

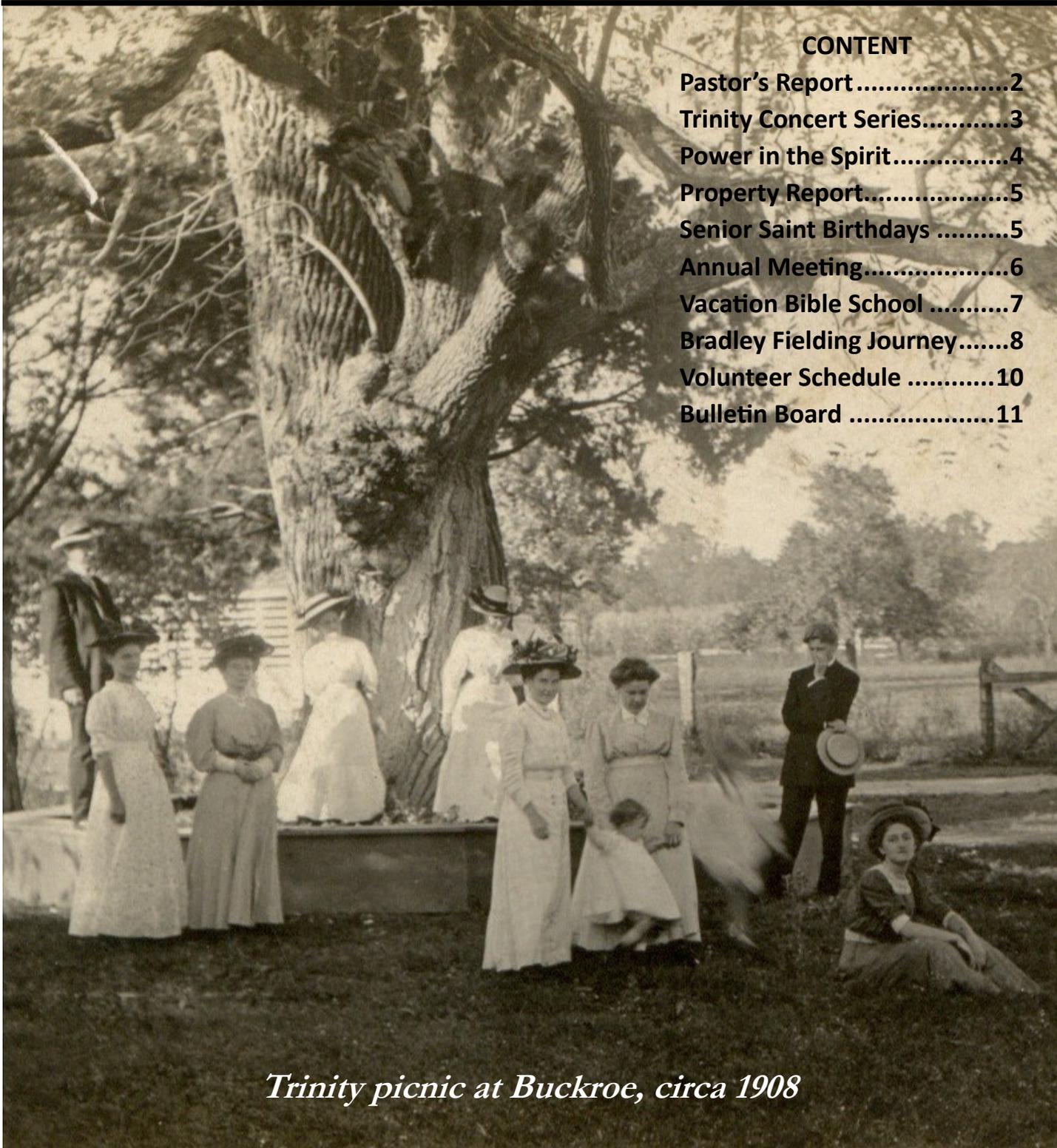
# Trinity Tidings

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newport News, Virginia

June 2015

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*Trinity picnic at Buckroe, circa 1908*



## ***From the Pastor's Desk ...***

### ***A Challenge to Discern***

How do we address the concerns of those in poverty? How do Lutherans address poverty? I am raising this issue because there is a lot of press lately about Pope Francis' public concern for the poor. More and more, he is speaking out and writing about their plight in all countries. There is even some opposition among conservative Roman Catholics that he has gone too far in championing the cause. I believe it is a natural turn for him because he was raised and educated and experienced life in a country, Argentina, and in a continent, South America, that have always wrestled with ministry to the poor.

