

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)  
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Hope Lutheran Church  
1801 62nd Ave N  
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727-526-7460  
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Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

*"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (John 20:21)*

We are now in the season of Easter, learning what it means to be followers of a Savior who willingly accepted suffering and death in order to give us abundant and eternal life.

Learning new ways of doing things is scary. Every time the risen Christ appeared to his disciples, he had to say to them, "Peace be with you."

As the merger of Trinity and Hope progresses, we'll all be learning new ways to be church together, trusting that the peace offered by Jesus will continue to inspire our curiosity and our courage.

A lot is happening in the month of May—for me as an individual and for the members of both congregations.

I'll be spending two weeks in Europe with members of my family; we're travelling over there for the wedding of one of my nephews in Germany and then visiting Belgium, France, and the Netherlands.

On Sunday, May 4, the members of both congregations are worshiping together at Hope Lutheran Church at 9:30. These blended services give us a taste of what worship will be like when our merger is complete; please make an extra effort to attend them. We continue to make technology improvements to Hope and expect to have no difficulty live-streaming this service for those who can't attend in person.

Two years ago, we applied for a grant from our synod's "Vision to Action" program to fund the idea of turning Hope Lutheran into a community center for the Meadowlawn neighborhood. While we weren't awarded a grant, we were given \$2,000 and encouraged

to explore the possibilities on a smaller scale. We invested that money on making renovations to Hope's fellowship hall and installing improved technology.

On Friday, May 16, we're holding the grand opening of a space we've named "The CommUNITY Room," demonstrating all the possibilities that will be available. We'll have the room partitioned into different spaces for tutoring, games, and lectures, and we'll serve snacks and drinks for people to enjoy while watching a movie.

The film we're planning to show is "Keeping the Faith," which came out in 2000. It stars Ben Stiller as a young rabbi and Edward Norton as a young priest, childhood friends trying to revitalize the congregations they serve and both in love with the same woman. The film is rated PG-13; it has some bad language and mild sexual content but should generate some good conversation.

We plan to offer a film every month, along with a regular schedule of classes and activities. We'll offer the space for use by our neighbors as a source of income and to build a stronger relationship with the community. If you have ideas about classes and programs we could offer or if you're interested in volunteering for after-school programs and such, let me know.

On Saturday, May 31, Brenden and our choir will present a concert of sacred music entitled, "Wayfaring Strangers." It had originally been planned for Holy Week, but had to be rescheduled so we could have the instrumentalists. Many of the beautiful anthems we've had in the past few weeks will be featured; check the music director's article for more details.

Your brother in Christ,  
- Pr. Paul



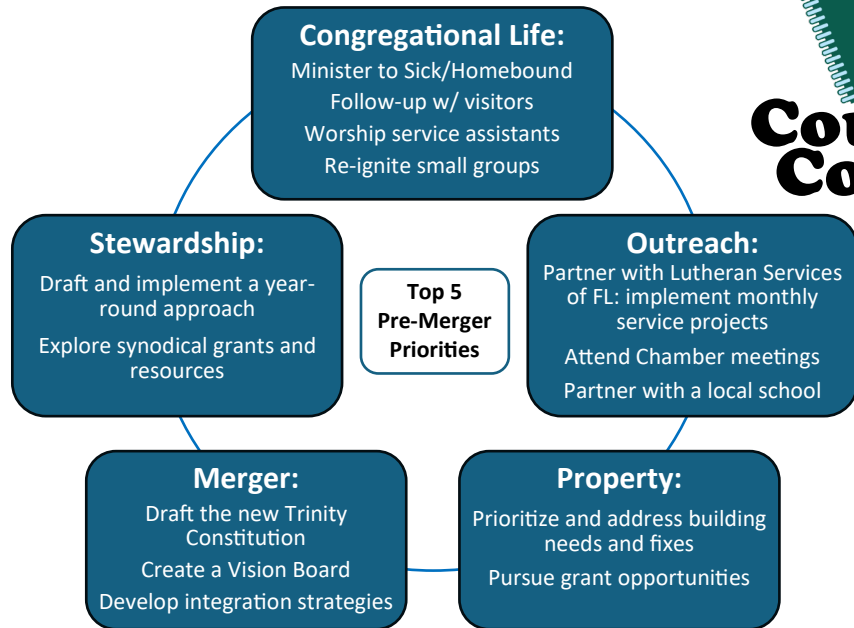
Are you on Facebook? "Like" and "Follow" the new CommUNITY Room at Hope!

