

# Trinity Tidings

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newport News, VA

December 2016



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



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we all anxiously await the birth of our Lord and the coming Christmas season, I wanted to take the time to wish you all a blessed holiday season.

Christmas always feels like the opportunity for new beginnings, even when things are cold and dark, the coming of Christ's light is a reminder of the hope we have in his arrival. It is such a joy to know that as we embark on this season of light, we are also beginning our new journey together in ministry. Surrounded by the promises of the Christ child we take these first steps together with joy, with hope, and I'm sure with a little bit of anxiety. I am so looking forward to experiencing this first of what will hopefully be many Christmases together, of experiencing the traditions that are unique to Trinity, of

worshipping with you on that holiest of nights, Christmas Eve. I know that this time of year brings with it a world of things to do, of places to be and things to get done. However, if at any time you are in need of anything, or just feel like stopping by to chat, please come by the office or give me a call. I'm Sure you'll be seeing my contact information a lot over the next few weeks, but here it is one more time:

Cell Phone: 734-239-4013

Email: [tina.melusky@gmail.com](mailto:tina.melusky@gmail.com)

I wish you all a truly blessed and hopefully relaxed holiday season. Whether you are travelling or at home, may your Christmas be filled with laughter, joy, and the warmth of family and friends. Be safe in your travels, enjoy the cookies and the presents, and may you feel the hope of the Christ child in your hearts.

Peace it Together,  
*Pastor Tina*

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



Dear Friends, (I write a final column for the Tidings):

A former Virginia Synod Pastor, Frank Honeycutt retired after 31 years (makes my 44 seem long!) but upon his retirement, he wrote this newsletter article:

“Well, this is the final newsletter column of my

pastoral career. It's been great to be among you, my fourth parish in 31 years. They've all been different, but also share common challenges as Christianity across the country has experienced great change over these three decades. Faithfulness does not have to be reinvented with each new generation. Here are a few common observations that I leave in the form of loving pastoral advice.

Continue to become proficient in your study and understanding of the Word of God. Lutherans may not agree with a fundamentalist slant on the Bible, but you have to hand it to them: they know how to get around in the BOOK. Martin Luther changed the world because he was in love with his Lord revealed in Scripture. It's been enlivening and exciting to be a part of small study groups throughout these decades. It's also been disappointing to discover some Lutherans cannot articulate the basic difference between Exodus and Acts. Spend time daily in the Word. Start new study groups. Ponder slowly a tough passage. One sign of a strong church is biblical fluency. We will do a lot of wheel-spinning without it. (See 2 Timothy 3: 16-17)

Show up on Sundays for worship. We are given an amazing gift each week in the celebration of Holy

Communion. Faithful discipleship cannot be sustained without this sacrament. Jesus assumed regular reception of the bread and wine as the early church was forming. As you might imagine, I've heard a multitude of excuses over the years for worship absence—wrong time, wrong style, too busy, you name it. In most cases, these excuses are rather flimsy compared to what's being missed. I've stopped trying to understand how Christians can spend an entire Saturday tailgating and watching teams/sports but cannot find a couple of hours for church on Sundays. This is only a single (and handy) example of misplaced priorities. Holy Communion is absolutely central for the health of a disciple. Don't neglect this amazing gift. (see Luke 14: 15-24).

Remember your Baptism. Most people keep a calendar. All of us know key dates. If you do not know the date of your baptism, I must caringly wonder why. In Maslow's old hierarchy of needs, identity is one of the keys to health and maturity. Baptism shapes our Christian identity. For a Christian, life begins and is viewed through this watery lens. You were ordained for ministry in baptism, a sacrament that exceeds (in biblical importance) any ordination of, say, a pastor. Your baptism date defines and shapes all other dates—birth, marriage, national holidays. If you don't know your baptism date, do some research and discover it. Luther made the sign of the cross over his body at dawn and at bedtime. In remembrance of his baptism. The cross is the shape of the baptismal life. The Christian life is the sacrificial life. (see Romans 6: 3-11)

