

OCTOBER 2019

# 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.

*"I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith... For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, 'The one who is righteous will live by faith.' "*

(Romans 1:16-17)

When Martin Luther realized that the righteousness of God was not something that he had to earn or achieve, but rather something that God offers as a gift, it transformed his life and inspired him to work for the transformation, or reformation, of his Church.

Reformation Sunday is always the last Sunday in the month of October; it commemorates the day that Luther published his "95 Theses," a list of ideas that he wanted to discuss with other church leaders.

Luther wanted to guide the Church back to an understanding of God's love and mercy that had been forgotten in the Middle Ages. He never imagined that he would be the father of a new Christian denomination or of all the denominations that describe themselves as "Protestant."

In the 502 years since the Protestant Reformation, the Lutheran Church has continued to reform itself, seeking better ways to communicate the good news of God's love and forgiveness.

In the five short years since I was called to serve Trinity Lutheran Church, I've watched this congregation reform itself, as well. We've explored different ways of worshiping God, we've committed ourselves to a deeper understanding of God's word, and we've created new opportunities for us to love and serve our neighbors.

One of the things that delights me about this congregation is that we are always growing, always learning, always trying new things. I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to reform us to be the congregation that God needs us to be in this constantly changing city and community.

Your brother in Christ,  
*Pastor Paul*





## Trinity Lutheran Church

Paul Gibson, Pastor

Lynne Tallon, Deacon

Ron Turner, Organist and  
Director of Music

Leah Heinicke, Office  
Administrator

Azur H. Abdić, Facility  
Administrator

Gayle Nelson, Seminarian

## Council Members

Lisa Johnson, President

Daryl Stewart, Vice President

Toni Durilla, Financial Secretary

Helen Mowrer, Treasurer

Doug Forcino, Recording  
Secretary

Bob Burke

Jan Dorr

Jen Durilla

John Hill

Barb Macomb

Pastor Paul Gibson

## Notes from the Organ Bench



October 13:  Oktoberfest

October 27: Reformation Sunday

We are welcoming three new section leaders:

- Jennifer Renfroe, Soprano
- Suzanne McCormick, Alto
- JD Cerna, Tenor.

We are always looking for new choir members, please see me for more details.

**On October 6**, our musical offering will be John Rutter's setting of All Things Bright and Beautiful. Our sending hymn is Siyahamba, which I know has several fans, judging from the response the last time we sang it.

**October 13** we will sing an early 20th century anthem by L. Stanley Glarum to the text "O Be Joyful in the Lord"!

**October 20** brings Bach back with "Alleluia, Sing Praise"!

**October 27** we end the month with Alec Rowley's setting of "Praise". Your support helps us move forward and become known as a church making joyful noise! **Thank You All!**

- Ron Turner  
*Organist and Director of Music*

Speaking of music at Trinity...

We've set a date for the final production of our 2019 Summer Songs at Trinity fundraiser series, The Pirates of Penzance!

And since it seems like it's ALWAYS summer in St. Petersburg, we didn't feel obligated to schedule it during "standard" summer months.

The new date is February 23, 2020 (think of it as our 2019-2020 season)



# TLC

## Food Pantry

There have been a few changes with the operation of the food pantry. We are now open only on Fridays from 9:30 AM until 12:30 PM, we ask that volunteers be there by 9AM. The volunteers have been split into two teams, if you don't know which team you're on, see me at church or e-mail me ([lynnesaim@verizon.net](mailto:lynnesaim@verizon.net)). The teams will serve on alternate weeks, so you can have back a Friday for other projects. This is temporary until we see where funding can be found (grants or corporate backing).

We are now serving between 55-70 clients each week. I thank all volunteers for their understanding concerning this matter.

A special thank you to Bill and Charlene Diefel for picking up food items every week at the Free Clinic warehouse. Our Trinity faith community always goes above and beyond expectations and I thank you.

Watch the bulletins on Sunday, where we will continue to spotlight specific items needed in the pantry during the month of October.

