

THE COURIER

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



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

...he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

(Psalm 23)

I'm writing this at the half-way point of my first month of sabbatical. It hasn't gone as I imagined, but it's been full of blessings. Aside from getting caught up on sleep, doing some weeding in the front yard, and getting in some long bike rides, I have been trying to accomplish some specific goals.

There's a pile of books that I set aside to read; I'm still working my way through the first of them. It's called "The Idea of the Holy," by a German theologian named Rudolf Otto; it was published almost 100 years ago. It was mentioned by professors when I was in seminary; I bought it then and it's been sitting on my shelf ever since.

I thought I could read it in a few days, but it's proven to be rather "dense"—the kind of book that just makes you stop and think for a while. And then think some more. There are things I like about the book and things that rub me the wrong way. I'm wrestling with the ideas, rather than just accepting them.

Alongside reading books about God, I had planned to read through the gospel of John in what might be described as a "contemplative" manner, slowly and in ways that tap into my imagination. So far, I haven't even finished chapter one!

My third goal was to "do some writing." While I've thought a lot about what I want to write, I haven't yet actually put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard. Good thing I have a second month of sabbatical to look forward to in August. And even when this first month is over, I will have to find the time to pursue these projects in June and July.

I won't "get as much done" on my sabbatical as I had thought, but I'm still enjoying everything that I'm doing. My prayer for all of you is that you also have opportunities for rest and renewal in the weeks ahead.

Your brother in Christ,
Pr. Paul



Dear friends in Christ,

With sadness, I share with you that the Reverend **Patricia Large** was called to the Church Triumphant on April 28, 2022.

Pastor Large was born in Brooklyn, NY and attended Concordia Teacher's College in Forrest River, IL and Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH. Rev Large was ordained on January 10, 1988 and served her first call at Faith United Lutheran Church in Houtzdale, PA. Rev. Large moved to Florida to serve at Trinity Lutheran in St. Petersburg in 1992 and was later called to Faith Lutheran, Rotunda West until her retirement in October 2012.

Pat enjoyed her clown and puppet ministry and always considered it a blessing to serve as pastor/shepherd in the Lutheran Church.

Rev. Patricia Large was the pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg, FL from Jan 19, 1992—Nov 1996.

***Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.***

Bishop Pedro Suarez

Trinity Lutheran Church

Paul Gibson, Pastor
Lynne Tallon, Deacon
Brenden Hall, Organist and
Director of Music
Leah Heinicke, Office Admin
Azur H. Abdić, Facility Admin

Council Members

Lisa Johnson, President
Marty Snapp, Vice President
Helen Mowrer, Treasurer
Toni Durilla, Financial Secretary
Jen Durilla, Recording Secretary
Chris & Danny Burtless
Charlie Hahn
Violet Prepost
Lynne Tallon
Pastor Paul Gibson



Notes from the Organ Bench

Happy June! The cheerful hymns we played during these last few Sundays in Easter are some of my favorites, and I hope you enjoyed them as much as I did.

The first Sunday in June is Pentecost. We will have the flutist Nicole Vargas joining our music that morning! Holy Trinity Sunday will mark the last Sunday before ordinary time, which is when choir activities will be scaled down a bit. We will not be having mid-week rehearsals, but choir members will still be more than welcome to come to the choir loft and sing during service!

I hope you all had a fantastic Easter season, and I'll see you Sunday!

- *Brenden Hall*
Organist and Director of Music

Hot Lunches are Starting!

As you read this, we are ready to serve hot meals to our community! Metropolitan Ministries has certified us as the newest Pinellas County meal partner site. We are pleased to have this opportunity to partner with Metropolitan Ministries in this worthwhile ministry.



Our Trinity family has made it happen! Volunteers, financial gifts, your prayers and the enthusiasm you have shown how much you care about our shared commitment to be God's hands doing God's work! Well done!

We have been in contact with other churches, community groups and individuals to help us increase our pool of volunteers. "Many hands make light work." The more people we can involve, the better for all of us. What ever time you could spare would make a difference. You will be enriched and blessed to be a part of this ministry. Even if you are not sure if this opportunity is for you, stop in on Wednesdays and watch love in action. I think you will want to play a part. As always, you can call me with any questions.