Lutherans have always been concerned, but never to the degree that society has taken issue with the denomination's outreach. Lutherans all across the land have been actively involved in helping the poor; simply read any issue of the LUTHERAN magazine. Locally, LINK, and its ministry to the homeless, PORT, have been well received and supported through the years. Other ministries have been respected, but there is little discussion in the streets as well as in the pews about this mission. Yet, more effort is being exerted nationally to discuss the economic inequalities in society. How do Lutherans fare in that debate?

We have a Social Statement on Poverty, but it is dated and little used in discussion. With all the other issues confronting us, poverty appears to have taken a backseat, but Pope Francis has now pushed it to the forefront. Can we or should we enter the fray?

Poverty is overwhelming. We try to take in its full dimensions and we do not know where to start or where it will end. So, we step back and resign ourselves to study and verbal support. Poverty is always local. We pray for the poor in South

America and support those who serve there. But, for us to be involved, it must be local. Here in our backyards, are people who live day to day, subsistence to subsistence. They are the faces in the crowds. They are the names spoken in our neighborhoods. They are the people who live with hopelessness every single day.

What keeps us from serving our neighbor? Words that keep recycling in our brains: they are lazy; they do not care about themselves; they will take advantage of anyone who befriends them; they are a lower class of people; they have thrown away many chances to better their lives; they gamble away the good things; they have no honor or integrity. The list could go on and on ad infinitum. Can the cycle be broken? Can we help in some significant way to help dismantle the cycle of poverty on the Peninsula? Could this be a mission of the Lutheran Church here in this place?

I invite you to join with me in a congregational discussion and discernment about poverty in our neighborhoods. Can we make a difference for our community? Where does the Lord God call us to serve? When the congregation provides some financial support for a person in crisis, it is always appreciated, but giving a small sum of money does not do anything to combat poverty. Is there more that can be done?

The conservative reaction to Pope Francis's remarks usually takes the form of a rebuttal based on the centrality of Christ in our teachings. In other words, we are called to proclaim Christ as Lord and Savior; He comes first before any "issue." The poor are an issue and thus they should not substitute for the gospel of Jesus the Christ. Are we substituting the poor for Christ? Did not Christ lift up the poor as those who know the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Luke 6:20b." The first Beatitude was an expression

*The Pastor's article continues on page 10.*



# TRINITY CONCERT SERIES

*presents*

## Alex Bosworth

HERE FOR YOU

*Friday, June 5, 2015, 7:00 – 10:00 PM*

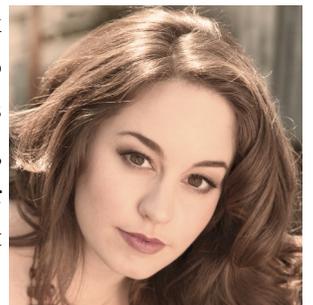
*Trinity Lutheran Church*

Trinity Lutheran Church is proud to announce the first of a series of concerts to promote music in the Church while supporting several missions of the congregation. Our featured artist is Alex Bosworth, who hails from the Jazz capital of New Orleans.

Alex has led her group at many of New Orleans' finest music venues, including the grand opening of the State of Louisiana Jazz Museum and the New Orleans French Quarter Festival. Alex performs regularly in New York City and abroad. She was a featured artist at the Prague PROMS Jazz Festival, has been part of the Cannon Club Music Series in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, and has recently released

her much anticipated debut album "Here for You" of original compositions.

The concert is scheduled for June 5th, starting at 7:00 PM in the Church Sanctuary. There will be a meet and greet reception in the social hall between performance sets. The second set is scheduled to end around 10:00 PM. Alex will be performing with two local musicians for this concert. More information, including previews of her music, are available at [www.alexbosworth.com](http://www.alexbosworth.com).