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

Blessings,  
*Deacon Lynne*

## Just plant it

As the church year wraps up, many Bible readings address the end times and Jesus' return at an unknown date (unknown to all but God the Father, that is). Specific beliefs about the Second Coming vary throughout Christendom, but our attitude about that momentous event affects how we live right now.

"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces," Martin Luther reportedly said, "I would still plant my apple tree." Instead of constantly despairing about this broken-down world, we can remain determined to serve God and our neighbors, planting seeds of life and hope in the process.



Sat, Oct 12th 9:00am—2:00pm  
Vitality Training Retreat

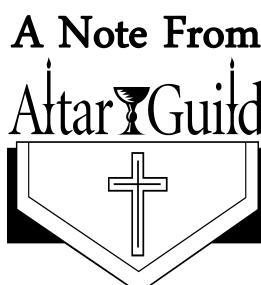
Sun, Oct 13th 11:00am

## Oktoberfest!!!

Mon, Oct 14th 6:00pm  
Church Council Meeting

Sat, Oct 19th 9:00am  
Congregational Breakfast

Sun, Oct 27th 11:30am  
Band of Angels Meeting



We are running low on communion wine.  
If anyone is able to pick up a bottle of **Manischewitz Concord Grape**, it would be much appreciated!



## GREETINGS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA!

I've been here for two weeks now. The weather has been great – what we in Florida would call mild temperatures – what the people here in SC call hot. Inside the buildings on campus is an entirely different story. I wear long sleeves and long pants and must remember to bring a sweater or jacket with me as when I walk into my classrooms, they seem more like a refrigerator than classrooms! It's good to know that some things never change as this is the way it was 26 years ago when I first began my journey towards ordination. Hopefully, they have fixed the heaters during that time so that we don't also freeze in the winter as we did way back then. On the other hand, cold preserves so maybe aging will slow down!

I live in the dormitory with three other women. There is quite a diverse age range among us which makes for interesting conversations. There is one male who lives in our dorm. He is a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel named Paddy. One of my dorm mates has him as her emotional support dog. He and I have become best friends! Every time we get together, we have fun! Fortunately for all of us, we all are considerate and respectful of each other and get along really well.

I began my classes on 26 August. I am taking five classes this semester as I will also be doing next semester. All the ones for this semester are interesting – even the one I thought was not going to be so. The professors are all very knowledgeable and teach in ways that keep us awake and interested. Most of the classes are two hours and 45 minutes long one time a week. I like this model because it means I am not going to classes every day all day. I will take one two-week intensive class after I graduate in May and then on to internship!

When I'm not in class, I study at every possible opportunity. I also work in the seminary library for 10 hours a week. Luckily, people who come into the library seldom need help which leaves me time to study while I am there as well. The homework is extensive but also interesting. There is a lot of reading to do with



A statue of Martin Luther at the entrance to LTSS. Note the beer stein by his feet on the right side. The building in the back of Marty is Voight Building where most of our classes are held.

essays and other interesting projects that go along with most of them. Needless to say, I have no time to get bored!

I am taking voice lessons while I am here so that when I open my mouth to sing, people won't clasp their hands over their ears and beg me to stop anymore. Our fantastic organist offers free lessons once a week. Yesterday was my first lesson. To my great surprise, he discovered that I'm a first soprano and can actually sing – well somewhat! I'm looking forward to learning more about breathing control, and all that goes along with not frightening people with my voice!

This is my third time coming to Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia. Each time the demographics have

been different. This time the number of students is about half the number who were here during my previous times here and there are nearly as many Methodist, Episcopalian, and Baptist students as ELCA students. One student is here from Liberia. There is also more diversity in the staff. We have, of course, ELCA professors but also Roman Catholic, Methodist, and Baptist professors. We are not intentionally taught about the other denominations but can't help but learn about them through our interactions with the non-ELCA students. I think this is good. It helps in understanding the practices and beliefs of others which leads to a better relationship between us. Many of the students live in other parts of South and North Carolina and some in Georgia. They do distance learning via something called Zoom whereby they "zoom" into the class on their computers. That way we see them, and they see us. Some of the students drive for two hours or so to get here and stay in the seminary guest house for a night or two and then go back home. While things are definitely different, they are not bad.

