



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



*"All God's creatures got a place in the choir;
 Some sing low and some sing higher,
 Some sing out loud on a telephone wire,
 Some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they've got now..."*

That was the song blasting from a speaker attached to the top of Whitney Johnson's pick-up truck as it made its way down Bayshore Drive through a crowd of more than 30,000 people at this year's Gay Pride Parade in St. Petersburg.



the nation, and the growing acceptance and understanding of the LGBT community in society as a whole, people might wonder if a church still needs to emphasize its welcome to the marginalized.

Marching alongside the truck were nine members of "Team Trinity," handing out close to 2,000 gifts that advertised the congregation's worship.

This was our third year at the parade; it's been a key part of our outreach as a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation of the ELCA—one that offers an intentional welcome to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender children of God living in Pinellas County.

With the 2009 decision of the ELCA to offer same-sex marriages and welcome clergy in same-sex relationships, the 2015 Supreme Court decision that legalized same-sex marriage throughout

To this day, Trinity's presence in the parade, along with other churches and synagogues, is met with surprise and delight. The large number of gay teenagers who are homeless and of transgender people who are murdered or commit suicide proves that we still have a long way to go in proclaiming God's unconditional love and welcome, not only to them but to the homeless, the poor, and the mentally and physically challenged.

Two days before the Pride parade, members of Trinity attended and help to lead the Third Annual Interfaith Pride Worship Service. The venue for this year's service was the Wireman Chapel on the campus of Eckerd College. The theme of 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 Paul continued from page 1:

service was “Faith Lives Out,” encouraging all of us to be open and honest about the values at the heart of our religious beliefs, supporting our ideas and words with actions and choices.



Wireman Chapel at Eckerd College was the venue for the Interfaith Pride Service, at which Mayor Rick Kriseman addressed a crowd of more than 200.

The guest speaker at the service, Dr. Doral Pulley from the Unity Temple of Truth Church in South St Pete, used the example of Nicodemus in the gospel of John as a person who gradually developed the courage to live out their faith. Nicodemus' first encounter with Jesus was a secretive night-time meeting, but later he had the courage to defend Jesus before his fellow religious leaders and to participate in the burial of Jesus after his crucifixion.



Team Trinity getting ready for the Pride Parade to start; from left to right, Whitney and Lisa Johnson, Pastor Paul, Lynne Tallon, Gary Ruhl, Carol Dunn, Jan and Don Dorr, Alan Due.

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Pastor Paul continued from page 2:

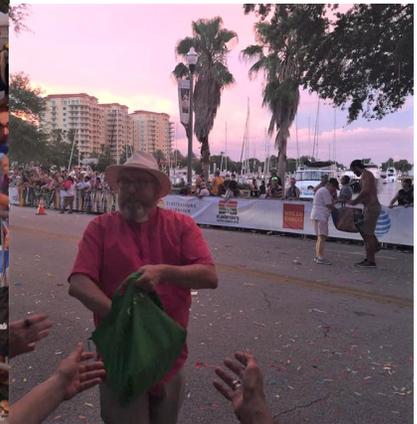
Dr. Pulley encouraged everyone at the service to “laugh out loud, love out loud, and live out loud,” reminding us that “no one has the right to tell you how loud” to do them.

“Team Trinity” put his advice into action when we greeted and interacted with the massive crowd attending the Saturday night parade, sharing the good news of a congregation where “all God’s creatures got a place in the crowd!”

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Paul



A fraction of the 20,000 people along Bayshore Drive.



Pastor Paul works one side of the street, as Lynne Tallon and Mike Ruhl take care of the other side.



Coming in August!

A new congregation picture directory is planned. Portraits will be made August 22 & 23. We need everyone to participate to make this directory complete.

There is no cost to you or to the church. Each individual or group who has their portrait taken will receive a free 8x10 portrait, and a free directory. You will have an opportunity to purchase additional pictures, but that is optional.

We will also need volunteers to act as greeters on photography days.



