



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

*"In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. "*  
 (1 John 4:10)

February almost always brings the combination of Valentine's Day and the beginning of the season of Lent. We offer expressions of our love for one another, then we acknowledge the costly expression of God's love for us.

This year, February has another gift to offer. Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 5, in the sanctuary immediately after worship. We will approve a budget for 2023, elect someone to serve on our church council, and begin to make plans for a big anniversary celebration!

2023 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the construction of our sanctuary. I hope that we can plan a celebration weekend that offers community events and a worship service with special guests. It isn't often that a building in Florida turns one hundred.

Ash Wednesday is on February 22. At 12:30 and 6:30, we will offer a worship service that includes confession of our sinful attitudes, the option of having a cross drawn on our forehead with ashes, and holy communion.

The forty days of Lent are a good time to focus on prayer and the reading of scripture. Our online prayer class will continue over

Zoom on Wednesdays at 3 o'clock. We will also have an in-person fellowship and study gathering on Wednesdays at 6:30. Bring food or drink to share while watching and discussing 30-minute videos on biblical subjects.

We will offer a number of options for daily devotions in Lent. In addition to the year-round devotional booklets that are always available in the narthex, the synod's "Just Love" team will be offering daily devotions in print and online that are based on a book called "The 1619 Project," which recounts the history and repercussions of slavery in this nation. Readings from the book will be paired with scripture, reflections, and prayer (see page 6).

And, if those weren't enough ideas, we will continue to encourage the use of the "YouVersion" application for smart phones and computers, a fun and easy way to engage in discussion about your faith from the comfort of your own home. On Sunday, February 19, we will teach people how to get connected with one another during fellowship time.

My prayer is that, in the days ahead, you will experience many signs of the love of God and the love of friends and family.

Your brother in Christ,  
*Pr. Paul*

## THE SEASON OF LENT AT TRINITY

- + Ash Wednesday services at 12:30 and 6:30
- + Online prayer class Wednesdays at 3 pm
- + In-person fellowship and study Wednesdays at 6:30
- + Daily devotions in print and online
- + Use of "YouVersion" on smart phones and computers.





## Notes from the Organ Bench

Happy 2023 everyone! Any new year resolutions to join the choir? I hope your January has been filled with as much joy as mine. Thank you all for the birthday wishes! Bell choir has officially started up again, so if you're looking for something to do on Mondays at 5:00, please let me know! Our vocal choir continues to grow, but there's still plenty of room for new members, and anyone who's interested is encouraged to join!

*- Brenden Hall*

Organist and Director of Music

### 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

## SouperBowl of Caring

Instead of a single day, this year our SuperBowl of Caring (SBOC) event is taking place over several weeks. We started in the middle of January and we are continuing until we cap off the event on Feb 12th.



We are collecting food items for distribution by our food pantry in their Friday bagged lunches, such as:

- PopTarts
- Applesauce or fruit salad (single-serving cups)
- Snack cracker packs (single-serving packs)
- Cookies (any type) in individual packs
- Jars of grape jelly (our volunteers make PB&J sandwiches to place in the bags)

Let's see how many times we can fill the bins with these items before February 12th!

Then **on February 12th**, the Band of Angels will host a **Tailgate Party** during our regular post-service fellowship hour as a celebration of giving and a thank you for your generosity. Enjoy some game-day food: wings, chili, salad, chips, desserts, and drinks!

**Bring a case of water (16oz bottles) on Feb 12th and get a ticket for a prize drawing!**

## Our Church Directory—on your computer!

Did you know that as a church member you can access our directory online? Simply go to <https://directory.ucdir.com/> and enter your unique identifier to set up a user name and password. It is the same unique identifier you would have used to access the church directory via the Universal Church Directory app on your smart phone. If you don't know your unique identifier, contact the church office and it can be emailed to you.

## Our Church Directory—on your smart phone!

You don't have the directory on your smart phone yet? The app is available for apple or android devices and it provides MORE than just an easy way to find contact information for your fellow members!



Link to our "Worship Services" playlist on YouTube.

