

Trinity Tidings

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newport News, VA

November 2018



High Festival setting for the altar. Check page 5 for how the altar looked before the organ was installed.

From the Pastor's Desk



Whenever the time for writing my November newsletter article rolls around there's always a voice in the back of my head wondering, "Are you really going to talk about thankfulness again?" Now, don't get me wrong, thankfulness

is *good*, November and turkey notwithstanding. Each and every day we should take the time for intentional thanksgiving, not just for a few days near the end of November. Thankfulness should simply be a part of *who we are*, written into our DNA, helping us to view the world through a different lens, a lens of gratitude that colors every conversation we have, every situation we stand in. So, yes, I could go on and on about thankfulness yet again this November, but I'm not going to, instead I want to talk about what might or might not happen around your Thanksgiving table.

Back in October, I went to a continuing education event that centered around the way we talk to each other, and more importantly, the way we do (and more often don't) listen to each other. At one point, our presenter said that we could be sitting right next to someone, looking them in the eye even, and not hear a word they actually say. We get so caught up in our own heads, in our own thoughts, sometimes even in our anticipation of how we're going to respond that we have no idea what words are actually coming out of their mouths. She encouraged us to think about how many times a day we ask, "What did you say?" because most of the time it wasn't that we couldn't hear, it was that we simply *weren't listening*.

A family dinner table can be a chaotic place on a good day, and on a holiday like Thanksgiving it can sometimes look like a war zone. There are people zooming in and out of the kitchen, dishes getting passed in too many directions, the football game is

. . . And So We Listen

on in the background, the kids are going a little wild because there are a lot of people in the house, and the adults are stressed out because there's so much to do and oh boy, what if Uncle So and So brings up politics. For as much as our holiday dinner tables are meant to be places of joy, they sometimes end up being places of stress, the last place where we actually *want* to be listening, because the kids yelling and the political talk can just put you right off your turkey. Yet...there's something sacred that we miss when we tune out and focus on our stuffing. We miss the voice, the echo, the whisper of God in our midst.

We spend so much time in our own heads. We spend even more time focused on screens. Think about what your Thanksgiving dinner table might look like if we spent that time instead focused on our loved one's eyes, the way their laughter dances, the way they funnily articulate certain words. And I know...some of the conversations around your table are going to stress you out, some around my table are going to stress me out, so I *hear you* on your desire to tune out, tune off, and eat your sweet potatoes, but how few chances do we actually have to dwell deeply and sincerely with all of those that we love? What have we missed by choosing to ignore?

During her presentations in October, our conversation leader told a story about how she was in a conversation with a parishioner with whom she had never seen eye to eye. She was visiting him while his wife was in the last stages of cancer, and he had asked her to come outside and pick green beans with her. She said at one point in the conversation he looked at her and said, "If I could paint God's love on the horizon for all the world to see, I would need a bigger sky," and then he looked at her and said, "That's how much God loves us, and that's how much my wife and I love you." She said she almost missed it. She had been so busy disliking him, focusing on their past, on her doubts that they'd ever find a middle ground, that she almost

missed him sharing with her a moment of acute vulnerability that despite how different they were, there was still love there.

How many of us feel that way about some of those that will gather around our dinner tables this month? A bit frustrated, a bit nervous about what they'll say next, a bit detached, and yet how many of us love them all the same with a love that would need a bigger sky to be painted? How many of them feel the same way about us? And how many of those conversations and moments might we miss if we aren't listening?

I suppose all of this is to say, appreciate, truly appreciate, the time you have with family this month; turn down the external noise, the distractions, and dwell sacredly with your family in the holy space that

is the dinner table. God is present in the young ones yells, in the laughter, and yes, even in the tenuous conversations that will probably occur. Listen to your family, listen to their stories, their corny jokes, their quirky one-liners. Listen to the sacred whisper of God in your midst, shared around broken bread and holy conversation. Listen to the sound of a love so wide it needs a bigger sky to be painted.

A blessed, gratitude and turkey filled Thanksgiving to you all, may it be stuffed full of grace, love, and joy.

*Peace it Together,
Pastor Tina*

Pastor's Announcements

Brahms Requiem

Please join us for a worshipful concert in honor of All Saints Day on November 1. A joint choir will be performing Brahms Requiem at 7:00 at Trinity and all are welcome to join us to hear this wonderful piece of music. All Saints Day is a sacred time in which we can join together to remember all of the glorious saints in light and honor those whom we hold dearly in our hearts.

