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Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
727-822-3307

Meadowlawn Campus
1801 62nd Ave N
Saint Petersburg, FL 33702
727-526-7460

www.trinitylutheranstpete.org



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

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. (Psalm 30:5b)

While many were relieved by the outcome of our July 5 congregational meeting, no one was happy. Everyone is grieving the fact that we must give up our home in downtown Saint Pete.

Some of us may never be able to accept the difficult decision that was made. I hope that the deep ties of love that connect us together will prove strong and will continue to give us life.

Our God is a God of resurrection, who promises to bring life out of death and joy out of sorrow.

As we begin a new chapter in the life of our congregation, God is journeying with us.

Now that we are so painfully aware of the fragility of our financial position, I hope all of us can recommit ourselves to the ministry shared by every Christian congregation, that of sharing with our neighbors the good news that we have experienced.

We do not exist for ourselves; we exist for the sake of others.

I am excited about all of the opportunities we have for connection and for growth in Meadowlawn: two elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school; a vibrant preschool; a strong connection to the neighborhood association; all of the single-family homes, apartments, and condos that surround us.

I hope that together we can imagine new ways to use the church property, its buildings, ample parking, and green spaces, to be a vital resource to our community.

My prayer is that we can grow in ways that bring financial stability and opportunities to be a blessing to others.

Your brother in Christ,
- *Pr. Paul*
pastor@trinitylutheranstpete.org

A Repair for Brokenness

Our lives are marked by brokenness, including broken relationships, broken promises, and broken expectations. Left unattended, these fractures can quietly shape us, hardening into bitterness or resentment.

How do we live with such brokenness without losing heart? We return, again and again, to God's faithful presence. In Him, we find not only comfort but restoration. God does not ignore what is broken. He meets us in it, gently mending what we place in His hands and reshaping what feels beyond repair.

Scripture reminds us, "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3, NIV). What we cannot fix on our own, God is able to restore in His time and in His way.

Henri Nouwen, a Dutch Catholic priest, professor and spiritual writer, often spoke of this sacred return, the daily turning back to God where healing begins and hope is renewed. In His presence, our brokenness is not wasted. It becomes the very place where grace takes root and new life begins.



Trinity Lutheran Church

Paul Gibson, Pastor
Lynne Tallon, Deacon
Ross Kimura, Director of Music
Brenden Hall, Organist
Leah Heinicke, Office Admin
Angie Pryor, Parish Secretary
Azur H. Abdić, Facility Admin
Gretchen Frederick, Events Planner

Council Members

Terri Craig, President
Alan Due, Vice President
Roma Heystek, Co-Treasurer
Helen Mowrer, Co-Treasurer
Betty Herzhauser, Secretary
Trudy Daniels
Pastor Paul Gibson
Robert Hamilton
Joe Haynsworth
Tom Herzhauser
Kelly Osborne

School Supplies

It seems like time is flying by so fast these days. Teachers are headed back to their classrooms this week to prepare for the start of the school year! It seems like we just got done collecting baby items for the Baskets of Love Drive benefiting struggling mothers, foster parents and at-risk children for Lutheran Services of Florida (LSF) and then we turned around and put another bin out in the narthex for school supplies. I can't help but to be in awe of the generosity of this congregation and what an impact we can make when we work together. We just received a thank you letter for our donations of much needed baby items from Eden Schanzenbach, Development Outreach Manager for LSF and this is what she had to say:

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church Family,

We'd like to extend our sincere gratitude for hosting a Baskets of Love Donation Drive on behalf of LSF. Your generosity provided essential items and reminded families that they are surrounded by a caring and compassionate community.

Thank you for helping make this donation drive such a success and for making a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families we serve. We look forward to continuing to partner with you! Blessings!

Today, Eden picked up all of the school supplies that we collected. She was anything but disappointed. It really was an overwhelmingly thoughtful response. It will never cease to amaze me to witness the Holy Spirit at work in this congregation. With all of the seats laid down, we filled Eden's car with several boxes of school supplies!



Well done everyone! In the words of Maya Angelou – *I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.* I am confident that the children who receive your gifts will definitely feel the LOVE!