Need more info on an event at Trinity? Check out the entry on our calendar!

YouVersion Bible app included!



Forgot someone's name? You can look them up by name or by photo! Click on their address and launch your map program.

Quick Links to our website and social media pages!

# How Nehemiah Helps the Discouraged

A few years ago, my late husband lost his job, then fell ill. I had to financially support our family for some time. As I experienced bouts of discouragement, I recalled Peter's words: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). So I stayed in the Word, and the Lord was faithful to teach me amid my doubt and discouragement—even in unexpected ways.

The historical book of Nehemiah might not seem like an obvious place to turn for encouragement. It recounts Nehemiah's efforts to rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem, and chapter 6 includes multiple efforts by Nehemiah's enemies to discourage him. However, he leads the returned exiles to complete the wall reconstruction project despite this heavy-handed opposition.

So what can we learn from Nehemiah's response to the discouragement from his enemies?

## Know the Truth

Nehemiah's enemies assailed his wall-rebuilding efforts with every trick possible. They tried to lure him away from the job and, later, into sin. They harassed him and lied about him. They threatened his life and his character.

Likewise, Satan wants to halt our spiritual growth. He uses difficult circumstances (Luke 13:16), character assassination (Rev. 12:9–10), lies (John 8:44), and temptations (2 Cor. 11:3) to stop us in our spiritual tracks, to send us into pits of self-focus.

Nehemiah's enemies didn't succeed, in part because he knew the truth. He saw through their ploys. They called him to a meeting four times. Talk about tenacious evil! But Nehemiah knew they intended him harm and wanted to lure him away from leading the rebuilding efforts. They even used a false prophet who suggested Nehemiah sin by entering the temple to avoid an assassin.

We too need to remember the truth about Satan, to be "sober-minded" and "watchful" about his tactics, resisting his attempts to "devour us" and thwart our progress in the faith (1 Pet. 5:8–9).

## Speak the Truth

Nehemiah didn't just know the truth about his enemies' efforts—he spoke back against Sanballat's lie that Nehemiah wanted to proclaim himself King of Judah. Nehemiah regarded this as another attempt to frighten the wall repairers, so he called out the lie: "No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind" (Neh. 6:8).

Nehemiah spoke the truth to his enemies. And I need to speak truth when Satan attempts to discourage me about my shortcomings as a wife, mother, and worker.

I speak the truth to myself—Jesus is in control of my spiritual progress, he will one day bring it to completion, and he loves me deeply, even amid my failure. Jesus died to forgive my sin and he lives to rid me of it.

When discouraged in our spiritual lives, we need to see the truth about our Enemy and speak the truth about our Friend.

## Rely on God

When Nehemiah approached King Artaxerxes for permission to rebuild the wall, he was "very much afraid" (2:2). Before he asked the king for this favor, Nehemiah "prayed to the God of heaven" (2:4). God answered Nehemiah's prayer, and he was encouraged.

From that point on, Nehemiah relied on God through prayer. His prayers are recorded several times in the book, including in chapter 6: "But now, O God, strengthen my hands" (v. 9). It's easy to become discouraged when we rely on our strength and come up short. But as Nehemiah found, when we pray for God's guidance, strength, and insight, he provides the help we need to persevere in the work he's given us to do.

## Just Do It

The returned exiles persisted in the wall reconstruction effort despite opposition and discouragement, and by chapter 6, only the wall gates remained to be rebuilt. The opposition picked up, but Nehemiah and those he led finished the wall anyway. They just did it!

When I'm discouraged, the last thing I want to do is invest in spiritual disciplines like fellowship and worship. I'd rather sit in a chair and feel sorry for myself. But the way out of discouragement is to pick up the phone and call a trusted and encouraging Christian friend or to attend worship where we're reminded of the truth of the cross and reassured of God's love. We need to move forward like Nehemiah and just do it—whether we feel like it or not.

Nehemiah could have yielded to discouragement, and so might we, but we don't need to. Like Nehemiah, we can know the truth about our Enemy and our God, rely on God's power through prayer, and keep moving forward in God's good plans for us.

