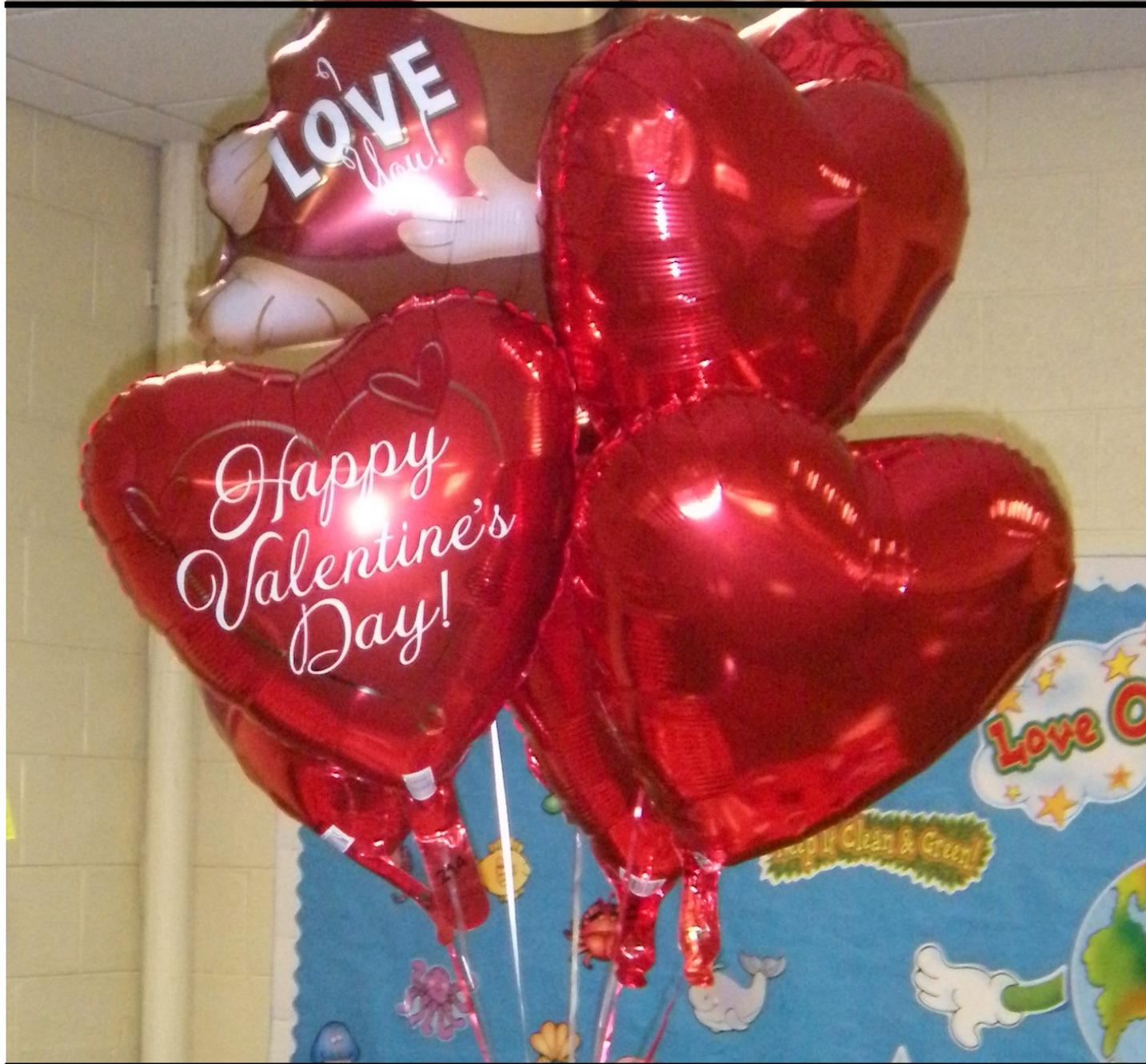


Trinity Tidings

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newport News, VA

February 2018



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From the Pastor's Desk . . . Resolutions, Goals, and All that Stuff