That's it for now. There are no classes on Fridays (today) which leaves me much needed time to work on things I must do for each class. I must get to it. I will try to get a newsletter to you each month even if all I say is things are going well, miss you! I do, dear Trinity family, miss you dearly.

- Gayle Nelson

# VICTORY LANE APARTMENTS FOR VETERANS

In the fall of 2017, I passed a large fenced in brick building, the Old Norwood Elementary School, which was posted for sale. I called and they were taking bids on the building in January of 2018. I consulted with my partner and we submitted a contract to bid on the property with the plan of using the space as apartments for veterans. Initially, the School Board selected another interested buyer, but as fate would have it, the buyer backed out and we were selected, thus the beginning of our journey!

Our first hearing with the City Planning and Historical Commission was very positive and resulted in a recommendation to City Council to have the building declared an historical building and permitted for multi-family use.

Norwood Elementary School was built in

1925 and had several additions over the years to meet the needs of the community, but in 2008 the School Board determined that the facility would no longer be used. To me this 28,000 square foot facility is the perfect space for a new purpose – to serve veterans in need of homes. I contacted my attorney and friend, Joseph Perlman, who also loved the idea and agreed to join the project as the Trustee for the property, including managing the funds collected. This project is special to me, as my father was an Army veteran and my grandson is currently training to be a Marine. Both my business partner and Joe Perlman also have connections to the military.

After seven months, the School Board signed the contract for our purchase of the property. We've been busy seeking funding and developing plans and have been amazed at the leads we are getting from friends and local resources, including



the Boley Centers. To us, this is a sign that we're on the right track!

A neighbor and friend connected me with Jack Bodziak, an architect who was able to draw some preliminary plans to transition the facility from a school to an apartment home. The initial plan involves renovations to this 84-year-old building, including dividing classrooms into efficiencies and adding **38 bathrooms and kitchenettes** for the residents. We will also need to develop plans to address the mechanical, electric, and plumbing renovations.

The estimates to renovate the inside of this property are currently up to \$1.7M. We have some initial funding, but are **currently in need of \$320,000 to be able to move forward**.

Although, we realize this is an enormous undertaking, we are thrilled to have the opportunity to assist the veterans who served their country and are determined to do this. We view it as

a once in a lifetime opportunity to give back to our community.

If you have a place in your heart for veterans, please consider assisting with our endeavor! Give what you can to our GoFundMe campaign (link below). Let's make this Veteran's Day a banner day for our local veterans by helping us raise the funds needed to proceed with this project.

**Property Location:**  
**27<sup>th</sup> Ave N., St. Petersburg, FL 33713**

Thank you!  
*Charlene Diefel*

Project Contacts:  
Joseph Perlman Esquire, Trustee  
Second Veterans Property Land Trust  
[Victorylane2154@gmail.com](mailto:Victorylane2154@gmail.com)

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/aefcgz-apartments-for-veterans>

# *Summer Songs*

AT TRINITY



*Afternoon concerts of music on the brighter side  
performed in a beautiful and historic space*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 3 PM**



## *The Pleasure of "Sweet Company"*

*This acclaimed a capella trio will sing favorites from the 1930s to today*

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 3 PM**



## *Broadway Goes West!*

*Your favorite songs from shows like "Oklahoma!" and "Annie Get Your Gun"*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 3 PM**



## *The Pirates of Penzance*

*The very model of a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta*

Trinity Lutheran Church 401 Fifth Street North in St Petersburg

Proceeds from these concerts pay for the restoration of Trinity's historic pipe organ and support the music ministries of the church.