New Updated Directory

Hold fast to the Bible as the anchor of your liberties; write its precepts on your hearts and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future.
—Ulysses S. Grant



"May we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please but as the opportunity to do what is right."
—Peter Marshall

RAY'S 2017



Thrivent Financial

Night With The RAYS



SAT, AUG 12
VS. CLE
START TIME: 6:10 P.M.
GATES OPEN: 4:10 P.M.

DON'T MISS

- Ted William's Museum
- Rays Touch Tank
- Mystery Retro Replica Jersey presented by GTE Financial for the first 15,000 fans

Lower Box Tickets are \$28 (\$60 Value)

Special offer for Members and Friends through Thrivent Financial!
A portion of the proceeds from each special ticket sold will benefit Eckerd Kids.



TO PURCHASE

\$28 ticket price is valid for groups of 10 or more.
A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board,
or contact Lisa Johnson.
Deadline to reserve tickets is July 16.

Let's get a group together for a night of fun!

On a train trip, a pastor struck up a conversation with a seatmate who thought character and good works led to salvation. The pastor wasn't making progress but had a realization when the conductor collected tickets, quickly checking the date before stamping each one.



After the conductor passed by, the pastor told his fellow passenger: "All the conductor looked at was your ticket. He did not inquire about your character. He didn't care who you were — whether you were a good or moral man or a criminal. So it is with salvation. You need only God's 'ticket to heaven' stamped by the blood of Jesus Christ."

Living out Our Mission

What makes a great organization? Research on this topic suggests: a clear and compelling mission, systems aligned to support and propel the mission, and ways to unleash talent and potential. At Trinity, our mission is to *share Christ's love by welcoming, worshipping, learning and serving*. So, how are we, as a congregation, doing in making these actions a reality in people's lives? Are the once-successful systems of the past still working effectively today? With declining congregational memberships, ever-increasing demands put on families, and a societal mindset shift from long-term loyalty to short-term commitments, the system of forming long-term teams around these areas of ministry are no longer effectively working: the same individuals are serving on more than one team and attempting to do the majority of the work.

So, a couple of months ago, a Core Team of individuals (representatives from each area of ministry and age groups) initiated sessions with Sister Michelle Collins, from the Synod Office, to examine all that we do as a church in the course of a year using the lenses of faith formation. Instead of organizing our work around the ministry teams, we ranked our activities and events around the eight ways that the church helps people grow in their faith both within the context of the corporate, church life and in daily life. Using those lenses, we discovered our areas of strength (*missional outreach and caring relationships*) and opportunities for growth (*life stage focus and learning more about our Christian tradition*). From here, we were able to determine those activities and events that we should continue, start and stop. The full assessment results of this work are posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.



The last step in this process was to take those critical faith forming activities, events, and jobs and break them down into smaller, short-term components, which not only allows more people to be involved in living out our mission, but taps into a wealth of skills and talents. For the

next couple of months, members of the Core Team will be presenting "Missional Moments" to demonstrate the opportunities that lie before us. In the meantime, please reach out to any members of the Core Team with your questions, suggestions or

ideas: Danielle Anderson, Bob Burke, Jan Dorr, Alan Due, Lisa Johnson, Barb Macomb, Phillip Portman, and Lynne Tallon.

In Service Together,
Alan Due





Feed My Sheep July Update



330 people were served this past month!

We extend a warm welcome and our thanks to the latest pantry volunteers who come to us from Paradise Lutheran Church: Joan Smith (left), Renee Deibler (center) and Nancy Farrington (right). Members of Paradise are also providing us with donations of clothing and personal hygiene items.



Special thanks to Barbara Marshall (left photo, on far right) and her senior moving company, "House to Home," for their recent donation of 139 cans of soup, vegetables and fruit!

The Winn Dixie, located on 58th Street North, has provided the pantry with 2000 bags for distribution!

Winn Dixie

We celebrate and rejoice with Carla (right photo), one of our pantry guests, who has obtained housing!



