

Trinity Tidings

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newport News, VA

May 2017



From the Pastor's Desk . . .



We all have something. Even just saying that one simple sentence takes a great deal of courage to admit. To not even name the something, but to simply put out there into the universe that we all have something. It takes even

more courage to stand up and say that we count ourselves amongst that generalized “we.” That we, us, I, me—we’re part of the “we” that has something. For each of us it’s different, but there is no escaping that we all have got that something.

And here’s the thing with these ethereal “somethings,” we don’t like to say them out loud. We don’t like to name them. We don’t like to admit them. It’s terrifying to put yourself out there, to give voice to those things which we usually keep buried deep down within us. But it doesn’t change the fact that whatever our thing is, it does have a name, and guess what? It’s ok to say it. Anxiety. Depression. Fear. ADHD. Worry. PTSD. It’s ok to say them out loud—no matter what the rest of the world has told you. You don’t have to hide them and you don’t have to tamp them down and pretend that they aren’t there. Maybe you aren’t sure how to name yours. That’s ok too. It’s ok to simply state that somewhere within you there is a brokenness, a weight, something that clings to your clothes and your skin like a fog that refuses to lift. It’s ok to just say that there is something wrapped around your heart that makes it hard to breathe sometimes.

You might be wondering, why on earth are we talking about this? What on earth does this have to do with God, with the church? We’re talking about it because May is Mental Health Awareness month. What does it have to do with God, with the church? Everything. These things we carry, they feel so huge, they feel bigger than anything in our lives. Yet, the hope and the promise of our life with God, of the love of God, is that God is bigger—even

The Things We Don’t Talk About

when it doesn’t feel like it, God is bigger. Sometimes when we have these things hanging on us, we feel like we can’t even admit them to God, worried about judgment, fear, perception. God is big enough to hold our stuff. God is big enough to hold our brokenness and things we keep trapped inside. God is there. So often we get trapped in the mentality that God only came for the shiny and the happy. Yet, God came for us, for the messed up and the anxious and the broken and the afraid. God came for each of us and our somethings whatever they might be. There is nothing too great that God cannot handle, that we cannot place at God’s feet and simply say, “here is my thing...help me carry this, Lord.” It can feel like the most impossible thing to say, but you can say it.

But what about the church? What about us? Our church community that comes together to worship and praise and pray? We are also big enough for each other, despite the fact that sometimes we do the same thing with each other as we do with God. We want everyone to see us at our best, to think that we’ve got this entirely under control, that we aren’t messy or struggling or heaven forbid simply human. When Jesus told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, this was what he was talking about. To love each other exactly as we are, where we are, to get down in the muck and mire of our lives and hold each other, love each other, support each other. We were made one for another, that was the point of creation, that we were created to provide community and partnership, to be pillars for each other, capable of holding each other up when we feel like we’re falling. We are here for each other—whether you’re shiny and happy, whether you’re struggling, whether you’re somewhere in between, whether you’re broken in pieces, whether you’re put together, whether you’re holding it together with a lot of crazy glue to make the pieces fit. We are church together. We are family together. It’s ok to admit that we need each other. Sometimes it’s the most freeing thing to say that we need each other, to admit that

you can't hold this all up yourself. We need each other and thank God we have each other.

The refrain that echoed throughout the resurrection, the words that called out to the disciples and the women and all who saw Jesus were simply this, "Do not be afraid." People of God, do not be afraid. Do not be afraid of your something. Do not be afraid to say your something. Do not be afraid that you're alone. You aren't. We've got you. God's got you. You are beautiful and amazing and a miraculous part of God's creation—don't forget that ever. One of

my favorite lyrics to one of my favorite Christian songs is this: "You make beautiful things out of the dust. You make beautiful things out of us." God has made a beautiful thing out of you, and that's ok to say too.

Know that your church family is here, always. God is here, always. You are loved, you beautiful part of creation, you.

*Peace it Together,
Pastor Tina*



Palm Sunday Service, April 9, 2017

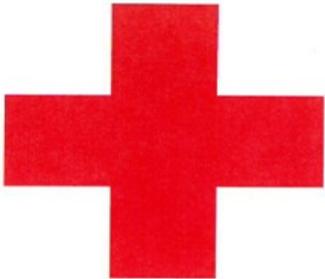


Palm Sunday Service - Children's Chat, April 9, 2017



Soprano Rainelle Krause (second from right) visited Trinity during both services on Sunday, April 23rd. Together with members of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra (Adam Gandolfo, trumpet, Angelina Gandolfo and Elizabeth Coulter Vonderheide, violin, Matthew Umlauf, viola, Rebecca Gilmore, cello and Christopher White, bass). Rainelle performed Bach's exuberant solo cantata, *Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen*, BWV 51. For those that were able to attend, it was a very memorable performance. Rob Keene, Trinity's Music Director (far right) arranged the special performance.

