

Trinity Tidings

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newport News, VA

September 2019



Walking worship Wednesday with three matching four-legged friends.

CONTENT

From the Pastor's Desk	2
Pastor's Announcements	3
Senior Pastor Training Program.....	4
ELCA Churchwide Assembly Report.....	5
Calendar	6
Worship in the Park and Church Picnic.....	8
Youth News	9
Light the Night.....	9
Rally Day.....	10
Community News.....	11

From the Pastor's Desk . . .



It's one of the most powerful songs on the *Hamilton* soundtrack. Aaron Burr is done. Completely and totally done with everything in his life. He's frustrated and angry and confused because he just doesn't understand how this

keeps happening to him, how he keeps being shut out of the rooms where the decisions happen. He feels like he's earned his place to stand shoulder to shoulder with the big guns and have a say in how this new nation he helped fight for gets formed. And yet, it just keeps not happening. Doors get slammed in his face. He's told his voice doesn't matter. He's told indirectly that there are people more important than him who know better than he does, and he's expected to sit by quietly and let the world pass him by. So he sings, he cries out his angst at the world, he unleashes his anger that somehow his political opponents, his enemies, Alexander Hamilton in particular, keeping making strides while he treads water. All he wants, he declares, is to be in the room where it happens, to help, to have a say, to be able to make a difference.

Now, let's be honest, Aaron Burr isn't exactly the hero of this tale. His ego and his inferiority complex lead him to some very bad, very dangerous places. Ultimately, they lead him to absolute ruin and infamy, and they lead him to becoming a murderer, slaying Alexander Hamilton on a distant hillside in New Jersey. However, the sentiment behind his angst and his frustration, I think it's something that we can, maybe not sympathize with, but understand on some level, because sometimes the world feels so overwhelming and so hard and it can leave you feeling absolutely powerless, powerless to do anything, powerless to make any kind of change. All it takes is watching the news for all of five minutes, scrolling through your Facebook feed for a few seconds, to feel completely overwhelmed by the

The Room Where It Happens

weight of the world. And it isn't just the world that can feel that way, the church can feel that way. Sometimes, the church, religion, faith, everything about it can feel completely overwhelming, with the way that we sometimes seem to take five steps backwards for every step we take forward, with the way we seem to always find something to disagree on or bicker about, with the way that sometimes we don't even seem to agree on just exactly who Jesus is and who he calls us to be in the world. The weight of all of that can leave you feeling distinctly Aaron Burr like...if I could just get in the room where it happens, I could make a difference. If only someone would listen to me, I could make a change. If only someone would open the door, I could find some power and do something with it.

But here's the thing...creation is our room where it happens, the sidewalks of our neighborhoods are the room where it happens, the aisles of grocery stores and the pews of our sanctuary and yes, even our social media feeds, are the rooms where it happens. It can be so easy to feel like we can't evoke any change in the world, but y'all, the gospel is the most powerful force in the world, and it's been given over into our hands to cultivate and spread it throughout all of God's creation. The love of Christ is the most powerful tool in the world, and it's in our hands to spread and share, to do something valuable and meaningful with. I know that sometimes it doesn't feel like we can make that much of a difference, I know that sometimes it feels like it's too much of an uphill battle to be worth the effort, I know that sometimes it just feels hard and you don't want to do it. Yet, every little thing helps. Every little thing makes a difference. From something as small as holding the door open for someone and giving them a smile that might be the only one they'll get that day to something as big as standing up and speaking out for the downtrodden and voiceless in this world. From something as tiny as listening to your best friend rant about their frustrations to something as huge as deciding to learn more about a corner of the

world that has always sat in a prejudiced part of your heart and mind. Every time that we choose to show God's love it makes a difference. Every time that we choose to live as Christ would have us live we step into the room where it happens. Every time that we choose love over hate, hope over defeat, joy over despair we live a little bit more into the people God has called us to be, and for as much as we think that is too small a thing, it is a *powerful* thing. It is the most powerful thing, because when two or three of us choose to be together in God's grace, Jesus is present and what could be more powerful than a little bit more Jesus in the world?

Every little thing counts. Every little thing that we do as individuals. Every little thing that we do as a community of Christ. Every. Little. Thing. Because eventually every little thing will come together to be one huge message of love and grace in a world that desperately needs that lesson. My dear siblings of Christ, as the world spins around us, may today be the first day of many where we choose to say we're already in the room where it happens, so let's go make whatever difference we can, with all of the gospel hope that we've got.

