

Trinity Tidings

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newport News, VA

October 2018



Trinity Lutheran Church Sunday School Class, circa 1942

From the Pastor's Desk . . .



“You consider Sorcerer’s Stone a Halloween movie just because of that one scene, don’t you?” Without fail, my best friend will say this to me at some point during October, when

I’m going through my usual Halloween movie marathon. She will give me grief because I have to watch the first Harry Potter movie, even though there’s only one Halloween scene in the entire two and a half hour movie. For her, one scene does not a Halloween movie make, but I can’t help it, it’s one of my favorite scenes in all of the Harry Potter movies. It’s the big Halloween feast; there are floating jack-o-lanterns and cups of cider and bats flying around, and the whole ambiance just screams Halloween. The idyllic feeling of the scene quickly fades when one of the professors storms into the room terrified and bellowing at the top of his lungs that there is a “TROLLLLLL IN THE DUNGEON!!!” before immediately fainting right there in the middle of dinner. Everything falls into chaos, dinner is ruined, the students scatter and everyone is in a panic, because let’s face it, no one wants a troll in the dungeon. I’ll fast forward a bit to get to my point, eventually everyone involved realizes that the allegedly terrified professor was the one who actually let the troll into the castle to cause a distraction so that he could be about his own nefarious plans in the midst of the chaos.

It’s kind of odd, but if you think about it, Halloween is all about distraction and misdirection. Every scary movie you’ve ever seen, the villain sets up some innocent distraction, a troll, a power outage, a phone call, to pull attention away from their plots and plans. The people who go all out for their trick or treaters, setting up elaborate displays to provide the best scare, look over here at this big bowl of candy so that you don’t notice the guy ready to jump out

Troll in the Dungeon

behind you. Every haunted house, built on distraction, smoke, fog, hidden corners, decorative props to pull your focus away from the monsters lurking in the dark. Even the costumes we dress up in, the masks, the make up, they’re all supposed to distract from who the actual person is beneath the costume. Distraction, misdirection, focus on something else so that you don’t see what’s really coming.

Yet, as the world spins faster and faster around us, we seem to have expanded this need for distraction and misdirection far beyond one day of the year dedicated to dressing up, playing pretend, and ignoring reality for a few hours. We’ve gotten really good at releasing trolls into all the dungeons of our lives in order to keep us distracted from what’s really going on. Don’t get me wrong, sometimes distraction is good, healthy, necessary, but more often than not, it’s only going to end up hurting more in the long run. We distract ourselves with our phones, that one email we have to respond to, our schedules, our errands. We put up troll like fronts by laughing a bit too loud or changing the subject. We do all these things to draw focus away from our own hearts, our own souls because sometimes we just don’t want others, sometimes we don’t even want our own selves to see what’s going on inside. We try to pretend because heaven forbid we let another person see what’s actually going on in our lives. We misdirect away from our own reality, the good and the bad, because if someone actually saw what was going on with us, what would they think? We don’t like our brokenness, sometimes even our joy to be out on display because it feels too personal and we worry we’ll be judged or ignored or treated differently.

If we’re honest, we even do it with God. We put hedges around our prayers, we swallow down our questions, our fears, we put up this amazing front even sitting right there in the pews on Sunday, because sometimes we don’t even want God to see what’s going on in our hearts for fear that God may

judge us, love us less if our faith is struggling or if we're a little messy or if we're just tired. So we put on our happy face, we dress ourselves up in whatever we think might cover up our scars, and we let the trolls run loose in the dungeon so that no one, not even God can see inside of our hearts.

But here's the thing, think about how our hearts would feel if we just dropped the distraction. Think about how our relationships would change if we stopped constantly trying to pretend we're something we're not or feeling something we're not. Think about the freedom we would feel when we truly just turned to God and said, "I have no idea what I'm thinking right now." There is no doubt that distraction can be fun, and as I said before, sometimes we need it, badly, but when distraction

becomes the norm, our hearts get a little bit worn out and our lives lose a little bit of color and a lot of honesty. You don't need the trolls. You don't need the masks. You can be who you are, exactly as you are, here in the space of your church family and most especially in the comfort of God who formed you and made you and knows your heart anyway, even when you try to hide it. You are safe here. You are loved here. You are welcome here, brokenness, joy, laughter, tears, bring it all in, we'll hold you through whatever it is.

Enjoy the fall and most especially enjoy Halloween if you do anything special for it, and remember: keep your eyes open for trolls.

*Peace it Together,
Pastor Tina*

Pastor's Announcements

Walking Worship Wednesdays

The Fall Edition of Walking Worship Wednesdays will begin on Wednesday, October 3rd and will run through Wednesday, October 24th. To adjust for sunset, we will gather at 5:45 PM in the parking lot of the Mariner's Museum. Our walks are a bit shorter in the fall given the shorter days, but we will still share in prayer and reflection together. All are welcome!