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive
Hilton Area Churches
First United Methodist Church
Newport News

Fellowship Hall
 10246 Warwick Boulevard
 Newport News, VA 23601

Tuesday, May 16, 2017
1:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)
 or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: HiltonAC to
 schedule an appointment.



Scan to schedule
 an appointment.

Dear Friends in Trinity Church:

We thank you for the cards and other expressions of sympathy that you have sent our way upon the death of our daughter Katie. Our sad journey of grief is by no means over; but as we move forward, we already feel the support of so many considerate friends, and of our shared faith in Christ. Many of the cards and notes included the phrase, "There are no words..." As difficult as it is to put into words this kind of loss, we appreciate how so many of you nevertheless found wonderful words to send us: "We keep you in our hearts and prayers," "We think of you so often," "We pray for you every day," and "We love you." We treasure your words and have found great strength in them. It may be hard and harsh for us to go through this, but as For All the Saints puts it, "Yet saints their watch are keeping..." God is helping us through you, and we do not feel alone or forsaken. We would cherish your continued prayers for the days ahead.

Sincerely,
Chris and Terry Price

*Three tales of daring rescue at sea.
Three stories about a God who saves.*

The Sailor's Bible



**Proudly Presented by
The Trinity Troupers
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
June 18, 2017
9:00 AM**

Celebrating Easter 2017 at Trinity

photos by Michelle Carpenter



Singers and Friends of the Choir

I'm going to plug an upcoming performance of mine. On Sunday, May 7th, the Virginia Chorale will offer Sergei Rachmaninoff's All-Night Vigil. This piece has not been heard in Hampton Roads for 10 years, not because it's an ugly piece, but because it's hard. It is, in fact, utterly beautiful. Even better, you've actually sung a portion of it and will sing more in the future.

I encourage you to attend this concert. Group tickets are \$10, and there's very little left in this world of great value that costs only \$10. We do need to order tickets in the near future, however, so I ask you to consider this opportunity now and, if you wish to attend, bring me your \$10 tomorrow evening at rehearsal. I'll place a single order on my credit card

later this week, so cash or a check made out to me works.

If you're not in the choir, just let me know this week if you wish to purchase a ticket. I'll know where to find you. :-)

If you want a hint of what to expect, here's a link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dp82BXNwrWc>

Be warned: only click that link if you want to hear stunningly beautiful music that you know well - this is the portion you've sung previously.

I do hope you'll attend the concert, but I promise to still like you if you do not! :-)

*Thank you,
Rob*

Walk a Mile in Their Shoes

On May 21st, the youth group will be doing a walk around the Noland Trail in support of THRIVE Peninsula's shoe ministry. In the weeks leading up to the walk, the youth will be asking for donations or sponsors for their walk. There are multiple ways to support this amazing ministry.

1. Bring in shoes to donate to THRIVE (You can bring them to the office or put them in the collection basket in the narthex)
2. Sponsor a youth in their walk, donating a certain amount of money per mile walked. If you choose to sponsor a youth, we'll collect money on the 21st.

All funds collected will be used by the youth to go out and purchase shoes to take to THRIVE.



Habitat for Humanity

A summer to Serve

On Sunday, May 21st, Maerine Mitchell from Habitat for Humanity--Peninsula and Greater Williamsburg will be with us in worship to share with us an amazing opportunity for us to serve our neighbors this summer. In August, Habitat will be building 10 houses in the James City County and are looking for churches to come out for "church build days." Trinity is hoping to send a group out for one of these build days and Maerine will share with us what that day will look like as well as have sign up sheets for volunteers so we can start building our team.



Attention Scrapbookers!

New or experienced, please join us on Saturday, May 13th 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!

Spring Graduates



Spencer Owens will be graduating from New Hampshire Regional Education Center on June 9th. His future is under construction, but he hopes to qualify for supported part time employment and /or advanced classes to further his knowledge.

Zoe Belote will receive her BS in Nursing from Radford University on May 6th. She will continue her education in the field of Forensics following a year at the Medical College of Virginia, working as a Registered Nurse on the medical surge floor.

Vacation Bible School

The Hilton Area Churches Vacation Bible School is an ecumenical program which includes five area churches. It began over 25 years ago and continues to be an important collaborative ministry each summer. Adult and youth volunteers begin preparing months in advance to ensure that the children attending benefit from an enriching Christian education experience. Our volunteers work alongside volunteers from other churches and together share in the mission to communicate God's love to all.

We would like for all youth and adult volunteers to register no later than June 9. Training for volunteers will be on Wednesday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's.

Registration for children, ages 3 years through rising 6th graders, is open NOW through June 30. Use the link at left to register online.



2017 Vacation Bible School

Hero Central – Discover Your Strength in God!