Tickets \$15 each or \$40 for all three programs,



**10/20 Craig & Helen Mowrer**



## ALTAR FLOWERS

**10/06**

**10/13**

**10/20 Craig & Helen Mowrer**

**10/27 Sandi Adams**

**Sign up to sponsor altar flowers (\$35) on a Sunday that has special significance to you.**

1. Sign up on any open Sunday (see the chart in the Van Horne Fellowship Hall or call the office).
2. Drop your check in the offering plate with a memo indicating "Altar Flowers." (Or pay [online!](#))

You will even get to take the flowers home after that service!

**Note:** We still have **two** Sundays open in October!

If you have been waiting for your chance to sponsor the altar flowers, the opportunity is here!

Sign up on the bulletin board, click on the link on our [website](#), or contact the office!



**10/04 Shirley Carter**

**10/04 Lynne Tallon**

**10/11 Phil Rearick**

**10/23 Carol Bertoluzzi**

**10/23 Monaye Kearse**

**10/28 Bob Burke**

**10/30 Lawrence Truglio**

## OCTOBER SERVERS

	<b>Oct 6</b>	<b>Oct 13</b>	<b>Oct 20</b>	<b>Oct 27</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	Phil Rearick	Danny Burtless	Alan Due	Danny Burtless
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Phil Rearick	Lynne Tallon	Alan Due	Lynne Tallon
<b>Lector</b>	Doug Forcino	Stephen Hewitt	Jacque Bishop	Alan Due
<b>Ushers</b>	Jan Dorr Barbara Macomb Helen Mowrer Karen Toth Rebecca Reitz	Lisa Johnson Karen Toth Jan Dorr Mishelle Richards Rebecca Reitz	Barbara Macomb Mishelle Richards Janet Crim Matthew Reitz Rebecca Reitz	Amanda Moffitt Charlene Diefel Charlie Hahn Lisa Johnson Rebecca Reitz
<b>Greeters</b>	Jan Dorr (N) Barbara Macomb (S)	Lisa Johnson (N) Karen Toth (S)	Barbara Macomb (N) Mishelle Richards (S)	Amanda Moffitt (N) Charlene Diefel (S)



# Trinity Lutheran Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  Coliseum using parking lot from 5:30p-9:30p	2 8:15a Men's BF 5:45p Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Supertime Study	3	4 9:30a-12:30p Food Pantry	5  Coliseum using parking lot from 8:00p-midnight
6 8:30a Choir Rehrls 9am Bible Study 10am Worship 3pm Esther Marshick Funeral (at Anderson-McQueen)	7  Peterborough using parking lot from 5:00p Sunday—Noon Wednesday	8	9 8:15a Men's BF - No Bells - 6:30p Supertime Study	10  Coliseum using parking lot from 6:00p-9:00p	11 9:30a-12:30p Food Pantry	12 9:00am-2:00pm Vitality Training
13 8:30a Choir Rehrls 9am Bible Study 10am Worship 11am Oktoberfest	14  6pm Council Meeting	15 Lake Yale Registration Deadline  Coliseum using parking lot from 7:00a-9:00am	16 8:15a Men's BF 5:45p Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Supertime Study	17  Coliseum using parking lot from 6:00p-11:00p	18 9:30a-12:30p Food Pantry	19 9am Congregational Breakfast  4pm Morrissey/ Miller Wedding
20 8:30a Choir Rehrls 9am Bible Study 10am Worship  Deadline for Newsletter Items	21  Coliseum using parking lot from 10:00a-3:00p	22  Coliseum using parking lot from 10:00a-3:00p	23 8:15a Men's BF 5:45p Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30p Supertime Study	24  Coliseum using parking lot from 9:00a-3:00p	25 9:30a-12:30p Food Pantry	26  Coliseum using parking lot from 8:00p-midnight
27 8:30a Choir Rehrls 9am Bible Study 10am Worship	28  Coliseum using parking lot from 7:30a-11:30a	29	30 8:15a Men's BF - No Bells - 6:30p Supertime Study	31  HALLOWEEN		