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Lorraine Potter Zechmann (MBA, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania) spent most of her career in marketing with stints as a professor, consultant, and, most recently, president and CEO of Stonecroft Ministries (an evangelistic outreach for women). She's the author of *Rest* (a Bible study for seekers) and she occasionally blogs at [holidaylonging.wordpress.com](http://holidaylonging.wordpress.com). Lorraine and her husband, Bill, share six children, six grandchildren, and two dogs. They live in Kansas and Nebraska and belong to New Song Church in Gretna, Nebraska.

# The TLC Bulletin Board



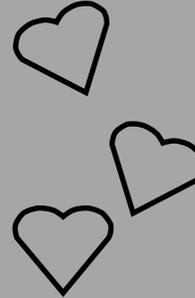
Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind...  
for to this you were called.  
- 1 Peter 3:8-9

**You are Invited!**  
**What:** Free Hot Lunch  
**When:** Wednesdays 11:30am-1:00pm  
**Where:** Trinity Lutheran Church  
 3rd Floor Event Space  
 400 4th St. N., St. Petersburg, FL  
 Take the elevator to the 3rd floor

There is no charge for these meals. All are welcome. Food is provided by Metropolitan Ministries. Donations are accepted to offset food costs.

COATS  
HOODIES  
JACKETS  
SWEATERS  
SWEAT SHIRTS

**WE ARE COLLECTING JACKETS FOR THOSE IN NEED**



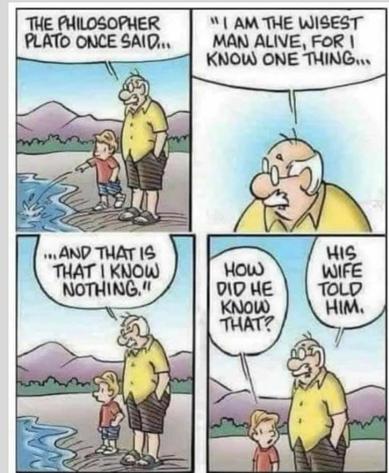
**FLOWERS**  
 O Lord, how beautiful are your works!

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## Online Gathering(s) this month:

- **Annual Meeting:** Sunday, Feb 5th at 11am
- **Prayer Class:** Wednesdays at 3pm

By computer, go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter the meeting ID **402 615 714**  
 By phone, dial **(301) 715-8592** and enter the meeting ID **402 615 714**  
 You may be put into a "waiting room," but you will then join the meeting.



**80% of arguments start because someone hasn't eaten yet.**



Get your TLC Window cling!  
 Donate to our Elevator Fund and receive a TLC "Red Door" window cling as a thank you!

**Next Council Meeting:  
 Feb 15th**

**Annual Meeting:  
 After worship on Sunday Feb 5th!**



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner at IHOP**  
 4671 Park Blvd  
 Pinellas Park, FL

**Join us at 6pm on 02/21/23**  
 Sign up sheet on the bulletin board in Van Horne Fellowship Hall!

## Carillon Update

Many thanks to all who have donated funds toward the cost of our new carillon. It is now **paid in full!!!**

Total Cost: \$7320.00  
Donations: - 7320.00  
Remaining: \$ 0.00



The Carillon made its debut the week before Christmas. It has been chiming the hour from 9am-6pm each day, and playing a randomly selected seasonal hymn after the noon hour chime.



## YouVersion

**Have YOU tried YouVersion?**  
by Lisa Johnson

YouVersion is an online and mobile Bible platform which is available for smartphone and desktop and **is also embedded in Trinity's Church directory application**. This free tool allows you to listen to audio Bibles, create Prayers, study with Friends, and explore 2,000+ Bible versions. The over 800 devotional plans contain a sharing option called "talk it over", where you can read a daily message with associated scriptures then discuss with the other participants. I have been sharing these devotional plans with Pastor Paul and Chris Burtless and we have had some really interesting conversations! If you would like to be part of a 4 day devotional plan beginning on Ash Wednesday called God's Word for Life, install the app on your phone or desktop and let me know so I can invite you to the plan. If you need help, just ask!

