

# Trinity Tidings

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newport News, VA

January 2020



*Trinity Youth Caroling at the Chesapeake Retirement Community*

## ***From the Pastor's Desk . . .***



From time immemorial, humanity has looked to the night sky for guidance, for direction, for a sense of purpose. I remember being little and my dad would pull out his telescope and head out into our backyard and watch the stars for hours. Part of the joy of growing up in the country is that there's nothing but cornfields to hinder your view of a crystal clear night sky. We encourage kids to gaze up in the hopes of finding a shooting star to wish upon. Sailors have used the stars to navigate by to guide them home when maps and technology have failed them. The North Star was a promise of hope to slaves escaping towards the North and freedom, a shining beacon in the night that promised if they just kept following it they would find a place where they could live in the fullness that God had promised to all people. The Wise Men followed and followed one bright shining star with the hope that at the end of its path they would find the king they had been promised, one who would change the entire world and turn it upside down. We send wishes up into the night sky like Disney songs have encouraged us to do, that when we wish upon a star, our dreams may come true. We hinge so very much hope upon such tiny pinpricks of light, pinpricks of light that in some ways become the vessels for our fears, our dreams, our prayers...offering up to the night sky what we want to offer up to God.

As we enter into this New Year, this new decade, we, like the Wise Men of old, will look to the stars to see where God may be guiding us and directing us for the year ahead, the years to come. In worship on January 5 (I know, I know, it's a day before Epiphany...hopefully the liturgical gods will forgive me...), you will have the opportunity to pick up when we're calling "Star Words." There will be paper stars around the sanctuary, each with a

## ***Star of Wonder***

different word on it, a word that shall be your word of guidance, of hope, of direction for the year. You can choose to seek one specific one out or choose one at random and see what happens, see where you might be being called. As a community of faith, we will commit together to live into these words and let them guide our lives and our faith for the next twelve months, and when next Advent rolls around, we'll have the opportunity to reflect on the impact they've had on us, and we'll be able to share those impacts with each other.

Together, it will be as though we're making a different kind of New Year's resolution. We can strive to go to the gym more or eat less sugar or spend more time in quiet, but there's something powerful in taking up one solitary word, one solitary mantra and letting it be our touchstone, our North Star for the year, to let it weave its influence through every facet of our lives. It can be so easy to get caught up in the everyday movement of life once the New Year kicks in and takes off. Our resolutions last a few weeks and eventually get relegated to the corner to gather dust because *life* continues to happen and it's difficult to keep our focus. Maybe this year, just having this one word, this one point of direction will keep us grounded, keep our eyes ever forward on where God is calling us a people of love and light and hope.

Whatever your own personal resolutions are for the year, my prayer is that together as a family of God, we commit together to making this New Year, this new decade one of renewed hope and promise for us here at Trinity. We are a congregation which is filled with so many amazing talents and gifts, we have so much potential for ministry which can effect kingdom change in our own corner of the world, and I hope that we can begin to take up that challenge, to truly live into who we are called to be as a congregation, as a people of God. This year, we commit to another decade of living, loving, and serving together with the hope that we are able to be God's hands, heart, and voice in the world. We can



look to the skies all we want for inspiration, but may this year, we also start looking straight forward to what lies in front of us, a world in need of hope and service, that we're willing to extend so that all of

God's children may know love and peace in the midst of this new dawn.

*Peace it Together,  
Pastor Tina*

## ***Pastor's Announcements***

### **Blessing Kits Available**

On Sunday, January 5, we will bless the sanctuary for another year, another decade (!) of service and worship of God. We will also have blessing kits available for families to take home so that you can bless your own homes for the year ahead. A little prayer and a little chalk to ring in the New Year in the hopes that it shall bring light and life to our own sanctuaries of rest.

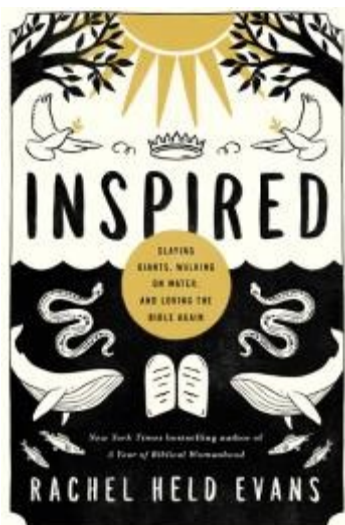
### **Installation of New Council Members**

Join us on Sunday, January 12th at both services as we welcome in and install our newly elected members of church council. Let us join together in giving thanks for those who are willing to serve, sharing their time and talents in service to our congregation.

Jerry Cobb  
Teresa Flores  
Eric Jay  
Todd Recuperero (second term)  
Tricia Wessler  
Cliff Obara (Trustee)

### **Trinity Reads! Spring Session**

Book club will resume on Thursday, January 16th at 5:30 PM at Aroma's in City Center for our second session of reading. For the spring, we will be reading together "Inspired" by Rachel Held Evans. It is an in-depth and personal exploration of the



different kinds of stories which are in the Bible and how they can connect to our faith and the world around us. All are welcome to join us for conversation, laughter, and coffee (if coffee is your jam!).

