

Trinity Tidings

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newport News, VA

June 2019

*Walking Worship
Wednesdays
Return in June*



From the Pastor's Desk . . .



In her book *Inspired*, Rachel Held Evans says this, “So when someone asks, ‘What is the gospel?’ the best response is, ‘Let me tell you a story.’” She says this in reflection of one simple reality, our connection to the gospel, our connection

to the church in so many ways is tied to the stories we tell, and each of us has a unique one to share with people. She talks about the fact that this is why we have four gospel narratives, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all have different versions of their story to share. The thing is though, we’ve moved a bit away from this reality. When someone asks us what we believe or what the gospel is or why we go to church or where we find the church, we tend to fall back on rote statements, we give them the cerebral, bare bones facts of who, what, where, and how, without telling them what any of those things actually *mean* to us, how they have actually impacted our lives, and who we are. We’ve stopped telling the stories of our faith.

Part of it is that telling those stories is to put yourself in an immensely vulnerable position. It means opening up a part of your heart that is intimate and personal and probably a part that we’ve told ourselves doesn’t belong to anyone else but ourselves. Yet, stories, tangible, personal stories of faith, of church, of life are the best possible ways in which we can even come close to describing to people what we experience when we experience joy, hope, grace, faith, and love. Jesus did it too, all the time. He wanted people to understand what the kingdom he was coming to usher in looked like or would be like, he didn’t give them some laundry list of details, some detached description, he gave them a story. The kingdom of God is like...farmer’s fields and wedding banquets and family relationships and fig trees and lost sheep. Stories are what brought the kingdom of God into bright, brilliant

When Do We Find the Gospel?

color for those who heard Jesus speak and those stories do the same thing for us. They help us grasp a little bit clearer what God’s intentions for us are, they help us learn what the kingdom of God might look like in 21st century America, they help us see that maybe we need to start telling our own stories, our own modern day parables in order to help people see, feel, touch, understand what we mean when we say that we believe in Jesus, when we say that we have a church family, when we say that God loves us.

So, if someone were to ask me, “What is the gospel?” I might say something like this...

Let me tell you the story of when my pastors gathered our Confirmation class to help prepare for Rally Day, and a bunch of grumbly pre-teens wanted nothing to do with it. They walked us into the church and then told us to head up to our sanctuary’s balcony—where most of us tended to gather in worship if we weren’t sitting with our families. Once we got there, they handed us all buckets filled with...candy, and then they told us that our one job was to literally throw handfuls of candy off of the balcony to be scattered around the sanctuary, because that was how we were kicking off Sunday school that year, by letting all the kids younger than us run through the sanctuary and gather up as much candy as they could. They of course laid down rules, don’t peg the stained glass windows, don’t throw the candy at each other, *be good*, but mostly, they just wanted us to have fun. So, a bunch of previously cranky middle schoolers ended up laughing hysterically from the front of that balcony watching candy fly into the pews below us, and somehow in that moment, I found church...a place where I could have fun with my friends, where we could be a little bit goofy, where our pastors knew what we needed in order to fully engage with the congregational life going on around us.

Let me tell you the story of Nancy and Donald Hain who immediately invited me over for lunch when I was internship because Nancy had found out I had

never had the Pennsylvania Dutch potluck staple of chicken corn soup. We sat around their kitchen table with big heaping bowls of soup in the middle of an exceedingly hot August day, and Nancy told me about how her mom taught her how to make this exact recipe that was now in countless iterations of church cookbooks. After lunch, Donald took me out and showed me his woodworking shop where he crafted immaculate bird houses. Before I left, he had me pick one out to take home...Ben and I still have it and use it to this day. In that one afternoon, I found church...a place where the gospel happens over steaming bowls of soup and in the sharing of gifts and talents.

We all could fill books with the stories that have brought us the gospel, brought us church, brought

us Christ's love, and they are stories that need to be told. We also have to remember that those stories are still happening around us, constantly. As the summer brings with it vacations and chaos and schedules and all sorts of things that might find you somewhere other than within the four walls of our church building this summer. Yet, that doesn't mean that church, the gospel isn't happening right where you are. Find new stories to tell this summer, look for where Jesus meets you wherever you find yourself and your family this summer, and then come back and share them. We can't wait to hear them...

*Peace it Together,
Pastor Tina*

Pastor's Announcements

VBS Update

Due to an insufficient number of volunteers to cover all the of the necessary activities for a full week of Vacation Bible School, the VBS Steering Committee has made the decision to cancel VBS for this year. However! We will still be providing two fantastic opportunities for fun and participation this year. We will have two VBS "mini-days," this summer, one in July and one in August. There will be games, music, and Bible lessons, just like kids would participate in during a week of VBS. Please put the following dates on your summer schedule:

Joyous July!