Give Generously. I'll never forget a talk with my dad just before our wedding. He called me aside privately. I thought we'd gone over the sex talk already when I was in the 8th grade. But what he wanted to talk about was financial giving in church life. "Your Mom and I," he said, "did not have a lot of money when we were first married. But we committed to giving generously early on. It wasn't easy; still difficult some months. But it's been a very important part of our marriage over these years---to give to others." If you do not give a set percentage

of your income away to others—to the church, to local and global causes benefitting the poor and hungry—I invite you to start. There is a joy in sacrificial giving. (see 2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

Disciples need disciplines in order for the Holy Spirit to transform us. These four disciplines have been practiced by Christians for twenty centuries. We are in a new era for the church in North America. Our best theological reflection will be prayerfully needed moving forward. Start (or continue) with these four habits." (Pastor Frank Honeycutt, newsletter article)

What good words. I couldn't have said it better. Please take them to heart.

Also, a couple of extra hints for Trinity's new chapter from yours truly:

--Every member should have this triad of disciplines: worship, study and service through the congregation. Do it!

--Every member should get to know the new pastor personally. It can be: appointment in the office; coffee somewhere with you; an invitation to your home. Make it happen!

--While being thankful for former pastors, drop comparisons and nostalgic longings: this pastor is front and center for the unfolding new adventures. Get with it!

--Everything in church needs help. Take up an assignment!

--Be a generous giver and steward your time, talent and money for the good of the Church. Grow in giving!

--Build up the body of Christ. Encourage,, pray, praise, thank and wrap it all in joy!

I am thankful for the people of Trinity who invited me to come and be among you for these 15 months to serve the office of Word and Sacrament. It was an honor to do so. I truly thank God for you and your partnership in this Gospel adventure.

Sincerely with blessings and joy,  
*Pastor Cobb*

ON  
OUR WAY  
TO  
**Bethlehem**

A  
Christmas Musical  
for Children

By  
ROGER EMERSON  
and  
JOHN JACOBSON



*Presented by the  
Trinity Troupers*

*December 18, 2016, 9:30 AM*

## ***Youth Group Events***



### **Decorating and Caroling:**

On December 18, Trinity youth will help with the decorating of the church and then go caroling to our homebound members delivering the gifts that we made for them in Sunday School. Youth group members will meet immediately following the 10:45 worship service in the church library. We will

decorate the church, play a few of our favorite youth group games, and head out to carol. The evening will end with a pizza party at the Rummel household to include a favorite Christmas movie. Parents can pick up their youth at 8 PM at the Rummels – remember we moved! Things to bring: A packed lunch (we will eat quickly at the church), \$5 for pizza for dinner, your beautiful singing voice, and a Christmas goody to share at dinner (cookies, side dish, whatever you want to make). Sign up on the youth group bulletin board. Happy Holidays!!!

**Laser Tag/ Lock In:** On January 6, the Trinity Youth will meet at Lazer Rush in Kiln Creek at 6 PM. We plan to play two games of Laser Tag and then head to the church for an evening of fun and games to include Sardines, Train Wreck, Dodge Ball, and whatever other games I can create (Human Hungry Hippos again anyone)! Things to Bring: \$20 for Laser Tag, a snack to share at the church, a sleep-



ing bag, pillow, PJs, change of clothes, tennis shoes, and a flashlight! **EAT DINNER BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT LASER TAG PLEASE!** Parents ... please pick up your youth at 8 AM on January 7. Sign up on the youth group bulletin board.

**Ski Trip:** This event is for all members of Trinity! The annual Seven Springs Ski Trip will be held February 2-5, 2017. We leave the Newport News area around 3 PM on Thursday, February 2 and return home around Noon on Sunday February 5. Friday and Saturday, we spend at the Seven Springs Resort near Somerset, PA. Families and youth can participate in as much or as little as they would like to include skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing, roller skating, swimming, indoor Putt Putt, bowling, spa offerings, and swimming. We will be housed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Somerset at night. The best part about this trip is that the cost is really dependent on how much you do. Breakfasts are cereal and Pop Tarts at the church before we leave for the day. Lunches can be a packed picnic style or bought at the ski lodge, and dinner is usually Ruby Tuesdays and Pizza. This is a fun event loved by folks of all ages. If you are interested in going, grab a packet of information off of the youth group bulletin board and put your name on the sign up sheet there.

