

# THE 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)  
[pastor@trinitylutheranstpete.org](mailto:pastor@trinitylutheranstpete.org)  
[office@trinitylutheranstpete.org](mailto:office@trinitylutheranstpete.org)



*...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal...*  
(Philippians 3: 13-14a)

It's November. I could write about the election; but who knows when we'll have election results? I could write about Thanksgiving; but I'm still coming to terms to spending the holiday without members of my family. I could write, yet again, about the coronavirus; but I just can't do it.

Because I am confident that God is preparing good things for us, I want to talk about the church season that's all about anticipating good things: Advent. Its first Sunday isn't until November 29. But, if we want the season to be meaningful, we'll need to do some preparation for it.

Advent is the church season dedicated to expectation and anticipation. As we look forward to our celebrations of the birth of Christ, we also look forward to his second coming. We look around us for the coming of God into our lives in unexpected ways.

When I was a child, purple was the color associated with Advent. There were purple candles on the Advent wreath, pastors wore purple stoles, purple paraments were on the altar, pulpit and lectern. Some advent wreaths had one pink candle; some churches used pink or "rose" stoles and paraments for one Sunday of the season—this was to highlight a theme of joy in what was otherwise a fairly somber season.

When the "green hymnal" came out in the late 1970s, one of its surprises was the assignment of the color blue to Advent, as a way of distinguishing it from the more

remorseful season of Lent. It was easy to find blue candles for the wreath; blue stoles and paraments took a little more time.

Many people associate Advent blue with the color of the sky as dawn approaches. One of my favorite Advent hymns says of God, "As the blue expectant hour before the silvering skies, we long to see your day arise..."

Advent used to be as much about worship in the home as about what happened at church on Sunday mornings. Families chose a place of honor for their Advent wreath; the candles were lit once or twice every day as prayers were said and songs were sung. Now that we're all trying to make our homes into places for worship and prayer, Advent can show us how.

Between now and November 29, I'm encouraging everyone in the Trinity family to dig out their old Advent wreath or buy a new one. You can find very inexpensive ones online. We've even planned a way to make Advent wreaths from scratch as a congregational activity on Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>. Really, all you need are four candles arranged in a nice way; the color of the candles doesn't even matter that much.

We're creating a booklet of daily prayers and scripture readings, and we want to get a copy of it in your hands so that you can make every day of the season a day to worship and to give thanks.

November also brings us new opportunities

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Trinity Lutheran Church

Paul Gibson, Pastor  
Anne Harman, Intern Pastor  
Lynne Tallon, Deacon  
Ron Turner, Organist and  
Director of Music  
Leah Heinicke, Office Admin  
Azur H. Abdić, Facility Admin  
Gayle Nelson, Seminarian

## Council Members

Lisa Johnson, President  
Daryl Stewart, Vice President  
Toni Durilla, Financial Secretary  
Helen Mowrer, Treasurer  
Lynne Tallon  
Jan Dorr  
Jen Durilla  
John Hill  
Barb Macomb  
Pastor Paul Gibson

*Pastor Paul continued from page 1:*

for worship and for learning. This newsletter will tell you about worship in the park and a three-week class to be taught by Intern Pastor Anne.

As this difficult year draws to a close, my prayer is that God will be present in your homes in every day of the Advent season and beyond.

Your brother in Christ,  
*Pr. Paul*

## A Warm TLC Welcome

- by Anne Harman

At the September meeting, the church council approved the membership of Faith and Peter Dunne. Peter and Faith moved to Westminster Palms a year and a half ago. They had requested a transfer of membership from Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Temple Terrace, FL before the pandemic began.



When I saw the Dunne's names on the congregation list, I recognized them from the beginning years of The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay. They were founding members of the Chorale. I sang with the Chorale from 1985 – 2000. I had the pleasure of becoming reacquainted with them on Zoom last month. We had many fond memories to share.

Faith was born in Buffalo, NY and grew up in Ft Wayne, IN. Her father was a Lutheran Chaplain in the Army and for the Veterans Administration. Most of their posts keep them in the Midwest and Washington, DC. Faith studied at Valparaiso and Washington University where she received her MA in social work.

Peter was born in New York City but grew up in Hollywood, CA as his father was a screen writer. Peter returned to New York for his medical training, studying at Columbia Presbyterian.