Oktoberfest

Set the date! Sunday, October 28th will be our Oktoberfest celebration with wonderful food, fellowship, and music. We will gather together for one worship service at 10:00 AM to celebrate Reformation Sunday, and Oktoberfest will immediately follow in the social hall.

All Saints' Day Worship

Please join us for the closing event of our year of 500th Reformation celebrations. On Thursday, November 1st, we will gather for a special All Saints'

Day Concert at 7:00 PM which will feature special music provided by a joint choir performing Brahms's Requiem. Details are on page 5.

Worship with the Virginia Synod Staff

As part of their efforts to familiarize themselves with the various congregations of the synod, the Virginia Synod staff, including Bishop Humphrey will be visiting the Peninsula Conference on Sunday, November 4th. As part of that visit, the Peninsula Conference will be hosting a special worship service at 4:00 PM that afternoon at St. Mark's in Yorktown. There will be a reception to greet the staff before the service beginning at 3:00 PM. We encourage members of all the Peninsula congregations to attend this service to get a chance to meet the staff and experience worship led by Bishop Humphrey.

To make it easier for Trinity members to attend, we will meet at Trinity no later than 2:00 PM. From there we will use the church van to travel to St. Mark's. Please sign up on the main church bulletin board. Seating is limited to the first 15 people.

Be sure to always check the church bulletin board for new announcements and to sign up for events.



There will be one worship service on

Reformation Sunday, October 28th at 10:00 AM

The annual Oktoberfest celebration will be held in the social hall immediately following the service

Please bring an American or German side dish to share

The traditional brats, hot dogs, beer, and other drinks will be provided by the Congregational Life committee.

Music, dancing, games, and fellowship!!!

Oktoberfest History

Crown Prince Ludwig, later to become King Ludwig I, was married to Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen on 12th October 1810. The citizens of Munich were invited to attend the festivities held on the fields in front of the city gates to celebrate the happy royal event. It has now turned into a world-wide "Volkfest", (fun fair/party/beer fest), which is now celebrated by millions of people everywhere in very different ways.



On Thursday, November 1st - All Saints Day - Trinity will host a 7:00 PM performance of Johannes Brahms's Ein Deutsches Requiem. Brahms drew texts from Luther's translation of the Bible to fashion a memorial work that offers comfort to those mourning the death of a loved one. His title means "A German Requiem," meaning both a requiem in the German language and a memorial piece that is inspired by the traditional Latin Mass for the Dead, but separate and apart from it. The text is entirely from the Bible, and Brahms selected passages focusing on comfort for the bereaved, rather than the Day of Judgement that is central to the Catholic requiem mass.

The chorus includes choirs from four area churches - Our Savior Lutheran in Williamsburg, Christ and St. Luke's Episcopal and St. Paul's Episcopal, both in Norfolk, and Trinity. Soloists are Rainelle Krause, soprano, and Jesse Malgieri, baritone. Charles Woodward, artistic director of The Virginia Chorale, will conduct. Trinity's choir has been preparing for this event for nearly a year. Brahms's requiem is one of the most beautiful and popular in all of choral repertoire - if you make the trip to Trinity on the evening of Thursday, November 1st, you'll be richly rewarded.

Rob Keene



2018 National Youth Gathering Report: Alex Murphy

Ed. Note: This month we are publishing the presentations of the two youth who attended the National Youth Gathering this past July in Houston, Texas. Next month we will publish the reports from the youth that attended Caroline Furnace this past summer.

Hi, my name is Alex Murphy and I was one of the two youth in our congregation to travel to Houston, Texas to participate in the National Youth Gathering earlier this summer. For those who do not know what the National Youth Gathering is: it is an event that occurs every three years where 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week, usually in a struggling city, to engage in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship. It is a place where many young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives by showing God's work through our hands. For me, I personally believe this was a life changing experience, and I am sure those who I traveled with feel the same way. After all, "This Changes Everything!" While in Houston, I was able to share memorable times and good laughs with Matthew, Kelly, Erik, and Pastor Tina, learn more about my faith in God through interactive and community life activities, give back to the city of Houston, and spread God's love and grace to all no matter what.