### **Schedule**

- January 16: Introduction-Chapter 2 (Deliverance Stories)
- February 13: "The Walls"-Chapter 4 (Wisdom Stories)
- March 5: "The Beast"-Chapter 6 (Gospel Stories)
- March 19: "The Sea"-Chapter 8 (Church Stories)

### **Theology on Tap Resumes!**

We will resume Theology on Tap on Thursday, January 23rd at 6:30 PM at Tradition Brewing in City Center. We're once again a little off schedule due to Pastor Tina being away the last week of the month on continuing education, but we will resume our regular schedule of meeting the last Thursday of the month in February.



On Sunday, January 6th, the congregation convened after the second service to de-green the church. It was amazing to see such a large number of members helping to put the greenery, trees, and crèche away. Thanks to all those that helped make the afternoon go quickly and smoothly.

# Youth News

## Winter Celebration

All youth attending the Winter Celebration Youth Event January 24-26, 2020 need to gather at Trinity on Friday January 24 at 1:30 PM in the back parking lot. We will depart for Eagle Eyrie by 1:45. Please make sure that you check your email for your confirmation letter which should be arriving in the near future. It will have a list of What to Pack included in it. Make sure that at a minimum you bring with you layered clothing, a sleeping bag and pillow, PJs, your Bible, toiletry items including a towel to shower, and a snack to share. Also remember money for dinner on Friday, lunch on Sunday, and your ice cream snack on Saturday. Parents we will contact you on Sunday, January 26 when we are close to church. Our normal ETA on that Sunday is 5 PM.

## Seventh Day Event

All 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to participate in the Seventh Day Synod Event at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg, VA March 7-8, 2020. This is a nice overnight introduction to our Synodical Youth Program. Youth will be gone overnight Saturday – Sunday and join youth from across the state to participate in faith forming activities for the weekend. Advisors will be present with the youth at all times. I highly encourage our younger youth group members to attend this event. If you are interested in attending, sign up on the youth group bulletin board and fill out a registration form. All forms and payment are due to me by February 2, 2020. If you have any questions about this event, please contact Kelly Rummel.

## “Soup”er Bowl Party

All youth are invited to join us on February 2, 2020 for our annual “Soup”er Bowl party at the Rummel house. Youth and families can join us at the house around 6:00 PM for an evening of fellowship, food, and football. Kick off is actually at 6:30 PM. Make sure that you bring your can of soup for your entrance fee and your favorite snack food to eat during the game. The youth group will provide pizza and

drinks. Because it is a school night, we ask that everyone be prepared to leave after half time (sorry L). Make sure that you sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.

## 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 February 6,-9, 2020. We leave the Newport News area around 3 PM on Thursday, February 6 and return home around Noon on Sunday February 9. Friday 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 be bought at the ski lodge, and dinner is usually local casual dining restaurants. 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.

## *Stewardship Message*

Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21) He did not reverse this message. Jesus expects us to give generously to the church and in so doing our way of thinking will change. We will become more faithful to God and more loving and kinder to those in God’s world. A generous giver will become more serious about God’s work through the church. Where is your treasure? Are you a generous giver?





# ***Youth Photos: Caroling and Tree Trimming***



*Photos by Kelly Rummel*



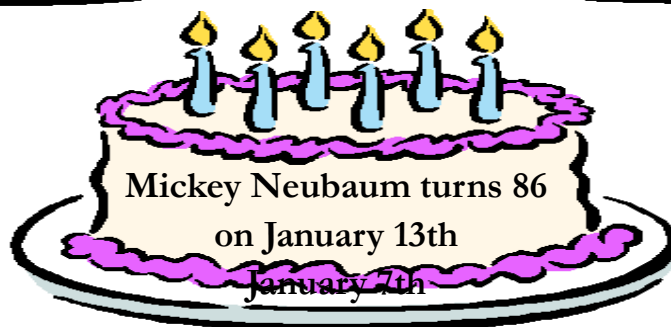
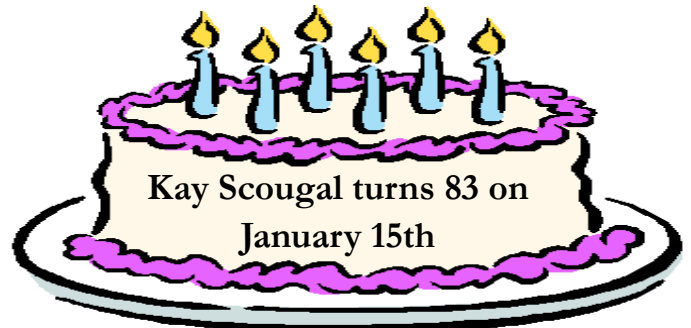
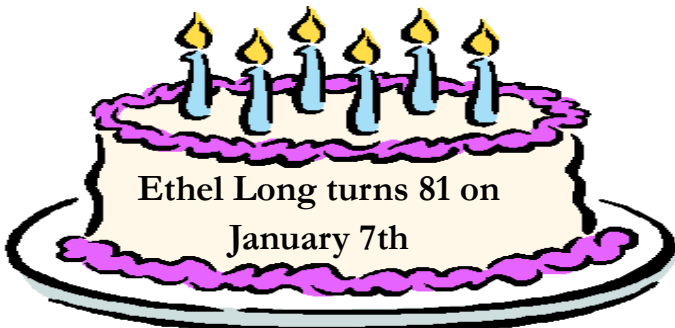
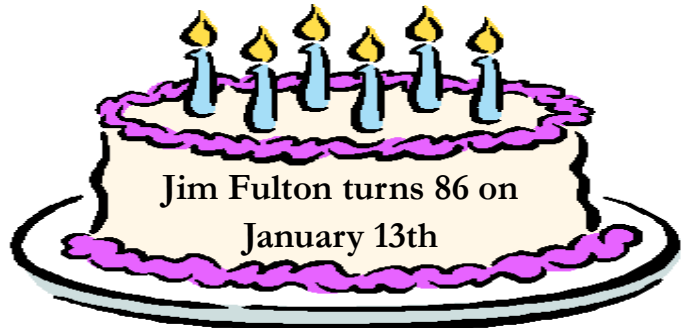
*Building Foundations for Life*  
**TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL**  
*Celebrate 60 years with us!*