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61575641549005>

**THE COURIER**  
*Come As You Are, Grow to Serve!*



## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



### 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  
Gretchen Frederick, Events Planner

#### Council Members

Trudy Daniels, President  
Alan Due, Vice President  
Helen Mowrer, Treasurer  
Karen Potts, Recording Secretary  
Paul & Jan Frakes  
Joe Haynsworth  
Violet Prepost  
Lynne Tallon  
Pastor Paul Gibson

### Hope Lutheran Church

Paul Gibson, Pastor  
Ross Kimura, Organist and Director of Music  
Angie Pryor, Parish Secretary

#### Council Members

Tom Herzhauser, President  
Gary Bartelt, Vice President  
Roma Heystek, Treasurer  
Betty Herzhauser, Education  
Kathy Bartelt, Music, Worship, Arts  
Terri Craig, Thrift Store  
Pat Shipley, Women of Hope  
Ross Kimura  
Angie Pryor, Recording Secretary

The above areas represent the top 5 priorities and strategies for *Ministry and Movement* prior to our legal and ecclesiastical merger. The council is in the process of drafting Action Plans for each of these and will be reaching out to you for your help. They will be using your previously completed surveys to align your areas of interest with these teams. In the meantime, if any of these areas resonate with you or if you did not get a chance to complete the survey, please reach out to a council member and let them know. We need you and your gifts!

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: 05/19/25 @ 5:30pm**



## Notes from the Organ Bench

Happy May everyone! Easter may be over, but there's still lots of music ahead of us! In fact, we have a sacred music concert Saturday May 31st at 2:00! It will feature music from the choir, accompanied by piano, cello, and violin. It will also have solo piano and organ music. The admission is free, with a suggested donation of \$20 which will go towards special music. I hope you all can attend, I'm sure you'll enjoy it!

- *Brenden Hall*  
Organist and Director of Music

## Notes from The Events Desk... What's Coming Up in May?

- + 05/02 @ 6pm: First Friday Dinner at Hope (Cinco de Mayo theme)
- + 05/06 @ 7:30pm: Concert at Trinity (The Soul of Two Violins)
- + 05/10 @ 10am: Congregation Breakfast at Village Inn (9107 4th St N)
- + 05/11 after Worship: Mother's Day Breakfast at Hope
- + 05/13 @ 10am: Hope Church Council Meeting
- + 05/16 @ 6:30pm: CommUNITY Room Grand Opening at Hope
- + 05/19 @ 5:30pm: Trinity Church Council Meeting
- + 05/26: Memorial Day (Church Offices Closed)
- + 05/31 @ 2pm: Concert at Trinity (Wayfaring Strangers)



# Trust the Lord Completely

There are many lessons that God's people have to learn and often it takes a lifetime to pass the different tests the Lord sets for each one of us. The book of Proverbs is filled with examples of both godly living, (behavior we should seek to emulate), and unwise actions, (things we should eschew and avoid.)



There are many biblical principles to follow in this book of instructions, and many wise practices to develop. As we journey through life we should earnestly seek to develop these behaviors and attitudes, as we grow in grace and in a knowledge of the Lord Jesus. One such concept to embrace with understanding is, "The mind of a person plans their way, but the LORD directs their steps." We may make future plans and purpose in our heart how to achieve our desired goals, but God is the one who directs our path. He is the One Who establishes the steps we take.