*Peace it Together,
Pastor Tina*

Pastor's Announcements

Theology on Tap RETURNS!!!

Now that fall is here, so is Theology on Tap! We will return to our regularly scheduled monthly meetings at Tradition Brewing on Thursday, September 26 at 6:30 PM. Our topic for our first conversation will be...prayer! Feel free to bring friends and snacks! We'll be there every last Thursday of the month.

Blessing of the Backpacks

As part of our Rally Day celebrations, we will hold Blessing of the Backpacks at both services on September 8. Kids of all ages are welcome to bring their backpacks with them to church for blessing, and all teachers and school staff are also welcome to bring their planners, keys, or anything else which exemplifies their vocation for blessing as well.

Return to TWO Services

We will return to two worship services, 8:15 AM and 10:45 AM on Sunday, September 8, which will also be Rally Day!!!!

Confirmation Information

For all 7th and 8th graders, our first Confirmation evening session will be Sunday, September 15 from 6:00-8:00 PM. We will meet in the church parlor. Be sure to bring your Bibles, a notebook, and something to write with!

Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 29! We will have our annual church picnic that Sunday at Deer Park, along with a unique worship schedule for that Sunday.

8:15 AM Traditional worship at Trinity

9:30 AM Sunday school

11:00 AM Outdoor worship at Deer Park

12:00 PM Church picnic

Please bring a dish to pass and if you come for worship, please be sure to bring along chairs and blankets!!



Senior Pastor Training Program: Week 1

As I announced at the annual meeting, I have been accepted into a program coordinated through United Lutheran Seminary designed to provide training for pastors who are in positions of senior leadership. In order to be accepted to the program, you have to be nominated by your bishop and submit an application to the seminary, which I did this spring. The program is organized into three intensive weeks over the course of a year, with each week having two distinct training focuses for the group. We had our first session at the end of July and since the congregation has provided me with so much generous support to participate in this program, I wanted to share with all of you some of the highlights of this first week, and I will continue to do so as our program progresses.

The core focus of our first week was pastoral identity and staffing, centered around the idea that one's pastoral identity and the culture of a congregation are integral in the work and ministry of staffing and personnel development. Our first block of time was spent with Peter Steinke, who has spent his entire career working with congregations who are in the midst of change, conflict, and transition. His time with us was spent entirely focused on pastoral and congregational identity, working through the various ways we deal with change, and particularly the vital difference between technical change in the congregation and adaptive change. We worked through concepts centered around emotional systems and how the emotional state of a congregation and its leader have deep impacts on how you move through change and transition together. The second half of the week was led by Susan Beaumont, a leader in the field of congregational staffing and development. Her presentations were extremely concrete, giving practical tips for working with personnel committees and staff. We spent time breaking down everything from writing job descriptions to working through

annual reviews, and doing overviews of each of our congregation's staff setups to figure out what we could adapt, adjust, or change to allow our staff to work more cohesively together.

The other main portion of our time together was spent in small groups of ten, groups which will remain together throughout this entire program so that we can develop relationships together and provide consistent support for one another. This time was spent in a wide range of things, from open discussion about struggles and joys to role playing conflict scenarios between pastors and staff, allowing us to put into practice some of the skills we had learned through the week in dealing with conflict and difficult conversations.

Lastly, we spent a good part of the week in worship together, which was led by two chaplains who will also serve with us through the entire program. Worship was centered around identity, from baptism to Confirmation to ordination, with each message focused on the power and impact of the words we use to describe ourselves and our relationship with God. I will not lie, I heard some of the best preaching I have ever experienced during this week, and it was a gift.

This first week was an invaluable experience. I shared with members of my Mutual Ministry committee that if this one week was all I got out of this program, it would have been worth it. I came back home and immediately on my first day back in the office put into practice some of the items I had taken away from our sessions. I am so very grateful for all of your support through this program and I hope that as the year progresses we will all, together, be able to see the impact it is having on my ministry and our life together as a congregation. Thank you all for learning and growing with me everyday, let's keep the journey going.

