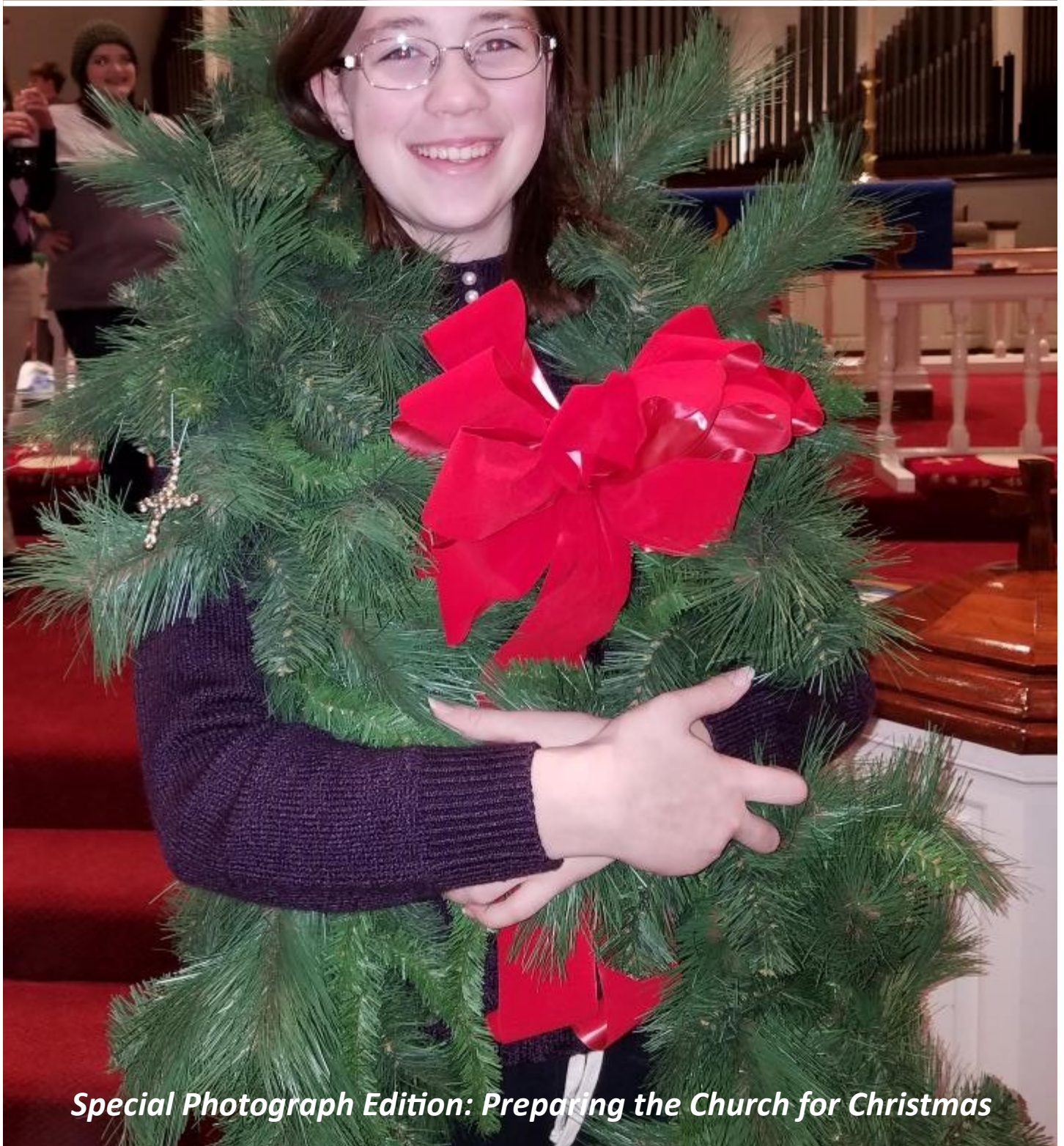


Trinity Tidings

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newport News, VA

January 2019



Special Photograph Edition: Preparing the Church for Christmas

From the Pastor's Desk



A very HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of you!! Welcome to 2019...12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days of clean slate ahead of us. As much as January can sometimes feel like a bit of a downer—it's still cold, it's probably going to