Making plans for the future is wise and prudent. The Lord designed us with minds to think. He gave us a free will to make wise choices in life. The Bible advises virtuous living and prudent planning for we read, "those who plan good find loyalty and faithfulness" and, "plans are made by seeking wise and godly advice from others."

Paul was a man who often spoke of his plans to visit certain Churches and wrote of goals he wanted to achieve, but Scripture shows that although Paul made many good travel plans and purposed in his heart to visit certain Churches, not all were accomplished, for the Lord was the one that directed his path.

On one occasion we read that Paul's plans were rearranged by the Holy Spirit of God when he received a call from the Lord to forgo his own pre-developed arrangements, and go instead to Macedonia. Paul's plans were worthy and worthwhile, but God had ordained that he should change them and go and share the gospel with the people elsewhere.

Often the plans we make are deficient and nearsighted, but God in His grace often brings us to our desired destination in a very different way. Sometimes the goals we set are too limited or too limiting, but God will bring us to a place of fulfillment that we could

not have thought possible.

Sometimes the plans we make may be good and honorable, but God knows the end from the beginning and may take us to a different destination with a different expected outcome. But if we are living by faith and trusting His guidance, He will bring us to the place that He knows is best - not only in this world but in the eternal ages to come.

If we are prepared to die to self, live for Him and cry, "not my will but Yours be done", we may be sure that whatever plans we make, the Lord will direct our steps and guide us in the best way to go. James pointed out the folly of setting our future plans in stone by making arrogant claims about what we will do in the future - rather we should express our future plans by saying, "If the Lord wills, we shall do this or that."

However carefully we consider our plans, we have a very limited view of the future. We do not know what will happen in the coming weeks and months. Indeed, we have no control over any of our tomorrows. But our times are in His hands, and because God can see the end from the beginning, we should be ready to bathe every plan we make in prayer and place each desire of our heart into His safe-keeping.

God not only knows the future, but holds the future in His hands. How wise, therefore, to use our rational thought and God-given free will to plan wisely, to the best of our ability, while recognizing that while God may permit our plan to move forward, He may overrule it or even advance it further. But what a comfort to know that while we have the freedom to make our plans, the Lord will direct our feet into the way that is best for us.

## Powered by God

God made us: invented us as a [person] invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else.

Now God designed the human machine to run on himself. He himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from himself, because it is not there.

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

# The TLC Bulletin Board



Find out what your Church Council has in the works!



*Come As You Are, Grow to Serve!*

- May is Mental Health Awareness Month. For a look at some helpful resources, check out the following links:

⇒ [“How Lutheran Campus Ministry Is Called to Support Students’ Mental Health” | Living Lutheran](https://www.livinglutheran.org/2021/05/how-lutheran-campus-ministry-is-called-to-support-students-mental-health/)

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2021/05/how-lutheran-campus-ministry-is-called-to-support-students-mental-health/>

⇒ [ELCA social message, “The Body of Christ and Mental Illness”](https://www.elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/social-messages/mental-illness)

<https://www.elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/social-messages/mental-illness>

⇒ [Mental Health Awareness Month | SAMHSA](https://www.samhsa.gov/about/digital-toolkits/mental-health-awareness-month#)

<https://www.samhsa.gov/about/digital-toolkits/mental-health-awareness-month#>

⇒ [Mental Health Awareness Month | NAMI](https://www.nami.org/get-involved/awareness-events/mental-health-awareness-month/)

<https://www.nami.org/get-involved/awareness-events/mental-health-awareness-month/>

- May is also ALS Awareness Month, calling attention to the neurodegenerative disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
- May 12 is Fibromyalgia Awareness Day, calling attention to this chronic disorder.



Adair and Aaric helping at the Food Pantry when they were out of school for Spring Break!



## wayfaring strangers

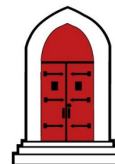
*A concert of sacred music to guide and support our journey through the wilderness of life.*



saturday, may 31, 2025

2:00 pm

*Admission is free; the suggested donation to fund the church's music programs is \$20.*



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# Hope Hosts the Lancers!