July 10-14, 2017

Web Link:

<http://cokeburyvbs.com/hiltonchurches2017>

Social Media Links

Trinity is going social. The following links will get you to audio files of the Pastor's sermons and the Trinity Facebook site:

Sermons on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMMKC7jRzqDO1XDtZaQvEEQ>



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityNN/>





Happy Birthday to our Special Senior Saints

May Birthdays

Charles Keesler.....	90.....	May 9th
John Long	84.....	May 14th
Jeanette Cantrell	91.....	May 23rd

In honor of all 2017 Trinity Senior Saints (80 and over),

Your Gift is too big for a box or a flower vase . . .

It's a living, breathing, hope-giving, money-making, fruit-bearing, women-empowering, food-providing, business-creating, fuel-generating, fiber-growing, milk-making, life-changing machine. This gift to Heifer International made in your honor is already on the move helping people around the world end poverty and achieve self-reliance.

A family in need will receive:

- Gift of an Alpaca
- Gift of a Flock of Chicks
- Gift of a Flock of Ducks
- Gift of a Trio of Rabbits

We wish you a happy birthday, whenever yours comes up, this year, and in your honor, we've sent some milk, wool, egg, and food-producing critters to those in need throughout the world. We hope you will think of them and say a prayer of hope for their safekeeping and sustainable future.

With love & thanks for your faithful service,

Dave & Bonnie Carlson



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Items Needed for VBS

If you are willing to collect and donate these items before July 1st for Vacation Bible School, it would be greatly appreciated. You can place the items in the box labeled VBS in the church library. The items needed are:

Paper towel tubes

Square, empty tissue paper boxes

Glass baby food jars with lids

Please call Charlotte Duff at 342-9251 if you have questions.

Help Us REFRESH Each Other!

We continue to join together for a time of fellowship between services in the library, a time for folks to come together and catch up around refreshments as we prepare our hearts for the service of Sunday morning.

We are always looking for volunteers who are willing to provide refreshments for these Sunday morning coffee hours. If you are willing to provide snacks for this time, please sign up on the bulletin board.

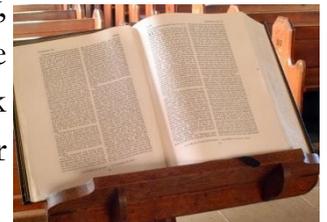


Nursery Volunteers Needed

We're using SignUp.com to organize our upcoming volunteers. Here's how it works in 3 easy steps: 1) Go to: <http://signup.com/go/1PzRCz>, 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like., 3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com. Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact Charlotte Duff (theduffs3010@gmail.com) so she can sign you up manually.

New Lector Procedures

If you're one of our readers, please note that the Celebrates which you usually receive in the mail are now available in the church library in the big white binder labeled "CELEBRATES." You can pick up your readings as early as you would like for your convenience. The binder is currently up to date through May, if you are ready to pick up your readings.



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Save the Date: Picnic

Our annual picnic has changed venues this year. It will be held at Huntington Park and Fort Fun, Shelters #2 and #3 after the 10:00 a.m. worship service on **June 18**. Remember to bring your favorite dish to share.



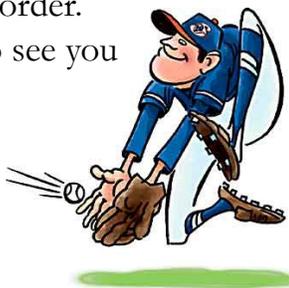
Upcoming Events

- May 6 TLS Kentucky Derby Party
- May 7 Virginia Chorale Concert
- May 7 Last Day for Used Book Sale
- May 13 Scrapbooking
- May 16 Hilton Area Blood Drive
- May 21 Youth Walk for Shoes
- June 18 Trinity Troupers Performance
- June 18 Church Picnic
- June 25 Annual Meeting
- July 10-14 Vacation Bible School
- July 25 Norfolk Tides
- August Habitat for Humanity Build

Play Ball!!!

Join us for Faith and Family Night at the Norfolk Tides on Tuesday, July 25 at 7:00. Tickets are \$9/person. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we can get an accurate head count and know how many tickets we need to order.

Hope to see you there!!



Open for Prayer

Throughout the rest of the Easter season, once a week, Pastor Tina will be holding open office hours/open for prayer time at local coffee shops around the city. Each week the location and time will be sent out via Constant Contact and on the Facebook page. It's a time for you to come by and just say hi, stop and chat, stop and pray, however you want to use the time, even if it's just to come by and have Pastor Tina buy you a cup of coffee. Be on the look out for emails as we walk through Easter together.



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: 9:30 A.M.

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

A Nursery is Provided during worship

Contact Information

Pastor: The Rev. Tina Melusky (tina.melusky@gmail.com)

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>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityNN/>

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.