Sunday, February 2 at 10 AM  
*Worship service celebrating the history of Trinity*  
*Reception immediately following*  
Trinity Lutheran Church and School  
6812 River Road  
Newport News, VA 23607

*Please RSVP by January 24 to [mcrone@trinitynn.com](mailto:mcrone@trinitynn.com)  
or call (757)245-2576*

***Happy Birthday to our Special Senior Saints for January***





## ***It WILL Take a Village—Village Trinity!***

Our weather may be warm now, who knows what it will be February 12th-19th??

Our families at Trinity Lutheran are blessed with so many comforts of warmth and lodging, but there are neighbors who are lacking these simple but important things: from February 12<sup>th</sup> to February 19<sup>th</sup>, our family will have the chance to open our church and be joined by six other churches to provide a safe night's rest and warm food to the homeless in our area. Please help continue our ministry of PORT – People Offering Resources Together. We will be joined by: St. Mark's Lutheran, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Providence UMC, Grafton Baptist, St. Mary Coptic and Congregation Emet V'Or.

There are many opportunities to serve, from helping to unload the truck, checking in guests, helping with dinner or breakfast, checkout, and of course the overnight shifts. The signup board is in the Narthex on the River Road side. We have a total of over 44 opportunities; if you have never been a part of this wonderful experience, please don't be afraid to try – it's a terrific way to meet new people in our partner churches, and a way to truly share our gifts and help

people in need. You'll come away changed for good!

**NEW IN 2020 – a New Role for a New Year – be a PORT Buddie!**

What is a PORT Buddie? You would be a second person assisting from 5:30-10p with either Sue Moeslein, Ann Evans and maybe another volunteer coordinator – this will help Sue and Anne to not have to be at PORT every night as we still continue to work full time even though PORT is going on! Please watch the bulletin and Constant Contact for more information! This is not one of the positions on the volunteer board and is a brand new opportunity to see a different side of PORT.

**More PORT 101 sessions to be offered!**

Interested in finding out more about PORT or just want a brief refresher on duties? Join Sue after the first service in the kitchen on: January 5<sup>th</sup>, January 19<sup>th</sup> or Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. If no one shows up by 10, catch the next session!

If you have any questions, please call Sue Moeslein at 871-7378. Thank you in advance for whatever help you can offer!

## ***Don Golden Scholarship at CNU: Update***



In 2012 the Congregational Council voted to establish the Donald E. Golden Scholarship Fund at CNU. Scholarship monies would be given to students studying music with the hope that more church musicians would be educated. The goal

was to raise \$20,000 so the scholarship would be self-sustaining and would continue to honor Organist-Emeritus Donald Golden who led Trinity's music program from 1966 until he retired in 1995.

CNU has been very patient with Trinity. The church was asked to donate the \$25,000 by 2017. The college has extended the due date to January 31, 2020. If the \$25,000 is not in the account by then, we were told that all monies will go into CNU'S general scholarship fund. No more Donald E. Golden Scholarship Fund. Because of the great need for church musicians and to honor Trinity's Organist-Emeritus, the leadership at Trinity would like to fully fund this scholarship and asks for your help. As of this writing we are about \$4,000 short to meet the endowment. If you would like to contribute, please write a check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and put Don Golden Scholarship in the memo line.

# **Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**

6812 River Road, Newport News, Virginia 23607

Phone: (757) 245-7861



## **Worship Schedule**

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

Sunday School between Services: 9:30 AM

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

A Nursery is Provided during worship

## **Contact Information**

Pastor: The Rev. Tina Melusky (tina.melusky@gmail.com)

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).*