First Friday
DINNER

Fri, August 7th @ 6pm

Our first Friday dinner this month will be on Fri, Aug 7th at 6pm. Our amazing chef couple, Tom and Betty Herzhauser will be serving fried chicken, mashed potatoes, veggies and a salad. Bring a dessert to share if you would like!

Carried and Called to Follow

Jesus the Good Shepherd is one of Christianity's most endearing images. Scenes of Jesus holding a small lamb bring comfort during times of trouble, reminding us of God's tender care when we are weak or hurting. In those moments, we are grateful to be carried.

Yet this image also points to a deeper truth. The Shepherd's role is not only to carry the lamb, but to lead the flock. When we are restored and strengthened, we are called to rise, to walk and to follow where He leads.

God meets us in our need with compassion, but He also calls us forward with purpose. The same hands that lift us up also guide us on the path ahead.

There is a time to be carried, and there is a time to follow.



Navigating Consensus Decision-Making

Consensus is defined as, “a general agreement, [or] to arrive at an agreement about a matter, thing, or initiative.” And this process of collaborative consensus has real benefit when it comes to unity and support within the church, but it is not without challenges.

One faction wants one thing, while another would prefer something else. If we wait for everyone to agree, we may never reach the place of decision. Our challenge is often in seeking 100% agreement in the outcome. Instead, we need to look for 100% support for the outcome.

Bob Bumgarner, the Lead Missional Strategist for First Coast Churches in Jacksonville, Florida, sees it this way: Maybe we can't get 100% of the people to agree on 100% of the decision, but can we have 100% of the people agree to 80% of the decision? In other words, can we all agree on the fundamentals so we can support the decision and stand by it without disunity and disharmony? Can we give up our preference for one stroke of the painting to allow for a decision that provides the best portrait?

Consensus decision-making requires us to acknowledge that we may not achieve a unanimous decision, but we can agree on the essentials enough to move forward.

When we go into a decision knowing 100% agreement might be 100% impossible, we might run the risk of feeling somewhat discouraged. But there is an opportunity here in this obstacle. While we can't guarantee a unanimous decision, we can seek to love each person at the table in mutual submission and grace.

Ephesians 5:21 states, “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” I can push my personal preferences aside when I remember that **it's not about me**. We must



honor each other as we sit around a table and seek wise counsel.

Mutual submission allows each person to not only feel heard and validated, it also acknowledges a very powerful truth: **We do not have all the answers**. Spoiler alert: We do not know everything! In hearing someone else's opinion and truly listening for deeper understanding, we are humbly

recognizing that we don't know it all. We may not be able to agree on *everything*, but we can all agree that honoring each person at the table is more important than *anything*.

Have you ever been in a meeting that just... wouldn't... end...? I was once in a staff meeting where 15 different staff members were all trying to decide on a solution to a very frustrating situation. Every person had a valid opinion and every person felt that they were correct. No one seemed to know how to fix the problem. After 3 hours of back-and-forth discussion, do you know what was finally decided? **Absolutely nothing**. The decision was tabled. There was just one problem... That situation still needed a solution.

The best decisions we can make are those that honor God: His Word, His Work, and His Way. Our logic, preferences, and opinions all take a back seat to the wisdom that is only found in the Holy Spirit. We are strengthened as a community when we remind ourselves that the Holy Spirit's voice should be the strongest in the room.

Consensus decision-making can be challenging, but when we meet those challenges with the biblical community, we honor God and testify to His Spirit in us. We see our members grow in grace, love, and unity with each other, and that overflow informs our decision-making process. We make better decisions with better support and we see a transformation as we do so.



On Saturday July 25th we held our annual **Christmas in July Sale**.

We offered a wide range of merchandise. We had decor and festive clothing to decorate for nearly all of the holidays. We had clothing in all sizes for men, women and children. Toys, games, puzzles and books galore to satisfy most ages and interests. We had many useful household items as well as aesthetically pleasing items for decorating a home.

We were able to raise \$820.50.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to all those who helped with setting up as well as being there for the day of the sale to help customers. If you did not come to help or shop you missed a great experience. Please consider joining us next year, we really do have a lot of fun.

- Terri Craig



Council Corner



The July council meeting started with Carlin Beekman of Foundry Commercial describing next steps in marketing the downtown property. Council members are reviewing the listing agreement so that council President Terri Craig can sign it and Carlin can get to work. The agreement gives Foundry the exclusive right to sell the property for a period of twelve months. All of our downtown properties will be offered for sale without a set asking price. Once we see what kind of response we get, council will decide whether to hold onto our downtown parking lots, so they can be redeveloped for congregational use.

