
Trinity Tidings

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newport News, VA

December 2014



From the Pastor's Desk	2
Virginia Choral Society	3
Biographies.....	4
Property Report	5
Christmas Services	6
P.O.R.T.....	7
Greening of the Church.....	8

Senior Saints.....	8
Wedding Announcement	9
Community Bulletin Board.....	10
Poinsettia Order Form.....	11



From the Pastor's Desk . . .

From the Pastor's Desk,

The Arrival Was Much Later!

As I mentioned last month on these pages, Easter or the Resurrection of Our Lord, is the apex of our festival celebrations. The entire Church Year is organized around the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Every season in all of the cycles is oriented toward Easter. The most important event in the life of the baptized people of God in Christ is Jesus raised from the dead! What is more provocative and more mysterious than Resurrection?

In the early Church, after the followers of Christ had been celebrating His resurrection for some time, they began to ask about His birth. Where was He born? How was He born? Who was there at His birth? Matthew and Luke recorded the details of His birth, each emphasizing different parts of the story. Mark preferred to speak of His adulthood and the beginning of His prophecy and John emphasized the theology of His birth as the Incarnate Word of God. Think about this: His disciples worked back from Resurrection to Incarnation! There was no trajectory, but memories that poured into the Resurrection from the dead. We usually begin with birth and then look forward, but with Jesus, it has always been from the end to the beginning. Christ is the Lord of new beginnings!

Through the ages, Christians have invested more and more celebration in the birth and embedded it within more symbolism and color and imagination. Christmas has become not only a study in the mystery of birth, but a time to freeze Christ as the baby in the manger in Bethlehem.

I have to admit that there are times when I lament how far we have gone with the importance of the birth. Some years ago, during a Christmas Eve worship service, I told the children the story of Barrington Bunny. After worship, a member approached me and asked why I had told an Easter story on Christmas Eve. He said that it did not make sense and was inappropriate. I asked him to go home and think about the story and the connections with Christmas. The next Sunday, he pulled me aside and

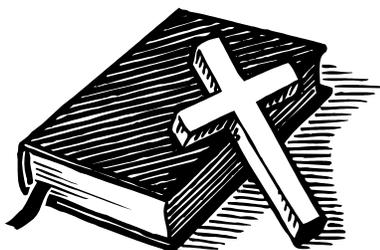
apologized. He said that his children had set him straight! How can you speak about the birth without mentioning the Resurrection? It is like talking about Easter without mentioning Good Friday; resurrection without crucifixion; they do not make sense in isolation. To understand the Resurrection, we need to reflect on Christmas and to understand Christmas, we need to reflect on Easter. They are inseparable. What has happened in recent history is partly the fault of the Church and partly the usurping of authority by society. Christmas has become more important than Easter! The manger has become more important than the Cross and the open tomb! Maybe it is because we can get our minds around a birth, but not so much around the open tomb. Maybe Christmas is more of a commercial venture than Easter! It is so much more family-oriented to see a baby in a manger than to see Jesus walking out of a grave. Maybe there are more ways to decorate for Christmas than for Easter. I guess there are many ways to look at it, but what would happen if we invested more time and energy in connecting the two? How would the effort help us translate faith in Jesus into proclaiming the Christ to the world?

I have come to appreciate Chrismon trees more and more. On one tree, we can see all of the symbols of the faith at one time! Resurrection touches Christmas and Good Friday connects with Advent. All that comprises the faith in the form of symbols hang together and are displayed beside and over and under each other! They are the sum of what we believe and what we confess; none are in isolation. I think this allows us to be creative in the expression of our belief. Think about this: What does Pentecost have to do with Christmas... and vice versa? How does the Cross impact the manger... and vice versa? Take two of any Chrismons, place them next to each other and ask, what is the connection or connections? Change their order and ask the same questions.

I know that in my faith journey, when I see the manger in Bethlehem, I see the Cross on Golgotha and the open tomb outside of Jerusalem. When I stare up at the Cross, I imagine the manger. When I see an open tomb, I cannot help but see a manger inside. What do you see?