Ed Note: Members can find Lisa Johnson's contact details in our church directory! (see p. 2)

## Elevator Update

Thanks also to all who have donated funds toward the cost of repairing our elevator! We have raised over half of the cost already, but we'll have to pay 100% up front to have the new drive ordered and installed.

Total Cost: \$23,556.15  
Donations: - 12,875.00  
Remaining: \$ 10,681.15

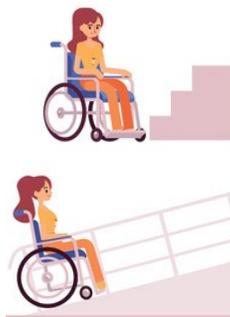


Mark your donations toward this project as "Elevator."

## Wheelchair Ramp?

We are also working on getting a wheelchair ramp designed and built for us so that we are still accessible if our elevator goes out again. We do not yet have a cost on this project.

Total Cost: <unknown>  
Donations: - 10,225.00  
Remaining: \$ <unknown>



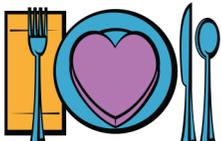
Mark your donations toward this project as "Wheelchair Ramp."



**February 19 is "Bring Your Phone, Tablet, or Laptop to Church" Sunday!**

Bring one of these electronic devices and, during fellowship time, we will show you how to connect with one another on the "YouVersion" application.

## COMMUNITY



### MEALS

Although our elevator is out of service and we are unable to provide the midweek hot meal from our location, we have been successful in partnering with Christ United Methodist Church to use their facility! Pastor Dawn Worden was excited about providing space for us to resume hot meals on Wednesdays in their chapel, which holds tables for 40+ people.

In discussion with her, it was clear that our concern for the underserved and homeless people is mutual. In fact, she indicated that her congregation has provided periodic meals for these folks in the past. With that in mind, we discussed having her interested members observe our operation in person, then, if interested, partner with Metropolitan Ministries as a meal site on a different day. That piece is in the early stages, but certainly looks positive! We all look forward to sharing in this common ministry

Grace, Amazing Grace!

- Gerry  
gmunger1@gmail.com



GETTING TO KNOW YOU  
**Jacquie Bishop**

I was born in Philadelphia in 1950. My family followed a common route in post WWII years. My father was a Marine, an alcoholic, a business man,

an Episcopal priest, and soon again an alcoholic. When I was five, we moved from a row house in the city to an old, leafy suburb called Springfield. My mother was a true Christian who believed in deeds over words. She was my role model for a foundation of equality, justice, and love for all people. Sadly and typically in the '50s, she was effectively steam-rolled into a doormat with an apron by my father. I had one sister, five years older than me, and Lord, were we all scared of him! But...if anyone asked, Dad never drank at all and things were great at home!

The family was always much involved in the Episcopal Church. Thankfully, churches then had kids' choirs, which I loved. My first mad crush was on my choir director! When I was turning 13, I guess my father had put together a few years sober, and convinced our church to sponsor him for Berkeley Divinity School in New Haven, CT. So, we were uprooted and moved to Yale-town for three years. We lived in the second floor of a triple-decker, in much-reduced circumstances. God's compensation for me was that I won a scholarship to an amazing private girls' school, where I learned to love learning. That school put me so far ahead academically, that it carried me through the rest of my life. I loved school! It was my refuge from home, a place where I excelled.

When my father graduated from seminary, we were sent to a parish back in PA. Kennett Square was a bedroom community for DuPont - in more ways than one. I again got a scholarship for a private high school, but this one was a superficial place where all that mattered were clothes, cynicism, and social standing. In my junior year: I went to Finland as an AFS student, my father drank again and tossed his collar away, my parents divorced, and the scandal made me *persona non grata* with staff and teachers at school. After senior year, I worked my way to France, and spent a summer learning to count fast in French. Work was in a tiny Tabac in a tiny village in the Midi – no English spoken. I left dreaming in French, and flew straight to NYC without a sou in my pocket. I had been accepted at NYU, and went straight there, avoiding home.