Council appointed six people to assist Carlin in making decisions about the marketing and sale of the property: Trudy Daniels, Bob Gascon, Robert Hamilton, Leah Heinicke, Phil Rearick, and Gretchen Frederick.

In other business, Council approved making renovations to the sanctuary, removing pews to create a new area for singers and instrumentalists and removing platforms in the chancel to make it more accessible.

There was discussion about changing the time of Sunday worship, since we are no longer sharing a sanctuary with City Church. Council agreed to offer worshipers a choice between 9:30 or 10:00.

Council vice president Alan Due is also the chair of the Suncoast Conference (the ELCA churches in southern Pinellas County); he shared plans for a conference gathering to be held September 19 at Prince of Peace in Largo. Tom and Betty Herzhauser were appointed to be our voting members for this gathering, but other congregation members will also be encouraged to attend.

Council accepted the resignation of Karen Potts; Betty Herzhauser will write a letter thanking her for her service.

To My Fellow Drinkers,

Did you ever notice the big jar that sits on the counter top in the kitchen?

Did you notice the contents are the tabs that are on top of your beer or pop (soda) cans. We have been collecting these tabs for years. When we have accumulated a good quantity which usually is about 2/3 - 3/4 of the jar full, Gary Bartelt bags them up and Pat and I deliver them to the Ronald McDonald House located at 401 7th Ave S. in St Petersburg. The Ronald McDonald House has a "Pop Tab Bin." When this bin is filled a company called United Recycling empties it and recycles them. That company issues a check to Ronald McDonald House and the money stays at that location to fund the support of the families that are staying there.

If you don't already save these tabs why not set up a bag, cup, jar, or can to add to the collection?



**Ronald
McDonald
House®**

Thanks!
~ Terri Craig

It's not that I need coffee.
It's that everyone in my life
needs me to have coffee.

YOU'RE INVITED! Join Us For a

HYMN Sing!

LED BY **Dr. Shawn Thomas**
from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

WITH MANY OTHER CHURCH FOLK!

MONDAY AUGUST 10 6-8PM

AT **VOODOO BREWING**
220 4th St. N.
St. Petersburg, FL
Downtown St. Pete!

Dr. Thomas has been hosting these events in odd-numbered months at Commerce Brewing in Largo, and this is his first attempt to take it on the road!

Voodoo Brewing has a variety of beer and spirits, and a full dinner menu from their onsite kitchen.

THE EVENT IS FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

All Are Welcome!

Beer is optional, singing is mandatory!

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

How We Age Reflects What We Believe About Human Worth

Review: 'Dust to Dust' by Jen Wilkin

One of my favorite films, the 1950 classic *All About Eve*, follows the story of middle-aged actress Margo Channing as a younger actress attempts to steal her roles, her place in society, and even her boyfriend.

Margo wants to find a way to happiness despite her roles and her skin drying up. When a friend has the temerity to claim she's ageless, Margo replies, "I'm not 20-ish. I'm not 30-ish. Three months ago, I was 40 years old. Forty. 4-0."

Like Margo, I'm about to be 40: 4-0. This is my year of *memento mori*. As a woman, I've always feared society's judgment of my looks. I now wonder if people will care about my writing if I don't use Botox, if I gain 20 pounds, or if I let my hair go gray. And though I place my hope in Christ's promise of resurrection, I'm not too jazzed about the prospect of dying.

The release of Jen Wilkin's new book, *Dust to Dust: Aging Wisely in an Anti-Aging World*, couldn't be timelier. Much as I'm struggling to come to terms with the big 4-0, Jen has recently been forced to accept that she's eligible for the senior discount at McDonald's.

Why do we all fear the coming of the AARP card? Wilkin argues it's largely because our society has told us a false story about aging that conflicts with Scripture's true story.

While Christians strive to "value all of human life, from beginning to end," the world we live in values the first half of life "but does not value its second half of bodily decline".

Dust to Dust is therefore not a book about death but a book "about *this* life and the unexpected path to living it to the full." Wilkin elaborates, "We find that path through a right assessment of the aging process, one that is distinctly Christian in its perspective".