On March 23, 2025, Linda & Bob Gascon, Roma Heystek, Pat Shipley and myself, Terri Craig, had the privilege of hosting a group of young baseball players from Lutheran Southern High School in St. Louis Missouri. This was the fifth year they came to St. Petersburg during Spring Break to participate in a "Spring Training" baseball tournament.



The first time they were here was in 2020. That was in the middle of the Covid 19 pandemic. They desperately needed a place to be able to sit down together to eat meals for the 5 days they were here for the

tournament. They had arranged to do so at the hotel where they had booked their stay. Unfortunately, that didn't happen because the dining area in their hotel was closed. So, they decided to call local Lutheran churches for assistance. After being turned down by three churches, they called our church office. Angie Pryor, our secretary, was more than happy to accommodate them. Because during the pandemic our Fellowship Hall was not being used, she offered it to the team and their coaching staff. She arranged for Dan Boria, who lived right around the corner, to be their host each evening while they used the Hall. He was there each night to unlock and just be available for anything that they may have needed. Each year Dan looked forward to their visit and was there for the team. Needless to say, a very special bond was formed. When they came, they were equally as happy to see Dan and to share their stories. They even brought him a team jersey and hat. They were saddened when they heard he had passed away last year so they held a memorial service in the Memorial Garden to remember him.



Each year, as a thank you for the use of the Hall and for our hospitality, the team made a very generous donation to our Food Pantry.



They did it on a whim the first year but after that they raised money before their trip to allow the purchase of food and personal items to shop for and be donated. This year they raised \$550! The need for the use of our hall has been reduced but they still needed one night. On Sunday March 23, the five of us enjoyed a great time with food and fellowship. Each one of us was sat with between 5 to 6 boys. We shared things about our church,



and they shared things about their school and their team. At first, I didn't know what we would talk about, but the boys were very friendly and easy to talk to. We soon realized that we had our common faith in God. That made our conversations flow so

very easily. We were asked to be here as a favor to them to unlock and be available if they were to need something. But we were the ones who received the greatest gift that night! We will always have our door to the Community Room, formerly known as the Fellowship Hall, open to these young men, their chaperones and their coaching staff. I know that Dan is smiling down on our church knowing that we have continued the ministry that he began and continued to foster a relationship with this extraordinary team of young men. We were honored to share Dan's kindness and hospitality.

- Terri Craig

## Be Like Bert



### 7 tips to be happy in life :

1. Never Hate
2. Stop Overthinking
3. Live Simple
4. Little Expectation
5. Always Smile
6. Be positive
7. Keep in touch with god.

## Bible Quiz

What was the name of the wealthy merchant of purple cloth who met Paul and his companions, was baptized and became a leader in the Philippian church?

- A. Priscilla
- B. Lydia
- C. Dorcas
- D. Joanna



Answer: B (See Acts 16:11-15, 40)

## Christian Symbol:



ALPHA MU OMEGA —

The Greek letters that begin the words

yesterday, today and forever remind us of Jesus' constant presence with us personally and his eternal nature that transcends time as we know it. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8, NIV). Dozens of psalms and other Bible passages also proclaim that the Lord's "steadfast love endures forever" (for example, Psalm 100:5, NRSV). What reassurance when life seems tough and fleeting!



I was born in Orlando, Florida. We moved to Las Vegas, Nevada when I was young, and I have many fond memories there. When I was eleven we moved back to Florida and I grew up in Clearwater along with my three younger siblings. I went to Clearwater High. During my time in school I was given the opportunity to attend the Early College Program, which allowed me to attend St. Petersburg College

in lieu of taking high school classes. I loved my time there; learning has always been a great love of mine and I appreciated the opportunity. The program afforded me an Associate of Arts degree. Moreso it allowed me to spend my formative years among people of all different beliefs and backgrounds. It was a good experience.