Soli Deo gloria,
Gerry Munger
(813) 340-4062



Council Notes

Highlights from the April 25th Council meeting

- Approval was given to have a groundwater testing well dug in our parking lot.
- The 5-year lease for The St. Pete Group (AA) meeting in the sanctuary basement is up at the end of May. A 5-year renewal is expected.
- We are looking into the possibility of again being a venue for First Night.
- Council members are meeting with our Financial Advisor to review the investment allocation in our current portfolio.
- A redesign of our website is currently underway with a goal of making it more engaging.
- The owners of the Hollander and Avalon Hotels are looking at plans for further developments to their property. They have reached out to Trinity regarding our alleyway access rights.

Be a Faithful Citizen, Not a Lone Ranger



AMY DIMARCANGELO

Before sinners needed saving or a broken world needed restoring, God asserted that something wasn't right: "It is not good that the man should be alone" (Gen. 2:18). Who could have expected such an early plot twist? He'd created a beautiful universe, yet something was missing.

Eternally existing as the Trinity, God had always enjoyed relationship as Father, Son, and Spirit. Since Adam was his image-bearer, he was made to have relationships too. Our longing for family and friendship isn't the result of the fall—it's the result of God's original plan.

We need community. When we don't have it, we'll feel an emptiness, a longing, a craving, one that isn't rooted in discontentment but in our very design. Just like God created us to require oxygen and water and food to live, he's created us to need one another. It is not good that man should be alone, and it never was. So God made the church.

Individual Salvation, Corporate Citizenship

In Western culture, the high regard for autonomy and obsession with individualism has come at a cost: community. This lack of community (coupled with other factors) has contributed to rising loneliness, affecting our physical and mental well-being. In the church, it's affecting our spiritual health too.

When cultural Christianity was the norm, many who grew up in or around church inherited a false assurance of

salvation. Mounting concerns over this problem harkened a new focus on personal relationships with Jesus. This wasn't entirely ill-founded. God loves us as individuals and calls us as individuals to follow him. Going to church doesn't save you. Having Christian parents doesn't save you. Living in the Bible Belt doesn't save you. Jesus does, indeed, require personal allegiance.

However, well-intentioned efforts to emphasize the importance of a personal relationship with God have inadvertently diminished the importance of our corporate relationship. It doesn't end with just "Jesus and me." God has saved us individually to become a people:

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Pet. 2:9–10)

When we come to faith in Christ, we obtain citizenship in God's kingdom. We aren't lone rangers; we are indelibly linked to God's people. If we imagine that life is just about "Jesus and me," we won't function as faithful citizens.

On Mission Together

God has set apart his church as a holy nation. One that exists to worship and proclaim the Lord. One that operates with righteousness and justice, where the prosperous share with the poor and the powerful protect the weak. One where individuals work for the common good, more passionate about corporate flourishing than selfish gain. A place where the inhabitants don't only consider their own interests, but "decide never to put a stumbling block" and to "pursue what makes for peace and mutual upbuilding" (Rom. 14:13, 19). A place overflowing with truth and grace and love.

Surrounding this holy nation, a war rages. So while we await the return of our King, we arm ourselves for battle.

(LONE RANGER, Continued on page 5)

Haircuts for the Hungry



**Biscuits and Buzzcuts
Snips and Snacks
A Meal and a Mullet
A Coif and a Cutlet**

We are planning a Haircuts for the Hungry/Homeless event in partnership with Operation Shower Power. Tentatively scheduled to begin around 4:00pm on Saturday, June 25th, the event will take place in Redeemer Hall.

In addition to a free haircut, a free hot meal will also be provided.

The TLC Bulletin Board



*I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me.*

*Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one.*



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.

Bible Study:

Thursdays at 2pm

Meeting ID for all of the above:

402 615 714.



**My husband asked
if he had any
annoying habits
and then got all
offended during the
PowerPoint presentation**

womenafter50.com

Next Council Meeting

Mon. JUN 20

Council meetings are held monthly
on Mondays beginning at 6:00pm.

Members of the congregation may
attend, but only Council members
may vote.



