

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

SHARING. SERVING. WELCOMING



Downtown Campus
401 Fifth Street North,
Saint Petersburg, FL 33701

Meadowlawn Campus
1801 62nd Ave N
Saint Petersburg, FL 33702

727-822-3307
www.trinitylutheranstpete.org



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

"Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's."
(Matthew 22:21)

Last year, at our Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona, the ELCA adopted a social statement called "Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All." It opens by stating that *"all people are called to participate in God's work of fostering the well-being of creation though social and political communities."*

It goes on to say that *"the public's default stance toward those engaged in public service should be one of respect, that 'civic leaders and officials are accountable for the ways they fail to work for the good of all,' and that 'Christians are to act in civic life for the benefit of the neighbor, especially our marginalized or oppressed neighbors. We should evaluate actions and policies according to whether they best serve the needs of these neighbors as a guide to determining the common good.'"*

The separation of Church and State enshrined in the Constitution in no way means that people of faith should not seek to have an influence in politics. As the social statement makes clear, *"This church believes that political decisions must be guided by well-considered ethics. 'Politics,' properly understood, means negotiating how the benefits, burdens, rights, and responsibilities of living in a society are shared. Politics and ethics are necessarily related. Ethics discerns; politics implements."*

The writings of Luther and other Reformation leaders *"teach that governmental authority is an instrument of God to help order social benefits and guard against human evil. Yet political authority is itself subject to sin. This means that Lutherans ought to maintain a watchful stance toward all government and its actions. This stance values government and cooperates when appropriate, while it is ready to question and resist the misuse of political authority when necessary."*

In one of its closing paragraphs, the social statement says, *"No single solution will reduce the increasingly fevered polarization of the U.S. or repair the damage that endangers our social fabric and democratic republic. This church holds that the return to a robust civic engagement as a public good is both our calling as Christians and our responsibility as residents of this country."*

I am sharing all this with you because it supports my firm conviction that all of us, as people of faith, must be fully engaged in our current process of elections. We must exercise our right to vote, and we must educate ourselves on how to vote.

We cannot be dissuaded by news reports that call into question whether our votes will be counted; our task is to vote. Vote early and make sure your ballot is received. We cannot be misled by television ads that smear candidates. Such ads do not state the truth, and they are intended to stir up our fears and incite hatred. We must take the time to do our own research on the candidates and issues on our ballots.

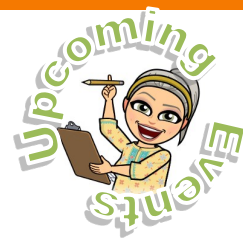
The Bible wasn't written by people who enjoyed the privileges of a democracy; it calls upon kings to ensure the protection of "widows, orphans, the poor, and the stranger" because that is what God desires. By "stranger" it means the non-citizen living in our communities.

If you believe these standards are still binding, you must discern which candidates and which parties will protect the poorest and most vulnerable among us and vote accordingly. Your elected leaders govern in your name.

Please engage one another in conversation about voting and join me in praying for the safety and well-being of those who are overseeing our elections.

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

Notes from the Events Desk



WHAT'S COMIN' UP IN OCTOBER?

Is it just me, or did a touch of non-humid Autumn air waft through St. Pete last week? Sometimes it takes just that one tiny moment to restore one's faith that a flannel shirt in Florida is not folly. Even Angie's ever-present collection of pumpkin spice plug-ins is finally in season!

Now to what's ahead –

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



Friday, October 2nd: First Friday Meal, 6pm, Community Room – **Theme: "OCTOBERFEST!"** -- Enjoy your brats and sauerkraut in a festive atmosphere...you'll think you're in Germany!!! Tom will do his magic in the kitchen, but we ask that everyone bring desserts to share.



Sunday, October 11th: We'll have our last **"Worship in the Park"** for this year. We will meet at Lake Seminole Park, Pavilion #2, at 10:00am. I believe our pavilion is fairly close to the park entrance. As before, it is a covered pavilion with picnic tables and attached seating. If you would feel more comfortable bringing your own chair, please feel free to do so. We will have communion followed by our picnic meal. The church will provide meat and buns, with Tom and his posse at the grill. Everyone else is asked to bring a side dish or dessert. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the narthex so we can avoid 20 potato salads (yummy though they are!). But, if you make a mean potato salad, bring it! There will also be some suggestions for specific items we usually need. We're there for fellowship, food and fun! Feel free to invite a friend or neighbor! There will be BINGO and prizes!



We will also be celebrating **"Pastor Appreciation Day"** at the park. A congregational gift will be presented to Pastor, but if you want to bring something on your own, please feel free to do so.