My journey in recovery led me to all of you. When I was 24 I got sober and moved to St. Petersburg. At that time, I was searching for a church to attend. I had been raised in a church-going family, but over the years I had drifted away from church in general. Still, I had a longing to be closer to God. I began actively searching for a church that felt right, and even attended one as a guest -- and while welcomed, I did not feel like I was at home.

Then I found all of you! Something indiscernible was special about this church and these people, I felt in my heart, and I felt at home. I felt a connection.

Shortly after becoming a member of Trinity, I was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. You all surrounded me. I knew then that I had truly found a church family.

It has been a number of years since then. As some of you may know, I met my late fiancé Zach, and we moved back to Clearwater for a couple of years before returning to St. Petersburg. He loved this church every bit as much as I do, and he found much joy in coming. You loved him, and he you. When he passed, you surrounded me with your love and blessing. I am truly grateful to be a part of a fellowship of beautiful people with love in your hearts like yours.

## First Friday Dinner: 05/02 @ 6pm



Join us for a festive meal in honor of Cinco de Mayo! Tom, our Chef, says we will have all the fixings to celebrate the holiday including ice cold

Coronas! Please let us know if you plan to join us by signing up! There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex at Hope, or call either church office!

## Mother's Day Breakfast: 05/11 after worship at Hope



Please join us for a delicious breakfast in honor of and to celebrate all the women in our lives who have been like a mom to us!

We are blessed to have so many in our faith family!

## Reflecting on Resurrection

In *Rest Your Dreams on a Little Twig*, poet Joyce Rupp finds in spring flowers the proclamation of the gospel: "we who have died / are alive today." In another poem in the same volume, she writes: "A green shoot grows / out of an old tree stump, / announcing to the world / that power lies within death."

As you move about outdoors these springtime days in the northern hemisphere, where do you see nature testifying to resurrection? Where is evidence that what seemed dead — bare branches, dry grass, inactive seeds — was not in fact the final word? What encourages you to believe in renewal, second chances, life that blossoms from death? In what ways are you, who had died, alive today? Part of your life that felt like an old stump might be sprouting green shoots after all!



## April's First Friday Dinner at Hope



## Maundy Thursday Seder Dinner/Service







# Notable Happenings

*Unless otherwise noted, 9:30am services are held at 1801 62nd Ave N; 11am services are held at 401 5th St N*

Service	Lectors	Communion Assistants	Altar Flower Sponsors
05/04	9:30 Gary Bartelt	Gary Bartelt	
	11:00	Combined service at Hope Lutheran this week. No 11am service.	
05/11	9:30 Aaric Hamilton	Margarita Rodriguez	
	11:00 Gretchen Frederick	Suzanne Bohning, Alan Due	Trudy & Greg Daniels in celebration of their anniversary
05/18	9:30	Betty Herzhauser	
	11:00 Brenden Hall	Paul Frakes, Ruth Kinsey	
05/25	9:30	Linda Gascon	
	11:00 Teresa Zeoli	Violet Prepost, Phil Rearick	Trudy & Greg Daniels in memory of Audrey Bork

## Birthdays

05/02 Elizabeth Hamilton  
 05/02 Michael Lederhouse  
 05/12 Reggie DeCotret  
 05/12 Ember Rantz  
 05/13 Frederick Bartelt  
 05/13 Kim Snyder  
 05/14 Shakoda High  
 05/15 Kensei Snapp  
 05/17 Hannah Carroll  
 05/18 Kristina Swindasz  
 05/20 Jimmy Fitzpatrick  
 05/28 Kevin Mowrer  
 05/29 Brandon Baker  
 05/31 Ted Hunt  
 05/31 Karen Potts

## Anniversaries

05/08 Paul Gibson & Alan Due  
 05/09 Stephen Staack & Marsha Mann  
 05/28 Greg & Trudy Daniels  
 05/28 Don & Jan Dorr  
 05/29 David & Lisa Valentine

