

Trinity Tidings

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newport News, VA

August 2019

*Trinity Youth
Fundraiser
Yard Sale*



Editor's Note

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the July Tidings did not go out at the beginning of the month as hoped. Therefore the July and August Tidings are being combined.

From the Pastor's Desk . . .



At first, I wasn't quite sure what to think about the fact that our theme passage for KAIROS this year was Jesus flipping over the tables in the Temple. I mean, at first glance, you think, oh teenagers will totally get behind frustrated,

kind of crazy Jesus running through the Temple with a whip and chasing people outside like a bit of a weirdo, but then it begged the question...where are we going to go with this for the rest of the week? How are we going to transform this story into something relevant for a generation that has a world of information at their fingertips, a backlog of videos to watch on YouTube, and more things on their plates than they can even begin to describe? Well, it turns out, that's exactly why we needed this story, and when I say we, I don't just mean the teenagers, but everyone gathered in Roanoke for this week of faith formation.

Because here's the thing about Jesus flipping over the tables in the Temple. What he's most frustrated about is the fact that everyone has lost their *focus*. They're right there in the middle of the Temple, the holiest place in the city, the place where they believe God *dwells* with God's people, the place where God's people go to meet God and experience God in deep, covenantal relationship, and yet...here people are, entirely focused on money. The only thing that these people are focused on is squeezing every last cent out of their neighbor, with zero care for whether or not their neighbor can afford what

Turning the Tables is the Pastor's July article and With Trepidation or With Hope? Is the August article.

Cliff

Turning the Tables

they're buying, with zero care for whether their trade practices are fair, with zero care for anything God has asked them to commit to in the covenant. They have entirely lost their center, their focus, the thing that is supposed to keep them knit together as one community of God. Where once they were supposed to be focused on God and care of neighbor, they have shifted to being entirely self-centered, selfish, and greedy. That's what Jesus can't stand. Here you have a people who are supposed to belong to God and each other and they don't seem to care about any of that anymore. The lure of the outside world has tugged so hard at their hearts that it takes an act of violent frustration by the Son of God to jar them out of the selfish doldrums of their relationship with God.

And it is there, in the midst of conversations about focus and where our center is, that Christ found all of us at KAIROS. Because, sure, none of us are standing in the church narthex selling bulletins at exorbitant prices and claiming it's the price of admission for worship, but I think we all know a little bit of something about distraction and about losing our focus, our center, when it comes to our faith lives. Let's face it, we live in a world where there is nothing but distraction around us. There are always a zillion things to do and a million shows on Netflix to watch to keep us from doing those zillion things, thus leaving us feeling perpetually harried and behind. We have way more places to be than we can possibly be at once and so we're rarely actually *present* when we are somewhere because our brains are already jumping to the next thing, the next place, the next item on the to do list to scratch off. In the

midst of the chaos of this world. It's any wonder that anyone can keep their faith at the forefront of their minds, because far too often, our faith is the thing that easily slides to the back. It's the simple thing to let fade and ebb, because we know and trust that it will always be there when we need it, but we rarely think about the fact that it should be the thing we need first, the thing we need most, the thing that should always be at the forefront.

These are the moments where Christ meets us and graciously and feverishly flips over the tables of our lives, reminding us with jarring clarity that in all things, our faith should be the thing that centers us, grounds us, carries us through the chaos and the stress and the busy and the zillion things. It is so easy to say, oh I'll pray tomorrow, or oh, I'll take care of my neighbor next week when I have more time, but the gospel resounds in our hearts with a

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

I find myself writing this article less than 48 hours before I will be hopping in my car and making the trek down to Orlando to meet my family in Disney World. When you say it like that, it sounds peaceful, relaxed, and relatively calm. Family trip to Disney World, simple enough. However, once you throw in all the details of that sentence...things get a little more complicated. When I say family, I mean *alllllll* of my family practically. This is not a tiny gathering of us, this is almost *twenty* of us, over half of whom are under the age of 16, and two of whom are under three and will at some point absolutely break down and refuse to walk or ride in their strollers and absolutely demand that they be carried. They will want to be carried in Florida...in July...in the middle of the afternoon...during a heat wave. So, you know that at some point there will be tears, whether from them or from the adults is up for debate, but at some point over the next week, someone, probably multiple someone's are going to end up in tears.

So, it's a lot of people, a lot of kids, a whole lot of personalities and plans and feelings that are going to

reminder that those things, those God-focused things are our center and when we live into those things, they will help make the zillion other things feel less insane, less stressful. Sometimes, we need Christ to come in and flip over the tables of our lives, tables that are filled with all of our distractions and to do lists and remind us that in him we have our center, in him we can rest and breathe and find hope for the days that are stressful.