Saturday, October 24th: Meadowlawn Assn. **"Trunk or Treat"**, Meadowlawn Park, 5pm-8pm. We've been invited again this year to participate. The turnout is always good. If you've never done it before, Leah, Angie or I can fill you in on what to expect. We do have a few decorations on hand that you can borrow to make your car ready for some spooky fun. If you are interested in participating, just let us know by October 16. **NOTE:** We have been advised that we can bring our cars into the park between 5-5:30pm to start decorating. We must plan to stay until all trick-or-treaters are through, then we can leave the park. That estimated time is 8pm.



Sunday, October 25th: **Reformation Sunday.** We'll enjoy our regular communion service at 10am, followed by a reception in the Community Room. Angie is organizing some activities for us to enjoy. Be sure to wear **RED**!

- Gretchen Frederick
events@trinitylutheranstpete.org

Behold I am Doing a New Thing

Thanks to Christmas, we all end the year with new things—new toys for the kids, new clothes (not always the right color or size, but still new), new pounds on our bodies. We start the year off with new things, a new calendar on the wall, new bills, new resolutions for the days ahead. Everybody likes new things, including God. He's called the Ancient of Days, and He says,

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (Is. 43:18-19)

The way of God is to start fresh; we are held captive by our past. By past things we've done and by people who won't let us change. One of the problems with the internet is that things don't always disappear, unflattering pictures can stay alive for years. Look up reviews of restaurants or hotels; a disproportionate of them are those that have something negative to say. The review can sit there for years. Even if the owner takes a complaint to heart and makes changes, the review does not change.

God says, "Forget the former things." Forget the bad things and the good. "Do not dwell on the past." Let go of the mistakes and the problems and don't try to recapture the things that were good. For several years I was the director of a Youth Ministry. Most of the leadership came from the ranks of former participants that were now college age or in their mid-20's. As the director, I felt the ministry needed to recapture a focus on outreach. Nobody disagreed with the need to share Christ with a broader scope of youth in the community, but we ran into roadblocks when the leadership felt unprepared, inexperienced, and uncertain. One well-meaning young woman felt the ministry was slipping away, that we just weren't going anywhere. On many occasions she spoke her heart: "We just need to go back to the glory days." She meant, of course, five years earlier when she was one of the active youths.

"Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past." God's promise is for something new, something fresh; we are to live in today. If I am blessed to live to be 90, my plan is to plant a new fruit tree in the spring of my 90th year.



"See, I am doing a new thing." The most important word in this scripture is SEE. It's an invitation from the Lord Himself. The next phrase, "Now it springs up," makes it clear God is already doing something new; it is already growing. God does new things. He is making a path through the wilderness. He is causing the stream to flow through the desert.

Draw a line on the past. Instead of demanding that God revive the glory days when you were satisfied and happy, instead of dwelling on everything that has gone wrong, instead of demanding when God will

once again bestow blessings and bring you happiness, change your expectations. Ask instead for your eyes to be open to what God IS doing. Just because I cannot see God's blessings at work does not mean he is not knitting my life together. Ask God for clarity, to be able to see. Seek clarity for yourself and for your church, where God is already doing new things.

I have no interest in reviving the Glory Days of my church. I love telling the story, showing the photographs, and thanking God for a rich heritage, but what God is doing and preparing for us is far more relevant. God loves doing new things. "SEE" is an invitation. "Do you not perceive it?" is the question.

A familiar phrase "In order to go where we've never been, we have to do something we've never done." If we want to grow into an ever-increasingly closer walk with God, we're going to have to allow God to lead us to places we've never been before. God is already at work whether we see it or not. Accept the invitation to SEE, pray for open eyes, ask God to reveal his ways and what he is doing. There is a wilderness, but God is building a path. There is a desert, but a stream is flowing. God loves doing new things. God loves showing us new places. God loves using new methods. Open our eyes, Lord, to what you are already doing among us and in my life. Amen.

*Pastor Carl Crouse,
Sumas (Washington) Apostolic Christian Church*

The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful and virtuous. —Frederick Douglass

A Letter from Christ

Paul the Apostle gave a beautiful compliment to the believers in Corinth. He wrote:

"And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Cor 3:3, ESV).

What a meaningful picture. A letter carries a message, and Paul reminded the church that their lives were sharing the message of Christ with others.

The same is true for us today. Through our words, actions and faith, people can see evidence of God at work in our hearts. None of us is perfect, but living faithfully can point others toward Him.

What a wonderful goal for every Christian: to be known as "a letter from Christ."