Shortly after the birth of their first child, Peter was drafted into the army as a doctor. Promised a training position stateside, the Army immediately sent him to Vietnam for a year and a day. Peter said he would have continued serving in the Army as he felt the work was important. However, when he left the States his daughter was just 4 months old. Family life called him home. Faith and Peter lived in California and Vermont before moving to Tampa when Peter was hired to found USF's medical school.

Faith and Peter have two grown children - one in Vermont and the other in Hawaii. We all agreed, great places to vacation once this pandemic is over.

We had planned for Peter and Faith to be formally welcomed at the October picnic but they were unable to attend at the last minute. I hope all of you will take time to get to know and welcome them when you finally get to meet them face to face. They plan to attend our next outdoor gathering.



## Notes from the Organ Bench (and the bell tables!)

Our Trinity Bell Choir has been working hard this last month, and have already had our YouTube debut!

If you have not seen it, check it out on the link (<https://youtu.be/SL51wVgmKsY>).

Leah surprised us with red masks with a gold bell on the front to match our tables!

We played a handbell/organ duet on Reformation Sunday, on the melody of A Mighty Fortress is our God. (<https://youtu.be/VWmjRNEVxAk>)

Advent and Christmas are coming soon, and we are preparing music for them both. We have begun learning a setting of the carol "Still, Still, Still" for handbells and harp, and Stephen Hewitt will bring his harp to church to record with the bells.

We are grateful for the council's support and encouragement, but no one could have foreseen in January that we would need to add space (foam, red cloth,) and equipment in order to play during a pandemic. If you are able, please donate to the special music fund.

- Ron Turner

Organist and Director of Music



**After the success of outdoor worship last month, we've decided to make this a monthly event!** We will continue to offer pre-recorded worship on every Sunday, but once a month we'll also gather for worship outdoors.

We will worship in **Shelter 12** at **Lake Seminole Park** on

- \* Sunday Nov 22nd at 10am
- \* Thursday Dec 24th at 4pm (Christmas Eve)



The Sunday service will have the same content as what we record and put on our website, but there will be no music. Holy Communion will be shared.

Planning is underway for a safe gathering on Christmas Eve, but we are also creating a pre-recorded service with lots of music.



**LAKE SEMINOLE PARK**  
10015 Park Boulevard  
Seminole, Florida 33777-3810





## The TLC Bulletin Board



### Our Weekly Online Gatherings

You can join any of these gatherings by **computer** or by **telephone**.

- By computer, go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter the meeting ID
- By phone, dial **(301) 715-8592** and enter the meeting ID.

You may be put into a "waiting room," but you will then join the meeting.

**Fellowship Hour:** Sundays at 2 pm  
Meeting ID: 502 610 831

**Worship Reflection:** Mondays at 7 pm  
Meeting ID: 839 8107 6513

**Centering Prayer:** Tuesdays at 7:30 pm  
Meeting ID: 862 2091 1252

**Book Study:** Saturdays at 3 pm  
Meeting ID: 402 615 714

**New 3-week Book Study:**  
Wednesdays at 7:30 pm  
Meeting ID: 918 3565 4675



### Book Study

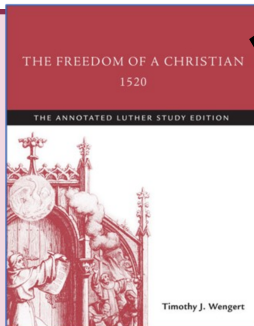
*In honor of the 500<sup>th</sup> year since publication*

#### THE FREEDOM OF A CHRISTIAN Martin Luther

Led by Anne Harman, Intern Pastor  
3 Wednesday evenings:  
November 4, 11 & 18  
7:30 – 9:00 PM on ZOOM (Mtg ID: 918 3565 4675)

#### To participate:

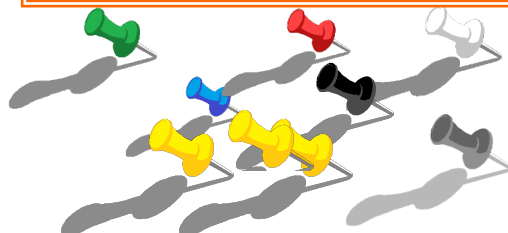
RSVP to Anne Harman at [intern@trinitylutheranstpeter.org](mailto:intern@trinitylutheranstpeter.org)  
Anne will send you information about purchasing the book or locating a free digital download.