# POWER IN THE SPIRIT

*Worship*  
where grace happens

**July 9-11, 2015**

**Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia**

Power in the Spirit is an inspirational conference for everyone who wishes to explore God's call to service through joyous worship, Bible study, keynote addresses, workshops, and fellowships. In addition, congregational leaders, teachers, organists, choir directors, choir members, committee or council members, family life consultants, pastors and others will find POWER IN THE SPIRIT especially nurturing and challenging as they consider their mission and ministry. The keynote address will be presented by Rev. Jay Gamelin. The Rev. Dr. April Uring Larson is the Bible Study Leader. The theme is Worship Where Grace Happens. There is a special service project called "Is Orange the New Black: What is Real About Prisons?" Learn about Virginia's prison system, how lives are changing through offering GraceInside (formerly Chaplain Service), and how you can support this prison chaplain ministry through this year's Power in the Spirit service project. Please review the list of materials needed, available in the registration information. The resident package including lodging (two nights) and meals is \$255 prior to June 15th. The late registration fee is \$25. T-shirts and music packages are extra.

Registration materials and a detailed schedule are available at the following website:

<http://www.vasynod.org/ministries/power-in-the-spirit/>

***Deadlines:*** Committee reports for the annual meeting are now past due. Please contact Cliff Obara at 865-6659 for an extension. Articles for the July Tidings are due June 15, 2015. Please send your article to [cliffordobara@cox.net](mailto:cliffordobara@cox.net).

***The Nursery*** is looking for additional caregivers for the Sunday services. If you love caring for young children please contact Charlotte Duff at 342-9251.



## ***Church Property and Landscape Report . . .***



The Property Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Here is an update on our current projects:

Nave – The replacement chandelier lights have been received and any lights that are burnt out will be replaced.

Library – We are working to get the cold water faucet fixed.

Music/Sunday School Room – There was a leak in the room that was caused by a issue with the sprinkler system in the memorial garden. Earl Dunn with TLS was able to fix the issue with the sprinkler system and we are working to dry out the carpet in the room.

Entrance lights - We will clean out and repair the lights around the exterior building doors.

Landscaping – The benches are installed and I would like to thank Diane Roselius for leading this project. I would also like to thank Pete Johnston, Cliff Obara and Dave Roselius for their time and

effort prepping and installing the benches. We also have relocated the dogwood tree to a new location further away from the Church.

Old Archives Closet - The water heater will be replaced this summer.

Social Hall – We are continuing to work with our contractor to get a price for the project. Since the meeting was during spring break I was not able to get an update from Earl Dunn who has been working to fix an engine in the boiler room that may allow us to use the heaters along the side walls in the Social Hall instead of the radiant heating system below the floor.

Church Van – The van passed inspection but we may have an issue with the flooring in the van. We are currently working to determine what the issue is and what can be done to fix it.

The Property Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is on Tuesday, June 2nd at 7:00 PM. The members of the property committee are Jack Kowalski, Diane Roselius, Pete Johnston, Joan Johnston, Lynne Fritzinger (TLS) and Earl Dunn (TLS).

I would like to thank Lynne Fritzinger for her time and effort on the property committee. Lynne is retiring as the Head of School in June and she will be sorely missed. Congratulations to Lynne on her retirement and we wish her the best!

*Bill Mulvey*

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## ***Happy Birthday to our Special Senior Saints . . .***



For June, here is the list of our special members' birthday celebrations:

Wilma Johnson	95	June 4
Viola Kessler	92	June 12
Gloria Driver	84	June 29
Doris Moeser	83	June 29

# ***Annual Congregation Meeting***

**June 21, 2015 Following the 10:00 AM Service**

**Lunch will be provided in the Social Hall following the meeting**

Please plan to attend the Annual Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregation meeting to be held approximately 11:00 AM. The meeting will follow the 10:00 AM service. After the meeting, lunch will be provided in the social hall. The primary purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2015-2016 operating budget for the Church. Reports on the status of the Church and School will also be provided.



The printed copy of the Annual Report will be available in the Church library starting on Sunday, June 14th. It will also be sent out via the Constant Contact e-mail distribution list. Please contact the Administrative assistant ([admin@trinitynn.org](mailto:admin@trinitynn.org)) to update your e-mail or add your e-mail to the distribution list. Members of the Finance Committee will be available in the Church library between services to explain the proposed budget and expense reports.