1968. Greenwich Village, Dylan, drugs, and fifth floor walk-ups. Need I say more? It was intoxicating (no pun) to a socially naive girl like me. Freedom! I soaked it all up. I majored in French (!), and worked at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital summers and some weekends. Literature was also intoxicating to me, and my mind happily expanded. At work, I met a guy with a motorcycle, and became familiar with an eclectic street crowd, the Lower East Side, and genuine urban poverty. At the bike shop, where he worked, I met the father of my kids, got pregnant, and turned down a graduate fellowship in the French Dept.

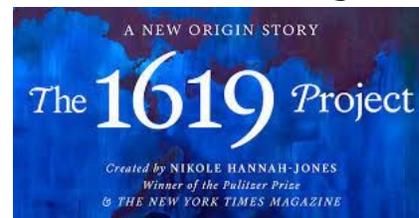
(JACQUE—Continued on next page)



Be Like Bert!



**Lenten Devotions centered around "The 1619 Project."**



In August of 1619, a ship appeared on the horizon, near Point Comfort, a coastal port in the English colony of Virginia. It carried more than 20 enslaved Africans, who were sold to the colonists. No aspect of the country that would be formed here has been untouched by the years of slavery that followed.

**Order a copy of this book now (\$10-20) from your favorite bookseller** (print or digital) and get ready for daily devotions based on this new origin story.

Each day in Lent (beginning on Ash Wednesday), Pr. Paul will send an email and/or post on facebook a reference to a passage in the book and raise points to ponder in your devotions.

## SERVING THIS MONTH

Volunteers are always welcome!

Contact: Ushers/Greeters: Lisa Johnson  
Lector/Communion: Pr. Paul Gibson  
Flower Sponsors: Leah Heinicke

- 02/05** Ushers/Greeters: Barb, Janet, Lisa, & Violet  
Lector: Daryl Stewart  
Communion Assistants: Lynne Tallon, Daryl Stewart  
Altar Flower Sponsor: (open)
- 
- 02/12** Ushers/Greeters: Paul, Jan, Lisa, & Matthew  
Lector: Marty Snapp  
Communion Assistants: Alan Due, Lisa Johnson  
Altar Flower Sponsor: (open)
- 
- 02/19** Ushers/Greeters: Barb, Janet, Alan, & Suzanne  
Lector: Paul McKay  
Communion Assistants: Paul Frakes, Jan Frakes  
Altar Flower Sponsor: (open)
- 
- 02/26** Ushers/Greeters: Violet, Matthew, Paul, & Jan  
Lector: Jacque Bishop  
Communion Assistants: Teresa Zeoli, Kim Snyder  
Altar Flower Sponsor: (open)

# February Birthdays

- 02/05** Marty Snapp  
**02/06** Ginni Truglio  
**02/10** Steve Stanley  
**02/13** Craig Mowrer  
**02/18** David Amann  
**02/23** Sean Reynolds  
**02/24** Paul McKay  
**02/26** Alan Due

## Anniversaries

- 02/16** Matthew & Jen Reitz



*(JACQUE—Continued from page 6)*

at NYU. (What was I thinking?? I wasn't thinking, just pregnant!) We moved further into the "ghetto", and that was the life I lived for the next 7 years.

My life, like that of my neighbors, became an issue of surviving day to day. Without the anchor of school to ground me, I was adrift. My son, Sean, was born in 1973, his sister Andrea in 1974, and Stacey in 1977. Motherhood grounded me. I had to leave their Dad, though, who was in the process of discovering that he was gay, and had little time for us.

I sometimes think all my kids were the product of immaculate conceptions! I went on Welfare for a few years, in my own fifth-floor walkup. It was me and the kids against the world, and we survived together. I loved them ferociously.