'Tis the season to sit down with a fresh piece of paper and write out our *lists*. These lists vary from person to person, sometimes they contain resolutions, things that we are bound and determined to try and work on for the coming year. We

want to work out more, eat healthier, spend more time doing something we love. For others, their list is more of a “to-do” list, a ranking of things that you want to get done before the end of the new calendar year, finally tackle that project in your house that you’ve been putting off, clean out that room that has become a catch-all for everything that doesn’t have a place in your house, take that vacation you’ve been dreaming of. For others, it’s a list of goals, things you want to accomplish during the year, some more contemplative, others more concrete. You want to lose X number of pounds, you want to journal more, you want to learn a particular craft or art. However you choose to approach the New Year, we all try to do *something*, something that we can set before us to work on, something that at the end of the year we can look back on and say, “Yeah, I did that!” Yet, we all know what tends to happen...by February, maybe March, some of those resolutions have fallen by the wayside, some of the goals get written off as unattainable, other projects crop up that put the others back on the back burner. So, maybe, maybe this year, we make our goal, our to-do, our resolution a little simpler.

Maybe for this year, we resolve, we set a goal, to simply be easier with each other. I know for many, 2017 brought with it a lot of pain, a lot of struggle, a lot of conflict. We’ve bickered with family, friends, colleagues, anonymous people on social media about all the ways the world is spinning, and I think it’s left everyone feeling a little bit...weary, worn out, wiped out. 2017 left a lot of people feeling completely, in a word, *exhausted*. We went through national and international disasters, our shores were riddled with

hurricane after hurricane, the West Coast was ravaged by fire, we walked through national crises in Charlottesville, Las Vegas, and Texas. 2017 brought to the light the #MeToo campaign and brought to the surface conversations that while necessary, were exceedingly painful. We have watched our brothers and sisters be put through painful situation after painful situation, harmed by violence, harmed by words, harmed by inaction, harmed by oppression, harmed by hatred, and it has left so many feeling heartbroken and tired. And so I return to my initial suggestion, maybe 2018 needs one simple goal...to be easier with each other.

At its heart, it is a gospel call, to be easier to each other, to be good to each other, to care for each other. It is the heart of the Law which God placed before the Israelites in the wilderness, to create a community where people felt safe and where they felt cared for. Don’t murder, don’t steal, don’t slander, be good to each other. It is the heart of how God wanted God’s chosen people to look at the world. God commanded God’s people to take care of the orphan and the widow, to care for the refugee and the lost, to break the chains of oppression and prejudice, to strive for justice and righteousness, to let it roll down like waters; be good to each other. It is the heart of what Jesus commanded of us. The world will know you are my disciples when you love one another as I have loved you. Jesus told us to go out and feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick, visit the imprisoned, be good to each other. Jesus wanted us to leave in loving communion with each other, caring for each other and forgiving each other with grace. How many times must I forgive, Lord? Seventy times seven. Forgive and love, be good to each other. Truly, it is the heart of creation, we were created for each other, to be together in partnership with each other and with creation itself. It is not good for man to be alone. We need each other, no matter how much easier we think it is to go it alone. Be good to each other. Be easier with each other.

My prayer for each of us is that 2018 brings with it light and hope, laughter and joy, peace and a whole lot of grace, with ourselves and with others. Every year brings its own sets of challenges and this time next year we might be looking back and wondering how we made it this far, yet we continue to strive forward with goals and resolutions and hopes and dreams, because deep down we know that we do not do this alone, but with each other and with God by our side. May your 2018 be filled with everything

you need it to be. May you climb your hills with joyful praising, may you face your valleys with steadfast faith and hope. May you find Christ in your neighbor, and may they be easy with you, and may you be easy with them. We're in this together, so let's walk into the New Year just like that... together.