*Groundbreaking for the new Church at Huntington Avenue and River Road, presided by Pastor Sloop, circa 1957.*

# *Hilton Area Vacation Bible School*



**July 13—17, 2015, 9:00 AM—12:00 Noon**  
**34 Main Street, Newport News, Virginia**

Put on your helmet and fasten your seat belt! During this week, experience God's unstoppable love and discover how to fuel up and move in and through life with God!

The Hilton area Churches will be hosting the Summer Vacation Bible School in July. Registration for volunteers will end June 19th and registration for students (pre-K through fifth grade) will end June 29th.

Contact the office or see an usher for registration forms or visit the website below for full details and online registration.

The following items are needed (there is a basket in the Church library):

**Craft Materials:** Bags of beans, popcorn, rice, noodles (all uncooked), used CD's, tag boards (any color), toilet paper tubes, and laminating cellophane.

Website: [2015cokesburyvbs.com/hiltonchurches2015](http://2015cokesburyvbs.com/hiltonchurches2015)

Contact: Sarah McGinnis, (757) 595-1313, [smcginnis@hiltonpres.org](mailto:smcginnis@hiltonpres.org)



*Vacation Bible School, circa 1925.*



*Vacation Bible School, circa 1941.*

# *Bradley Fielding's Faith Journey*

*The following text is from Bradley Fielding's Faith Talk from Sunday, May 17th. He graduates from the Governor's School for the Arts on June 8th and will be attending Northwestern University to pursue a music degree in Vocal Performance and possibly a second degree in Communication or Performance Studies. He is a baritone and aspires to be a professional opera singer.*

It's funny, when we talk about faith growth, we tend to do so in a very linear way. Often, we call it a faith journey, and indeed, in many ways it is a journey for every one of us. But a journey is very linear (one could argue circular in some cases). Point by point, step by step, event by event, a journey works chronologically. It marks the passage of time. You can make a timeline out of it.

Maybe it's easier to do that as we get older. We gain life experience, and with it we gain the hindsight to put past life events in order and to make sense out of them. Me, I'm seventeen (eighteen in eight days). I haven't had a series of life-changing events or even one or two major defining religious experiences that stick out enough for me to put them on my timeline.

What I have, and I suspect this is true for many people who were raised in the church, is more of a cosmic whirlpool. Imagine that the universe was just created, and all of this space dust, this debris, is floating around. As the dust particles swirl around in this chaotic void, they collide and stick to each other, forming bigger and bigger chunks as those pieces collide in turn until you have comets, asteroids, even planets.

In the same way that babies learn to speak, I was taught to have faith. It's the immersion factor. Everyone around exhibits a behavior, so you mimic that behavior until you understand it. I like to think that one of the dust specks in the void is my faith, and as it tumbles through the world it picks up more experiences until I have a complete picture. Maybe if I tumble around enough, my faith will be the size of a planet.

When you realize you have no good religious time-

line, the first instinct is to think, now, wait a minute—if I can't define my faith very well by individual memories and experiences, then how can I ever be expected to communicate what I feel about my relationship with God? We define our faith through stories; we look up to the people with good stories. Does that mean the relationship is not as strong as I thought?

No. I'm learning as I get older that our own attempts to compartmentalize our beliefs are fairly futile, or at least mine are. For me, they only make the story unclear or incomplete. I do not have any journey to speak of, then. Just a few insights I've picked up along the way,

**Prayer.** Music. Giving.

These three things form the backbone, the foundation on which I build my faith, my own sort of personal Trinity.