Blessings upon you and your family during this season of the birth of the Christ and the future of new life!

Pastor Guy





Established in 1931

The Virginia Choral Society is a community-based choral group of over 100 voices which currently presents three major concert series each year; one series in the fall, one during the winter holiday season, and one in the spring. Each series focuses on different choral styles; the fall is lighter musical selections such as music from Broadway, folk music, Americana, 20s and 30s nostalgia, etc.; the winter series is based largely on Christmas music both contemporary and classical, religious and secular; and the spring series presents choral works in a more serious vein, for example, works by the old masters such as Beethoven, Brahms, Haydn and Mozart.

VCS is one of the oldest continuously performing choral organizations in Virginia having been organized in 1931. This next concert year is our 84th. VCS is home-based in Newport News, Virginia and performs throughout the Hampton Roads area of Virginia.

2014/2015 Schedule

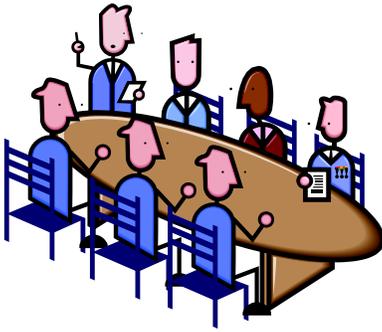
DECEMBER 2014 - "The Glory of Christmas"

Saturday	Dec 13	3 pm - (Matinee)	First United Church of Christ	Hampton, VA
Sunday	Dec 14	3 pm - (Matinee)	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	Hampton, Virginia
Friday	Dec 19	7:30 pm	Immaculate Conception Catholic Church	Hampton, VA
Saturday	Dec 20	3 pm - (Matinee)	Trinity Lutheran Church	Newport News, Virginia
Sunday	Dec 21	8 pm	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church	Newport News, Virginia
Monday	Dec 22	8 pm	Trinity Lutheran Church	Newport News, Virginia

MAY 2015 - "Majesty & Elegance, The Music of Händel and Haydn"

Friday	May 1	8 pm	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	Hampton, Virginia
Saturday	May 2	8 pm	Trinity Lutheran Church	Newport News, Virginia
Sunday	May 3	3 pm (Matinee)	Trinity Lutheran Church	Newport News, Virginia





BIOGRAPHIES FOR THE 2015 COUNCIL AND TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

Eric Jay

Eric has been a member of Trinity since the summer of 2009. He has served on the congregation council for the past three years. His service to the Church has included Council Chapel, Trinity's Scholarship Committee, and liaison for the Memorial Garden Committee. Eric has been active in the Young Adults/Young Family Ministry at Trinity for 5 years. He is a Math Teacher at Lakeland High School in Suffolk where he is a member of the Virginia Math Teacher's Council. As a teacher, Eric does outreach and helps the community on a daily basis. He is also the Boys' Varsity Tennis Coach at Lakeland High School.

Richard Anderson

Richard is seeking to serve his second term on congregation council. He is 62 years old and has been a Lutheran all of his life. Born in eastern Pennsylvania, Richard relocated from GOD's country in 1962 as his father moved south to become a police officer in Hampton. He currently works at the shipyard as a senior designer in the E51 department with over 40 years of service. Richard met his wife, Sandra in 1979 and was married in 1981 at St. Paul's Lutheran. They have 3 children and 7 grandkids. Sandra and Richard came to Trinity in early 2007 eventually joining the Congregational Life Committee. He is presently the chair of the committee and work with others on many church events throughout the year. He has served on other church committees and has been on previous church councils.

Jon May

Jon and his family found Trinity Lutheran Church by being involved at Trinity Lutheran School where his children attended. Jon sat on the Trinity school board for a number of years and held positions including vice-chair and chair of the annual campaign. He has served on the Trinity Church council for the past 3 years and has sat on several committees. Jon enjoys playing on the Trinity softball team and spearheads the Trinity basketball pick-up games. In the community, Jon is a boy-scout leader and parent volunteer, has coached soccer and is a member of the Smithfield chamber of commerce. By trade Jon is a real estate broker that practices throughout Hampton Roads. He is a member of the Virginia Peninsula Association of Realtors, has been a board member there and has served on Strategic Planning, Finance, Broker Enhancement and Chaired the Professional Development committees. He is a member of the Williamsburg Area Association of Realtors and has served on the Education committee and the Affiliates committee for the past two years. Jon teaches classes in Real Estate at both associations and has written several books on selling and investing in real estate.