Chiasmic Thinking

Wilkin says a human life can be thought of as a chiasm, with progressive development from our first breath until middle age, then gradual decline until our final breath. Before the fall, human beings aged without bodily decline, but now we must suffer the loss of function and independence. However, we can grow strong in wisdom even as our bodies weaken.

"As aging sets in, we tend to think only of what we will lose in our appearance," Wilkin says. "We forget to ask what might be gained in our souls" (149). Understanding life's stages "helps us recognize and inhabit the season we are in and discern how to live that particular season out of God's true story." She adds, "It can also help us prioritize how to

use the time we are given".

Youth and age both provide unique gifts, but we tend to welcome the former and bemoan the latter. However, older age brings blessings: "We learn to number our days. We gain wisdom about what, or rather *who*, matters most".

A call to age gracefully is therefore a call to undergo suffering while maintaining hope in God's promises. "Though we rightly wish to avoid them, suffering and loss are skilled teachers," Wilkin writes. "What do they teach? Humility. Patience. Perspective. Holiness. The fruit of the Spirit".

An awareness of life's stages helps us "live as though each day, each season, each moment on the curve matters for eternity." She continues, "It is trusting God to help us unlearn the original sin of self-reliance as the aging process gradually, even faithfully, reteaches us dependence". It also helps us realize that, for most people, there will be stages of being cared for and stages of caring for others.

Regarding eldercare, Wilkin notes, "There is a difference between a responsibility that is *weighty* and one that is *burdensome*."

Speaking of eldercare as a burden wrongly "connotes an injustice or an unforeseen calamity". Wilkin offers a different perspective: "Godly wisdom views the elderly as people to love, not problems to solve. Worldly wisdom increasingly agrees that the elderly are problems before they are people".

The portions of the book on caring for the elderly are particularly relevant given the aging populations in most countries.

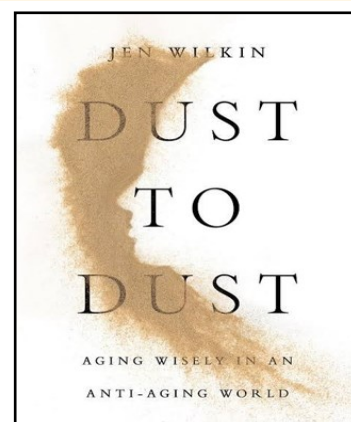
Do What You Wish

Our approach to aging draws on our desire to honor God as Creator and also on the command to love our neighbor. We must keep in mind that "living in a true story is good for both us and those around us." Wilkin continues, "If I seek to understand how God thinks about aging, it will benefit me in my own aging process, but it will also benefit the aged who need my care and, eventually, those who will need to care for me".

Our actions as we age testify to our beliefs: whether we truly think older people are equally valuable and have much to offer the world.

Wilkin tells us, "Do what you wish." Not by catering to our own preferences but by treating our neighbors the way we would want to be treated at each life stage.

(Aging—Continued on page 6)





Aimée Fox relocated to St. Petersburg, Florida, in 2024 after spending most of her life in Wallingford, Pennsylvania, where she raised her two children, Abbe Rae and Jake. She has been a Registered Sales Associate with Raymond James for the past 10 years and previously worked at Janney. Aimée earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance with a minor in Dance from West Virginia University. She holds Series 7 and Series 66 securities licenses and is an Accredited Asset Management Specialist (AAMS®).

Aimée's dedication and discipline extend beyond her professional career. A lifelong ballet dancer from age 8 through 39, she also spent 14 years teaching ballet. While she no longer dances ballet, she maintains an active lifestyle and enjoys participating in weekly Zumba classes.

Family remains at the center of Aimée's life. Her daughter, Abbe Rae, graduated from Dickinson College with a degree in Psychology and now works at the University of Pennsylvania. Her son, Jake, is a junior at Rowan University studying Sports Communication.

Aimée comes from a strong Lutheran heritage. Her great-grandfather, Charles Henry Dort, served as a Lutheran minister in New York, and she was an active member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Wallingford for 38 years.

In her free time, Aimée enjoys spending time at the beach, exploring her new Florida home, and socializing with friends.

(Aging—Continued from page 5)

"Do what you wish would be done for you. This is the path to a life of consequence".