Let's start with prayer. I gave a shorter and very different faith testimony last summer at Kairos. In it, I focused a lot on conversation. I noted that Christians need to publicly acknowledge our faith more often than we typically do, that we need to be more open about our belief in Jesus Christ, more comfortable talking about what we believe. On a much more direct level, though, prayer for me has become an essential component of listening to God. Not talking, so much, but listening. It's the other side of the conversation. Most of the time my prayers are very simple: the Lord's Prayer, or some slight variant thereof. I really like "thy kingdom come, thy will be done." It takes the power out of our hands and puts it solely into God's. In fact, for the past year or so, the most common prayer I have prayed is something along the lines of "Lord, may I ever be a servant of your will, not mine." One of my favorite bible snippets is "for we do not know how to pray as we ought," from the eighth chapter of Romans. It is difficult to remember to pray. I've come to enjoy the



moment of silence at school because it reminds me to pray. But prayer, to me, is a surrender of control. God's work our hands. At the end of the day, if God's work has been done, then our prayers have been answered at least in that moment.

Prayer. **Music.** Giving.

I suppose it should come as no surprise that as a musician, music changes my outlook on God. On the one hand, we can practically take it as proof of the existence of God. I know that to many people, faith by definition is belief without proof. But something so beautiful and so amazingly good for us—I don't see how it could be without God's hand in its creation. I just saw a friend yesterday whose father teaches physics at CNU, and she was telling me that her father was trying to start up a class called "The physics of music." In it, the students would learn about how certain musical pitches and sounds sound good together because of the way the frequencies line up. Very reasonable, very rational, very scientific approach to what goes on in our brains that makes us love music. It sounds very interesting, the kind of class I would love to take in college. It also takes some of the mystery out of music's power.

It doesn't change a thing for me. My relationship with music has become so intensely personal that nothing really can shake the God-given power that is so evident in any good piece of music, religious or secular. I love that the Lutheran church tends to focus so heavily on music because it is an extremely powerful art form that moves and affects us in ways that plain text cannot.

It also heightens our expression and our understanding of the words we are using. As a singer, an interpreter of poetry and song, it is my job to pick apart texts line by line and find meaning for them. Great singers can take old texts and breathe life into them, communicating them clearly and effectively without changing a single word. It's what great readers do, what great actors do. I've found that the total suspension of disbelief that lends itself so well to the stage also lends itself marvelously with the bible. Indeed, the skill has been instrumental in my own understanding of scripture. When you read the bible,

when you read the text in the bulletin, I encourage you all to make characters out of the writers and the listeners, including yourselves. Read Paul's letters not as the recipient, but as Paul. Really focus on the words you are saying in the service as you say them. They are not mundane: they're very real and very powerful.

Prayer. Music. **Giving.**

This is perhaps the most complex of the three, primarily because we have to recognize that we ourselves are not the only ones who are giving. It really boils down to two things: what God has given us, and what we can give in response to those gifts. One of my favorite beliefs within the Lutheran church is that we are saved by faith alone, that we do good work in response to our salvation. We're not trying to earn anything from God. We couldn't! Even so, there's so much to be thankful for. Food, water, shelter, health, a good family, a good congregation, an education.

My big three ideas, seemingly unrelated, come at a crossroads here. Everything is a gift. The music is a gift - and I don't mean my own musical abilities, I mean music's very existence. And prayer. What is prayer but a means for us to acknowledge our gifts, to thank God and, in times of crisis, to ask for just one more gift? In the context of gifts, everything is a blessing.

Maybe my faith is more like a tree; although I remain largely the same on the surface, my system of roots is always growing. The more time I spend with these concepts, the more easily and sincerely I feel them. How appropriate it is that I should mention roots, having really been rooted here in Trinity since I was born. I've grown up at Trinity Lutheran Church; it is probably the single institution that has directly influenced my life longer than any other. I am what many people like to call a Cradle Christian. I have no inspiring story of leaving the church and then being found again by God; no divine revelation profoundly changed my life. But keeping the faith, with practice and with the guidance of God's own hand, that makes faith all the more worth it.

*W. Bradley Fielding*

for the plight of the poor. What if we are not substituting the poor for Christ, but hearing what Christ has to say about the poor as the way to understand how all of us are to know the kingdom of God?

I have seen poverty in the coal fields of Virginia and in the ragged mountains of El Salvador and it has the same face: unwashed, scarred, and curious. Can we as a Church do anything to change this world?

Do we have the God-given ability to change it from the “grounding down” of life into the image of the dignity and joy of God? But, I pray that we enter into the fellowship of concern for those who live “desperate lives.” I pray that we consider a discussion with Pope Francis and be prepared to respond to where the Lord will send all of us.