April Anderson

Following in her grandmother's and mother's footsteps, April has been attending trinity since she was five years old. After years of being active in Trinity's youth group, she became a voting member in 2006 upon confirmation. April is a recent graduate of East Carolina University where she held various leadership positions including serving on her sorority's judicial council. She currently works as a Respite Care Specialist for The Planning Council, a local non-profit organization dedicated to helping people in need in Hampton Roads. April specifically works with active navy and air force families who have children with moderate to severe special needs.

John M. Lunsford (Trustee)

John and his wife, Sandy joined Trinity Lutheran Church in 1976. Their daughters, Whitney and Morgan attended Trinity Lutheran School. John has served on congregation council, TLS School Board, and currently is a member of the TEAM Foundation Board of Directors. He retired as a Senior Vice President and Commercial Relationship Manager from Sun-Trust Bank in 2010 after serving 39 years with the organization. If elected to the office of Trustee, John looks forward to serving the congregation in that capacity.

Property Report



This month the Property Committee met on November 2nd to report on the status of our current projects and some new concerns that have come up. One of the projects that we are working on is adding windows to the nursery and the pastor's doors. This will help Trinity receive the "safe child location" status that Pastor Guy has been working to have approved. The estimated cost for this is \$511.00 and the work will be completed by December 5th.

We continue to plan for the work that needs to be completed before moving forward with the social hall floor replacement. According to Earl Dunn, our head

custodian, the issue with water coming up through the social hall floor is linked to the ground water rising during heavy, long lasting rain storms. After talking with contractors and Trinity Lutheran school staff, it looks like it will be okay to seal the floor to keep water from coming through. This allows us to move forward with getting quotes for the work and getting prices for materials.

At this point the Property Committee has come up with a 3 three point plan for the social hall project:

1. Replace all of the remaining copper downspouts to make sure there will not be any preventable flooding issues from the window wells.

2. Seal the social hall floor and put a new floor on top of the existing floor.
3. Evaluate the need to replace the radiant heating system with a new system. The radiators are not currently used.

Unfortunately this is not a fast process due to the cost associated with each part of this plan. The committee is working to get as much work as possible done without placing a large financial strain on the church's finances.

Diane Roselius has also been busy getting outdoor benches for Trinity. With the help of some of our congregation members we have purchased two benches.

Diane is working to get the bench locations set up so the benches can be anchored into the ground.

Finally, we will start work on the wall moisture issue in the nursery in December. The moisture issue can be found on the exterior walls of the church and looks like the paint on the concrete is "bubbling".

The Property Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is on Tuesday, December 2nd at 7:00 PM for anyone interested in attending.

Bill Mulvey

Property Committee Chair

Deadline:

Articles for the January Tidings are due December 15, 2014. The office administrator will prepare the newsletter so please send your articles to Maya. Use the word TIDINGS in the subject for easy reference. Also, all bulletin requests should use the word BULLETIN in the subject.

Thanks. admin@trinitynn.org



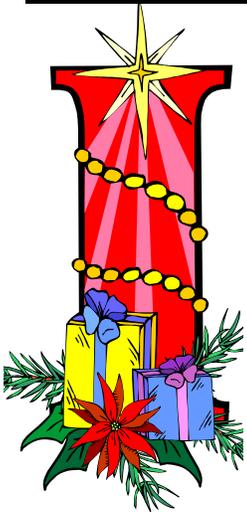
Church/School Basketball

Starting Wednesday January 7th from 7:30 to 9:00p.m. Trinity church and school will play basketball pick-up games in the Gym. Running through march, here is a chance to get some exercise and have some fun! For information or questions the point of contact is: Jon May 757-356-1226 or j.may1@charter.net