## Other Special Dates

May: Mental Health Awareness Month  
 May: ALS Awareness Month  
 May 1 National Day of Prayer  
 May 11 Mother's Day  
 May 12 Fibromyalgia Awareness Day  
 May 17 Armed Forces Day  
 May 26 Memorial Day  
 May 29 Ascension Day



**Congratulations to Bob and Linda Gascon who, on April 26, celebrated FIFTY YEARS of marriage!**



## **Death Is Not The End**

Loren Eiseley, an anthropologist who died in 1977, requested this epitaph for his wife and himself: "We loved the earth but could not stay." No one can stay, of course. We're all moving toward that final day when "the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over, and our work is done" (*The Book of Common Prayer*).

On Memorial Day, we remember people who have perished in war, making the ultimate sacrifice to protect others. May God hasten the day when humans can solve disputes peacefully. We also remember loved ones whose stay on earth is over.

A memorial stone at Ohio's College of Wooster, placed by a class years ago, reads: "United in time / Divided in time / To be reunited / When time shall be no more." Christians believe that death does not end all. When our earthly life is over, we have the promise of eternal life — and joyful reunions — in heaven.



# Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 +	28	29	30	May 1	2	3
<b>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:</b> <b>Trinity: Mon - Thu 9a-3p</b> <b>(closed Fridays)</b> <b>727-822-3307</b> <b>Hope: Mon, Tue 8a-10a;</b> <b>Wed-Fri 12-4pm</b> <b>727-526-7460</b>			<b>Pr. Paul in Germany</b>			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:30am Hot Lu</li> <li>4pm Choir Prac</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3pm Choir prac</li> <li>7pm Choir Prac</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am TLC Pa</li> <li>9:30am Hope P</li> <li>6pm First Frida</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Thrift Stor</li> </ul>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Pr. Paul in Germany</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Worshi</li> </ul>	<b>Cinco de Mayo</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm CONCE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:30am Hot Lu</li> <li>4pm Choir Prac</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3pm Choir prac</li> <li>7pm Choir Prac</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am TLC Pa</li> <li>9:30am Hope P</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Thrift Stor</li> <li>10am Congregi</li> </ul>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>Pr. Paul in Germany</b>						
<b>Mother's Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Choir V</li> <li>9:30am Worshi</li> <li>10:45am Mothe</li> <li>11am Worship S</li> <li>12pm Fellowshi</li> <li>12:15pm Band c</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Council M</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:30am Hot Lu</li> <li>4pm Choir Prac</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3pm Choir prac</li> <li>7pm Choir Prac</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am TLC Pa</li> <li>9:30am Hope P</li> <li>6:30pm Grand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Thrift Stor</li> </ul>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Choir V</li> <li>9:30am Worshi</li> <li>11am Worship S</li> <li>12pm Fellowshi</li> <li>1:30pm Fleet R</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30pm Counci</li> </ul>	<b>Newsletter dead</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Quilting</li> <li>11:30am Hot Lu</li> <li>4pm Choir Prac</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3pm Choir prac</li> <li>7pm Choir Prac</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am TLC Pa</li> <li>9:30am Hope P</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Thrift Stor</li> </ul>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Choir V</li> <li>9:30am Worshi</li> <li>11am Worship S</li> <li>12pm Fellowshi</li> </ul>	<b>Memorial Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:30am Hot Lu</li> <li>4pm Choir Prac</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3pm Choir prac</li> <li>7pm Choir Prac</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am TLC Pa</li> <li>9:30am Hope P</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Thrift Stor</li> <li>2pm CONCERT</li> </ul>

We are livestreaming our worship services on Facebook and on our YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVa-kol4fUtz65tLjxD2Ng>

Links can also be found on our website: <https://trinitylutheranstpete.org/new-worship/>

Color Codes for events:



Trinity Lutheran Church



Hope Lutheran Church



Other (online, etc.)