However, if I took one thing from this experience, it would be this. Through all the worlds diversity, through all the worlds political views, through all the worlds chaos, through all the worlds controversy, through all the worlds issues and problems, through all the worlds whatever, we are all united as one through the church and not just simply because we believe in a God. There is way more beyond the church than just believing in something. I believe that yes this is a place of worship and yes this is a place for us to gather and praise the Lord that we believe in, but at the end of the day we are here to love and support each other through thick and thin. Not just in this single church, but through the entire

ELCA. Not just through the ELCA, but with all churches across the country. Not just across the country, but through the continent of North America. Not just through the continent of North America, but through South America and Africa and Europe and Asia and across the world and to whom ever else might be out there beyond the stars or the solar system or the galaxies, but everywhere you could possibly imagine. It breaks my heart to wake up every morning to see news headlines filled with a school shooting, a terrorist attack, a police brutality case, a battle between countries, our politicians causing a ruckus in both parties, or world leader disagreements, or even war! I feel like there is never a good headline anymore. I would hate to see the world go on like this forever, but the reality is this will go on forever. It's not God's fault. It's not like we can blame anyone, but ourselves and until someone steps up and makes a change it will never change. Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results. This is insanity. I believe that our beliefs in the church don't completely define who we are; they don't separate us from the rest. We are all here for one simple reason, to make the best of our lives and make our mark on this world: to make our difference. So when you think of the church, it is really a way to unite a people as one as a support system and through all of our differences of race, gender, sexuality, political views, economic stance, religious beliefs, and whatever else we might disagree on none of that matters as one people. We as people are all in this together and we should learn to live as one and the church is a great place to start. This event is a great place to start. The youth are a great place to start. And I'd like to thank you, the congregation, for blessing me with this gift of learning through my time in the city of Houston. Without your support, I may have never shared this unforgettable experience with so many. Like I said before, this changes everything, and it definitely opened my eyes and changed me, thank you.

2018 National Youth Gathering Report: Mathew Mynoymany

My name is Matthew Mynoymany and this summer I attended National Youth Gathering 2018 in Houston. This, however, was my second National Youth Gathering as my first one was Detroit in 2015. Houston and Detroit were similar, but also different. In Detroit, it was very nice cool weather versus Houston, where you step outside and it feels like an oven. The atmosphere of Detroit and Houston was very similar as 30, 000 Lutherans filled the stadium. A day in Houston is filled with many options. You could either explore the city and learn about the cul-

ture or go to the Interaction Center and play games and meet new people. As far as eating, Houston had great food, my favorite being The Breakfast Klub, where they were known for their famous chicken and waffles, or Old Mission Barbeque which had one of the best briskets I ever had. Houston all together was very eye-opening as speakers such as Tuhina Rasche who was a devoted Hindu worshiper and transitioned to become a pastor or Nadia Bolz-Weber who talked about her struggles in becoming a pastor and in life.



Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent Faith Build

Trinity will be working with Habitat and Thrivent on the Faith Build this year!

Below is the schedule for the Thrivent Faith Build home and our other Williamsburg homes if any of you are interested in volunteering. If you are interested on one of these days with just your church members, please let me know so I can block it off (Church Council will discuss this opportunity at the October council meeting. Check the Church website or the weekly announcements for details).

- Wed October 10th and Thurs. Oct. 11th Open Williamsburg Build Dates (could be Thrivent and other Williamsburg home on lot)
- Sat. October 13th – Thrivent Faith Build Day
- Wed. October 17th and Thurs. Oct. 18th Open Williamsburg Build Dates (can be Thrivent if a group wants to volunteer)
- Wed. October 24th and Thurs. Oct. 25th Open Williamsburg Build Dates (can be Thrivent if a group wants to volunteer)
- Wed. October 31st and Thurs. November 1st Open Williamsburg Build Dates (can be Thrivent if a group wants to volunteer)
- Sat. November 3rd – Thrivent Faith Build Day
- Wed. November 7th and Thurs. November 8th – Thrivent Faith Build Days
- Sat. November 10th – Thrivent Faith Build Day
- Wed. November 14th and Thurs. November 15th - Open Williamsburg Build Dates (can be Thrivent if a

group wants to volunteer)

· Sat. November 17th – Thrivent Faith Build Day

· NO WORK WEEK OF THANKSGIVING

· Wed. November 28th and Thurs. November 29th Open Williamsburg Build Dates (can be Thrivent if a group wants to volunteer)

· Sat. December 1st – Thrivent Faith Build Day

We hope that you all will join us as there are now plenty of opportunities to get involved! All of these dates will be online as well: www.habitatpgw.volunteerhub.com. Remember, Thrivent Faith Build Days will be listed as waitlisted. If individual members are signing up, please email me or have members email me that they are from one of the churches in order to be taken off the waitlist. This is to ensure that only members from the churches sign up to volunteer on these days!

PLEASE NOTE: We are also still fundraising to reach the goal of \$50,000 for the Faith Build. So, continue to fundraise with your members and have them support Habitat and this Faith Build. No amount is too small!

