

# Trinity Tidings

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newport News, VA

December 2018



*Three Kings, Christmas 1972 (l to r: Whitehead, Hudgens, Hawkins)*

## *From the Pastor's Desk*



IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS!!! I'm sure this has been the refrain in some of your households for as long as it's been one in mine. Ben faithfully starts cranking the Christmas music come November 1, despite my own

adamant refusal to turn the holly jolly on until Black Friday. It feels like these days it starts even before Halloween. I will be completely honest that I get a little annoyed at the early Christmas jubilation when it starts hitting in October, mostly because Hallmark Channel starts running Christmas movies non-stop and that means no more Golden Girls reruns until January, but that's probably my own unique grievance with the desire to rush Christmas here. I don't know there's just something about wanting to rush to Christmas that is tough, because by rushing to the 25th of December we miss so much in between. We miss Halloween, we miss the joy and lead up to Thanksgiving, we miss the steady incoming of cooler weather that brings its own kind of enjoyment, and most importantly, we tend to miss Advent.

Far too often, Advent becomes that thing we just have to get through in order to get to Christmas. Maybe we have our Advent calendars and we enjoy our tiny piece of chocolate everyday to help us countdown the days, but somehow we still end up missing the intentionality of Advent. We forget that Advent is meant to be a bit like Lent. We go through the intentional walk of the forty days leading up to Easter so well. Some of us give up things, some of us take up things, we have midweek services, we bury the alleluia, all so that when Easter morning comes it dawns just a bit brighter. We've walked the path to get to Easter morning and once you're there it makes you appreciate your Lenten journey just a shade more. That's what Advent is supposed to be too. It's supposed to be an

## *. . . An Intentional Advent*

intentional time of thought, reflection, prayer, and anticipation so that when Christmas gets here, CHRISTMAS GETS HERE! And it's a wondrous rush of light and hope and peace and amazement, because we've been waiting so long and so patiently and thank goodness the Christ child is born. Yet, that's rarely how we feel on Christmas. Sometimes we've spent so much time rushing to Christmas that when it gets here we're either too exhausted to breathe it in or we've been in the Christmas mood so long already we're kind of done the second it arrives. We miss Christmas when it gets here because we've spent all of Advent already Christmas-ing.

So, in an effort to slow a little bit, to take some intentional time to prepare for Christmas, to get into our Advent shoes, we have a couple of daily practices that we're going to be launching once Advent officially starts on December 2. They're small things, but they're intentional things, ways in which we can take a few moments out of the day to think about the journey we're on and just what it is we're preparing for.

The first of these things is going to be called: "Preparing the Way through Prayer." Every day there will be something different for you to pray for and reflect on. We'll have the list available for you below, as well as in the bulletin throughout Lent. I'll also be accompanying each day with a tiny reflection video on Facebook, which will be part of my own intention to be purposeful in my Advent preparations this year.

The second thing we'll be doing is called: "Picturing the Way." We did this on a small scale this year, but what it is is an Advent Photo-a-Day challenge. Each day of Advent will be paired with a word that highlights a certain facet of our faith lives and our Advent journey. You are invited to snap a picture every day of something that reflects that day's word. For example, if the word of the day is love, you could post a picture of your kids or your dog or something that happened during your day that reflects love. Post your pictures to the church's

Facebook page, as well as on your own personal page or on Instagram and tag them with #trinitylutheran and #picturingtheway that way we can all find the pictures and collect them into one big album on the church's Facebook page.

Each of these projects is designed to get you and your family thinking more deeply about Advent and how we prepare for Christ's arrival on Christmas. John the Baptist calls us to prepare the way of the Lord, and these are just a couple of small ways we can think differently about Advent and our journey to Christmas. We all prepare in different ways, but

these are a couple of ways that we can prepare together as a church family.

On page 4 you will find the daily prayer list and the photo-a-day word list. I hope either or both help you and yours journey together through Advent. The days are surely coming, but they will come in their own time, so let's not rush it, let's enjoy the anticipation and all that comes before Christmas finally arrives.

