, the bathrooms have been renovated, and everything has a new coat of paint. In the weeks to come, an awning will be installed to cover the stairs leading down to the basement from Fourth Avenue North.

The end result is that, while Trinity still has a small storage area at the foot of the stairs down from the narthex, the rest of the sanctuary basement is now the new home of the St. Pete Group.

I am pleased that this agreement allows more of Trinity's facility to be used as a resource to the community. Lives will be transformed and people given a fresh start and hope for the future through the work of the St. Pete Group. While a business might have been able to pay us a higher rent, the

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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, continued from page 1

use of the space by a non-profit organization is more in line with our mission and values.

This shouldn't have a negative impact on the other uses of our facility. Twelve-Step meetings will still go on up in Redeemer Hall three days a week, the Stamp Club will continue their regular meetings, the "Sew 'n Sews" will create their beautiful quilts, and our food pantry will feed and clothe our neighbors.

As we move forward in a relationship with the St Pete Group, there will still be details

that need to be negotiated. Our parking lots will now have much more use on weekdays, Saturdays, and Sunday afternoons. There may be some schedule conflicts and other reasons to "bump heads." It will be important for us to be patient and welcoming and to trust in the good intentions of one another.

And to rejoice that Trinity's basement is once again a place where God's children are being served and loved.

**Your brother in Christ,
 Pastor Paul**



Lynne Tallon, Betty Napolitano, Whitney and Lisa Johnson, Vanneita Anderson, and Pastor Paul are ready to be entertained and moved by American Stage's performance of the musical "Hairspray" in Demens Landing park.

If God didn't withhold from us his very own Son, will God withhold *anything* we need? If trust must be earned, hasn't God unequivocally earned our trust with the bark on the raw wounds, the thorns pressed into the brow, your name on the cracked lips? How will he not also graciously give us all things he deems best and right? He's already given the incomprehensible.

—Ann Voskamp, *One Thousand Gifts*



Join us at the Church Picnic!

**May 20
shelter 1
Campbell Park
601 14th St S
1 pm - 5 pm**

- Fellowship
- lawn games
- bingo,
- table games

**We'll provide the burgers and
hot dogs;
you bring a dish to share**



Ascension of the Lord

Forty days after Easter, we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. This occurred 10 days before Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' followers, as he had promised.

Jesus' ascension reminds Christians that although his body couldn't remain present everywhere, we can universally experience his spiritual presence. In fact, Jesus' final words to his disciples — and to us — contain this key promise: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, ESV).

"Do not be afraid of tomorrow, for God is already there."

—Unknown

YOU KNOW YOU'RE LUTHERAN WHEN

YOU HEAR
"MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU"
AND RESPOND
"AND ALSO WITH YOU!"

The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Family Legacy Planning Event

No one ever expects to have a health emergency; but have you thought about what would happen if you had one in which you were incapacitated and could no longer make decisions? Are there any medical treatments that you absolutely would or would not want to receive? Do you have any special religious, cultural or personal beliefs that you would want your healthcare team to know? How can you best make your wishes and intentions known? How can you be a good steward of the gifts God has given? To get the answers to these questions and more, please join attorney Stephanie Edwards and Rev. Ana Lugo on Saturday, May 6, at the Church (second floor: Fellowship Hall). A continental breakfast will kick off the event at 8:45 am.



From 9:00 am – 10:30 am, Stephanie Edwards will address: living wills, health care surrogates, durable powers of attorney, wills, trusts, and probates. In the second half of the morning (10:45 am – 12:00 pm), Rev. Ana Lugo will talk about the power of gift planning and gift giving, and highlight ways that you can leave a legacy that will make a difference for both your family and your faith. There is no cost for this event; simply RSVP to Margie Smith at the church office (822-3307) so that we can make sure that we have enough food and materials. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Alan Due





Justice Ministry Update

As this article is being written on the morning after the FAST Nehemiah Action in Tropicana Field, there's isn't yet an official count of how many people were in attendance from the member congregations of FAST. But we can celebrate all that was accomplished that night.

The police chiefs of St. Petersburg and Clearwater agreed to increase access to restorative justice programs in middle schools and high schools. Members of the school board agreed to make

improvements to their in-school suspension programs, to present quarterly reports on discipline and reading scores, and to increase awareness of three reading curricula that have a proven record of success in low-income schools.