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank You,

Maerine "Mimi" Mitchell

Director of Volunteer Engagement

Habitat for Humanity Peninsula and Greater Williamsburg

Happy Birthday to our Special Senior Saints

Missed June and October Birthdays

Don Golden.....	83.....	June 4
Juanita Wicker.....	93.....	October 1
Millie Christensen.....	94.....	October 6
Maureen Sallade.....	86.....	October 21



Construction Photographs of Our Church, circa 1957-1958



Youth News

Howl O Scream – For those youth signed up to attend Howl O Scream at Busch Gardens, meet at church immediately following the 10:45 AM service and we will travel together to Williamsburg. Bring money for lunch and dinner. Make sure that you bring your pass or pre-purchased ticket with you. After the event, parents can pick your youth up at the Rummel household. We will call parents when we are on our way back to Newport News.

Light the Night – All those who signed up for the Light the Night event have been registered with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. On October 27, we will meet at Trinity at 4 PM to travel to Norfolk's MacArthur Center for the event. We can carpool as able to the event. We will grab dinner at the mall, and then enjoy the event and our walk through downtown Norfolk. Youth will return to Trinity around 9 PM, and we will call parents when we are on our way. Parents can pick up youth at the church. See the fundraising article for information on donations.

Lost and Found – For all those registered youth attending the Lost and Found Synod Youth Event, please meet at Trinity (at the van) at 1:45 PM on Friday, November 16, ready to depart. You will be sent a letter/email reminding you of the event and giving you a list of items to pack. Helpful items to pack would be: sleeping bag, pillow, towels and washcloth, Bible, Money for dinner on the way up and lunch on the way home, Refillable Water Bottle, Snacks to share, toiletries (deodorant is a must), and a positive attitude. We are traveling with St. Stephens and St. Pauls to the event, so please pack only what you need. Leave all extras and valuables at home. You may bring electronics for the trip up and back, but they will all stay in the van (including your cell phone) for the weekend. Questions? Call Kelly Rummel.

Kelly Rummel

Light the Night Donations

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Walk funds treatments that are saving the lives of patients today. This organization is making cures happen by providing patient support services, advocating for lifesaving treatments and pioneering the most promising cancer research anywhere. This year, the Trinity Lutheran Church Youth Group will be participating in that walk in Norfolk, Virginia. If you would like to donate to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for this important cause and support our youth's fundraising efforts, please submit all checks or money to Carol Bessom or Kelly Rummel by Sunday, October 21. Please make checks out to Trinity Lutheran Church and include Light the Night in the memo line, and we will submit one check to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Thank you in advance for donating to this very worthy cause. This event holds a special place in the hearts of the Rummel family as we lost Erik's stepsister Laurie Lynn to this disease less than a year ago.



Social Ministry Holiday Food Baskets

PLEASE JOIN SOCIAL MINISTRY TO HELP OTHERS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

The Social Ministry committee is putting together Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for EDMARC (the only children's hospice organization in the area) and other families. Please help us to fill these food baskets for those families in need.

Brown paper bags with lists attached will appear within the next couple of weeks in the Narthex and Church Library. A list of items needed is attached. Please provide what you are able from the list. The Social Ministry committee will purchase turkeys for each family.

If you have the names of any needy families in the community, please feel free to call Susan Moeslein at 757-871-7378 or Anne Evans at 757-810-0734.



A Little About EDMARC

Established in 1978, Edmarc Hospice for Children was the first hospice in the nation designed specifically for children. Founded by members of Suffolk Presbyterian Church in Suffolk, Virginia, Edmarc was named for Edward, their minister who died of cancer, and a young couple's son, Marcus, who needed hospice care because he had a progressive neuromuscular disease.

Families face overwhelming challenges when a child is sick. Children need to be surrounded – physically and emotionally – by the people and things that they love. That's why Edmarc helps seriously ill children stay comfortably at home with their families whenever possible. And our services give comfort, strength and support to the entire family.

Edmarc seeks to ease the trauma of a child's illness or death, and to reduce the disabling effects of pediatric illness, loss and bereavement on families in Hampton Roads, one child at a time. The demand for our services is growing steadily. In 2005, we served 28 to 30 children per day. Today, we serve an average of 70 children per day.



EDMARC
Hospice For Children

“This beautiful organization, with an army of volunteers and donors, blesses families like mine in many ways every single day. They continue to give us hope for our journey and have brought us joy



on some of our darkest days. In serving our family, they have become like family... and we are so grateful for the continued kindness and dedication to us. For all of the families served – past, present, and future – we love Edmarc!” – *Jessica Killingbeck, Addy's mom*

Source: edmarc.org

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.