Tuesday, July 16th from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

First United Methodist

Awesome August!

Thursday, August 22nd from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church

Kids in K-5 are invited to participate and it is open to all. More information will be forthcoming as the committee meets to organize the days. Volunteers will be needed.

Congratulations to Our Confirmands

We join together as a family of God to lift up and celebrate the faith of six of our amazing young men and women who will affirm their baptisms on Pentecost Sunday. We give thanks for the faith and gifts of Mikayla Behlmar, Lois Jean Carpenter, Emma Recuperero, Lina Recuperero, Nathan Rummel, and Keegan Wise.

Walking Worship Wednesdays Return!

Join us as we experience worship and fellowship amongst God's incredible creation this summer with the next edition of Walking Worship Wednesdays. We gather in the Mariner's Museum parking lot at 6:30 PM on Wednesday evenings (weather permitting). We walk a total of about 3 miles so come with comfortable shoes and a water bottle. Pets are welcome too!! If weather looks like it's in the forecast, please be sure to check your email or the church's Facebook page by 5:45 PM on Wednesday evenings. The first Walking Worship Wednesday is June 5th.

Are You a TLS Alumni?

Trinity Lutheran School 60th Anniversary Coming Soon!

The school is in the process of building its alumni database including graduates, those that attended a year or more and teachers. If you would take a minute to complete the form on the link below with your contact information, you will be able to hear about upcoming events, including the 60th anniversary celebration, and the intent to reconnect alumni from the last 60 years.

<https://forms.gle/FDmw8A3i6R34KeHQA>

Spring Graduates



Trinity congratulates two of our youth on their recent high school graduations, Thomas McWithey and Matthew Mynoymany. Thomas will be headed to Virginia Tech in Blacksburg this fall and Matthew will be attending Thomas Nelson Community College. Marie Molina has graduated from Marshall University, Magna cum Laude, with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and a minor in Chemistry. Another congratulations goes to Sarah Petters Fletcher who is receiving a Doctorate in School Psychology from Louisiana State University on August 2, 2019. We wish them all the best as they continue their life journeys knowing that the Trinity family is proud of their accomplishments.

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive

Hilton Area Churches

July 18, 2019 from 2:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church
Newport News

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS

(1-800-733-2767) or visit
redcrossblood.org and enter HiltonAC to
schedule an appointment



Wednesday, June 5th

Get smarter about Alzheimer's and dementia at the Brain Summit.

This Alzheimer's Association conference features top researchers to help you understand diseases that are touching more and more families.

The conference is at CNU, in the Freeman Center, on Wednesday, June 5th from 8:00 AM to 4:45 PM. Registration details, fees and other information is available here:

<https://bit.ly/2HiZKJB>

Annual Congregation Meeting

June 23, 2019

Following the 10:00 AM Worship Service

Please plan to attend the Annual Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregation meeting to be held approximately 11:00 AM. The meeting will follow the 10:00 AM service. The primary purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2019-2020 operating budget for the Church. Reports on the status of the Church and School will also be provided.



The printed copy of the Annual Report will be available in the Church library starting on Sunday, June 16th. It will also be sent out via the Constant Contact e-mail distribution list. Please contact the Administrative assistant (admin@trinitynn.org) to update your e-mail or add your e-mail to the distribution list. Members of the Finance Committee will be available in the Church library after services on the 9th and 16th to explain the proposed budget and expense reports.

Scholarship Applications

The Trinity scholarship information and application is now available for pick up off of the Youth Bulletin Board. Any student who has been accepted into a school of higher education may apply. Criteria for being awarded a scholarship are listed on the information sheet. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the committee chair, Erik Rummel, at kderik@hotmail.com or 652-8096. The deadline to submit your essay, completed application and three recommendations per the guidelines is June 23.



Our Organ's 50th Anniversary

In 1969, Trinity's organ was dedicated on the second Sunday of Advent. Where were you in December of that year? I wasn't born, of course; neither was my older sister (she was still another thirteen months away). One point of reference for context: Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon just the previous summer. If you're going to share your anniversary year, you might as well share it with the moon landing!