Beer & Hymns

@ **VOODOO**
BREWING CO.
ST. PETE

Monday, October 12, 2026
6 – 8 pm

Led by Dr. Shawn Thomas
Music Director at
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

All are welcome!

Come get your
hands dirty
with us at the
**Meadowlawn
Community Garden.**

Plots available now
\$25 for 6 months.

Contact Dawn text her at
727-678-1004
or call and leave a voice mail.

4 ways to book your appointment...

Scan here:



Call: 800-324-9458
use promo Code: HABC001

Visit: [LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC](https://llsa.social/habc)

Text: the word "circle"
to 216-279-1607

♥ MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Take a Step Toward Better Health!

Life Line Screening is coming to Trinity Lutheran Church!

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 - 9am-5pm

CommUNITY Room – Meadowlawn Campus

Life Line Screening will be offering preventive health screenings here at Trinity at the special price of \$129.
The event is open to the public! Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to take advantage of this opportunity.

FREE SCREENING CERTIFICATES!

Life Line Screening has provided Trinity with **four free certificates for screenings** to share with members of our congregation. First come, first served! Contact Angie in the church office!

Come, learn more about your health, and share this opportunity with our community!



It's time to update our church directory!

Get Connected.



Our directory will not be complete without you!

Help us put names with faces, introduce our church to the community and tell our story to new church families!

Each family that is photographed and selects a directory pose will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a free directory.

Update your professional portraits with various backgrounds and package options that best suit your family. Share these memories with your loved ones.

Help our families connect with one another and build fellowship in our church.

We need updated photos of all of our members.

Universal Church Directories will have a photographer at our Meadowlawn campus on Tuesday, October 20th. Photography appointments will be available from 12pm-6:30pm on that day.

Sign up for your photography session ONLINE. (You will need the church code and password to access the sign-up module — that's what ensures your membership information and photo make it to the correct directory!)

All members should have received an email with the codes needed to sign up. If you did not receive an email, we either do not have an email address for you, or we do not have you in our database as a member! Contact the church office with any corrections or updates that might be needed.

If you are not available on 10/20/26 to have your photo taken, you may submit a photo of yourself/family for inclusion in the directory. For anyone submitting their own photos, please also include up-to-date contact information to be listed in the directory, including: Name(s), Home Address, Home Phone, Cell Phone(s), Email Address(es).



Charging Forward in Stewardship

Rhinoceroses are remarkable creatures. Strong, sturdy and surprisingly fast, a rhino is built to protect. When it senses danger, especially near its herd or its young, it does not hesitate. It moves with focus, strength and purpose.

There may be a stewardship lesson for us in that.

God has entrusted each of us with gifts, time and resources to use for his kingdom. When opportunities come to serve, give, encourage or help, faithful stewards do not stand still and wait for someone else to go first. They respond with willing hearts and steady faith.

Stewardship is not passive. It calls us to move with purpose, give with conviction and serve with the strength God provides. May we be quick to answer God's call, bold in putting our faith into action and faithful in caring for the people and work God has placed before us.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

October 24th

10am-1pm

Learning Empowered Children of the World Preschool
1801 62nd Ave N
St. Petersburg, 33702

We Need Help With

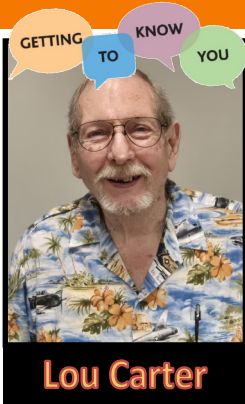
- Painting
- Cleaning
- Organizing
- Planting and landscape work
- Junk removal
- Material assembly
- Any extra duties to be assigned day of

Contact us
Office: 727-526-0017
Email: directorcpw@learning-empowered.org

We are in need of some helping hands! Volunteer with us on Oct 24th to help beautify Children of the World Preschool! All are welcome. No RSVP is required. Refreshments provided for volunteers.

jwb Learning Empowered.





Lou Carter

Lou Carter was born at the Touro Infirmary in the American Quarter of New Orleans, Louisiana to Robert Dennis Carter of Tampa, FL and Florence Hansen Carter of Woodhaven, Queens, NYC. Lou's father was stationed at the Algiers Coast Guard Base, across the Mississippi river from New Orleans. Raised on the mean streets of Brooklyn, Lou's first job was as a PAID choirboy at St. James Episcopal Church in Manhattan. He also delivered newspapers for the NY World, Telegram and Sun in the rundown & gritty Fort Greene neighborhood and the adjacent Walt Whitman Housing Projects where he lived and grew up.