My dear siblings in Christ, in the midst of the summer chaos, I hope you find time to breathe and to rest. I hope that some of your tables which feel laden down get flipped over by your Lord and Savior who loves you so very much. May we all feel the joy, the hope of having Christ turn the tables.

*Peace it Together,
Pastor Tina*

With Trepidation or With Hope?

be mish-mashed together for a week. It's going to be hot. Like *hot*. One of the 16 year olds who is going with us, and is already there when I'm writing this, texted this morning and said her legs were sweating. Florida, in July, is hot and humid and sticky and let's be honest, gross. You throw into that equation the seven page itinerary of plans that my sister-in-law sent out filled with FastPass schedules and dining reservations and every last detail we could need to know and you start to realize that while you're going on vacation, you're also entering into what feels a bit like a three ring circus. Then, you consider, you're going to Disney World, in the summer, which means that it's going to be you and about 18 bazillion other very hot, very cranky people cramming into lines and shows and parade routes. There are a zillion factors to consider, to think about, and it makes you wonder...is this actually a thing I'm looking forward to? And the answer, every single time is yes...

Because the thing is, in the midst of all of those things that are absolutely true, there are other things that are true. It's an entire week with my family, my

crazy, amazing, hilarious family. I'm going to get to snuggle my nephews even when they're gross and hot. We're going to laugh and have fun and have a million stories to tell when we get home. We're going to eat more good food than we should possibly have and we're going to be in the happiest place on earth, and it'll be hot and it'll rain and it will be amazing. We won't remember all the other people that were there, we'll remember the time we got to spend together. We'll remember rides, not lines, and moments of joy will dominate over moments of frustration and craziness. So what matters when anticipating this trip is the perspective...will it be viewed with trepidation or with hope? And honestly...isn't that the case with most things?

Everywhere you turn, from whatever cable news channel you opt for to your social media feeds, from conversations with friends and acquaintances to the articles you read online, you can bet you will find someone saying that everything is falling apart. The world is a mess and there are a world of things to worry about. There is chaos swirling around us and that can feel nothing short of absolutely and completely overwhelming. When it's constantly inundating you, it can make you feel like there's no other way to view the world, the future, everything than with an ever-increasing sense of fear and trepidation. What if everything is on the brink of just absolutely collapsing?

And yet...there is the reminder that constantly calls to us from scripture, from our faith...we are called to be people of hope. We are a people that have built our faith on a moment that seemed utterly hopeless, our Savior hanging on a cross, which became the greatest hope of all, an empty tomb. We

are called to never cease in our efforts to view the world through God's eyes, and do our part to bring God's love into the world, particularly into those corners of the world which feel like they are utterly devoid of hope. When you're constantly viewing the world through the lens of trepidation, nothing seems possible, nothing seems capable of changing, yet the lens of hope brings us the promise that maybe, with a little bit of courage and a huge heap of faith, we can make a difference, in the lives of our neighbors in and the future of this world which God has entrusted us with.

God, particularly through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, shows us that nothing, absolutely nothing is beyond hope. Jesus took a broken, weighed down, insecure guy like Peter and made him a rock. Jesus raised up the sick, the lost, the lonely, the forgotten and showed them that they were not alone, but that God was quite literally right there next to them. Jesus perpetually stepped into the most seemingly hopeless of situations and shone a light into them that scattered the darkness of trepidation and let hope seep in and take over. That is the example we have been given, to embrace and to live out. There can be no doubt that there are things in this world which feel terrifying and hard and hopeless, and yet the call remains...to be hope for the hopeless, to speak a word of faith into the world, to be God's hands working for change. We can only do that if we stop viewing the world with fear and trepidation. Nothing in God's power is too far gone, no matter what the rest of the world says, and so, we, God's beloved, beautiful children, step out into the world with hope, trusting that with God and through us, Disney World might not be the only happiest place on earth.

*Peace it Together,
Pastor Tina*

Pastor Cobb is on the Move Again

Trinity has received word that our last interim pastor, Pastor Jim Cobb, and his wife, Pastor Judy Cobb, have accepted yet another interim position. They will be serving at Christ Lutheran Church in Baltimore, Maryland for a year before they attempt to retire! Best wishes to Pastors Cobb! As Pastor Cobb jokingly said in a recent conversation with the editor, this is his fourth failure at retirement.