*Peace it Together,
Pastor Tina*

From the Pastor's Desk (February) . . . Love & Love & Ashes

It's a weird year...liturgically at least. If you took a glance through your calendar this year you might have noticed two slightly odd things: Ash Wednesday is also Valentine's Day and Easter Sunday is also April Fools Day. So, like I said, it's a weird year. The conjunction of two deeply sacred days with two kind of fluffy, goofball holidays is a somewhat difficult thing to wrap your mind around. Eventually, we'll get to the Easter/April Fools thing, but for now let's talk about Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday is one of the most somber days of the church year. It is a day that calls us to reflect on our mortality, our sinfulness, our brokenness so that we can enter into the Lenten season on a reflective, repentant, heartfelt foot. It is a day when we put ashes on our foreheads and seek to remember that we are in fact made of dust and inevitably it is to that dust that we must return. It isn't exactly a day or a message that screams chocolates, hearts, and squeezable teddy bears. It isn't exactly a day that screams of a message of love and hope and all things bright and shiny. The mash-up of the two days on the calendar thus leaves you feeling like you're going to wander around the whole day not quite knowing how to feel. If you're too happy and lovey-dovey, well then maybe you aren't feeling repentant enough. If you're too repentant and reflective, well then maybe you aren't feeling as love-filled as you'd like to be on that day. See? Just writing those two sentences makes me feel completely knotted up

inside and we're still a month out from the actual date!

So here's what I think. I think it can be both. I think somehow we can navigate the mash-up, because at the heart of everything that we do, at the heart of everything to do with our relationship with God, at the heart of every liturgical day and season lies one thing...love. Do we reflect on our mortality and sinfulness on Ash Wednesday? Yes, of course, but even in the midst of those reflections there is a red thread of God's immense love for us running through the day. Think about it. To reflect on our mortality is to contemplate the fact that God thought that humanity was worth creating. It is a time to recognize that every bone in our bodies, every cell that makes up who we are was lovingly knit together by God, created to spend our years on this earth doing good and seeking the gospel and living into the image of God that we were created in. The message of creation is the most loving message we could get, because from the beginning God loved us so much that God chose to make us. To reflect on our mortality also calls us to reflect on what comes next and what comes next is the ultimate message of love...eternal life. God loves us so much that God sent Christ to die for us so that we might live forever, to not live in fear of death, but to live in the joyous assurance that eternal life is ours with our Lord and Savior, with our Creator. To reflect on our brokenness, our sinfulness is inevitably to reflect on the amazing gift of

forgiveness that God has given us. Sure, it's not a gift that fits inside of a Hallmark card, but it's an incredible gift nonetheless; that no matter what we do, no matter how far short of the mark we fall, God is there to pick us up, dust us off, and say, "I love you." To reflect on our brokenness, our sinfulness is to contemplate the journey through Lent that we are about to take with Christ. It is to let our minds jump to the end of the story where our Lord and Savior took on human flesh and suffered the most painful of deaths all so that we might be forgiven. Again, it's not the stuff of Hallmark or Lifetime movies, but it is a love story nonetheless.

The reflections of Ash Wednesday, the trains of thought that we travel down that day, the ashes that we wear on our foreheads, they are deep calls to repentance, they are reminders of the ways we have harmed other and ourselves through the slings and arrows of sins. They are necessary reflections, there

can be no doubt about that. However, those reflections, those thoughts, they all lead to the same place, the cross, and at its heart, the cross is the greatest sign of love that we have. We are so loved that our Creator, who knit us together, sent God's only Son to live amongst us, be like us, suffer like us, die like us, so that we might never have to feel those same pains, so that we might live with the assurance of forgiveness and eternal life. It's an odd mash-up, this weird calendar of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, but maybe it's also a blessing, because it makes us think, it makes us reflect all the more on what it means to be loved, what it means to be created, what it means to be human. Who knew? Love and ashes could be such a powerful combination.

*Peace it Together,
Pastor Tina*

March Tidings Article Deadline is February 15th

Thank You . . .

Editor's Note: My sincere apologies. This thank you was sent to the editor last summer. When a summer Tidings never made it out, the thank you was overlooked for the September and subsequent Tidings, at least until this month.