### Next Council Meeting

**NOVEMBER 16**

Council meetings are held monthly on Mondays beginning at 6:00 PM. Members of the congregation may attend, but only Council members may vote.





# Creating space for conversation

by Peggy Hahn  
LEAD Executive Director

My parents were in town when it happened.

My dad, a New Orleans native who is conservative and always interested in rich conversations, turned to our adult sons, who are quarantining with us, and said: "Tell me what you think of Black Lives Matter."

The tension in the air was worse than the Houston humidity as we sat outside on the patio.

Our sons exchanged looks. The quiet, least-likely-to-engage son spoke up. He laid out his thoughts as everyone else leaned in, waiting for my dad to respond (or react). But he didn't.

He held the space.

Instead of sharing his own views, my dad asked another question. What about all lives mattering?

My other son carefully opened up a dialog with my dad, helping him hear a tiny bit of the pain of a people we have oppressed for generations in our country. It was hard for my dad to hear this, but he did it. He deeply, surprisingly listened.

Then he asked about the statues being removed. They listened to each other as the conversation revealed differing points of view, both heartfelt. Both deep inside of these men. Holy listening.

Two days later, as my parents prepared to leave, my dad hugged our sons and said, "I am still processing the conversation we had the other night. I am not sure how I feel about it. Or that I even agree. But I respect your thoughts and the men that you have become."

Tears were in all of our eyes – both for my dad's willingness to create dialog with real listening that didn't have to be heated, and his blessing on our adult sons. For their willingness to risk a core relationship in their lives in order to share their values. Holy ground.

Maybe there isn't more to say, except this:

*How are you holding space for people who think differently than yourselves – just space to listen? To give dignity to their humanity?*



## Strangers no more

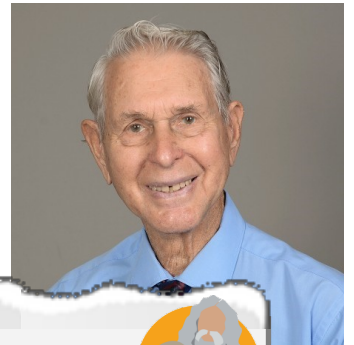
Some people open their holiday meals to strangers, and one host even did so inadvertently. In 2016, Wanda Dench texted 17-year-old Jamal Hinton about Thanksgiving dinner, thinking she was contacting her grandson. When a skeptical Hinton requested a photo and received a selfie of someone with a different skin color, he chuckled — but then asked if he could still come eat! Thus began a new friendship and a new annual tradition, which Hinton documents online. "Family is more than blood," says Dench. "It's the people you want to be with."

This year's meal will be bittersweet, with an empty chair for Dench's husband, who died of Covid-19 in April. To show support after that loss, Hinton sent his "grandma" a collection of loving video messages. Strangers worldwide expressed condolences to a woman who'd fully embraced a stranger.

# Celebrating Bert

How sad it was to say goodbye to Bert Bertoluzzi, and yet how satisfying it was to know that he had enjoyed more than 95 years of life.

The memorial service that we created for him featured some of his favorite hymns, along with things that he had written and words of wisdom that he had saved. Here are only a few of them:



## "Sermons We See"

by Edgar Guest (the People's Poet)

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;  
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.  
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,  
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;  
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,  
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.

I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done;  
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.  
And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true,  
But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do;  
For I might misunderstand you and the high advice you give,  
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind.  
When a weaker brother stumbles and a strong man stays behind  
Just to see if he can help him, then the wish grows strong in me  
To become as big and thoughtful as I know that friend to be.  
And all travelers can witness that the best of guides today  
Is not the one who tells them, but the one who shows the way.

One good man teaches many, men believe what they behold;  
One deed of kindness noticed is worth forty that are told.  
Who stands with men of honor learns to hold his honor dear,  
For right living speaks a language which to every one is clear.  
Though an able speaker charms me with his eloquence, I say,  
I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one, any day.