### ***Greening of the Church***

On December 18th following the 10:45 a.m. worship service we will decorate the church for the holidays. Many hands make light work. If you can stay for awhile, please do so as we work to make our sanctuary beautiful for the season. Also, mark your calendars for the decoration take down on Saturday, January 7th at 9:00 a.m. Thank you!

# *Scenes from Bethlehem, circa Trinity 2016*



# *Advent Event on November 20th*



## *ELCA Good Gifts Tree*

The ELCA Good Gifts tree is now located in the church library. If you would like to provide a gift to someone that is in need on behalf of yourself or a family member or friend, please pick up an ornament today. Here is how it works:

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference. ELCA Good Gifts go beyond your regular congregational offering to support the ministries of the ELCA that mean the most to you and your loved ones.

Browse the tree for more than 50 gift-giving options. Choose the gifts that mean the most to you, or choose gifts to give in honor of friends and family.

If your gift is in honor of a friend or loved one, it's easy to tell them about it! Visit [www.ELCA.org/goodgifts/print](http://www.ELCA.org/goodgifts/print) a card for a selection of printable cards. Give online or through the mail and you may request that a printed card for each of your gifts be mailed to your home. Please allow two weeks for delivery when ordering online, and three weeks for delivery when ordering through the mail. An order form is available from the ELCA website or Trinity's website. From the Trinity site, simply click on the link. Some forms will also be in the library.



## ***Attention Scrapbookers!***

Are you looking for a place to scrapbook without the commitment of a full weekend crop (always fun, but we often don't have the time)?

Do you wish you could count on getting a few pages done before your child becomes a parent themselves?

Do you want to spend time sharing, laughing and enjoying the company of other scrapbookers?

Are you new to scrapbooking and want to learn more about the techniques and tools available?

Then join us on Saturday, December 10th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the Church social hall.

Help us get a new Trinity scrapbooking group together that will meet once a month (the second Saturday of the month). For more information and

to reserve a spot please call Terri Hoffeditz at (C) 757 871 1182 or (H) 757 766 2646.

*Please note: this is not a sales sponsored event. Just plain scrapbooking!*



## ***Food Baskets***

Social Ministry thanks the amazing outpouring of food offerings to support our holiday food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas for Edmark children and their families. The baskets were literally overflowing with your bountiful blessings!

*The Social Ministry Committee*

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

### **December Birthdays**

Shirley Fulton .....	December 7 .....	80
Bob McWithey .....	December 7 .....	85
Clifford Fricke .....	December 8 .....	93
Slim Hawkins .....	December 11 .....	88
Phyllis Argenbright .....	December 14 .....	89
Hazel Wiseman .....	December 26 .....	86



# VIRGINIA *Choral* SOCIETY

## *Holiday Concerts*

With selections by Lara Hoggard and Bob Chilcott, we're excited to present "Sound the Trumpet." Accompanied by the Eastern Virginia Brass Quintet, we are excited to perform seasonal favorites. For the second year in a row, we invite local high school choirs to sing at our four concerts! Come and enjoy the sounds of the season!

Saturday, December 10th, 7:30 pm - Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 179 E. Mercury Blvd. Hampton, VA 23669

Sunday, December 11th, 4:00 pm - Trinity Lutheran Church, 6807 Huntington Ave, Newport News, VA 23607

Saturday, December 17th, 7:30 pm - Trinity Lutheran Church, 6807 Huntington Ave, Newport News, VA 23607

Sunday, December 18th, 4:00 pm - Ferguson Center's Music and Theatre Hall, Christopher Newport University, 1 Avenue of the Arts, Newport News, VA 23606

You can purchase tickets in advance from Tricia Fielding (mobile ph. 703-939-1602), online at [www.vachoralsociety.org](http://www.vachoralsociety.org), from Simply Unique Jewelry Designs (1215 Route 17, Yorktown, VA) or Peninsula Town Center, Guest Services(4410 East Claiborne Square, Suite 212, Hampton, VA).

Get a group of 10 or more together and get bigger ticket savings. For group tickets, email [marketing@vachoralsociety.org](mailto:marketing@vachoralsociety.org) or call the VCS hotline: 757-851-9114.



## ***PORT Report***

PORT Plans are Underway!

Please mark your calendars now as we look towards ONE week of hosting PORT (People Offering Resources Together) at Trinity!