*Peace,
Pastor Tina*

ELCA Churchwide Assembly Report

August 5th through August 10th in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The 15th ELCA Churchwide Assembly opened Monday, August 5, 2019 in the afternoon with a communion worship service. During the service, several points of reference were given to guide and relate to the emotion of the assembly week. The theme of the Churchwide Assembly was We Are Church. During the service, one minister stated, “The reason the theme is We Are Church, and not we are THE church was because, as Lutherans we have some humility”. Also, several reminders to the body were given in the way of comments including, 1) “ The church is a water fountain for a thirsty world”, 2) How do we as church make this living water available to the world?”, and 3) The gospel is not for us to control, but to share”! Several highlights from the week’s agenda and business are provided below.

At the Monday afternoon opening of the first Plenary, the voting member count present was 925 (including 12 voting members from the Virginia Synod and several non-voting representatives of the Virginia Synod), 65 synods representing over 9,100 congregations, and 3.5 million baptized Lutherans. A presentation on the conclusion of the Always Being Made New campaign was given. The presentation highlighted the 2015 Malaria campaign raised over \$15 million and helped create 365 new ELCA programs in the United States and Caribbean.

A ballot to vote for a presiding bishop of the ELCA was presented, and current Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was re-elected for another 6-year term by 725 votes, or over 81% of the votes from the voting members present. Bishop Eaton is the first female bishop of the ELCA to be reelected, and the first bishop of the ELCA to be reelected on a first ballot.

Over 60 people were nominated for the Office of Secretary of the ELCA. The first two ballots failed to give an election by 2/3 vote. The 7 persons who received the top votes were given the opportunity to

answer 3 questions before the assembly. After 3 ballots for the Office of ELCA Secretary, Sue Rothmeyer, Stephen Herr, and Lamont Wells gave 5 minutes speeches before the assembly. After a 5th ballot vote for ELCA Secretary. Sue Rothmeyer received 509 votes. Lamont Wells received 402 votes. Presiding Bishop Eaton declared an election official, and Sue Rothmeyer was elected to a 6-year term.

There was a presentation of the “Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Decent”, which is an apology from the ELCA for the church’s role in promoting slavery and racism. The declaration was warmly accepted by several representatives of Lutheran churches and leaders of African descent. After the presentation, Bishop Eaton and African descent leadership embraced and vowed to do more together in the name of “being church together”.

Several other presentations were given throughout the week to include reports and updates from Federal Chaplains, the Mission Investment Fund which in a 3-year period has provided over \$4250 million in loans, and the assembly body voted unanimously to vote en block on 88 memorials. Additionally, hearings were held on several memorials that were not included in the en block vote to include “Word and Service Entrance Rite”, “Faith, Sexism, and Justice”, the ELCA 2020 to 2022 budgets, “Network of colleges and universities”, AMMPARO, “Theological education”, and “Updating vision and expectations”

There were several amendments to the ELCA Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies, which will be available on the ELCA’s website. Several policy resolutions were archived, multiple representatives from the World Council of Churches, and the ELCA Assembly wore black on Thursday to show unified support for the WCC’s program of wearing black on Thursdays to stand against rape and sexual assault for all genders.