We'll celebrate this auspicious occasion appropriately. On the second Sunday of Advent - December 8th this year - Trinity will offer a concert that features our organ in all its various roles: music for organ alone, a concerto for organ, strings, and timpani, choral and solo vocal works accompanied by the organ, and one of Bach's most famous Advent cantatas. First we'll tip our cap to the instrument's French heritage with music by Elsa Barraine, Francis Poulenc, and Louis Vierne before featuring Lutheran works by Bach, Mendelssohn Bartholdy, and Nilsson. You'll even have the treat of hearing stirring verses from the book of Revelation sung in Swedish. You'll recall that 16th-century Scandinavia enthusiastically adopted the Lutheran Reformation, but even if they hadn't **YOU STILL GET TO HEAR SWEDISH!**

Each member of Trinity's congregation has the opportunity to be involved in this 50th anniversary celebration. During these Great Fifty Days of Easter, the Worship and Music Committee (and Trinity's church council) invites each member to contribute \$50 to the cause. Your donations will be

1) used to fund December's concert and 2) set aside for future maintenance and repairs, such as our recent refurbishment in 2018. \$50, during the Great 50 Days, for the 50th anniversary. All those 50s seem to make this pretty easy to remember and, hopefully, to get excited about.

KEEP READING FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT TIDBIT: a good friend of Trinity's music ministry has agreed to match your gift! If you make your donation on or before June 9th (Pentecost), every dollar of your generosity will be doubled. If you needed additional incentive to get involved, this is a powerful one. You do need to make your gift between now and June 9th, though, in order to receive the match.

In order to help Carol keep track, please include Organ50 on the memo line of your check. Younger (and/or tech-friendly) members can even throw in the hashtag: #Organ50. Envelopes will be provided for cash. Each donor will receive a thank-you note from Rob, so if you make a gift but don't receive a card, please get in touch with him - we don't want anything to fall through the cracks.

We very much hope all of our members, young and old, will choose to participate. During these five decades, Trinity's organ has touched all of our lives through worship, concerts, weddings, and funerals. Let's band together to celebrate its first 50 years and create the foundation for its next 50.

Laura Davis, Chair, Worship and Music Committee
Rob Keene, Director of Music



Happy Birthday to our Special Senior Saints

June Birthdays

Don Golden.....	84.....	June 4th
Doris Moeser.....	87.....	June 29th

Youth News

Yard Sale Information for the Congregation:

Thank you in advance to all the congregation members who have been saving their yard sale items and/or bringing items down to the church over the last two years. We are really excited about this pending sale. If you have additional items to donate, and you want to bring them down to church, feel free to drop them off in the youth room. If you need additional help with picking up larger items, please contact Kelly Rummel or Kathy Stevens, and we will set up a time to do that. Our last massive pick up of bulk items will be on July 20th. Also, congregation members should put July 26th and 27th on your calendars. These are our sale dates, and we invite you to shop all the goodies. Remember one man's trash is another man's treasure.

Youth Group - Yard Sale Information:

Attention all youth group members, if you are planning to attend the National Youth Gathering with us in 2021 in Minneapolis, MN (youth currently in 6th grade or higher), we will do our first massive fundraiser, our annual yard sale, this summer. Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

July 20 - Last bulk pick up and initial movement of items to the gym. (Times TBA)

July 21 - Initial sort after church services till 5 PM.

July 22 - 25 - Sorting, set up and pricing of items for the sale (usually 9 - 5)


July 26 and 27 - Sale Dates (8 - 3)

July 28 - Yard Sale Clean up and final sale for congregation members (following church service)

All money made is divided up by the participant's hours that they work. Please make sure you attend. This is a massive event and requires all hands on deck.

*Thanks,
Kelly*


Bulletin Board



Dear Trinity Friends,

My family and I would like to thank you for the many expressions of sympathy following the recent death of my mother, Leila Miley. Your kindness means so much.


Laura Davis



Dear Trinity Family,

I would like to thank the congregation for prayers of patience during my recovery from foot/ankle surgery. Thank you to Pastor Tina, Barbara Olson, Susan Hall and Patricia McClland for your support and visits and thank you to Bible Study and Sunday School for your notes of encouragement and healing. Thank you also for the text messages and beautiful get well cards from many of you that helped to lift my spirits. I'm so grateful to our Trinity Family for your care and love.

Dee Klapperich



Congratulations!

We congratulate Grant and Donna Owens and their family on the marriage of their daughter, Brittany Blair, to Zachary Andrew Sutter on May 25, at the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club. May they share many years of happiness and God's blessings.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

6812 River Road, Newport News, Virginia 23607

Phone: (757) 245-7861



Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship: 8:15 AM and 10:45 AM

Faith Walk (Sunday School) Between Services: 9:30 AM

Starting June 9th: Summer Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM, No Sunday School

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.