Eventually, exhaustion just defeated me. Toddlers, strollers, laundry, groceries – daily down those five flights and up again. When Stacy was only three months old, I called my sister in Gulfport and told her I was coming. After many "No you're nots", "Yes I am" won out, and a red-eye from JFK landed me, 3 kids, and two shopping bags, in Gulfport. My sister and her husband were welcoming after all, taught me that after-work drinking was a necessity of life, soon found me an apartment of my own, and gave me a temp job at their family business on Central Ave. Soon, I took a job at Bayfront Hospital, for \$3.00/hour. I clocked in at 6:42 A.M.. Daycare and transportation were nightmares. To this day, I shudder to think of how we made it.

Next move (our building condemned) was to a gov't FHA-235 (new!) house, by Child's Park. I had never realized what a segregated city St.Pete was, but now I saw. The kids in the 'hood really persecuted my own, who were mixed and light-skinned. I couldn't wrap my brain around this kind of reversal, but in a few years, crack decimated the neighborhood, and break-ins were a regular thing. With my Mom's help, we moved back to Gulfport where my girls already played in Little League. We were a block from Boca Ciega H.S, and since I now had a decent salary from learning computerized medical billing, we stayed until the older kids went off to college and Stacey moved out.

After many years, I realized I had equity in my house, and bought a cheap little 1925 bungalow in the Old Southeast. MY dream house at last. Flowers everywhere, quiet, and friendly neighbors. I worked hard to fix the place up, and loved every minute. I could have stayed there forever, but in a few years I think God nudged me toward the guy next door. Tom was recently separated from his wife, and had a beautiful, blond, two year old. I had baby-sat for him since he was a small baby, and I guess he needed a Mom. You all know him as Brenden. I was 53, single for decades, and unchurched for longer, but it was Tom who brought me to Trinity – Brenden in tow. He was a brilliant kid, who never stopped talking! His father started him on piano at age 6, and he learned like a sponge. (He still does). We were a stable, if odd, family, for 15years. Tom was a drinker, and I finally had to leave in order to stay sober myself. Brenden went through some rocky years then. Tom, I guess, lost his brain to alcohol and to a Peruvian woman on Skype. Brenden was ignored and then "orphaned," and suffered much. Thanks to Trinity, he was rescued, loved, and housed. You now see the product of all that love on the organ bench every Sunday. Brenden is, and always will be my Happy Ending. God bless him, and our Trinity family, every day!

# Trinity Lutheran Church Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10a Worship Service 11a Fellowship Hour	30 5p Bell Choir	31	Feb 1 9a Bert's Breakfast Buddies 11:30a Community Meal 3p Prayer Class	2 4p Choir Rehearsal	3 9:30a TLC Pantry	4
5 10a Worship Service 11a Annual Meeting	6 5p Bell Choir	7	8 9a Bert's Breakfast Buddies 11:30a Community Meal 3p Prayer Class	9 4p Choir Rehearsal	10 9:30a TLC Pantry	11 10a Cong Bkfst
12 10a Worship Service 11a Fellowship Hour SouperBowl of Caring Party	13 5p Bell Choir	14 Valentines Day	15 9a Bert's Breakfast Buddies 11:30a Community Meal 3p Prayer Class 6p Council Meeting	16 4p Choir Rehearsal	17 9:30a TLC Pantry	18
19 10a Worship Service 11a Fellowship Hour Bring Your Phone to Church Day 1p Fleet Reserve	20 Presidents' Day Office Closed Feb Newsletter Deadline	21  6p Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	22 Ash Wednesday 9a Bert's Breakfast Buddies 11:30a Community Meal 12:30p Worship Svc 6:30p Worship Svc	23 4p Choir Rehearsal	24 9:30a TLC Pantry	25
26 10a Worship Service 11a Fellowship Hour	27 5p Bell Choir	28	Mar 1	2	3	4

**Church office hours:  
Monday -Thursday  
9 am - 3 pm**

<sup>1</sup> 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 on the following business day  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVa-kol4fUtz65tLjxD2Ng>  
 Links can also be found on our website: <https://trinitylutheranstpete.org/outreach/worship/>