

# Trinity Tidings

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newport News, VA

December 2017



From the Pastor's Desk ..... 2  
Announcements ..... 3  
Trinity Troupers ..... 4  
Habitat Build ..... 5  
Decorating in Anticipation ..... 6

Advent Event ..... 7  
December Special Events ..... 8  
Youth Events and Ski Trip ..... 9  
Senior Saint Birthdays ..... 10  
Bulletin Board ..... 11

## *From the Pastor's Desk . . . The Lion That Came for Christmas*



Well, I figure since we've been in this wonderful world of ministry together for a year now, it's probably time to let you in on one of my most embarrassing stories. This is one of those stories that every year, without fail, comes up around my family's tree on Christmas morning, because regardless of the fact that it happened 25 years ago, they all still find it highly amusing. I used to go completely red in the face at this story, but now, well now I've somewhat embraced it as a reminder of the necessity of one simple thing at Christmas: gratitude.

For as long as I can remember there has always been a very specific present under the Christmas tree. There has always been a gift marked for both myself and my sister Kristin. Sometimes that present comes in one box with both of our names on it; other times, I look at her and say, "I've found our present," as I hold up two identically shaped, identically wrapped gifts. Even now, when we are both well into our thirties, there is that gift under the tree, the gift for just us two. It used to come from my parents, but now our oldest sister, Jennifer tends to be the one to put it together, but no matter what it's there.

However...one of those first Christmases of the shared presents...well, five year old me didn't really handle it all that well...

We both had these fairly large boxes sitting in front of us, and of course, being kids we were beyond excited because a BIG box must mean a BIG gift. Kristin being a little bit older got hers open first and pulled out of her box a giant, very fluffy, very cute stuffed animal puppy. Now, I should clarify, stuffed animals were a big deal in our house. My dad had built us both nets in our room that hung from the ceiling to keep all of our various animals in, so to get one this big...it was exciting. So, at this point, I'm

really excited to get into my box for what I am assuming is my puppy. I opened my box and inside there was a stuffed animal, but it wasn't a puppy. It was a lion. It was still soft, it was still cute, it had a very adorable mane that I can still remember the feel of underneath my fingers, however, to my five year old self, it wasn't a puppy. Now, here comes the embarrassing part...I kind of threw the lion away from me. It wasn't my best moment. I claimed that said lion kind of scared me, when deep down, I knew I had simply wanted the puppy. (Writing this I'm now realizing how embarrassing this story is...) Eventually, I came around to the lion. He took up residence on my bed, he got a sufficient amount of five year old cuddling, and when he got so old that the seam down his back tore, I was heartbroken. From a woeful start we became a good pair, my sister had her puppy sure, but I had my lion, and he was mine.

Now, I'm not going to say that Jesus is a lion. I'm not going to say that any of us are looking in the manger and wanting to toss out the contents, however, I do think that sometimes we find ourselves anticipating more. With all the hoopla and detail that we put into our Christmas celebrations and decorations, sometimes the story culminating in a tiny, little baby, born to poor and terrified parents in the middle of a desert town with barely a roof over his head, surrounded by mooing animals and smelly shepherds, well, it isn't always the big reveal we're expecting. Yet, that is the joy of Christmas, the true joy of Christmas. This amazing thing, this miracle is coming into the world: salvation, forgiveness, eternal life, a love so incredible that it can't be described, and it's coming in the form of a tiny baby who has a rough road of life ahead of him.

There's no doubt that God could have sent Jesus to us through a wealthy, royal family, destined for an earthly throne as well as a heavenly one. God could have put him in a position of power and strength to make the path easier, and yet, Christmas reminds us that this path of faith, this path of the Messiah, it

isn't easy, but it is no less miraculous. Jesus comes to us in the most unexpected of ways. He doesn't come with bright shiny lights, but the glow of one lone star. He doesn't come with fancy clothes, but in cobbled together blankets. He doesn't come in a big, comfy crib, but in a lowly manger, having to fight off the cows for who gets the hay. He doesn't come in the quiet, peaceful image of a Rembrandt painting, but in the chaos of a cattle stall with animals everywhere, and shepherds shuffling into the mix to try and make room for themselves. The way Jesus was born is the last possible way you would expect a king, the Messiah to come into the world, and yet, that is how he came. He came in the humblest of ways, in the most unexpected of ways in

order to change not only our lives, but the very nature of the world itself, and it is still to this day, the greatest gift the world could have ever received.