All Saints Sunday Worship with the Synod Staff

The staff of the Virginia Synod will be with the Peninsula Conference on All Saints Sunday and will be holding a special worship service so that we all might worship together. The service will be held at St. Mark, Yorktown at 4:00 with a light reception prior, beginning at 3:00. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet the Synod staff and experience worship with them. Bishop Humphrey will be preaching and all of the ministers of the Peninsula Conference will be helping with the service. We hope you are able to join us.

Advent Family Devotionals

Are you looking for a way to prepare for Christmas in a new and exciting way this year? This year, Augsburg Fortress has released a new Advent family devotional that features coloring pages, games, prayers, and other flexible ways to observe Christ's coming from Advent through Epiphany. If you would like a pack of these cards, please sign up on the bulletin board and we will order them for you!

New Members

On October 28th we welcomed two new members to the Trinity family: Teresa Flores and Brian Monbeck. Please take a moment to meet them and introduce yourself. Thanks be to God for these new members praising him in worship with us.

Advent Event

Look for some exiting news in next month's Tidings and the Sunday announcements about the Advent Event that will take place on December 16th.

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



TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

cordially invites you to its

**2018 LION'S SHARE
ANNUAL FUND BREAKFAST**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018
8:30-9:30 A.M.**

**6812 RIVER ROAD
NEWPORT NEWS, VA 23607
(757) 245-2576**

Guest Speaker

J. Morgan Davis
President and CEO ~ TowneBank

Presenting Sponsor



**SAVE THE
DATES**

Here are some special events happening this year at Trinity Lutheran School. Put them on your calendars!

Book Fair:

Nov. 13-20

Grandparent's Day

November 20

Polar Express

Parents Day Out

December 1

Smithfield

Christmas Parade

December 8

Lessons and Carols

December 18

Admirals Hockey

Game

January 12

Apex Fun Run

March 8

Kentucky Derby

Party

May 4

Contact:

kstrunk@trinitynn.com

LANDSCAPE WORK DAY

Saturday, November 17th at 9:00 AM

Help is needed to finish the landscaping projects that were started in September. Please consider volunteering your time and tools to help out. You can refer to the September Tidings for details or call Diane Roselius or the Church office.



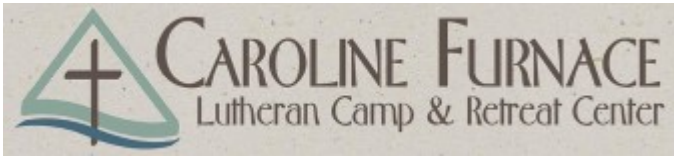
Trinity Lutheran Church Circa 1958

These are pictures from 1958 showing the completed building from the front and a couple views of the sanctuary and altar. This is before there was an organ and stained glass windows. The choir sat to the right as you faced the altar. Also, the altar was extended back into what was called the garth when the new organ was installed.



2018 Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp Reports

Ed. Note: This month we are publishing the presentations of the youth who attended the Caroline Furnace Summer Camp. There is also a special report reprinted with permission from Tom Powell, the Executive Director at Caroline Furnace.



Carl Carpenter

Gaga Ball was the most exciting activity at Caroline Furnace Camp because it is fun, you can play with your friends outside and it is not tiring to me! When I arrived at camp, one of the first things I saw was the Gaga Pit which was right next to the cabin Andrew and I stayed in. It was the biggest Gaga Pit I had ever seen. I loved how big it was because it was hard to hit the ball out of the pit. I played Gaga Ball at least three hours each day with many of the friends in my cabin and one of my counselors, Noah. At the end of the week, Noah gave me an award for being the Actual Gaga Master! It made me feel happy it is one of my favorite sports.

I also liked slag hunting at camp. Slag hunting is where you look for slag which is rocks that furnaces make. I liked it because it was competitive, we all tried to find the best slag. There are different types of slag – black slag is common, blue and green slag are less common, purple slag is rare and red slag is extremely rare! Pure slag is when the slag is all the same color and has no dirt on it or anything else.

I also loved breakfast and dinner each day because they had new food I never had before like mac and meat, taco casserole, tortillas with peanut butter and jelly, French toast casserole and huge croissants that were really good.

It was fun going with a friend because you at least know someone. It is also fun because you get to talk to your friend just before lights out. I would like to go back again, especially when I'm older and can stay in the sukkahs.

This experience helped me learn about God through Bible verses, singing songs about God and going to chapel.

Keegan Wise

Caroline Furnace. A place with nature and adventure at every corner. This beautiful place was filled with love and happiness. It is one of the best places I have ever been to.