Confirmation Pictures . . . (pictures by Michelle Carpenter)



Perspective: A Pastor's "Rules" for Worship

Worship 101

by Stephanie Lape

Reprinted with permission from Living Lutheran, July 2019

Editor's note: Our June cover story, "Worship 101," examined the "whats, whys and hows" of ELCA worship. We now continue the story as a monthly online series further exploring what Lutheran worship is, how Lutherans worship and why we do so.

I recently read a list of "20 rules of etiquette for attending worship" shared by a clergyperson (not of my denomination). They were things people needed to do if they wanted to do worship "right"—such as never giving kids snacks; never looking at cell phones; bowing, sitting, standing and kneeling at all the right times; dressing in a certain way, etc. In response, I thought I'd share my own clergy list of etiquette.

1. I assume that, when you walk into church, you feel weighed down by the world. You probably had a hard week at work or failed on your diet or argued again with your spouse or have had it up to *here* with the kids. I could be wrong, but I assume you need a break. My job is to smile and welcome you. Your "rule" here is simply to walk in the door, if you choose.

2. As our guest of honor, you are in church to be served. This means you do not come to serve God or anyone else. Before you worry that this will make you feel entitled, remember that the gathering commonly called "mass" was renamed "service" by Martin Luther, who said *God* is the one serving. God is lavishly serving you in word and sacrament. This is not to make you feel entitled but to make you feel loved and free to love others. (You will know when God puts it on your heart to serve others, prompted by your overflowing love.) So your "rule" here is to try to open your heart to God, who will serve you as you worship and praise God. It's not really a rule but a good idea. You'll get more out of things this way.

3. The music is always nicer if you sing along. The prayers are more powerful if you join your voice in the ancient rhythm created by billions of people over thousands of years. You'll get more out of the sermon if you listen. So your "rule"—let's call it a

suggestion—is to involve yourself in what we call "the work of the people," which is what "liturgy" literally means. It's not a requirement, though. If what you need to do is sit in silence, cry, meditate, whatever—have at it.

Rules and requirements won't save you, me or anyone. Salvation was - and is - a gift from the cross.

4. Parents and grandparents, we give you all the breaks you need. Jesus loved kids and loves yours. Feed them Cheerios, give them toys—yes, quiet ones would be nice—step out of the sanctuary if you want, utilize the nursery and Sunday-school options, and ask your neighbors for help. Many of us have been there, and you're doing great. (I can preach with kids in the room. I just get louder!) If they are loud, do your best—but know that we love you and we love them.

5. The table is owned by Jesus Christ. He called you and all people to join in Holy Communion. I will never withhold the sacrament from anyone. (It's not mine to withhold.) Don't feel worthy? Well, Jesus fed Judas. It's not about worthiness; it's about God's love for you. Feel better? Good. Get up here and let me put bread in your hand!

6. Ask me anything about worship that you want to understand but know that it all unfolds over time and that we all grow, as we should, over a lifetime.

7. Cell phones are best kept quiet—but hey, pull it out to tweet an interesting sermon note (I do say some tweet-worthy things sometimes). Record, go "live," spread the gospel in new ways. No rule here either.

8. Wear whatever you want. This is the most irrelevant thing in the history of *ever*.

9. Your love of God pales in comparison to God's love of you. If you are a persistent troublemaker, I'll let you know. But regardless of your culture or background, if you are wounded, broken, anxious, insecure, depressed, or unsure if you even believe in God, you will not be judged by God or our congregation. Bring your authentically human self to the worship service—and see how much God serves you in profound and soul-healing ways.

10. Relax.

Rules and requirements won't save you, me or anyone. Salvation was—and is—a gift from the cross. If any of us could have earned salvation by being the perfect churchgoer, the cross wouldn't have been necessary. I assume that we're all trying our best with what we know. But our trying is *nothing* compared to God's love. The mercy flows from God into our hearts.



Stephanie Lape

Stephanie Lape is a rostered minister in the ELCA, serving Cross and Crown Lutheran Church in Rancho Cucamonga, California. She lives with her husband and teenage children in Corona, California, and writes and speaks on spirituality and interfaith dialogue.



2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly / August 5 - August 10

Our Church Council President, Todd Recupero, will be attending the Assembly this month.

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the church, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. Finding ourselves in Christ, the fifteenth Churchwide Assembly will be a time for us to be the living body of Christ guided by the Spirit and conformed to God's will.

We will meet at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 5-10, 2019 to discuss and make decisions about how to go about God's work as a church. This year the assembly will gather under the theme "We are church."

When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God's grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf of the entire church.