*Peace it Together,  
Pastor Tina*

## ***Greening of the Church***

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, December 9th, after the second service we will decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. We call this the "greening of the church." We need the more agile in our congregation, those not afraid of heights and ladders, to hang greenery and wreaths and to take down the globes from our chandeliers. (It's time to wash them.) We need those with strong muscles to carry the trees from the blower room downstairs and set them up – making sure all lights are working. For those who like to keep their feet on the ground, the greenery and wreaths need to be "fluffed" before hanging, and the bows need to be tied on.

The youth have the responsibility for decorating the trees with Chrismons, those white and gold ornaments, symbols of Christianity. As the youth know, this is not an easy job. These ornaments are breakable so they must be handled with care and arranged on the tree in a certain pattern. The symbols on the front of the tree form a figure 8. The upper loop of the 8 is formed with ornaments which show God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit while the lower loop contains symbols for the seasons of the church year.

As you help with the decorating or just enjoy the decorated trees, see if you can find the Advent Chrismon. In Isaiah 9:6 we read "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us. . . and he is named . . . Prince of Peace." So the Advent Chrismon is a

scroll with the words Prince of Peace. You'll find it in the lower loop near the middle of the tree.

If your schedule does not allow you to help us decorate on December 9th, please consider helping us undecorate (de-green) the church after the service on Epiphany Sunday, January 6, when all the ornaments and greenery must be packed away for a year. Many hands make light work. Questions? Please contact Judy Hunt.



## ***Preparing the Way Through Prayer and Pictures***

Date	Preparing Through Prayer	Picturing the Way
2	Pray for your family as you begin this Advent season	Hope
3	Pray for your neighbors by name	Walk
4	Pray for a person you're having a hard time loving	Anticipation
5	Pray for your goals and plans for the year ahead	Awake
6	Pray for a big decision you have to make	Prepare
7	Pray for your school, principal, and teachers	Sign
8	Pray for the homeless and the poor	Trust
9	Pray for local law enforcement and first responders	Peace
10	Pray for our Jewish siblings as they close their Hanukkah celebrations	Promise
11	Pray for other local area churches	Silence
12	Pray for people struggling with loneliness, isolation, and depression	Strong
13	Pray for our government and political leaders	Blue
14	Pray for something weighing on your heart	Comfort
15	Pray for someone you know is sick	Worship
16	Pray for refugees and victims of violence and war	Joy
17	Pray for your friends and their families	Life
18	Pray for the unemployed, underemployed, and retail workers	Filled
19	Pray for something that makes you angry	Free
20	Pray for our military and all those away from loved ones this season	Neighbor
21	Pray for PORT ministries	New
22	Pray for local pastors and our Virginia Synod staff	Ready
23	Pray for all those travelling for the holidays	Love
24	Pray for something that gives you hope	Star
25	Pray for something that gives you JOY!	Light

Trinity Youth present

# Great Joy

by

Kate Di Camillo

on

**Sunday,**

**December 23, 2018**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Social Hall**

A compassionate story of a little girl and a street corner organ grinder will be read, accompanied by tableaux by the children to illustrate the scenes, with singing of familiar carols by both children and adults.

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## ***Advent Event***

The Advent Event this year will take place between services in the social hall on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. The theme this year is Christmas Around the World. We will explore how other countries celebrate Christmas, their traditions and their legends. There will again be crafts and activities for all ages.

We will be collecting donations of new stuffed animals and blankets for With Love, From Reid that will help bring smiles to the children at CHKD. It is a great way to get into the giving spirit!

We will be in need of volunteers to help at the tables as well as cleaning up after the event. Please contact Jessica Moye if you can help ([moye.jessica7@gmail.com](mailto:moye.jessica7@gmail.com) or 757-849-9239).

***Please  
bring a  
tasty sea-  
sonal treat  
to share!***



# ***Trinity Welcomes Student Organist on Christmas Eve***



Our 7:30 service on Christmas Eve will be accompanied by Noah Klein, an accomplished undergraduate at Indiana University. Noah has been hard at work preparing new repertoire for his visit to Trinity, where he'll accompany the congregation and choir, gaining valuable

real-world experience as he develops skills for a career in music. As you know, Trinity is committed to encouraging the next generation of church musicians - think of our music internship and the Don Golden Scholarship at Christopher Newport University - and Noah's visit is the next logical step in that commitment. His biography follows:

From Northfield, Minnesota, Noah Klein began studying the piano at age 6 and the organ at age 11. He began accompanying church services at age 15. Following high school graduation, Noah attended school and lived with a host family for one year in South Korea as part of the Rotary Youth Exchange program. He currently is a Premier Young Artist Scholar at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music where he studies organ performance with Dr. Janette Fishell. Noah serves as the music intern at Tabernacle Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis.