This summer was a very special summer because it was my first time I went to summer camp where I actually had to stay away from home for a week. I had backpacking camp which was also something different because I had never been backpacking until then

The first day of hiking was definitely tiring but it was worth it because when we got to the top the views were amazing. Though on the way down a rainstorm decided to come in and drench us. When we got back to camp, we played a lot of a little something called ga ga bal. This game is filled with action and adrenaline. .and lots and lots of mud! The next hike we did was the 3 day 2 night hike... now that was something that I will remember forever. It was easier than I thought it would be to sleep in a tent outside despite the tiring hike. I saw great sunsets and sunrises and I was a good time with friends. While backpacking and camping I learned a lot about how to pack things up for the trip... even if it meant putting Nathan's dinner bowl in the hoodie of my sweatshirt and carrying it on my head during the hike back down. What are friends for??

This experience for me was absolutely amazing because camp was filled with laughter, joy, friends, peanut butter and jelly burritos, campfires, GaGa ball, and so much more, including fun impersonations of Gordan Ramsey and playing Mad Libs at night. There was a lot of rain and mud, but there was one thing that truly stood out the most. That being how powerful the presence of God was. It felt as if he were in everything from the trees in the forest all the way to an adorable dog named Jedi. It felt as if he was sitting with everyone during the meals of the

week, the air we breathed, but most importantly... He was in us. My experience overall at Caroline Furnace was fantastic. I learned about challenging myself and not doubting what I chose to do. To take more risks and chances so that I wouldn't miss out on something. I hope I will be able to do it again.

Andrew Rummel

Hello, my name is Andrew and this was my 2nd year at Caroline Furnace! My grandparents met as camp counselors there over 50 years ago. My Mom and Uncle Bryan used to go to camp there every summer. Last year I went to camp by myself, and I stayed in the cabins. This year I was with Carl, who our cabin called the GaGa master. We were introducing our names and people were giving themselves their own nicknames, so Carl called himself the Gaga Master because he was so good at Gaga Ball. The only problem was that if Carl lost a match of Gaga Ball, he also lost his nickname. He became just Carl again and another cabin friend would get the title.

This year was very different from last year, and it was also a very wet year. One of the things I can remember was sitting at the lake waiting to do the swim test when it started raining. It was pouring down cold rain, and Carl and I had left our towels and shoes out in the rain. I had to hike in my Crocs all the way back to the chapel. We got to play kickball and color tag, but my favorite game was Gaga Ball. Even in the rain, we played muddy Gaga Ball.

We had to make our own dinner one night, and we were going to eat hot dogs, baked beans, and S'mores over a campfire. Someone had found us tinder wood to start the fire, but the wind came and blew it out. Our counselors were trying to get a flame again while I sat on a bench with my backpack playing Sudoku. I asked my counselors if paper was a good burning material, and our counselors said Yes! I took out my old Highlights magazine, ripped out the pages, and gave them to the counselor. The counselor was able to start the fire with them. Each of us got 2 hot dogs and 2 S'mores. We were the only cabin to eat their entire meal that night. Then it started to rain again.

Every day, we had Bible study, and we had an opening prayer and a closing prayer. No one in my cabin

wanted to lead the prayers except for the counselors. I volunteered to do the prayers, and I did them all for the rest of the week. At the closing ceremony, my counselors gave me an award, and my nickname was Saint Andrew!

During the afternoons, we had cabin choice where we could decide what activity we were going to participate in. This was the very first year we went canoeing. The next day, we went slag hunting. Slag is a shiny rock left over from the old furnace at camp. It comes in lots of different colors, and this year the rarest was pink slag. I found blue and purple slag this year.

This week at camp really changes everything!

Lois Jean Carpenter

There were many great things about Caroline Furnace, and each one of them is special to me. However, I have favorites. I loved blackberry picking, morning chapel, and game times.

Blackberry picking was great. I got to eat dozens of wild berries, and for every one I put in my mouth that wasn't ripe, four more were. It was very special to me to have fun eating in the woods food that I had found. I also now know what a wild blackberry bush looks like.

Morning chapel was a great way to learn new songs and expand my faith. It was a great way to wake myself up and start the day. I learned bible stories then, and our talks were centered around them for the rest of the day.

Game times were down times in the fireside room, and they were very calming. They were times to catch up on sleep, and to connect with my friends. We played many games such as Spoons, and Apples to Apples. It was great to relax and chill.

Even though it rained a lot, Caroline Furnace was the best summer camp I have ever went to, and I loved every minute of it. It was enjoyable and laid back, and it was filled with other young people like me who wanted to further their relationship with God. I would recommend it to anyone, and I am definitely going back!

Tom Powell's story follows on page 8.