Over the course of the assembly, voting members:

- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders and units;
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies;
- Elect officers, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws;
- Establish ELCA churchwide policy;
- Worship together;
- Adopt a budget; and
- Conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

For more information on the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, visit: www.elca.org/churchwideassembly

Pictures from the Youth Led Service on June 9th



Miscellaneous Pictures (Confirmands, Yard Sale, etc.)



All pictures by Michelle Carpenter



Pastor's Announcements

Awesome August!

All youth K-5th grade are welcome to join us here at Trinity on Thursday, August 22 from 9-12 for the second of our two mini-VBS days. This second day will be SEA themed as we learn about Jesus telling the disciples that they will become fishers of people. There will be games, snacks, storytelling, and crafts, everything you would expect from VBS rolled into one morning of fun. If you have questions or would like to register, please see Pastor Tina. You can also register at this site:

<http://bit.ly/HiltonVBS2019>

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!!

Join us as we gather at Harbor Park for an afternoon out with the Norfolk Tides. We have tickets for the home game on Sunday, August 11th at 4:05 and would love to have folks join us out at the ballpark. Tickets are \$10.50/person and all are welcome. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we can make sure we have an accurate number of tickets on our order. LAST DAY TO SIGN UP IS AUGUST 4TH!!!!

Paint Night Returns!

Our next paint night will be Sunday, August 25th at 6:00 PM in the social hall. Bring friends, bring snacks, bring a beverage!! Cost is \$5/person. Sign up on the bulletin board to help us prepare supplies.

Calling All Confirmation Youth and Parents

If you have a youth going into 7th or 8th grade, please join Pastor Tina for a Confirmation information session immediately following worship on Sunday, August 25th in the church library. We will be going over the schedule for the year, as well as introducing our upcoming 7th graders to the format we use for Confirmation. If you have any questions or are unable to attend, please see Pastor Tina.

Reminder: Committee Chair Meeting

There will be a meeting for all committee chairs on Sunday, August 11 immediately following worship in the church library. We will gather with the executive committee of council to discuss upcoming projects for the fall and begin to prepare the calendar for the upcoming year.

Happy Birthday to our Special Senior Saints



July and August Birthdays

Susan Hall.....	93.....	July 5
Alan Bobbe	94.....	July 11
Virginia Hamby.....	86.....	July 12
Harlan Hamby	81.....	July 20
Edith Naurath.....	93.....	July 24
Rudi Naurath.....	95.....	July 24
Buddy Schultz	91.....	August 7
Richard Sallade.....	90.....	August 16

Fall Adult Sunday School

The Trinity Adult Sunday School class will reconvene between services on Sunday, September 15th at 9:30 AM in the parlor across from the sanctuary. For the Fall term, we will read and discuss *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans, a progressive Christian voice and writer. Rachel died tragically at age 37 on May 4, following a hospitalization for an infection that led to seizures for which she was placed in a medically induced coma, from which she did not survive. She leaves behind a husband and two young children. Along with many others, Rachel was an inspiration and friend to Pastor Tina. ALL are welcome; we hope to see YOU there!! Questions or suggestions - contact Dan Jungkuntz or Patricia McClelland at 930-0358.

TLS/TLC Clean Up Day

The last TLS/TLC Cleanup Day is on August 3rd from 9:00 AM until Noon. We'll be doing some clean up outside and painting/cleaning inside. Please consider coming out for those few hours to help beautify the school and church.


Rally Day

Mark your calendar for the kick off to Sunday School and the fall. Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 8th. Details will be in the September Tidings and your Sunday bulletins.

Two Services Return

We will return to the 8:15 AM and 10:45 AM worship service schedule on Sunday, September 15th. Sunday School also returns, starting each Sunday at 9:30 AM.

Bulletin Board



Dear Trinity Friends,

I would like to thank everyone for their cards, calls, and well wishes for a speedy recovery from my recent back surgery. I welcome any calls to the house so I can stay in touch with my Trinity family.

Anne Obara



Church Office

With Anne's recent surgery, Kathy Stevens has been filling in a couple days per week to work on the weekly bulletins and announcements in addition to responding to the emails and phone messages. Summer office hours have been reduced significantly. Please be patient with the Church staff as they manage these changes. Anne is expected to return to the office sometime in late August.



Congratulations!

We congratulate Anne and Clifford Obara and their family on the marriage of their daughter, Emily, to Nick Long on June 8th, at the Portsmouth Women's Club. May they share many years of happiness and God's blessings as they also relocate to Alexandria, Virginia.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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.