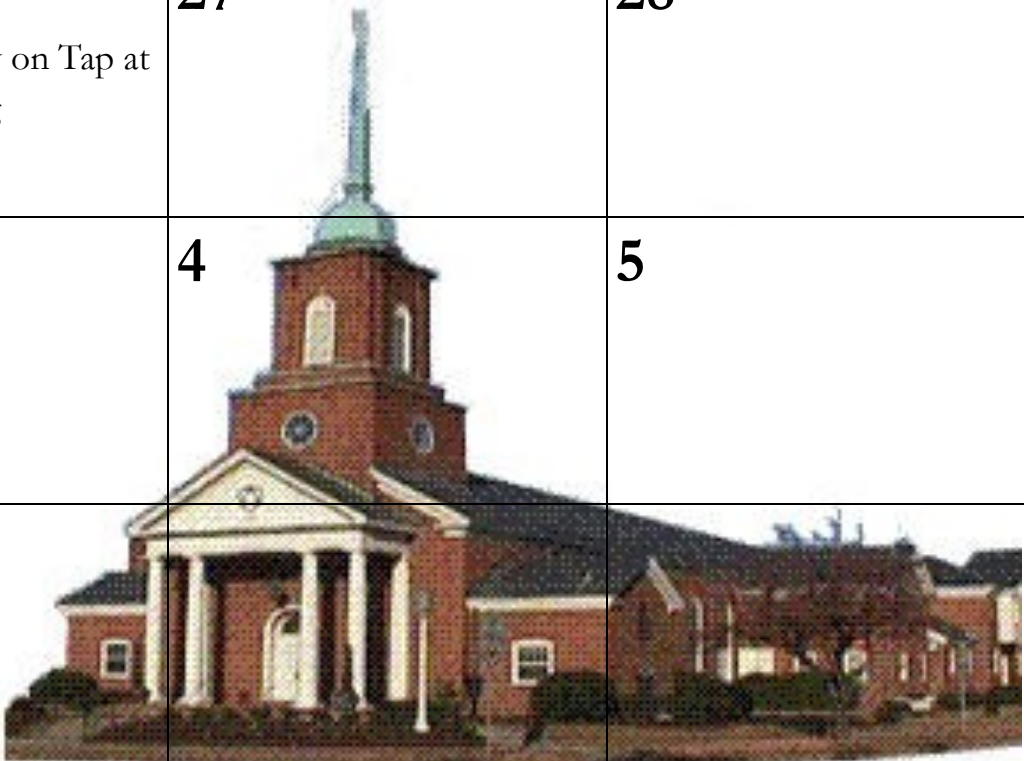
Continued on page 8

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CA

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
1 10:00am, Worship Service	2	3 10:30am, Bible Study 6:30pm, Zumba	4 7:00pm, Choir
8 8:15am, Worship Service 9:30am, Rally Day 10:45am, Worship Service	9 6:30pm, Finance Meeting	10 10:30am, Bible Study 6:30pm, Zumba 6:30pm, Council Meeting	11 7:00pm, Choir
15 8:15am, Worship Service 9:30am, Sunday School 10:45am, Worship Service 6:00pm, Confirmation Class	16 6:30pm, Finance Meeting	17 10:30am, Bible Study 6:30pm, Zumba	18 7:00pm, Choir
22 8:15am, Worship Service 9:30am, Sunday School 10:45am, Worship Service	23	24 10:30am, Bible Study 6:30pm, Zumba	25 7:00pm, Choir
29 Picnic 8:15am, Worship Service 9:30am, Sunday School 11:00am, Worship Deer Park 12:00pm, Church Picnic	30	October 1 10:30am, Bible Study 6:30pm, Zumba 6:30pm, Worship and Music	2 7:00pm, Choir
6 8:15am, Worship Service 9:30am, Sunday School 10:45am, Worship Service	7 6:30pm, Finance Meeting	8 10:30am, Bible Study 6:30pm, Zumba 6:30pm, Council Meeting	9 7:00pm, Choir

CALENDAR for SEPTEMBER 2019

6812 River Road
 Newport News, VA 23602
 (757) 245-7861

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	5	6	7
<p>WORSHIP IN THE PARK, Sunday, September 29, 2019 8:15 AM Worship Service at Trinity, 9:30 AM Sunday School at Trinity, 11:00 AM Worship Service at Deer Park, 12:00 Noon Picnic at Deer Park</p>			
	12	13	14
	19	20	21
<p>26 6:30pm, Theology on Tap at Tradition Brewing</p>		27	28
3		4	5
10			

Both Bishop Eaton and the local representative from the Catholic churches presented their work regarding Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Declarations. During the discussion, both Lutherans and Catholics agreed the churches are working to “remove differences in theology because theologically we are one people in Christ”. The Bishop of the AME Zion Churches spoke about unity and racism within the church and society. He stated “Imagine if AME members and ELCA members drove across town to be together with the same energy as we do overseas, oh my what we could accomplish”.

The 3-year ELCA budget was passed by 98.88% of the assembly voting body as follows: for 2020, \$68,300,000 and ELCA World Hunger \$21,500,000; 2021, \$68,400,000 and ELCA World Hunger \$21,500,00; and 2022, \$68,500,000 and ELCA World Hunger \$21,500,000.

The Resolution to Condemn White Supremacy passed the voting assembly by 99.44%, the Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action Social Statement passed the assembly by 97.08%. The Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment passed the assembly by 97.48%. A Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity within the ELCA was presented and passed the assembly by 98.50%.

Some members of the assembly participated in a prayer vigil outside the ICE office in downtown Milwaukee on Wednesday. The vigil was in support of AMMPARO efforts addressing migrant children and immigration issues.

Friday centered on completing assembly business, but paid homage and honor to the 50th Anniversary of the Church’s decision to ordain women by having several female leaders, to include the first-ever appointed female bishop speak to the assembly. The speakers invited all assembly voting members and guests to a reception and dinner to commemorate this huge milestone for the Lutheran Church.