We watch out for each other and protect one another from the flaming darts of the Evil One. Paul urges us to patiently admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, and help the weak (1 Thess. 5:14).

We carry out the mission together, inviting others to join the kingdom that will not be shaken. When enemies are in our midst—seeking to deceive and dismantle the kingdom—we drive them out. And when the battle seems bleak and our hope wavers, we remind each other that God has already won.

Growing in Holiness and Wholeness

Oh, what a lonely road it would be if Christianity was only about our individual relationships with God! Life is full of trials and tribulations. Jesus warned that we'll be hated and scorned for following him.

Knowing that we're not alone is profoundly comforting. We aren't the first Christians to suffer for his name, and we won't be the last. We are citizens who work together, soldiers who battle together, and elect exiles who joyfully await a better place. Together we're called to fight the good fight of faith. Together we're called to follow our King.

But since we're still sinners who often fail to live this calling out, life in community is messy. It rarely seems like a sweet taste of heaven and can be downright painful at times. But as we live according to our identity in our local church, we will grow in both holiness and wholeness. We won't be alone, and it will be very good.

This article is adapted from Amy DiMarcangelo's new book, A Hunger for More: Finding Satisfaction in Jesus When the Good Life Doesn't Fill You (TGC/Crossway, May 2022).

Amy lives with her husband and three children in South Jersey and is pursuing her MA in theological studies at Westminster Theological Seminary. You can find her at equippedformercy.com.

TLC Pantry News



A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers! Without their dedication, we could not provide as we do for the community. Our numbers continue to increase weekly (on average 70 guests). The menu has changed from peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to hot dogs or luncheon meat sandwiches; as well as the canned items-- Vienna sausages, pasta, applesauce, crackers, cookies, and a hard boiled egg. We also provide hygiene products, washcloths, and clothing.

The greatest needs:

- men's underwear (small-medium-large-extra large)
- men's socks (crew length) in grey or black
- men's shorts or jeans sizes (32-34-36-38)
- shoes—men's sizes 8- 10 ½,
- t-shirts—colored or print (M, L, and XL)

I would like to mention a community group, the Fleet Reserve Association 102, they meet here on the 3rd Sunday each month. They have chosen the food pantry as their volunteer project. Each month they provide food, clothing and hygiene products for our pantry. Our mission of caring for those in need has expanded beyond our walls and for this we are thankful.

May God continue to bless our ministry and those we serve.



God be with you always,
Deacon Lynne



Saturday, June 18, 2022

Trinity family and friends will meet at Lake Seminole Park- Shelter 9 starting at 10 AM for our family picnic. Bring an item to share, hamburgers and buns will be provided by the church. A sign-up sheet is located on the fellowship bulletin board. Please join us for food, fellowship, and games!

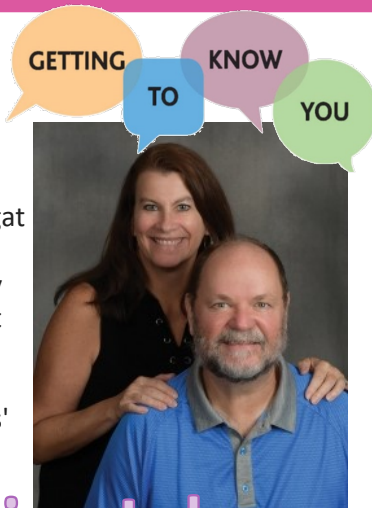


The Church Hive

Bees live in a cooperative way described as “eusociality,” or good relations. Each bee contributes a specific skill to the colony, synchronizing its efforts for the benefit of all. Likewise, a church's health depends on all members fulfilling their responsibility to the organism as a whole. Descriptions of hive life mirror Paul's words about the body of Christ, with members having different gifts “but the same Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:4).

According to R.S. Beal Jr., who was both a pastor and a zoology professor, a beehive is the perfect “living illustration of how to walk in unity.” He wrote, “Those of us who have believed in Jesus belong to one another just as much as we belong to Christ. We cannot live independently of one another anymore than we can live independently of Christ. Like the bees, we must learn to practice the sacrifice, labor, sharing, and submission of love that together we ‘may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ’” (Ephesians 4:15, KJV). How are you using your own spiritual gifts to build up your church “hive”?