So, this Christmas, I know sometimes we want the puppy. We want the big and shiny. We want the flashy and the grand. Yet, sometimes we get the lion. Sometimes we get the unexpected. Sometimes we get the thing that we didn't even realize we needed until it's in our arms. This Christmas may you find the joy in the unexpected and may you find gratitude for the thing you weren't expecting, because it might just be exactly what you need.

*Peace it Together,*

*Pastor Tina*

## ***Announcements . . .***

### **Special Congregational Meeting**

There will be a special congregational meeting held after both services on Sunday, December 10. This meeting will be held to allow the congregation to elect new members to church council for 2018. If you are able please be sure to stay after your respective service to ensure that you are able to vote.

### **Join TLS for Lessons and Carols**

Start your holiday season off on a beautiful note! Please join the TLS/TLC community for our worship service of Lessons and Carols on Tuesday, De-

ember 19 at 7:00. This is a wonderful opportunity for both communities to come together to celebrate Christmas and worship together in a special and unique way. We hope to see you there!

### **TEAM Reminder**

If you have TEAM fund requests, please be sure to turn them in to the office by December 4. Please remember that TEAM requests must be for charitable organizations, serving either a local, national, or global scale. TEAM requests cannot be made for individuals, but if you do have an individual in need, please contact Pastor Tina.



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

# CHRISTMAS EVE

## Worship Schedule

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

The graphic features a dark blue background with a bright starburst at the top center. The text is white and centered. The background image shows a silhouette of a manger scene with a star in the sky.



*Starry Night,*  
**Noisy Night**

**a delightful story about the birth of Jesus  
from the stable animals' points of view**

**Presented by  
The Trinity Troupers  
December 17, 9:30 AM**

# Habitat Build

On November 4th, Brad Goodman, Cliff Obara, Sue Moeslein, and Anne Evans took part in the Habitat build in Williamsburg. This was a joint effort with another Williamsburg area church. The first of four houses had already been started. Work for the day focused on the roof. Here are some pictures from the work site. Since there are three more houses to be built, Trinity will have other opportunities to help. Please consider volunteering for future builds. Even if you cannot swing a hammer, there are other jobs that can be done to help out.



*Photos by  
Brad  
Goodman  
and Clifford  
Obara*



## *Decorating in Anticipation*



We are decorating the sanctuary for Christmas a little differently this year in an effort to truly live into the Advent season. Advent is all about anticipation, the build up to the ultimate moment of Christmas. In order to help us live into that feeling a little bit more, we will be decorating the sanctuary progressively this year, with something new put up each week, until by Christmas Eve we just cannot wait for it to all be decorated and ready for Christ's birth.

Due to this change of schedule, we are in need of volunteers who will be willing to help out on various days through the Advent season. You by no means have to be there for every date, but if you can be

there for some it will make the work go faster and hopefully run smoothly. Below you will find the schedule for dates for decorating. If you are able to help, join us on the days you are available so that we can make Trinity shine for the Christmas season.

### **Setup Day 1: Saturday, December 2 at 9:00 AM**

Putting up various greenery, the crèche, trees and the Advent wreath. Note: The trees will be up on Advent 1, but we will light them on Advent 2.

### **Setup Day 2: Sunday, December 10 after 10:45 AM service**

Youth will put Chrismons on the Christmas trees.

### **Setup Day 3: Sunday, December 17 after 10:45 AM service**

Putting up wreaths in windows, setting up candles in the windows, and finalizing all decorations.

### **Setup Day 4: Sunday, December 24 after 10:00 AM service**

Putting out poinsettias.