While significant commitments were not made by County Commissioners and St. Petersburg City council members regarding the investment of "Penny for Pinellas" tax revenues toward alleviating our affordable housing crisis, the officials were made aware of the large amount of voter support for such commitments, and the presence of newspaper and television reporters at the Action will keep the issue on everyone's minds in the weeks and months ahead.

More details of these victories will be shared at the Justice Ministry Celebration being held on Monday, May 15, at 7 pm at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, 1600 54th Avenue S. All of Trinity's Justice Ministry Network Members made a commitment to attend this gathering.

On Sunday, May 14, we will take up another special offering toward the payment of our annual congregational dues to the justice organization FAST. Members and friends of Trinity are also encouraged to make tax-deductible personal financial contributions to FAST, as they would to any other charity. You can even divide your contribution into easy monthly installments.

Pastor Paul



Members of Trinity (above) were part of the massive crowd (below) that gathered in Tropicana Field for the annual FAST Nehemiah Action, calling for justice for all of God's children.



Serving Ministry Team

Thank you to all who donated clothing for "Coats of Many Colors." The items were delivered to *Clothes for Kids* and much appreciated. We will continue to collect summer clothing; shorts, tops, swimwear, shoes, new socks and underwear. Please put donation items in the red container located in the narthex. These items will be donated to "Operation Attack."

The women of the church will be leading worship on May 7. This is in honor of Rachel's Day and Bold Women Sunday. As you enter the sanctuary you will be given a blue ribbon to wear, this is the color for hope. During worship you will hear of how women of the ELCA have brought forth the message to end gun violence against children; just as Rachel's actions bore witness to the urgency and gravity of violence toward children and the need to take action.

The basement archives need to be sorted and organized. If you have some time to serve in this way please contact the church office. Many hands make light work.



Rachel's Day, First Sunday in May The day takes its name from Jeremiah 31:15-17. In those verses Rachel grieves for her children. Rachel's Day is a time to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of evil and fear that plague our nation.

Keep the date May 20 available, that is the date of Team Trinity's second congregational picnic. Again, we have shelter 1 at Campbell Park located at 601 14th St. S. The time will be from 1pm-5pm. The church will provide the hot dogs, hamburgers, buns and paper goods. We ask that you bring side dishes, condiments, drinks and desserts to share. Our chef this year will be Gary Ruhl. There will be lawn games, bingo, and table games to play. Watch bulletin board for sign-up list. Guests are welcome but please let us know the number of people attending so we can purchase food accordingly.

God's blessings,

Lynne Tallon, Council Liaison



According to Thrivent's latest report, there are 22 members of Trinity who are also Thrivent members. This means up to \$11,000 available through Action Teams for our church!

Think about an unmet need in our community (such as the food pantry) and how you could help. Apply to lead your volunteer team in a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event that can be completed within 90 days. Once your project is approved, you'll receive a Thrivent Action Kit, including:

- Promotional banner.
- Invitations and thank-you cards.
- Thrivent Action Team T-shirts.

A \$250 Community Impact Card you can use as seed money to get your project off the ground and make a bigger impact.

All Thrivent members are eligible to lead a Thrivent Action Team. However, the number of teams each member can lead per year depends on his or her membership type.

For more information, contact Steve Welch, Thrivent representative.
Office phone: 727-282-6786 Email: steven.welch@thrivent.com



Hearty thanks to all the musicians who helped make Holy Week a success. It is a joy for me to work with our choir members as well as our guest instrumentalists. It was a busy but rewarding week for me, both professionally and spiritually.

As we continue through the Easter season our anthems focus on praising God and celebrating the resurrection. The Gospel Acclamations for the Easter season feature an alleluia derived from plainsong.

Please note the information about our hymns in the margin of the bulletin. There is much information in the margin which changes from week to week, including the notes on the hymns and, occasionally, on anthems and voluntaries.

The emphasis as I write this is on clearing out the basement under the sanctuary so that the space can be rented. This includes moving the music library to its new quarters on the third floor. Many thanks to all those who are helping, most notably Alan Due, without whom the task would be impossible to complete in the necessary time frame. Thanks also to the members of the group who will be renting the space for their help in this endeavor.