To our remarkable church family,

There are no words to properly say thank you to all of you for "showering" us with gift cards and other goodies at the church picnic. We cannot tell you how much they have helped over the last few weeks as we have sought to get our new house put together. From the countless trips to Lowe's and Home Depot to the fun, unexpected trips to home decor places, you have truly helped us make our house a home. You have also helped us to breathe a little bit!! The gift cards for nights out and a little bit of relaxation have been just what we needed. Thank you all so very, very much.

We love you too.

Pastor Tina and Ben

A Note of Appreciation and Thanks

I want to thank everyone who has served as an usher, greeter, or presenter during the more than five years that I have served as chief of Ushers at Trinity. I really appreciate the great and cheerful support you all have given me. It has been a great pleasure working with and getting to know every one of you and your families. It is especially heartening to see your young folks beginning to step up to fill usher, greeter and presenter roles. Thank you for encouraging them to do so.

I stepped down as chief of ushering at the end of December, following my reaching 80 years of age back on November 8. I think it is time for new energy and new ideas. I hope that all of you will give as great support to Don Sniady-TLC's new ushering chief -as you have given me for so many years.

Thank you! God bless you all.

Dick Davis

Youth Group Activities and Trinity Ski Trip

Ski Trip:

For all those going on the Trinity Ski Trip, follow Facebook for final information on departure times on February 1. Make sure that you have the packing list and that you dress warmly. Bring your favorite games along for this fun weekend!

"Souper" Bowl Party:

Join us February 4 for a Super Bowl Party at the Rummel household. Youth and their families will meet at the Rummel house at 5:00 to eat and watch the game which begins at 6:15. We are asking that all youth bring some canned soup to be donated to the local food pantry. Also, all families, please bring your favorite appetizer or dip to share! Parents and families are welcome to stay and hang out. This is a school night, so youth will probably want to head home at half time. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can attend.

Seventh Day:

All 5th and 6th grade youth are invited to attend the VA Synod's Seventh Day event in Lynchburg March 3-4, 2018. This is a wonderful faith forming overnight adventure with youth from across Virginia at

Eagle Eyrie Retreat Center. This gives our younger youth a good taste of small and large group experiences, and it introduces them to all the "youth" music that our kids just simply adore. If your youngster is interested in attending, please pick up a registration form on the youth group bulletin board and fill it out completely returning it to Kelly Rummel with full payment for the event. Please make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church, and we will send one check to the VA Synod office. If you are a parent that is interested in accompanying your youth to this event and serving in the capacity of an advisor, please get with Kelly Rummel and discuss this option.

Blankets for Thrive:

The youth group is meeting after the second service to go and grab lunch and then make Tie Blankets for Thrive on February 18. If you can help us out with this very important community service project, please sign up on the youth group bulletin board. Youth will only need money for lunch and a pair of scissors that cut cloth that day. The youth group will provide all the blanket supplies.

Join Your Brothers & Sisters in Christ for Lent

This year for our midweek Lenten services, we will be joining together with the other local Hilton churches for a joint study on spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are those unique and incredible things which God has blessed each of us with in order that we might serve the gospel and our neighbor in our corner of the world. During our time together we will talk about what spiritual gifts are and examine what gifts are in our lives.

Our evenings together will be on Thursday nights throughout Lent, rotating among the five different churches, with a different pastor leading our discussion each week. The schedule for the evenings will be:

6:00-6:30 Dinner (soup, salad, bread)

6:30-7:15 Discussion/Conversation time

7:15-7:30 Closing worship

The dates and locations are as follows:

February 22nd Hilton Baptist

March 1st.....St. Andrew's Episcopal

March 8th.....Hilton Presbyterian

March 15th.....First United Methodist

March 22nd.....Trinity Lutheran

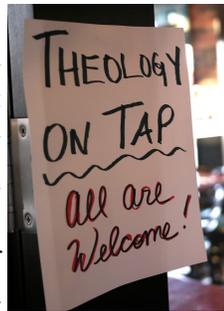
Announcements . . .

Galentine's Day 2018:

It is back and better than ever! Ladies of all ages, mark your calendars for our second annual Galentine's Day gathering. Since the calendar is a little odd this year, with the traditional Galentine's Day falling on Fat Tuesday AND council night, we will meet the night before on Monday, February 12. We will meet again at Aroma's in City Center at 6:30 for an evening of conversation, fellowship, and fun. Come to celebrate women in our lives, women in scripture, and the women that we are in the world.