**When? February 15-22, 2017!**

Our PORT week has moved into the month of February, usually still a very cold time of year! If you have never been a part of this ministry to the homeless during the frigid time of the year, please consider participating this year as there are many ways to share your gift of time – through unloading/loading bedding, checking in, assisting with serving dinner, or the popular overnight vigil (4 hour increments only). Guaranteed to uplift you in a truly unique way!

We will have new Partner Churches to make lasting friendships and this is always a ministry which demonstrates how caring our Trinity family is. A sign up board will be in the narthex in the next few weeks. Thank you in advance for sharing your time and gifts!

*The Social Ministry Committee*

## ***Reformation Celebration***

Throughout 2017 there will be various events to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. An ad-hoc committee will be formed to prepare the Church for these events leading up to the grand celebration on Reformation Sunday on October 29th. Volunteers will be needed to help with the events.



## ***Tidings Inputs***

Do you have something you would like to see published in the Tidings? You can submit an article by the 20th of the month or contact the Administrative Assistant to offer suggestions. Based on space available we will work to get your input request into the newsletter. All calendar inputs are welcome as well.

## ***The Rev. James G. Cobb***

Dear Members of Trinity,

I was so overwhelmed and grateful for your luncheon and reception for me on December 4th. The cards and gifts, the picture and we;-wishes on the picture, and the wonderful turn-out for the day, all made for a special memory I will carry with me always. The generous check will be used when Judy and I take a special trip in March. You are such a wonderful, generous, and devoted congregation. Much good ministry ahead!

God bless you always,

*Pastor Cobb*

## ***Constant Contact***

Constant Contact is our church email system for special announcements as needed. This is our most efficient and timely method for getting church information out to the



congregation. If you are not receiving the church messages, please notify the church office at **245-7861** or by e-mail at **admin@trinitynn.org**. We must have your permission stating that you wish to accept these emails from the church. If you are receiving the emails, but wish to change email addresses or add an address, please notify the church office as well.

Also, please advise the office administrator of any mailing address or phone number changes as soon as possible.

day in the town of David a Savior has been born to yo

# CHRISTMAS EVE

## Worship Schedule

4:30 p.m. ~ Family Worship with Christmas tableau  
7:30 p.m. ~ Festival Worship with carols, communion, and candlelight

# ***COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD***

## **Directory Address Updates**

**Corretta and Ted Behrmann**

616 Walapai Drive

Fuquay Varina, NC, 27526-5147

**Pastor Fred and Friel Guy**

16737 Cranlyn Road Apt A

Huntersville, NC 28078

**Pastor James and Judy Cobb**

4429 Eaglebrook Drive

Williamsburg, VA 23188

**Pastor Tina and Ben Melusky**

633 Clinton Drive

Newport News, VA 23605

## **Upcoming Events**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Dec 9     | LFS Christmas Party                              |
| Dec 10-11 | VCS concerts                                     |
| Dec 17-18 | VCS concerts                                     |
| Dec. 18   | Trinity Troupers Musical                         |
| Dec. 18   | Greening of the Church                           |
| Dec. 20   | Lessons and Carols                               |
| Dec. 24   | Christmas Eve Services at<br>4:30 pm and 7:30 pm |
| Dec. 25   | Service at 10:00 am                              |
| Jan 1     | Service at 10:00 am                              |
| Jan. 6    | Youth Lazer tag / Lock-in                        |
| Jan. 7    | De-greening of the Church                        |

## **THRIVE**

A huge thank you to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Newport News, Virginia for bringing food to THRIVE twice a month throughout the year! Your food donations help sustain our pantry, and have provided over 1,000 pounds of food for hungry Peninsula families so far this year! Special thanks to Susan Piland (pictured), Ed Matz and Phillip Shook for their willingness to deliver the goods. We couldn't serve the community without your help!



# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

6812 River Road, Newport News, Virginia 23607

Phone: (757) 245-7861



## Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship: 8:15 A.M. and 10:45 A.M.

Faith Walk (Sunday School) Between Services: 9:15 A.M.

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

A Nursery is Provided during worship

## Contact Information

Pastor: The Rev. Tina Melusky (pastor@trinitynn.org)

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

Administrative Assistant: Anne Obara (admin@trinitynn.org)

Treasurer: Carol Bessom (cbessom@trinitynn.com)

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.*