When You Find Yourself in the Dark ... Just Stop Where You Are

If you were in Church this summer when our youth spoke on their experiences at Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp, you heard Garrett Mynoymany, Nathan Rummel, and Keegan Wise talk about getting lost on a mountaintop. This is what Executive Director, Tom Powell wrote about their experience. There's wisdom in his words for all of us. (Kelly Rummel)

My favorite story from the past seven months comes from the Backpacking crew on the last night of their out-trip this summer. Five middle schoolers and two seasoned counselors had been backpacking through an unusually rainy week. It was the final night of their adventure, and they set up camp just in time to dive into their tents and wait out another rain storm. A while later, the sky cleared up and promised an amazing sunset. With camp already set up and gear secured they hurried up the trail and traversed the rock scramble at Duncan Knob, arriving just in time for the most beautiful sunset.

Afterward, they made their way back down the rock scramble and headed to their campsite. As the woods got darker, the counselors announced, "Okay, who wants to use their flashlight and lead us back down

the trail?" Crickets. No one brought anything but themselves. All of their sources of light - flashlights, headlamps, emergency phones, matches, and lighters - were safely secured at the campsite somewhere below them. After they reviewed their options and attempted to find their way in the dark, they decided to just sit down, play games, enjoy conversation, and rest until daylight returned. As the sun woke them the next morning, they realized they were resting directly on the trail to their campsite.

Sleepy, yet relieved, they headed down the trail to the comfort of breakfast and shelter. After a well-deserved meal and nap, they made their way down the trail and waited for the van at the trailhead. They returned tired, yet happy to the safety of camp with exciting tales of their epic misadventure!

This story is a life lesson that these backpackers will remember forever and one we should all continually reflect upon. If you feel lost and you are in the darkness -just stop where you are and wait for God's light.

Tom Powell, Executive Director

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, 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!



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-ECXvheSyY0pasr0l2LK3Uobe0Iqc0sbzL0Ac1v-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!

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.



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. 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*

Youth News

Baking Lock In:

The Youth Group will meet on Friday, November 9, 2018 at Trinity for a lock in. Parents can drop their youth off at 6 PM on Friday. Please make sure that you feed your kids dinner before you drop them off. You can pick them up on Saturday, November 10 at 8 AM. Please be on time! Youth need to bring a snack to share, sleeping bag and pillow, PJs and change of clothes, and flashlight. Also, please make

sure that you bring an item to bake, and that you have all ingredients with you. You can grab a box of brownie or cupcake mix or you can bring something to make from scratch. Make sure that if you grab a mix, you also bring the extra ingredients with you (egg, oil, etc). All items need to be able to be packaged individually for sale on Sunday. Sign up on the youth group bulletin board if you can attend.

Kelly Rummel



The youth group will be selling baked goods on **Sunday, November 11th** between services in the Church Library. Come and grab a snack and donate to our cause. All money earned from the sale will be donated to our local Food Bank. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this important cause.

The Witness Committee is resuming their card ministry in order to reach out to our homebound members with thoughts and prayers, letting them know that they are in our hearts as a congregation. There are greeting cards on the table in the narthex that you are invited to sign as part of this ministry. We are receiving such lovely notes that the homebound members are enjoying their cards. So, please take a moment to sign at least one card!




Happy Birthday to our Special Senior Saints

November Birthdays

Dick Davis.....	81	Nov. 8
Gerda Hudgens	100	Nov. 8
Betty Hazel.....	95.....	Nov. 10
Ernie Moeser.....	87.....	Nov. 22



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD



Community Forum

Dear St. Andrew's Friends and Neighbors,

As you may know, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is in a process of conversation and discernment concerning the future use of our school building and grounds. The school was an important part of our identity, and we are carefully considering how to use our gifts of space for and with the community in the future. We have two more parish-only conversations planned, and then we would like to open up the process to include community members.

On Thursday, November 27, we will host a community forum with several invited speakers who have expertise in the particular needs of the Newport News community. We would love for you, our neighbors, to join us for the presentations on November 27 and then for future conversation. We hope you can come on November 27th. We will meet from 7 to 9 PM in the Parish Hall.

Please email (saec0371@gmail.com) or call (757-595-0371) to let us know you are coming. A link to additional information on this parish discernment process can be found on our website.

www.standrews-episcopal.org

Thank you and we hope to see you soon.

*Blessings,
The Vestry of St. Andrew's*

Come Learn and Help Discern



ELCA Disaster Relief

Please see the the church bulletin board for more information. If you wish to make an online donation to the ELCA Disaster Relief program through the church, mark your check for "Hurricane Response." For more information or to make an online donation (which can be done in honor or memory of someone), go to <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/Hurricane-Response> Thank you!



Thank You

Dear Trinity Family,

We wish to thank all of you who have supported us with prayers and cards, hugs and concerns in the death of our brother, Jay Wagner. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful community of caring people.

*In Christian Love,
Jessica, Jeanette, Judy and Jack*

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.