Theology on Tap:

Looking for a place to really talk about those aspects of faith that are always whirring around your brain, but never seem to have a place to come out? Look no further. Join us the last Thursday of every month at Tradition Brewing near City Center for Theology on Tap. We meet at 6:30 to come together for a time of casual and open conversation about faith, theology, life in the church, and how we live as Christians in the world. All are welcome! *Please note that because of the start of Lent, the tentative February date for Theology on Tap is Tuesday, February 27th.*



Welcome our New Family Members!

During worship on Sunday, January 21 we welcomed in nine new members to our Trinity family. Please join us in welcoming with love and thanksgiving:

Chip Carpenter
 Andy, Amy, Isaac, & Eliot Madson
 Glen & Betty Titus
 Charles & Donna Wittkopp

Ash Wednesday Worship & Drive-by Ashes:

There are multiple options at Trinity to observe and worship on Ash Wednesday (February 14th). Please join us for evening worship at 7:00 PM where we will have a service of Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes. If you've never worshipped with us on Ash Wednesday, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the upcoming Lenten journey and connect with God as we enter into Lent together.

If you're unable to make it to worship Wednesday night, there are two opportunities to still receive your ashes. I will be outside the TLS entrance at 7:45 AM and 2:45 PM for "Drive-by Ashes." You can stay in your car and I will come to you or you can come up for a blessing and the imposition of ashes. Even taking a few moments on this holy day to reflect and pray is a blessed way to begin Lent.

Attention Scrapbookers!

Join us on Saturday, February 10th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the Church social hall. Open to all experienced or beginner Scrapbookers. For more information and to reserve a spot, please call Terri Hoffeditz at (C) 757-871-1182 or (H) 757-766-2646.

Happy Birthday to our Special Senior Saints



January/February Birthdays

Marjorie Zender.....	99.....	January 8
Roy "Sonny" Long.....	95.....	January 10
Jim Fulton.....	85.....	January 13
Mickey Neubaum.....	85.....	January 13
Mike Piland.....	85.....	February 6



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Upcoming Events

- Jan 28 Paint the Gospel
- Feb 1 Ski Trip departure
- Feb 10 Scrapbooking
- Feb 12 Galentine's Day (Aroma's)
- Feb 13 Council meeting
- Feb 14 Ash Wednesday service
- Feb 14 PORT starts
- Feb 19 Church Office closed
- Feb 21 PORT ends
- Feb 27 Theology on Tap
- Lenten Services . . .
 - Feb 22 Hilton Baptist
 - Mar 1 St. Andrew's Episcopal
 - Mar 8 Hilton Presbyterian
 - Mar 15 First United Methodist
 - Mar 22 Trinity Lutheran

Tidings Articles Needed

The editor of the Tidings is asking for articles that can be shared with the congregation. If you are a committee chair or council member, please provide articles for upcoming or past events that your committee is responsible for. Other articles are welcome and will be published upon approval. The soft deadline is the 15th of the month. If you need a few extra days, please contact the editor so space can be reserved. Articles can be submitted to the editor (cliffordobara@cox.net) or to the office administrator (admin@trinitynn.com).

PORT Volunteers Needed

PORT needs you! The front page of the Daily Press for Sunday, January 28th has an article highlighting the need for shelters to house the homeless during the cold winter months. Our church has a long standing as one of the shelters for the past many years. This year, Trinity will host PORT from February 14th through February 21st. We are still in need of volunteers, so please consider providing your time to help with this most worthy cause. The sign up sheets are in the narthex or to sign up by phone or if you have any questions please see or call one of the Trinity coordinators: Sue Moeslein at 757-871-7378, Anne Evans at 757-810-0734, or Fred Ardis at 757-642-0623. We realize that the gift of time is priceless. Thank you to all those that have already signed up.

SIGN UP TODAY!



Trinity Lutheran School students prepare hygiene bags for the PORT guests.

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.