snow, *and* the holidays are over—it also comes with a little bit of joy because everything feels kind of new. Every new year is a chance to change something or make a new goal to reach or just to try something different. Yet, the thing is, that can feel kind of overwhelming, like you have a mountain of stuff to climb that you want to change or adapt, new, big goals you want to achieve, something that we want to improve. And then we all know what happens...not all of our goals, to-do's, changes happen. Life picks back up and we settle into a rhythm and some things just get left behind and then we spend a ton of time feeling bad about ourselves for what we haven't done or accomplished. What does this have to do with a dog you might be asking...well, it has to do with what my wish for all of you is for this year in the midst of the big goals and the to-do's and the planning.

It's pretty evident to all of you at this point that Ben and I love our dog, like crazy, absolutely adore Scully. I'm long past the point of being embarrassed by being *that* person, the one that calls her dog her kid and loves her so fiercely I don't know what to do with all that love sometimes. I love her spunk and her feistiness and her love of snuggles, but I also love how she makes me feel, because it's next to impossible to feel down about anything, particularly yourself when you're around your dog. I could be having the absolute worst day and I get home and there she is tail wagging, eyes still kind of droopy from her afternoon nap, and she is just ready to hop all over me and let me know that she is *ecstatic* that I am home. When I'm in a bad mood, crabby, upset,

... Lessons From a Dog

frustrated, a little bit of time with her can pull me out of it. She squeaks her toys and runs around the house like a madwoman and suddenly I'm laughing. She snuggles into my lap and reminds me that I am loved. She happily grabs a treat out of my hand and lets me know that no matter what might have gone wrong that day, I have done at least one good thing—I've given her a snack and made her happy. Even when she does something naughty and gets in trouble, she doesn't hold grudges or withhold forgiveness, her puppy brain can't compute that for too long before she's back to loving on you and making you smile. She makes you feel like the best version of yourself, even when you think you've forgotten what that looks like. She makes you get out of the comfy chair and go out for a walk and licks your face when you get home from the gym almost like a, "Good job, Mom, and thank you for coming home looking disgusting." She makes everything better.

My hope for all of us this year, the lesson I hope we can carry with us through this fresh slate of months, is that we see ourselves through our pets' eyes, because I know all of you that have furry creatures at home have your own version of our Scully stories that you could share. Our pets look at us and they don't see any of our flaws or foibles, they don't care if the Christmas cookie weight lingers a little longer, they don't worry if the to-do list gets longer rather than shorter, they don't care if we messed something up at work, they just see *us*, the person they love without reservation. Our pets are gentle with our hearts and love us through the tough stuff and they never fail to just think we are the best darn person on the planet. *That* is who I hope 2019 helps you to see in the mirror for every last one of those 365 days that are to come. See yourself how your pet sees you, *love* yourself like your pet loves you—fiercely, unconditionally, unabashedly.

There can be no doubt that that is a hard goal to reach, because there will be days this year that beat us down and make us feel like the worst versions of

ourselves. There will be days when we are certain we're impossible to love, impossible to forgive, and yet...there are always our pets and God there to prove us wrong. There is no day on this calendar that declares you unloveable, uncherished. You are precious and special and uniquely you, and yeah, you're going to mess things up at some point this year, but it isn't permanent and it doesn't define you and it is not who you are at the core of your heart and that one thing isn't what God or your pet or anyone who loves you sees when they look at you, and thus we should strive to see ourselves how they see us.

So on the days that are hard, when that inner self-talk starts nagging at you about all the things that it wants you to believe, remind yourself that your dog (cat/

bunny/guinea pig/fill in your pet here) thinks that you are just about the greatest thing that has ever been created. Let that thought fill you up and then go out and take on the world with that mentality. You are fantastic, a miracle from God, and nothing can change that. Ever. So let's go get 2019 and make it the year we can look back on and say that's the year that helped me look and the mirror and remember I am amazing and loved. Let's make it a great one together, folks. A clean slate to get out into this world and spread the love—it's what our dogs would want us to do.