### **De-decorate Day: Sunday, December 31 after 10:00 AM service**

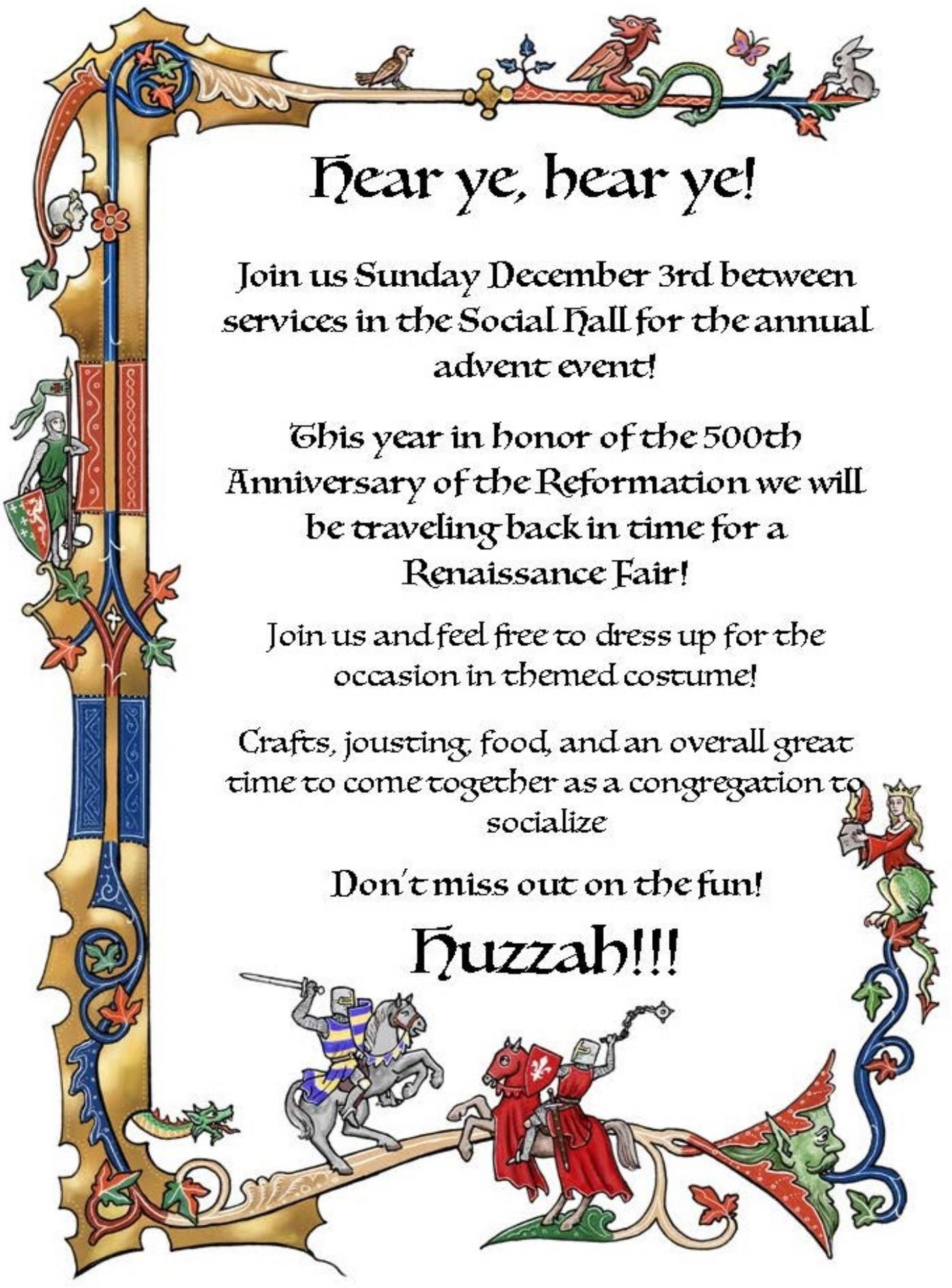
Work on the organ will begin on Tuesday, January 2. In order to give Patrick Murphy all the space necessary and to ensure that none of the organ parts are disturbed during this process, we will need to de-decorate the sanctuary after worship on the 31st.

## *Decorating Our Trees With Chrismons*

The Chrismon tree originated at Ascension Lutheran in Danville, Virginia in 1957. The idea has spread to Christians all over the world. Chrismons are copies of symbols of Christianity from its earliest days, new explanations of God's presence in our world and combinations of old and new. The word Chrismon comes from Christ + monogram, monograms which proclaim the name, life and saving acts of Jesus the Christ. On the evergreen tree, which symbolizes eternal life, these symbols remind us of God's greatest gift, Jesus Christ.

All of the Chrismons at Trinity have been made by our members beginning back in the 1960s. All are made in white, the liturgical color for Christmas and/or gold, the color for the glory and majesty of God. We hang our Chrismons in a figure eight. Chrismons for Father, Son and Holy Spirit as well as baptism and communion are on the top of the eight while Chrismons for each season of the church are on the bottom.