Noah will offer an extended prelude prior to the 7:30 pm service, including works by Johannes Brahms, Dieterich Buxtehude, Paul Manz, Johann Pachelbel, and Johann Sebastian Bach's Canonic Variations on Vom Himmel hoch, Martin Luther's quintessential Christmas hymn. Noah's visit is made possible by a generous gift from Bonnie and Dave Carlson.

*Rob Keene*

## ***Thank You to All Who Contributed to the 500th***

On November 1st, Trinity's year-long celebration of the 500th anniversary of Luther's Reformation concluded with a beautiful performance of Johannes Brahms's Ein Deutsches Requiem. A combined chorus - 65 strong from 4 churches - joined professional soloists, pianists, and conductor to offer this comforting memorial work on All Saints Day. This 10th event of the 500th was the culmination of 11 months of preparation by Trinity's chancel choir. Hopefully you were there to appreciate their hard work!

The following persons made Trinity's 500th celebration possible, both through generous financial gifts and by hosting guest musicians during their visits to Newport News: Dick and Laura Davis, Brad Goodman, Dan Jungkuntz and Patricia McClelland, Dani and Rob Keene, Howard Mandeville and Sherry Schneider, Ed Matz and Phil Shook, Brian McWithey, Mike and Nancy Petters, Amy Robinson, Harry and Jessica Savage, Bob and Nancy Schappert, and Bill Solomon.

*Rob Keene*

JoAnne Rawls is the person to contact for your 2019 Trinity Calendar. As always, the price is \$22, and everything above production costs goes to benefit the organ fund. This is a wonderful instrument, but there are always things that it needs to make it better. You can reach JoAnne via email at [jrawls68@verizon.net](mailto:jrawls68@verizon.net), or her home phone number, 757-596-0004. Please leave a message with your name, callback number, and quantity desired. There is a limited number of calendars on hand, so reserve yours now!



## ***Special Service: Blue Christmas on December 13th***



### ***Recentering and Praying Through the Holidays***

This year during Advent, we will be holding a service that is new, but can be deeply meaningful and important during this time of year. The holidays can be hard for a wide variety of reasons, whether you are mourning a loss, feeling down, or just uncertain about the world, and this year we are going to provide a worship space to live into those feeling and be together in prayer and reflection. Please join us on Thursday, December 13th at 6:30 PM for a Blue Christmas service. There will be hymns, prayer, and individual time of healing. All are welcome!

## ***Social Ministry Thank You and Christmas Food Baskets***

### ***GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS!***

Thank you for your generosity, thank you for your time! Trinity, you rock!

We were able to provide ten families with a complete Thanksgiving meal plus extras to help stock their cupboards. Six families from EDMARC (the only children's hospice in the area) and four families from the community received the food.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who purchased food and who gave if their own time to put these food boxes together. Teresa Flores gave hours of her time helping organize all the food groups and load the four boxes for delivery to the community! Pastor Tina and some of the members of Council (I am afraid to put names in here in case I forgot someone) came to assemble the boxes! AWESOME! Thanks to David Hunt and John Lunsford for delivering the EDMARC boxes.

The Social Ministry committee is now putting together Christmas food baskets for EDMARC and other families. Please help us to fill these food bas-

kets for those families in need.

Brown paper bags are available in the Narthex and Church Library. A list of items needed is attached to each bag. 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.

Our sign up board for PORT (the homeless shelter) will be going up in the Narthex soon, so be on the lookout!