Peace it Together,

Pastor Tina

Pastor's Announcements

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE! Epiphany Sunday!

It only happens on rare occasions when the calendar cooperates, however, this year we actually get to celebrate Epiphany together! Sunday, January 6th will be a special (and busy!) day for us at Trinity. We will begin with **ONE** festival worship service at 10:00 AM and follow worship with a potluck luncheon. As we say goodbye to the holidays and hello to the winter months, bring your favorite warm up/comfort food to share with the congregation. Following lunch, we will also be de-greening the sanctuary. The more of us that there are, the quicker the work shall be! We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Home Blessing Kits

On Epiphany Sunday, we will bless the sanctuary for a new year of worship, fellowship, and praise. There will be home blessing kits available in the narthex and at the other exits for you to take home and bless your house for the new year. Please be sure to pick one up.

Installation of New Council Members

We will install our newly elected and re-elected members of council on Sunday, January 6th. Please be sure to greet them and show your appreciation for

their willingness to serve the congregation in this capacity.

New Council Members: Ashleigh Ardis, Glen Titus, and Brad Goodman

Re-elected Council Members: Patricia McClelland and Sue Moeslein

Re-appointed Trustee: Judy Hunt

Visit from Rev. John Wertz, Assistant to the Bishop

Rev. John Wertz who serves as Assistant to the Bishop (Eastern Office) and Director of Evangelical Mission for the Virginia Synod will be with us on Sunday, January 27th. He will be preaching in worship and leading our congregational council in their stewardship retreat following the worship service.

Save the Date: Winter Paint Night

It is that time of year! We have another paint night coming up to give us a night of warmth and fellowship in the midst of the cold winter months. Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 10th at 5:30 PM! Cost is \$5.00/person and BYOB.

Greening of the Church

photos by Clifford Obara



Trinity Youth Performance "Great Joy"

photos by Michelle Carpenter



Advent Event, "Christmas Around the World"





More Advent Event Photos



A Starry Night

photos by Clifford Obara



Youth News and Upcoming Events

Winter Celebration: Attention all 9th-12th graders!!! We will be attending the annual Synod Event Winter Celebration at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg VA **January 18-20, 2018.** 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. Fri-

day 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.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Make it a New Year's Resolution to help YOUR Church.

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

January Birthdays

Betty Engelhard.....	83	.....	1/1
Ethel Long.....	80	.....	1/7
Jim Fulton.....	85	.....	1/13
Mickey Neubaum.....	85	.....	1/13
Kay Scougal.....	82	.....	1/15



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD



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 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. 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."



Thank You

"Thanks to everyone who came out and supported the children's Christmas program this year. Whether you were working behind the scenes, were a supportive parent, or attended the program, you are appreciated! We were able to give a generous donation to PORT as well! Many thanks to our wonderful Trinity Family!"

Kathy Stevens



Social Ministry

A Huge Thank you for your Generosity!

Once again, our community is blessed with the food donations and time given to support the EDMARC families so their Christmas is a bit brighter: Thank you to John and Carolyn Wirth for the turkey donation, to all Trinity families who helped to donate canned and other goods for the boxes and to David Hunt and Don Sniady for carrying the boxes and delivering them to EDMARC. We supported six EDMARC families and also assisted four other families in need in our local area.

Thank you so much from your Social Ministry Committee



TEAM Distribution

The TEAM foundation made a donation to the Church to be distributed to various charities locally, nationally, and internationally. Council has approved the following donations:

Circle of Compassion	\$500.00
Fisher House Foundation	\$1,000.00
Fund for Leaders in Mission	\$1,500.00
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services	\$1,000.00
Lutheran Disaster Response	\$1,000.00
Downtown Hampton Child Development Center	\$1,000.00
Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp	\$1,000.00

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.