As you enjoy our trees this year, look for the crèche. This Manger scene appeals especially to the children.



# Hear ye, hear ye!

Join us Sunday December 3rd between services in the Social Hall for the annual advent event!

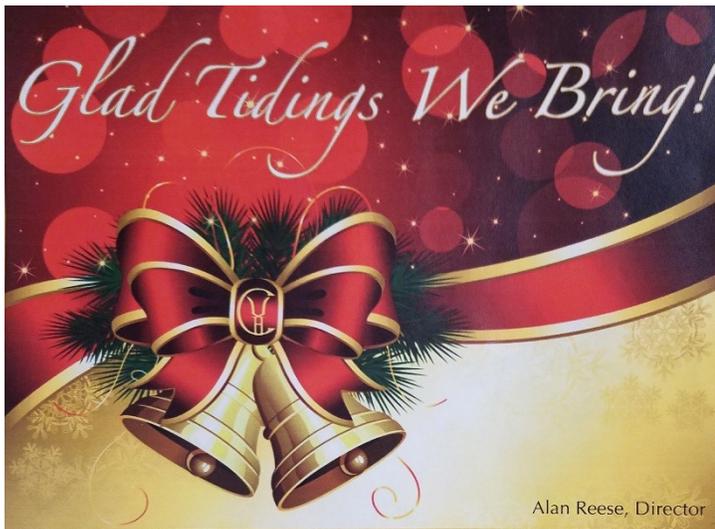
This year in honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation we will be traveling back in time for a Renaissance Fair!

Join us and feel free to dress up for the occasion in themed costume!

Crafts, jousting, food, and an overall great time to come together as a congregation to socialize

Don't miss out on the fun!

## Huzzah!!!



Alan Reese, Director

# Handbell Concert

## Hilton Presbyterian Church

### Saturday, December 2, 2017

### 7:00 PM

34 Main Street, Newport News, VA 23601  
Freewill Offering

Virginia Handbell Consort - "Sharing the Joy of Ringing"  
www.vhcbells.org - info@vhcbells.org  
P.O. Box 64591, Virginia Beach, VA 23467

VIRGINIA  
*Choral*  
SOCIETY

Our 87th Year  
Sarah Frook Gallo, Artistic Director

# HARK!

The Virginia Choral Society  
presents **HARK!**, accompanied  
by the **Eastern Virginia Brass.**

For the third year in a row, we invite  
**local high school choirs** to sing at our  
four concerts! Come and enjoy the  
sounds of the season!





## Concert Schedule

Friday	December 8	7:30pm	Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Hampton
Sunday	December 10	4:00pm-MATINEE	Trinity United Methodist, Smithfield
Saturday	December 16	4:00pm-MATINEE	First Presbyterian Church, Hampton
Sunday	December 17	4:00pm-MATINEE	Trinity Lutheran Church, Newport News

**At the Door:**  
General Admission: \$18.00  
Sr/Mil/Students: \$15.00

## Tickets

**Advance Sales:**  
General Admission: \$15.00  
Sr/Mil/Students: \$12.00

- Tickets are available from VCS Chorus Members
- Simply Unique Jewelry Designs, 1215 George Washington Memorial Highway, Yorktown, VA
- The Virginia Store, 555 Settlers Landing Rd, Suite #L, Hampton, VA
- For more info, please visit [www.vachoralsociety.org](http://www.vachoralsociety.org), call the VCS Concert Hotline at: (757) 851-9114.

Find us on f

Bring a new stuffed  
toy for "Toys for Joy"

# WRAP YOUR



# in a

# SCRAPBOOK

JOIN US

## December 9

### 9-4

RSVP

Terri 766-2646

## *Christmas Poinsettias*



Christmas poinsettias are available for purchase! The deadline for placing an order is December 13th. Order forms are on the main bulletin board, online, or the table in the narthex. The cost is \$9 each. Volunteers will be in the narthex on December 3rd and 10th to take orders as well. Due to a new order deadline from the florist, we have pre-ordered 70 poinsettias, so please place your order today. Make your checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church, marked poinsettia, or you may pay cash. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Help will be needed to set out the poinsettias on Sunday, December 24th, following the 10:00 AM service. Please call the church office to volunteer.