There were daily communion worship services, daily bible studies, and small gatherings during the assembly. I am honored to have represented not only the Virginia Synod, but also Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. I spoke with bishops, ministers, deacons, laypersons, and assembly guest speakers on a wide range of topics. Outside of the meetings, hearings, and services, there were open and honest discussions not as man or woman, gay or straight, black or white, but as adults trying to work towards common goals of unity and peace. This experience has deepened my drive to help within the church administratively to help move the church forward, and I would do it again. All Churchwide Assembly reports and updates will be available on the ELCA website shortly for those members who wish to read all full assembly reports. Thank you for entrusting me to represent not only Trinity but also the Virginia Synod at this amazing event.

Respectfully submitted by Todd Recupero, Church Council President and Virginia Synod representative to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

11:00 AM Worship Service and Picnic at Deer Park

September 29, 2019

The picnic will start at 12:00 noon

*Please bring a dish and any fun games/activities
you would like to share with the congregation.*

Youth Group Announcements

Kick Off Party and BBQ – September 15. Following the 10:45 service, all youth group members (grades 6th-12th) and their parents will meet for a picnic lunch and BBQ at Huntington Park (Fort Fun). The youth group will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks. Families are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share (youth advisors enjoy sweet things, hee, hee). We will be going over the calendar for the youth year, updating parents on our NYG fundraising efforts, and reviewing our youth group expectations and guidelines. Please join us for an afternoon of fun and games. Sign up on the youth group bulletin board.

Howl O Scream – October 13 – The Youth Group is going to Howl O Scream at Busch Gardens again this year, so be prepared to get the pants scared off of you. Please sign up on the youth group bulletin board if you are planning to attend, meet at church immediately following the 10:45 AM service and we will travel together to Williamsburg. Bring money for lunch and dinner. Make sure that you bring your pass or pre-purchased ticket with you. After the event, parents can pick your youth up at the Rummel household. We will call parents when we are on our way back to Newport News.

Light the Night – On October 26, the youth group will participate in the Leukemia/ Lymphoma Society's Light the Night event. We will meet at Trinity at 4 PM to travel to Norfolk's MacArthur Center for the event. We will grab dinner at the mall, and then enjoy the event and our walk through downtown Norfolk. Youth will return to Trinity around 9 PM, and we will call parents when we are on our way. Parents can pick up youth at the church. This is a great family event if parents and siblings would like to attend. Please sign up with all participants' names on the youth group bulletin board **by October 1**. See the fundraising article for information on donations.

Lost and Found – November 22-24. Attention all 7th and 8th graders, you are eligible to attend the weekend long Lost and Found Event held by the VA Synod at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg, VA. This is a wonderful faith forming event that allows our kids to interact with other Lutherans from across the state and explore the Gospel on the top of a mountain. Please fill out the registration form located on the youth group bulletin board and give it, along with full payment of \$150 to Kelly Rummel by October 6, 2019. Make sure that you add your name to