I was born in New Jersey and grew up in a town called Toms River. This is a town known for having the 1998 Little League World Champions, being the location of the filming of the Amityville Horror, but maybe best known for being across Barnegat Bay from Seaside Heights, the site of the infamous Jersey Shore TV show. My family moved to St. Pete when I was 13, so I don't really identify with the Jersey Girl persona. In fact, I remember watching the evening news and copying the newscasters' pronunciation so I could lose the tell-tale Jersey accent.



Lisa Johnson

I attended Lakewood High School where it was really difficult to be a freshman knowing absolutely nobody. To have something to do and to have a way to make friends, I joined the marching band in 10th grade as part of the color guard which became my passion. After high school, I attended St. Pete College, which I am sure many of you remember as simply 'JC', and really wanted to become a math teacher. While I attended school, I also was the Color Guard Instructor at Osceola High School, and in the summers taught at various band camps in the area. I got involved with Drum Corps International (DCI), and performed with a group called Suncoast Sound. Drum Corps are sort of professional marching bands made up of kids no older than 21 who perform elaborate marching shows on football fields across the country all summer then a finals competition in August. The 12 groups who have the highest scores over the summer months compete in the finals, and in 1983 Suncoast Sound was 6th. It was very exciting and rewarding, but also that summer I met the person who would provide me with Chris, my beloved and amazing son. We were very young, and as often happens that relationship did not last. But I had my Chris.

Sadly, I was not able to become a math teacher, but instead got a job at Florida Federal Savings Bank as a teller. I was, without question, the worst teller in the history of tellers, but somehow kept my job and got better. I began the long banking journey through customer service, branch operations, loan servicing, operations management, then made the switch to the data processing side with a company called Fiserv. And yes, every time I have to say Fiserv, not Pfizer. I wish I had an easy answer when someone asks me what I do, but it's a little bit long winded. Simplified, my company provides banking software products, and my job is to train and support our loan systems.

I guess at some point I should mention Whitney! Here's our meet-cute: He was a sports radio personality on WDAE, and being a huge Tampa Bay sports fan I listened to his show daily. Then I saw him at a charity softball game at Al Lang Field and said "hey, there's that guy from the radio". The following week, I saw him at Tropicana Field, as I had a part time job as an usher because I wanted to see all the games for free. Anyway, I stopped him and told him I listened to his show and he looked genuinely surprised. We chatted for a bit and I did not give it another thought until the next night when I was stationed outside the press box and he stopped to talk with me again. After a few more of these chats, he brought me a chocolate chip cookie from the media dining room and that's when I knew this was a thing! We were together for many years, and then - at a Rays playoff game right after the Rays beat the Red Sox, he proposed to me in the exact location of the chocolate chip cookie event. Not exactly Hallmark-worthy, but a pretty good story!

So now we are happy in our bright blue house with the rambling crazy hippie garden in the backyard. We have three grandchildren that we adore who are way too far away, but we make do. We can't wait to get back to traveling out west to resume visiting the National Parks, but in the meantime we love the parks and the water right here at home, and appreciate every day how God has blessed our life together. And of course the Rays.



Be
Like
Bert!

TO DO LIST

- 1: Dream ☾
- 2: Love ❤️
- 3: Feel Free 🦋
- 4: Relax ☕
- 5: Be Happy 😊

Thanks!
Lisa

SERVING THIS MONTH

Volunteers are always welcome!

Please Contact: Ushers/Greeters: Lisa Johnson

Lectors: Pr. Paul Gibson

Flower Sponsors: Leah Heinicke

06/05 Ushers/Greeters: Barb, Janet, Matthew, Lisa
Lector: Paul McKay
Altar Flower Sponsor: Leah Heinicke

06/12 Ushers/Greeters: Carol, Arlene, Lynne, Lisa
Lector: Gretchen Frederick
Altar Flower Sponsor: Toni Durilla IMO Bob Lambo

06/19 Ushers/Greeters: Barb, Janet, Arlene, Lisa
Lector: Alan Due
Altar Flower Sponsor: Trudy & Greg Daniels IHO their fathers,
Duane Bork & Buddy Daniels