Drawing on her experience caring for aging parents, Wilkin observes that while their personal agency may decline, we should seek to honor their wishes whenever possible.

When we do not take into consideration what they want, we confirm their fear that they are problems to solve. Do our speech and actions convey respect or thinly veiled frustration? Do we recognize our aging parents as fully human, fully adult, worthy of honor?

The hope for those united to Christ is that while we "have a divine appointment with death," that day "is both an ending and a beginning." Wilkin elaborates, "We have an appointment with the end of our sin and the beginning of our sinlessness". Those are good words to live by in a youth-obsessed age.

Dust to Dust encourages readers in every life stage to inhabit the true story of aging in light of God's eternal purposes.

Reviewed by: **Amy Mantravadi** (MA, King's College London) lives in Dayton, Ohio, with her husband and son. She attends Patterson Park Church. She has authored two novels about the Reformation: *Broken Bonds* and *Face to Face*.

Freedom fails when people decide that it is their right to take and not to give.

—Stanley Maxwell

Be Like Bert



~ Note to Self ~

"What is my purpose in life?" I asked the void.

"What if I told you that you fulfilled it when you took an extra hour to talk to that kid about his life?" said the voice.

"Or when you paid for that young couple in the restaurant? Or when you saved that dog in traffic? Or when you tied your father's shoes for him?"

"Your problem is that you equate your purpose with goal-based achievement. The Universe isn't interested in your achievements... just your heart. When you choose to act out of kindness, compassion, and love, you are already aligned with your true purpose.

No need to look any further!"



Bible Quiz



Jesus said that his followers are the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). It wouldn't do much good to hide a light under a bushel, he said. It should be put on a lamp-stand to give light in the house. Then Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see ..."



- Choose the ending of Jesus' sentence:
- A. their way and not stumble.
 - B. how good and faithful you are as my servants.
 - C. your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
 - D. in their darkness.

Answer: C (Matthew 5:16, NIV)

Christian Symbol:

SUNFLOWER — The sunflower, a symbol of faithfulness and devotion, represents a life turned toward God. Just as the flower follows the sun, believers are called to seek the light of Christ and remain focused on Him.



Its bright bloom reflects the joy and glory of God's presence, while its steady growth points to a life rooted in faith. The many seeds of the sunflower can also symbolize spiritual fruitfulness.

In Christian symbolism, the sunflower reminds us to remain steadfast, to seek God daily and to reflect His light in all we do.

Date	Time	Lector	Communion Assistants	Flowers Sponsor	Dedication
08/02/26	10 AM	Margarita Rodriguez	Frances Guido, Marty Snapp		
08/09/26	10 AM	Paul Erickson	Violet Prepost, Margarita Rodriguez		
08/16/26	10 AM	Aimée Fox	Gary Bartelt, Phil Rearick		
08/23/26	10 AM	Violet Prepost	Aimée Fox, Frances Guido	F. Guido	For the Glory Of God
08/30/26	10 AM	Gary Bartelt	Marty Snapp, Violet Prepost	The Bartelts	Thanks & prayers for teachers

Birthdays

08/11 Anxley Miles
 08/12 Greg Daniels
 08/12 Barbara Young
 08/16 Toni Durilla
 08/21 Matthew Reitz
 08/27 Barb Macomb
 08/28 Kim Forcino
 08/31 Tyra Humphrey

Anniversaries

08/11 Jan & Paul Frakes
 08/24 Marty & Tom Snapp

Other Observances

August: National Wellness Month
 08/07 Purple Heart Day
 08/13 International Left-Handers Day

ALTAR

flowers

Please Note: On our most recent bill from Flowers Unlimited, a new price was reflected for our altar flower arrangements.

As of 06/03/26, the cost of altar flowers has increased to \$30/week.

Please consider signing up to bring a plate of **small bites** for Sunday morning fellowship! Nothing too big or over the top just a bite or two of something small to have with a nice hot cup of coffee or cup of juice. Suggestions include mini muffins, cookies, brownies, donut holes, Danishes, cheese and crackers or whatever you would like to bring to share. Be creative and make it fun. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



Our church choir has taken a short break over the summer and will be back in action during worship on Sunday August 16th. But first they must practice! **The first official choir practice will begin on Thurs, Aug. 13th at 6:30pm in the sanctuary.** All are welcome to join the choir, so come on out and see if you have what it takes! We appreciate Brenden Hall's leading us in song while the choir was on break.