Light The Night - October 26th

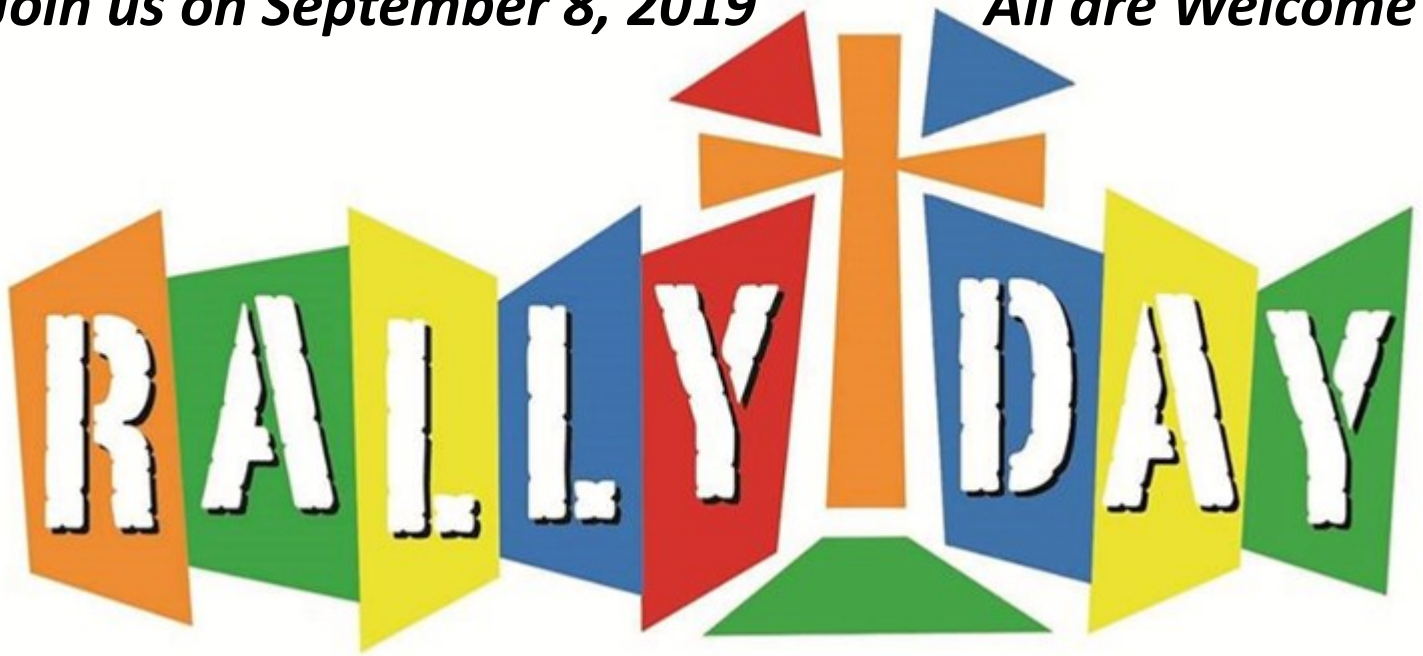


Donations for Light the Night - The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light the Night walk funds treatments that are saving the lives of patients today. This organization is making cures happen by providing patient support services, advocating for lifesav-

ing treatments and pioneering the most promising cancer research anywhere. This year, the Trinity Lutheran Church Youth Group will be participating in that walk in Norfolk, VA. If you would like to donate to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for this important cause and support our youth's fundraising efforts, please submit all checks or money to Carol Bessom or Kelly Rummel by Sunday, October 13. Please make checks out to Trinity Lutheran Church and include Light the Night in the memo line, and we will submit one check to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Thank you in advance for donating to this very worthy cause.

Join us on September 8, 2019

All are Welcome



Kick-off is at 9:30 AM

This year Rally Day will be Prayer themed

It will be a fun intergenerational event

We would love to see our Adult members interacting and helping our younger members navigate the Prayer activities!

Pastor Tina will do the Blessing of the Backpacks at each service as well as handing out Confirmation Bibles.

We will be collecting new Stuffed Animals, games, and craft items for CHKD with Reid Jay's charity With Love, From Reid and a collection of new socks for PORT.

Please bring a treat or drink to share!

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.

Archives

The Archives Committee is getting ready for 2023 and Trinity's 125th Anniversary. Please look back through your pictures and help us find pictures of baptisms, first communion classes, and confirmation classes for the past 25 years. We will either scan the pictures and return them to you or download them from a disc (if they are digital). Of course, we are always looking for pictures for the archives—especially of special occasions. We would be delighted to get pictures before 1998 also. PLEASE include a list of names of the people in the pictures and the approximate date the picture was taken. The pictured class is from 1983. Thanks for your help.



1983 Confirmation Class (l-r): Jeff Pulley, Jeff Joyce, John O'Connell, Charles Krause, Kenneth Clarkson, Brent Jameson, Scott King, Angela Good, and John Wirth.

Bulletin Board

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of our Brother in Christ, former interim pastor, the Reverend Richard Olson, who passed away August 26, 2019. A memorial service was held at First English Lutheran Church on Saturday, August 31st. We give thanks for the grace God has granted to Pastor Olson, this faithful servant of Christ and find comfort in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Please hold his family in your prayers, that, finding consolation through Jesus Christ, our Lord, they may have strength to meet the days ahead.

Pastor Tina Melusky

Congratulations!

Mike and Nancy Petters are proud grandparents twice over this past month. Their daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Dan Fletcher (along with granddaughter Maren) welcomed the arrival of Everett Moss Fletcher, born on August 9th. Their daughter and son-in-law, Caroline and Chris Sauer welcomed the arrival of Marshall Briggs Sauer, born on August 22nd. Nancy says that mothers and babies are all doing well.

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.