He was confirmed at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Woodhaven, Queens after two years of Saturday morning instruction.

Lou joined the US Naval Reserve in his senior year at East New York Vocational High School, where he graduated with honors.

At Quanset Point Naval Air Station, RI he was assigned to an Airborne Early Warning Squadron with three plane detachments on every aircraft carrier in the Atlantic Fleet. He served on the USS Wasp (CVS-18) Det. 18 as part of Task Group Bravo (anti-submarine patrols in the North Atlantic.) USS Wasp was deployed to Europe for NATO training exercises.

Wasp deployed from the Royal Naval shipyards at Portsmouth, UK to the Irish Sea, then to the River Clyde in Scotland, the North Sea and Holland, proceeding from the North Sea through the Skagerac and visiting Oslo, Norway, then into the Baltic Sea and Kiel, Germany. Wasp departed Europe via Reykjavik, Iceland. Later deployments in USS Enterprise (CVAN-65) Det. 65 were to the Mediterranean Sea via Gibraltar, the Straits of Messina and on to the Aegean Sea, and Beirut.

Lou transferred to shore duty and was stationed at NAS, NY (Floyd Bennet Field). He met Faye while he was on active duty there and married her in 1965 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, by the same Pastor that had confirmed him several years before. Lou worked as an Aircraft Engine Mechanic and Aircrew. He flew in the aircraft he serviced and maintained. Lou and Faye's son Chris was born in February 1967.

In 1973 the Carter family moved to Florida. In 1979 they became members of Bethel Lutheran Church. Lou and Faye sponsored and chaperoned Bethel's first Youth Group. They participated in all that Bethel had to offer including: serving on the Church Council and Call Committees, teaching Sunday School classes and by picking up food donations for the Food Pantry.

Chris was confirmed at Bethel when he became of age. (He recently retired from the Pinellas County School System after 30 years, where he was a Special Education Teacher for developmentally disabled children.)

While Faye worked with the Ladies Groups, Lou sang in the choir and was lector during worship which he continues to do to this day.

In civilian life he worked as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic with International Harvester Company in Tampa for 17 years obtaining 10 ASE certificates for competence in Automotive Service Excellence.

Lou re-enlisted in the US Naval Reserve, later in life, while still working his civilian jobs and served in the Seabees (CB: Naval Construction Battalion) as a Construction Mechanic.

(Continued on page 7)

Be Like Bert



?? ?
Bible Quiz
? ??

Psalm 103 (ESV) begins:

"Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his _____."

What should we "not forget"?

A. goodness	C. gifts
B. kindness	D. benefits

Answer: D. benefits (Psalm 103:2)

Christian Symbol:

LAMP — In Bible times, lamps were small but essential sources of light, especially during the dark hours of night. Scripture often uses the image of a lamp to represent God's guidance, truth and wisdom. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path," reminding believers that God's Word directs each step of life. Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids also connects the lamp with wisdom and spiritual readiness (Matthew 25:1-13). In addition, the lamp is sometimes used to symbolize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the gift of life itself. Because of these meanings, the lamp has become a lasting symbol of God's guidance, faithful living and the light of Christ shining in the darkness.



Date	Time	Lector	Communion Assistants	Flowers Sponsor	Dedication
10/04/26	10am	Gretchen Frederick	Gary Bartelt, Phil Rearick	The Bartelts	
10/11/26	10am	Lou Carter	Aimée Fox, Frances Guido	<i>Worship in the Park</i>	
10/18/26	10am	Margarita Rodriguez	Marty Snapp, Violet Prepost		
10/25/26	10am	Paul Erickson	Margarita Rodriguez, Gary Bartelt	F. Guido	For the Glory Of God

Birthdays

10/02 Anna MacBriar
 10/04 Lynne Tallon
 10/04 Shirley Carter
 10/05 Charles Braitling
 10/07 Aimée Fox
 10/09 Paula Loring
 10/09 Brenda Braitling
 10/11 Phil Rearick
 10/11 Jack Pisecco
 10/13 Margarita Rodriguez
 10/14 Roma Heystek
 10/15 John Potts
 10/18 Charlene Diefel
 10/20 Nina Scholz
 10/20 Suzanne Todd
 10/23 Carol Bertoluzzi
 10/23 Linda Miles
 10/23 Gary Bartelt
 10/24 Timothy Ames
 10/27 Ashley DiNoto
 10/27 Rod Hagberg

Anniversaries

10/08 Kathy & Gary Bartelt
 10/12 Betty & Tom Herzhauser

Other Observances

Clergy Appreciation Month

10/04 World Communion Sunday
 10/11 Clergy Appreciation Sunday
 10/12 Indigenous Peoples Day
 10/12 Canadian Thanksgiving
 10/25 Reformation Sunday
 10/31 Reformation Day

ALTAR

flowers

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

Women of the
ELCA

The Women of Grace will be meeting on **Monday, October 12th @ 10am** for brunch at **Route 66 Diner** (9721 66th St N, Pinellas Park in the Southland Plaza).