Acolyte Alumni

If you have formerly served in the Acolyte Corps at Trinity Lutheran and would like to serve at any of the three Christmas Eve services, Please contact Bill Solomon at 757-249-1590 or wcs1122@verizon.net



Christmas Services

Sunday, December 21st, Services at 8:30 & 11:00am

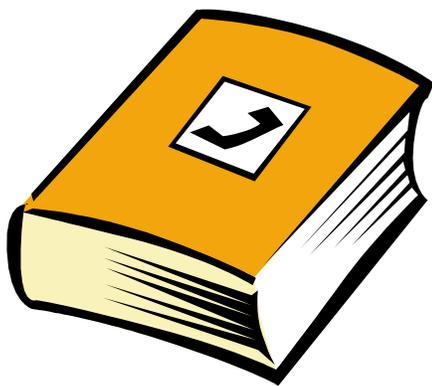
Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th:

5:30 p.m.—Family Service

7:30 p.m.—Traditional Lessons & Carols Service

10:30 p.m.— Choral Lessons & Carols Service with Chancel Choir

Sunday, December 28th: One service at 10:00 a.m.



2015 Directory

Through out the month of December, Trinity will be updating the staff, member, and family directory. As the 2014 year has gone by there have been some changes in addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. To keep the most up to date record of the Trinity Community we need those who have had any of these changes to let us know. Please contact Maya Shelton at

the Church Office. You can call at 757-245-7861 or email admin@trinitynn.org and include DIRECTORY in the subject line.

Faith In Action Fellowship



Come one, come all to the Faith In Action Fellowship on December 2nd. This event is intended for all Trinity members to come together in food, fellowship,

and service. The evening begins with a catered dinner (Mike Rapier and Encore Catering) at 6:00 PM. We usually break off according to committees to discuss activities, etc. At around 7:15 PM, we gather all together and each committee chair will report out. It should all wrap up by around 7:30 PM. If you are new to the church or have not served on a committee yet, this is a great opportunity to mingle and find out which committee would best suit your talents. Even if you are not sure about serving on a committee, come join us for the food and fellowship. The Faith In Action night is held every other month on the first Tuesday of the month. The next Faith In Action will be

December 2nd. Let the church know if you need a ride and we will make the necessary arrangements.



Support THRIVE by bringing your can goods or non-perishable food to the church. Collection baskets are in the narthex and main entry way.



Social Ministry



It's COLD outside! Must be time for PORT! People Offering Resources Together (PORT) is an outreach ministry and Trinity Lutheran Church will open our doors on two separate weeks: Dec 24-31 and January 28-Feb 4.

How PORT works: Our church is the "Host Church" and we have partner churches that sign up and are responsible for providing volunteers for the various duties on their night and following morning: check in, dinner, overnight staffing, breakfast and cleanup. Because we are the host church, we provide a Trinity representative any time that the PORT guests are in our church. This includes the overnight shift. For the week in December, we also have our "own" day that we will provide all of the volunteers. During the overnight stay, there is always a Newport News sheriff all night. We also provide the volunteers to receive all the bedding for the week and load it up at the end of the week.

New this year for us will be to have the church open for Christmas day. LINK will provide the volunteers and the lunch for the PORT guests, but because the church will be open all day, we will need to provide a Trinity member to be present – we have broken up the commitment to 2 hour increments beginning at 6a until 6p.

The sign up for our first week, Dec 24-31 is located in the River Road entrance to the Narthex. Thanks to Terri Hoffeditz for making the lovely reminder ornaments – when you sign up, please take the reminder ornament that is the same date/time as your duty – you can even remove the information to put on your calendar!

"Looking for shelter, many are homeless, longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants, to one another, signs of your kingdom come."

These words are from the hymnal song, "Christ Be Our Light" – let's keep our light shining bright in service to others!

If you have questions, please contact Anne Evans, Fred Ardis or Sue Moeslein.