As you can see by the numbers over the past few months, we are growing in our outreach. It would not be possible to meet the needs of our guests if it were not for your continued support (volunteer time) and donations (items and funds); so, THANK YOU!

Here is a list of some of the standard food items that we provide:

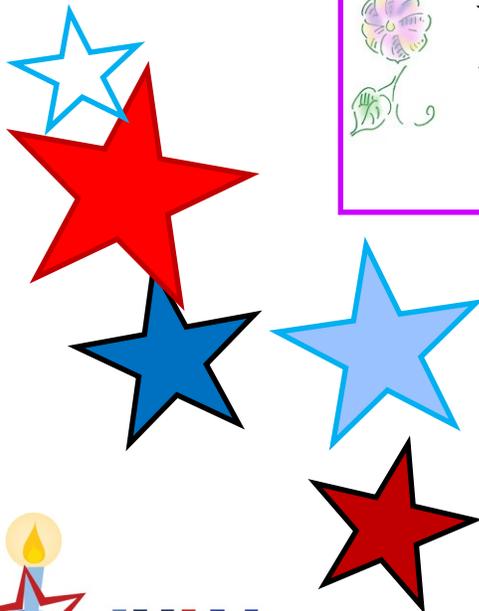
- canned soup and pasta (with pull tops)
- Tuna, potted meat, or Vienna sausages
- sleeves of crackers (Saltines or Ritz)
- canned vegetables (with pull tops)
- cups of applesauce or mixed fruit
- peanut butter or cheddar cheese filled crackers
- oatmeal or Pop Tarts
- bottled water.

Anything that is not a standard item, we put out for "top-shelf" selection. So, continue to look for those ads and sales; every little bit helps!

Gratefully submitted,
Alan Due

This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.

—Theodore Roosevelt



- 7/3 Vanneita Anderson
- 7/5 Arlene James
- 7/7 Mishelle Richards
- 7/10 Neslin Wainwright
- 7/17 Paul Wenger
- 7/21 Jan Dorr
- 7/25 Danielle Anderson
- 7/25 Nancy Denio
- 7/28 Thesha Garcia
- 7/28 Clark Leips
- 7/30 Alice Colley

Ladies' Lunch Out
Sunday July 9, - After church
At the Hollander

Ladies, plan to join in our summer lunch out after church on July 9, 2017. This is for all women of the church, so come and be a part of the fun and fellowship. We will walk to the Hollander together for a great lunch and fellowship. Sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.

WELCOME
New Members

On Sunday, June 11, we welcomed the following into membership at Trinity:



Yvonne Ast

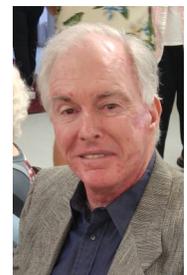


John Hill



Amanda Moffitt

Also, not pictured:
David & Susan Amann
Daryl Stewart



Philip Portman



Trinity Lutheran Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8 am Loaves & Fishes breakfast
2 9 am Bible study 10 am Worship	3	 church office closed	5 8:15 am Men's breakfast 9:30 am Sew n' Sews	6	7 10 am Food Pantry	8 8 am Loaves & Fishes breakfast 9 am Congregation breakfast
9 9 am Bible study 10 am Worship 11:30 am Ladies' lunch out	10	11 10 am Food Pantry	12 8:15 am Men's breakfast 9:30 am Sew n' Sews	13	14 10 am Food Pantry	15 8 am Loaves & Fishes breakfast
16 9 am Bible study 10 am Worship	17 6 pm Council	18 10 am Food Pantry	19 8:15 am Men's breakfast 9:30 am Sew n' Sews	20	21 10 am Food Pantry	22 8 am Loaves & Fishes breakfast
23 9 am Bible study 10 am Worship	24 Newsletter deadline	25 10 am Food Pantry	26 8:15 am Men's breakfast 9:30 am Sew n' Sews	27	28 10 am Food Pantry	29 8 am Loaves & Fishes breakfast
30 9 am Bible study 10 am Worship	31					Church office hours: Monday - Thursday 9 am - 3 pm