*Your Fellow Servant in Christ,  
Pastor Guy*

## ***Usher, Presenter, and Greeter Information for the Summer***

There will be only one Sunday service (10:00AM) at Trinity on each of the thirteen Sundays in June, July, and August 2015. Just as for every other Sunday during the year, ushers are needed to greet and seat visitors, distribute bulletins, collect offerings, and direct communicants toward the altar. Since summer usually involves vacations or travel for many of us, I am asking volunteers to serve on a weekly basis. Of course, if an usher can serve more than once in a given month, that is even better.

I recruit ushers on a continual basis by phone calls or emails. Beginning in May, I will also begin posting sign-up sheets on the TLC bulletin boards, for those

wanting to volunteer during June, July, or August. Both current ushers and new volunteers are encouraged to sign up for Sundays when they will be available to serve. Ushering is a wonderful way to serve your church, meet new people, and get to know your fellow congregants better. If you have not ushered before, do not worry. We have simple printed instructions and we offer training. Give ushering a try!

*Thank you !  
Richard E. (Dick) Davis  
TLC Usher Coordinator  
595-7474*

## ***June Crucifer/Acolyte/Assistant Schedule***

DATE	SERVICE	CRUCIFER	ACOLYTES	(CA) Communion Assistant
June 7	10:00 AM	Chip Nassau	Harris Fischer Thomas McWithey	No Communion
June 14	10:00 AM	Shawn Murphy	Alex Murphy Nathan Rummel	Reagan Belote (CA)
June 21	10:00 AM	John Savage	Stephen McWithey Matthew Mynoymany	Sounthone Mynoymany (CA)
June 28	10:00 AM	Mark Madler	Emma Recupero Lina Recupero	John Savage (CA)

Please keep this schedule, as there will be no weekly reminders. If you cannot serve on the scheduled date, please contact Mr. Bill Solomon, 249-1590, as soon as possible. Thank you for your faithfulness. Servers Please Note: All servers should be robed no later than 9:45 AM. Expected Attire: Boys: Dark shoes and socks. No sports shoes. Dark, long, trousers. Light colored shirt. Girls: DARK CLOSED SHOES ONLY. NO sports shoes. Dress or skirt should not be longer than robe. Simple, hair barrettes. Black or white scrunches are okay.

# COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD



*SCHOOL'S OUT! Trinity Lutheran School will hold its graduation ceremonies the second week of June. Congratulations to the class of 2015. On to High School!*



## **Cora Miller Circle Luncheon**

June 11, 2015, 11:45 A.M.  
Anderson's Showplace  
Newport News, Virginia

*Consider automatic giving using your bank's online bill pay so you don't get behind on your offerings.*

## **Calling All Summer Seekers!**

We ask you, "why waste a good summer?" Following the 10:00 A.M. service on Sunday, June 14, all members who are interested in a summer adult class will meet in the Parlor. We will plan topics, dates, and times to keep the dialogue going through the summer months. This proposal comes from the upstairs parlor adult class and we also have chosen the book we will be using for study when regular Faith Walk classes resume in the fall: *Speaking Christian* by Marcus Borg. We would love to have YOU join us this summer and/or this fall!



## **Volunteer Needed!!!**

A volunteer is needed to chair the July blood drive, which is hosted by Trinity. Your responsibilities are to coordinate the use of the gym and the volunteers. Please call the Church office today to help out.

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

6812 River Road, Newport News, Virginia 23607

Phone: (757) 245-7861



## Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship (June 7—September 6, 2015): 10:00 A.M.

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

A Nursery is Provided during worship

## Contact Information

Pastor: The Reverend Frederick P. Guy (pastor@trinitynn.org)

Organist and Director of Music: Rob Keene (music@trinitynn.org)

Administrative Assistant (admin@trinitynn.org)

Treasurer (treasurer@trinitynn.org)

Website: <http://www.trinitylutheran-nn.com>

*A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Virginia Synod*

*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is a covenant partner with:*

*Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center, Habitat for Humanity, Newport News Link,  
and Thrive Peninsula (formerly Denbigh United Christian Outreach).*

*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation.*