Christmas Poinsettias

Donations

Greening of the Church

Help make of sanctuary merry and bright for the Christmas holiday! On Sunday December 14th , we will be decorating after the 11:00 a.m. service. Since we are now using artificial greens , decorating will go must faster. All you have to do is show up and lend a hand! *Tall ladder climbers are especially needed.* Decorations will be removed on Sunday, January 4th after the 11:00 service.

On both Sunday December 7th and 14th, orders will be taken for Christmas poinsettias in the Narthex. Each pot will cost \$8.50. You can also fill out an order form located on the last page of this Tidings issue. Extra forms will also be located on the bulletin board. All checks should be made out to : Trinity Lutheran Church and should also include your envelope number. The deadline for all orders is Sunday, December 14, 2014.



Usher, Presenter, and Greeter Schedule for December

Service	Ushers	Greeters	Presenters
8:30 AM	Dale & Beverly Goodman, Dave Carlson and Jim & Shirley Fulton	Jerry Cobb & Beverly Goodman and Jim & Shirley Fulton	Carol Bessom & Kathy Stevens
11:00 AM	David & Diane Roselius and Bill & Agnes Kump	Diane Roselius and Agnes Kump	Fred & Karoline Ardis



Happy Birthday to our Special Senior Saints

Here is the list of our special senior members' birthday celebrations for the month of December:

Clifford Fricke	90	12/08
V. Hawkins	85	12/11
Phyllis Argenbright	86	12/14
Hazel Wiseman	83	12/26

Wedding Announcement



The Rev. Fred P. Guy has the privilege of officiating at the wedding of Stacie Roush & Anthony Smeland who are to be married at Trinity Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 13, 2014.



2014 /2015

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

There will be another short meeting following each service on December 7, 2014 to elect new members to the Church Council and Trustees. Please stay behind services to VOTE.



YOUTH GROUP!

We will be decorating the church on December 14th. Following that, we will go caroling to some of our shut- ins. Youth, families, and any others who wish to join us are welcome. Meet at church after second service. We'll get lunch first.

Women of Trinity

Please join The Cora Miller Circle Luncheon every second Thursday of the month! The Ladies go out to a restaurant for lunch and fellowship. The Luncheon is always listed in the Church Bulletin the Sunday before the ladies meet. Feel free to give Carretta Behrmann a call (757-827-0493) to inform her of your attendance so she can forewarn the restaurant of how many to expect and prepare for.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD



Trinity has a new web address. Please put the following in your favorites:

trinitylutheran-nn.com

The content will also be changed very soon.



Cora Miller Circle Luncheon

December 11, 2014

Schlesinger's Chophouse

Newport News, VA

11:45 a.m.



Looking Ahead

- Dec 2 Faith in Action Night
- Dec 7 Congregation Mtg (Elections)
- Dec 14 Greening of the Church
- Dec 18 TLS Lessons and Carols
- Dec 20 Virginia Choral Society Concert
- Dec 21 Children's Musical
- Dec 22 Virginia Choral Society Concert
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services and PORT begins and runs through the 31st
- Jan 5 Staff Retreat
- Jan 10 Council Retreat



Church Office Hours

Open from

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

757-245-7861

2014 Christmas Poinsettias Order Form



Christmas poinsettia orders will be taken in the church narthex on December 7th and December 14th. The cost for each poinsettia will be \$8.50.

Please fill out this form completely and turn it in (with your check – payable to Trinity Lutheran Church or cash) to the church office, the table in the narthex, or to Sheree Harper before December 14th. No orders will be taken after that date.

Please print clearly

Ordered by:	
Your Name:	

(As you would like it in the bulletin)

To the Glory of God and in MEMORY of:
To the Glory of God in HONOR of:

_____ Quantity
 _____ Total amount due (\$8.50 each)

Method of payment:

_____ Cash \$ _____ Amount
 _____ Check _____ Enclosed or _____ In offering (marked poinsettias) Envelope # _____

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

6812 River Road, Newport News, Virginia 23607

Phone: (757) 245-7861



Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship (May 4—June 15, 2015): 8:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.

Faith Walk (Sunday School) Between Services: 9:45 A.M.

Sunday Worship (June 22—August 27, 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.