Church Directory

Our church directory is available to our members online (directory.ucdir.com). And don't worry that your information is available to just anyone! Access to our directory is controlled by the church office. Every family group in our directory will have a unique code which grants them access to the directory.

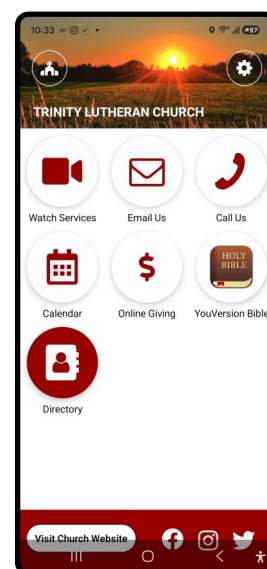
We have added entries for all current members of Trinity Lutheran Church. Not every entry has a photo... and not all photos are recent. (Send new photos!!)



If you have a smart phone or tablet (Android or iOS), install the "Universal Church Directory" on your device for easy access to church information. The same unique identifier that grants access to the directory on your computer browser is used to access the directory via the app. *But wait...there's more!* The app has more than just the directory! There's a button that will take you to our YouTube page where you can see our livestreamed services, there's an "email us" and a "call us" button to quickly reach out to us, there's a link to our online calendar and to our online giving page (Vanco), and there's also a handy electronic version of the Bible! All this... and links at the bottom of the page to take you to our website and social media pages.

If you have trouble getting connected, if you need your unique identifier, or if you want to let us know about outdated information on your listing, reach out to us so we can update the church records as well as the directory.

Leah: admin@trinitylutheranstpeter.org
 Angie: office@trinitylutheranstpeter.org



AUGUST 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SUN +26 9am City Chu 11am Service 12pm Fellows 12:30pm All A 7pm St. Augu	MON 27 Bulletin Items D	TUE 28 10:30am Ship	WED 29 10am Women 11:30am Hot I 1pm Grace & 6pm Bible Stu	THU 30	FRI 31 9:30am TLC F 9:30am Food	SAT Aug 1 9am Thrift St
2 9am City Chu 10am Service 11am Fellowsl 11:30am All A 7pm St. Augu	3 Bulletin Items D 10am Bert's E	4	5 11:30am Hot I 1pm Grace & 6pm Bible Stu	6	7 9:30am TLC F 9:30am Food 6pm First Fric	8 9am Thrift St 10am Congre
9 9am City Chu 10am Service 11am Fellowsl 11:30am All A 12pm ICE CRE 7pm St. Augu	10 Bulletin Items D 11:30am WEL 6pm Beer & F	11 6pm Council I	12 Pr. Paul - OOO - 11:30am Hot I 1pm Grace &			15 9am Thrift St 12pm JJ and '
16 Pr. Paul - OOO -						
Pr. Felice Johns 9am City Chu 10am Service 11am Fellowsl 11:30am All A 1:30pm Fleet 7pm St. Augu	17 Bulletin Items D		19 9am Quilting 11:30am Hot I 1pm Grace &	20 Newsletter dea 6:30pm Vocal	21 9:30am TLC F 9:30am Food 6pm Film & Fi	22 9am Thrift St
23 Pr. Paul - OOO - Pr. Felice Johns 9am City Chu 10am Service 11am Fellowsl 11:30am All A 7pm St. Augu	24 Bulletin Items D	25 10:30am Ship 7pm Meadow	26 10am Women 11:30am Hot I 1pm Grace & 6pm Bible Stu	27 6:30pm Vocal	28 9:30am TLC F 9:30am Food	29 9am Thrift St
30 9am City Chu 10am Service 11am Fellowsl 11:30am All A 7pm St. Augu	31 Bulletin Items D	Sep 1	2 11:30am Hot I 1pm Grace & 6pm Bible Stu	3 6:30pm Vocal	4 9:30am TLC F	5 9am Thrift St

Color Codes for events:
Downtown Campus
Meadowlawn Campus
Other (online, etc.)

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✓

 Downtown Campus

✓

 Meadowlawn Campus

✓

 Other (online, etc.)