# ***Youth Group Activities and Trinity Ski Trip***

## **Decorating and Caroling:**

On December 10, Trinity youth will help in 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 go and grab a fast food lunch, decorate the Christmas trees, play a few of our favorite youth group games, and head out to carol to our homebound members. 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. Things to bring: \$5 for lunch and \$5 for a pizza 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!!!

## **Winter Celebration:**

Attention all 9th-12th graders!!! We will be attending the annual Synod Event Winter Celebration at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg VA January 26-28, 2018. Please grab a registration form found on the youth group bulletin board and return it along with payment for the event (\$150) to Kelly Rummel by December 10, 2017. Also, sign your name on the youth group bulletin board to let me know that you are interested in attending that event. This is a wonderful faith forming event for our high school youth. Parents, if you have questions about the event itself or payment issues, please speak with one of the youth advisors.

## **Baking Lock In:**

The youth group will be locking ourselves into the church January 5-6 for a Baking Lock In. We will meet at the church at 6 PM, and parents can pick you up at 8 AM on January 6. This is a fun evening of wild and crazy games, free time, gym time, and baking. Yes Baking! Youth will bring their favorite recipe and ingredients with them to the lock in. We will spend some time making yummy treats for the Congregation that will be sold on Sunday morning.

Proceeds from our sales will go to benefit a local charity. Youth will need a sleeping bag, pillow, PJs, flashlight for a game of Sardines, and your favorite snack to share with your friends. We will feed you sugary donuts in the morning before you depart with your parents for your Saturday events. If you plan to attend, sign up on the youth group bulletin board and let Kelly Rummel know the item you plan to bake.

## **Ski Trip:**

This event is for all members of Trinity! The annual Seven Springs Ski Trip will be held February 1-4, 2018. We leave the Newport News area around 3 PM on Thursday, February 1 and return home around Noon on Sunday February 4. 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, including 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.

***Save the Date: Ski Trip***

**February 1-4, 2018**

**Seven Springs, PA**

***Open to Trinity Families***

# Youth Can Food Drive for Thrive



## Happy Birthday to our Special Senior Saints

### December Birthdays

Shirley Fulton .....	81 .....	12/07
Robert McWithey.....	86.....	12/07
Slim Hawkins.....	89.....	12/11
Phyllis Argenbright .....	90.....	12/14
Hazel Wiseman .....	87.....	12/26



# ***COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD***

## **Upcoming Events**

- Dec 2 Greening of the Church
- Dec 3 Advent Event
- Dec 3 Poinsettia orders
- Dec 4 Deadline for TEAM requests
- Dec 9 Scrapbooking event
- Dec 10 Poinsettia orders
- Dec 10 Decorating the trees
- Dec 10 Congregation meeting
- Dec 17 Trinity Troupers Perform
- Dec 17 Final decorations go up
- Dec 17 VCS Concert at Trinity
- Dec 19 TLS Lessons and Carols
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve services
- Dec 31 Undecorating of the Church

## **Congregation Meeting**

On December 10th following each service there will be a called congregation meeting to elect members to the 2018 Congregation Council. The nominees are Michelle Carpenter, Philip Shook, Don Sniady, Bill Solomon, and John Savage. Please plan on attending so we can ensure a quorum.

*Merry Christmas*

## **TEAM Request**

The TEAM foundation has made a donation to the Church to be distributed to various charities locally, nationally, and internationally. The ad-hoc committee needs your input as to what charities should receive funds. Request forms are available online or on the bulletin board. Please submit your request to the church office no later than December 4th. Requests cannot be for an individual. The ad-hoc committee will review all requests and then submit their recommendation to council for approval.

## **TLS Thank You**

TLS thanks all of the TLC members who joined us for our Lion's Pride Breakfast on November 2nd. You helped make it our most successful yet!!! Thank you! I enjoyed giving tours to church members on November 12th. If you missed it, come by any school day and we will show you around! Thanks also to our TLC family who joined us for Grandparent's Day on November 21st. There are few things better than seeing multiple generations sharing fellowship together! Finally, join us for Lessons and Carols on Tuesday, December 19th at 7 PM. ***Merry Christmas to all of our TLC family!!!***

*Kevin Goetz, Head of School*

# 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.*