We will be discussing the future meetings and the disbursement of the funds in our bank account. We will have a sign up sheet posted in the narthex. Please sign up no later than Sunday October 11th. It's important that all the Women of Grace attend.

Pat Shipley/Terri Craig

Grateful for Faithful Leadership

October gives us a special opportunity to thank the pastors who teach, encourage, pray and care for our congregation. May we honor their faithful service, support them with our prayers and remind them that their ministry makes a meaningful difference in the lives of many.

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

—Mother Teresa

(LOU CARTER—Continued from page 6)

Retiring in 1999 with 24 years combined service in the US NAVY!

Using VA Educational benefits, Lou enrolled at SPJC in the Aviation Administration Program and graduated in 1999 with an AS degree, with honors.

On July 14, 1997 Lou qualified and obtained his FAA Certified Pilots license, by solo flight in a Cessna 152, at Alert Whitted Airport. (KSPG) This was an SPJC requirement to obtain the AS degree. 142.4 Civilian PIC flight hours, 495.5 Military Aircrew Hours, 40 Carrier Landings (TRAPS) 26 Catapult Takeoffs (CATSHOTS)

Lou worked for the city of St. Petersburg, later transferred to Heavy Equipment Operator. Retiring in 2012 with 20 years of service.

Faye passed away in 2012 after 47 years of marriage. Her remains were interred in the Duff Memorial Garden located on the South side of the church campus. Lou was blessed to meet and soon after married Beverly Woodward at Hope. She passed away in 2023 after 10 years of marriage. Her remains are also in the Memorial Garden, near Faye's plot.

Lou says he will continue to make a joyful noise unto the Lord for the Lord has truly blessed him his entire life.

OCTOBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9am City Church 10am Service 11am Fellowship 11:30am All Age 7pm St. August	28 Bulletin Items Dis	29	30 10am Monthly I 11:30am Hot Lu 1pm Grace & G. 6pm Bible Stud	Oct 1 6:30pm Vocal C 6:45pm CC: Wo	2 9:30am TLC Pa 9:30am Food P. 6pm First Frida 6:30pm CC: Fri	3 9am Thrift Stor
4 9am City Church 10am Service 11am Fellowship 11:30am All Age 7pm St. August	5 Bulletin Items Dis 10am Bert's Br	6	7 11:30am Hot Lu 1pm Grace & G.	8 6:30pm Vocal C	9 9:30am TLC Pa 9:30am Food P. 2pm CC: RUF E	10 9am CC: Memb 9am Thrift Stor 10am Congreg
11 Worship IN THE 9am City Church 10am Worship I 7pm St. August	12 Bulletin Items Dis Columbus Day 10am WELCA -	13 6pm Council M	14 11:30am Hot Lu 1pm Grace & G. 6pm Bible Stud	15 6:30pm Vocal C 7pm CC: Men's	16 9:30am TLC Pa 9:30am Food P. 6pm Film & Fait	17 9am Thrift Stor
18 9am City Church 10am Service 11am Fellowship 11:30am All Age 7pm St. August	19 Bulletin Items Dis	20 Newsletter dead 12pm Photos U	21 9am Quilting 11:30am Hot Lu 1pm Grace & G. 6pm Bible Stud	22 6:30pm Vocal C 7pm CC: Men's	23 Parking Lot: JWI 9:30am TLC Pa 9:30am Food P.	24 9am Thrift Stor 10am JWB Wor 6pm Trunk or Ti
25 9am City Church 10am Service 11am Fellowship 11:30am All Age 7pm St. August	26 Bulletin Items Dis	27 10:30am ShipB 7pm Meadowla	28 10am Monthly I 11:30am Hot Lu 1pm Grace & G. 6pm Bible Stud	29 6:30pm Vocal C 7pm CC: Men's	30 9:30am TLC Pa 9:30am Food P.	31 Halloween 9am Thrift Stor

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

Downtown Calendar: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=dHJpbml0eXN0cGV0ZUBnbWFpbC5jb20>

Meadowlawn Calendar: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=aG9wZXN0cGV0ZUBnbWFpbC5jb20>