06/26 Ushers/Greeters: Carol, Violet, Alan, Jen, Toni
Lector: Ruth Kinsey
Altar Flower Sponsor: (open)

JUNE 2022 Birthdays

06/07 Rylee Klema
06/11 Auria Garcia
06/11 Symphonie Garcia
06/11 Erin Klema
06/14 Marilyn Marshick
06/14 Carla Sajda
06/16 Jacque Bishop
06/16 Margo Sardo
06/20 Cal Cook
06/22 Ann Gibson
06/23 Betty Napolitano

Anniversaries

none



Celebrating the church's birthday

On Pentecost, we remember when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' disciples. As they gathered in Jerusalem 10 days after Jesus' ascension, they saw tongues of fire, heard rushing wind and began speaking in many languages. Because the disciples could then share the good news with all the pilgrims assembled for the Pentecost festival, the occasion marks the birthday of the Christian church. That day alone, about 3,000 people devoted their lives to Christ.

Like the Holy Spirit, Pentecost is important and relevant today. As theologian Henri Nouwen writes, "Without Pentecost the Christ-event — the life, death and resurrection of Jesus — remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now."

Sharing God's kingdom

When Jesus, in the Nazareth synagogue, read from Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news" (Luke 4:18) and declared the prophecy fulfilled, "all spoke well of him" (v. 22). But when he then said God's favor was not *just* for Israel, they grew angry. How quickly we can change our minds about leaders — sometimes in the span of a short sermon! Yet Jesus simply meant that God's grace is so plentiful we can share it without fearing that if others benefit, we won't.

It's been said you can't share light without some falling on your own path. Ministers can't baptize new followers of Christ without getting wet themselves. And neither will any of us miss out on the kingdom of God if we opt to share it with others — both in and beyond our community, people similar to and different from us.

What is Jesus challenging us to do right now? If it's something that benefits others, we'd do well to peel off from the angry mob (vv. 28-29) and think again. Perhaps not just a human being but the Spirit of the Lord is announcing good news in our hearing today.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Bible Quiz

Jesus was known for using a certain type of speech in his teaching. What was it?

- A. soliloquy C. lecture
- B. parable D. riddle

Answer: B (See Mark 4:33-34.)



Trinity Lutheran Church Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 29	30 Mem. Day	31	Jun 1	2	3 Synod Assembly	4 Synod Assembly
<div>Church office hours: Monday -Thursday 9 am - 3 pm</div>			Leah Out of Office			
5 Pentecost Synod Assembly 10a Worship Service 11a Fellowship Hour	6	7	8 9a Bert's Breakfast Buddies 11:30a Hot Lunch 5:30 Choir Practice <i>Handbells on hiatus until Aug</i>	9	10	11
12 Trinity Sunday 10a Worship Service 11a Fellowship Hour	13	14	15 9a Bert's Breakfast Buddies 11:30a Hot Lunch <i>Choir and Handbells on summer hiatus</i>	16 2p Bible Study via Zoom ¹	17	18 10a Church Picnic Seminole Park-Shelter 9
19 Father's Day 10a Worship Service 11a Fellowship Hour	20 Jul Newsletter Deadline	21	22 9a Bert's Breakfast Buddies 11:30a Hot Lunch <i>Choir and Handbells on summer hiatus</i>	23 2p Bible Study via Zoom ¹	24	25 4p Haircuts for the Homeless (RH)
26 10a Worship Service 11a Fellowship Hour	27	28	29 9a Bert's Breakfast Buddies 11:30a Hot Lunch <i>Choir and Handbells on summer hiatus</i>	30	Jul 1	2

Online Worship and Meetings

¹ All church meetings now use the same Zoom link.
 To participate by computer, go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/402615714>
 To participate by phone, dial (301)715-8592 and enter meeting ID: 402 615 714.

We are livestreaming our worship services on Facebook:
 They are uploaded to our YouTube channel as soon as possible afterwards
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVa-kol4fUtz65ttLjxD2Ng>
 Links can also be found on our website: <https://trinitylutheranpete.org/outreach/worship/>