## The Ten Commandments of Human Relations



- I. Speak to people. There is nothing so nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
- II. Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown, only 14 to smile.
- III. Call people by name. The sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of their own name.
- IV. Be friendly and helpful. If you would have friends, be a friend.
- V. Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do is a genuine pleasure.
- VI. Be genuinely interested in people. You can like almost everybody if you try.
- VII. Be generous with praise; cautious with criticism.
- VIII. Be considerate with the feelings of others. There are usually three sides to a controversy—yours, the other person's, and the right side.
- IX. Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.
- X. Add to this a good sense of humor, a big dose of patience, and a dash of humility, and you will be rewarded many-fold.

And this one, whose source we do not know:

It is the way of the world, that when a human being is born, all rejoice; but when he dies, all sorrow. It should be the other way around. No one can tell what troubles await the developing child on its journey through life. But when a person has lived well and dies in peace, all should rejoice, for he has completed his journey successfully and he is departing this world with the imperishable crown of a good name.

Karen Toth has some memories of Bert that need to be shared:

"Mr. Bertoluzzi, Mr. Bert, Bert, and Uncle Bert...these are all names that were used in our family over the years. I grew up in Redeemer Lutheran Church and have known Bert since my pre-school years. He was the Sunday School teacher that all the kids wanted to have when they were old enough. But the little kids loved to play with him, especially at our Rally Day Sunday School picnics at Lake Maggiore every September. And then, there were our church camping trips in the 70's and 80's. Bert was the master camper. He would keep us busy in the evenings sitting around a big campfire playing some kind of crazy game.

"Bert was an institution at both Redeemer and Trinity. He was the greeter that made everyone feel welcome—especially if they were from Pennsylvania. He always gave a big hug and a bigger smile.

"Our family and the Bertoluzzis became very close. When we had our children, they called him Uncle Bert, and of course there was Aunt Doris too. I still remember the tears that were shed when Chris and Lisa found out that they were not a REAL aunt and uncle. But boy were they part of a great babysitting team for us!! When they babysat, our home became party central. It would get to the point where we felt like we would rather stay home and enjoy the fun than go out as planned.

"Bert, his beloved wife, Doris, and family have played an important part in my family's life and he will certainly missed. We loved you Bert."



## Make Your Own Advent Wreath!

If we provide you  
with this:



And you add some  
craft supplies and  
your own sense of  
fun...

You can make  
something like this:



Or something like this:



**After “Worship in the Park” on Sunday, November 22,** everyone is invited to stay on for an afternoon of creativity and fun. We can provide a foam ring, these candles, and four candle-holders; you and your imagination need to provide the rest.

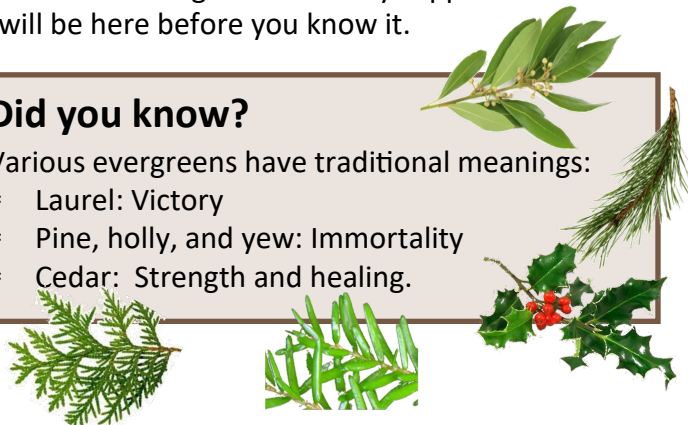
If you want to, you can buy this ring or a larger one from Dollar Tree and you can buy your own candles if you prefer different colors. You can even create something completely different; all it needs are four candles and some way of keeping them upright!

Start planning what you want your wreath to look like, and start collecting the necessary supplies. November 22 will be here before you know it.

### Did you know?

Various evergreens have traditional meanings:

- \* Laurel: Victory
- \* Pine, holly, and yew: Immortality
- \* Cedar: Strength and healing.



## NOVEMBER Anniversaries

11/05 Doug & Kim Forcino  
11/08 Lisa & Whitney Johnson  
11/30 Faithe & Peter Dunne

## NOVEMBER Birthdays

11/01 Jeanne Oakley  
11/20 Paris Smith  
11/20 Abraham Barlee  
11/25 Danny Burtless  
11/28 Alexandra Barlee

Richard J. Foster (*Celebration of Discipline*) says solitude is “more a state of mind and heart” than a place: “There is a solitude of the heart that can be maintained at all times. Crowds, or the lack of them, have little to do with this inward attentiveness.”