Tom Hall

BAND OF ANGELS

Let me start this BOA article by inviting YOU to attend our Band of Angels meetings. There are so many of you who would probably enjoy being involved in this great group...and we would love to have you!! We stay active doing what we can to make a difference. There is no pressure... everyone participates at a level that is comfortable to them. Just come and get to know each other better, join us for outings, take part in service projects... or, you can even enjoy going to the Fall Gathering, a women's retreat, at Lake Yale.

We want to thank everyone who supported our bake sale. Your donations make it possible for us to do many of the service projects we select during the year. (It's also fun to enjoy each other's homemade baked goods!) Thank you also to the "Angels" who helped to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. It was lovely!

May 7 is "Bold Women's" Sunday. On that Sunday, the women of Trinity will be in charge of conducting the church service. Saturday, May 20, will be the congregational picnic. Those who attend are encouraged to bring side dishes or desserts. Looking forward to a fun afternoon!

In recognition of Earth Day in April, we are encouraging those who want to help the environment by keeping and caring for their own mug at coffee fellowship, to bring a mug and hang it on the "Mug Board."



Aware of needs in our church and community, we voted to make monetary donations to Trinity's food pantry and Beacon House. There is also a need for average size men's clothes in our own food pantry...t-shirts, shorts, and pants. As always, we appreciate all the support we get from members of the congregation. There is also a need for volunteers to help with the clean-up of the church basement if anyone is able to do that.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, May 21 after church. We will not have regular meetings during the summer, however, we are planning to go out to lunch after church sometime in June. We hope YOU will join us!!

Karen Toth



- 5/1 Marie Hunt
- 5/5 Jermaine Stevenson
- 5/7 John Rindahl
- 5/7 Alan Soli
- 5/9 Christopher Smith
- 5/15 Kensei Snapp
- 5/28 Frances Harding
- 5/28 Kevin Mowrer
- 5/31 Edward Hunt
- 5/31 Helen Stevener



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|-----------|------------------------|------|
| 5/8/2016 | Paul Gibson & Alan Due | (1) |
| 5/28/2011 | Greg & Trudy Daniels | (6) |
| 5/29/1987 | David & Lisa Valentine | (30) |

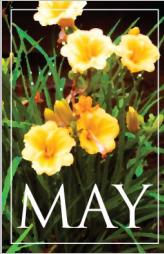


Altar Flowers

Thanks to those who have signed up to place flowers on the altar. They are a fragrant offering to the God who created them and a symbol of new life in Christ. People give flowers in thanksgiving to God for a family member's birthday, wedding anniversary, or other blessing. They are also given in memory of a departed loved one or friend. There are still many Sundays available for the remainder of the year. Check the flower chart on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.



May 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|--|
|  MAY | 1 | 2 10 am Food Pantry | 3 8:15 am Men's breakfast @ Rae Rae's 9:30 am Sew 'n Sews | 4 | 5 10 am Food Pantry | 6 8 am Loaves & Fishes breakfast 9 am—noon - Legacy Gifts for Family & Ministry |
| 7 8:30 am Choir rehearsal 9 am Bible study & Sunday school 10 am Worship Rachel's Day / Bold Women Sunday | 8 | 9 10 am Food Pantry | 10 8:15 am Men's breakfast @ Rae Rae's 9:30 am Sew 'n Sews | 11 | 12 10 am Food Pantry | 13 8 am Loaves & Fishes breakfast |
| 14 Mother's Day 8:30 am Choir rehearsal 9 am Bible study & Sunday school 10 am Worship | 15 FAST Celebration | 16 10 am Food Pantry | 17 8:15 am Men's breakfast @ Rae Rae's 9:30 am Sew 'n Sews | 18 | 19 10 am Food Pantry | 20 8 am Loaves & Fishes breakfast 1—5 pm Church Picnic |
| 21 8:30 am Choir rehearsal 9 am Bible study & Sunday school 10 am Worship | 22 Newsletter Deadline 6 pm Council | 23 10 am Food Pantry | 24 8:15 am Men's breakfast @ Rae Rae's 9:30 am Sew 'n Sews | 25 Ascension Day | 26 10 am Food Pantry | 27 8 am Loaves & Fishes breakfast |
| 28 8:30 am Choir rehearsal 9 am Bible study & Sunday school 10 am Worship | 29 Memorial Day Church office closed | 30 10 am Food Pantry | 31 8:15 am Men's breakfast @ Rae Rae's 9:30 am Sew 'n Sews | Church office hours: Monday—Thursday 9 am—3 pm | | |