*Anne Evans*



## ***Youth News and Upcoming Events***

**Decorating and Caroling:** On December 9, Trinity youth will help in the Decorating of the church and then go caroling to our homebound members delivering the gifts that we have made for them in Sunday School. Youth group members will meet immediately following the 10:45 worship service in the church library with a bag lunch. We will eat together in the library, 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 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 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders!!! We will be attending the annual Synod Event Winter Celebration at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg VA **January 18-20, 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 9, 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. Kelly Rummel and Ashleigh Ardis will be attending this event this year with our youth.

**Ski Trip/ Winter Family Retreat:** This event is for all members of Trinity! The annual Seven Springs Ski Trip / Winter Family Retreat will be held January 24-27, 2019. We leave the Newport News area around 3 PM on Thursday, January 24 and return home around Noon on Sunday January 27. 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 include 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.

## ***Youth Pictures from the Lock In (Baking Night)***





## *More Bake Night and Bake Sale Pictures*



Thank you to all those that purchased the baked goods. Proceeds from the event are going to help make blankets for the homeless.

## *Youth Pictures from Light the Night*



# ***2018 Pastoral Survey***

The Personnel committee is requesting that members of the congregation please fill out a survey that is meant to evaluate Pastor Tina's performance in her role as head pastor of our church. There are a few hard copies in the library and the narthex or you can go to the following link online: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc9-ECXvheSyY0pasr012LK3Uobe0Iqc0sbzL0Ac1v-dOsFYWw/viewform>. Recently, a Constant Contact

email went out with the link to the survey as well. You are invited to make as many comments as you wish in addition to answering a few questions in each category. Responses are kept anonymous and will be collated and passed along to Pastor Tina as feedback. If you have questions, contact any member of the Personnel committee: Dick Davis, Susan Deagle, Wendy Mynoymany, Grant Owens, Amy Robinson and Patricia Wessler. Thanks for your time!

## ***Worship and Music: Flower Ministry***

Questions have arisen regarding the absence of chancel flowers on recent Sundays. There is no line item in the church budget for chancel flowers; the cost of flowers is borne by donors. Therefore, if flowers are not pledged for a given Sunday, there may only be one or no vases.

Flower donations are welcomed and encouraged. The cost of chancel flowers is \$18.00 per vase. Donations may be made anonymously, in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone, or in observation of a special occasion.

The flower sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board outside the Sacristy kitchen on the pulpit side. If you wish to donate flowers, please fill in all of the information requested. Payment is due on or before the date specified. Payment may be placed in the offering place or sent to the church treasurer, Carol Bessom. Please indicate "Flowers" in the memo line of your check, or place cash in an envelope marked "Flowers."

Flowers not picked up by Wednesday of the following week will be discarded.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Your help is desperately needed across all aspects of your Church's life. Every Church committee is in need of new members to help with events and to re-energize the planning process. Service volunteers are needed on Sunday to prepare and execute our commitment to God. Let the Pastor know how you can help today!!!

## ***Happy Birthday to our Special Senior Saints***



### **December Birthdays**

Shirley Fulton.....	82 .....	12/07
Pete Mizelle .....	80 .....	12/08
Slim Hawkins .....	90 .....	12/11
Phyllis Argenbright.....	91 .....	12/14
Hazel Wiseman .....	88 .....	12/26



# ***COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD***



## **Greening and De-Greening**

The “Greening” of the church will take place on Sunday, December 9, immediately following the late service. Many folks, especially younger ones, are needed if you wish to continue this tradition of decorating the church for the Christmas season. Many hands make quick work! Judy Hunt is coordinating this year. Please contact her if you have a question.

And, what goes up must come down. We will de-green (undecorate) on Sunday, January 6, following the congregational potluck lunch.

Please mark these dates on your calendars. It’s a lot of work and a lot of fun!



## **Trinity Ski Trip**

The annual Seven Springs Ski Trip and Winter Family Retreat will be held January 24-27, 2019. Remember this is open to all Trinity families. 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.



## **Congregation Meetings**

There will be two called congregation meetings to nominate candidates from the floor (first meeting) and elect council members for terms starting in January 2019 (second meeting). The meetings will be brief and follow each worship service. The meetings are as follows:

**Dec. 2nd Nominations for Council**

**Dec. 9th Elections for Council**



## **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 3rd. Requests cannot be for an individual. The ad-hoc committee will review all requests and then submit their recommendation to council for approval.

# 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.*