Although Jesus preferred crowd-free alone times, that’s not always feasible. But no matter your surroundings and responsibilities, you can carve out intentional time to “be still” (Psalm 46:10). Try these tips for adding solitude to life’s rhythms:

- Take a day. Every month or two, enjoy a day of solitude. Turn off your phone and spend the day with God.
- Take an hour. Treat this time as an important calendar appointment. Keep it free to protect your solitude.
- Take a minute. Before a big meeting or as you’re answering the phone, breathe deeply and invite God into the moment.

—Janna Firestone





# NOVEMBER

# Trinity Lutheran Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Worship Service available online 2p Virtual Fellowship <sup>1</sup> - via Zoom	<b>2</b> 6:30p Handbell Choir Practice 7p Worship Reflection-via Zoom <sup>4</sup>	<b>3</b> <b>Election Day</b> 7:30p Centering Prayer - via Zoom <sup>3</sup>	<b>4</b> 6:30p Livestream Prayer Service 7:30p Book Study <sup>5</sup> - via Zoom	<b>5</b> 6pm—Pre-Record Sunday service	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 3p Book Study <sup>2</sup> - via Zoom
<b>8</b> Worship Service available online 2p Virtual Fellowship <sup>1</sup> - via Zoom	<b>9</b> 7p Worship Reflection-via Zoom <sup>4</sup>	<b>10</b> 6:30p Handbell Choir Practice 7:30p Centering Prayer - via Zoom <sup>3</sup>	<b>11</b> <b>Veterans Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 6:30p Livestream Prayer Service 7:30p Book Study <sup>5</sup> - via Zoom	<b>12</b> 6pm—Pre-Record Sunday service	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 3p Book Study <sup>2</sup> - via Zoom
<b>15</b> Worship Service available online 2p Virtual Fellowship <sup>1</sup> - via Zoom	<b>16</b> 6p Council Mtg - via Zoom 7p Worship Reflection-via Zoom <sup>4</sup>	<b>17</b> 6:30p Handbell Choir Practice 7:30p Centering Prayer - via Zoom <sup>3</sup>	<b>18</b> 6:30p Livestream Prayer Service 7:30p Book Study <sup>5</sup> - via Zoom	<b>19</b> 6pm—Pre-Record Sunday service	<b>20</b> <b>December Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>21</b> 3p Book Study <sup>2</sup> - via Zoom
<b>22</b> Worship Service available online 10a <b>Worship in the Park</b> (see p.4) 2p Virtual Fellowship <sup>1</sup> - via Zoom	<b>23</b> 7p Worship Reflection-via Zoom <sup>4</sup>	<b>24</b> 6:30p Handbell Choir Practice 7:30p Centering Prayer - via Zoom <sup>3</sup>	<b>25</b> 2pm—Pre-Record Sunday service 6:30p Livestream Prayer Service	<b>26</b> <b>Thanksgiving</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 3p Book Study <sup>2</sup> - via Zoom
<b>29</b> Worship Service available online 2p Virtual Fellowship <sup>1</sup> - via Zoom	<b>30</b> 7p Worship Reflection-via Zoom <sup>4</sup>	<b>27</b> 6:30p Handbell Choir Practice 7:30p Centering Prayer - via Zoom <sup>3</sup>	<b>Church office hours:</b> <b>Monday -Thursday</b> <b>9 am - 3 pm</b>			

To join Zoom Meetings, go to: <https://zoom.us/join> or call 301-715-8592 and enter the appropriate meeting ID listed below

<sup>1</sup>Virtual Fellowship Hour meeting ID: 502 610 831

<sup>2</sup>Bible/Book Study meeting ID: 402 615 714 passcode: 613078

<sup>3</sup>Centering Prayer meeting ID: 862 2091 1252

<sup>4</sup>Worship Reflection meeting ID: 839 8107 6513

<sup>5</sup>3-Week Wednesday Book Study meeting ID: 918 3565 4675

Our pre-recorded services can be found

on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVa-kol4fUtz65ttLjxD2Ng>

or on our website's "Worship" page: <https://trinitylutheranpete.org/outreach/worship/>