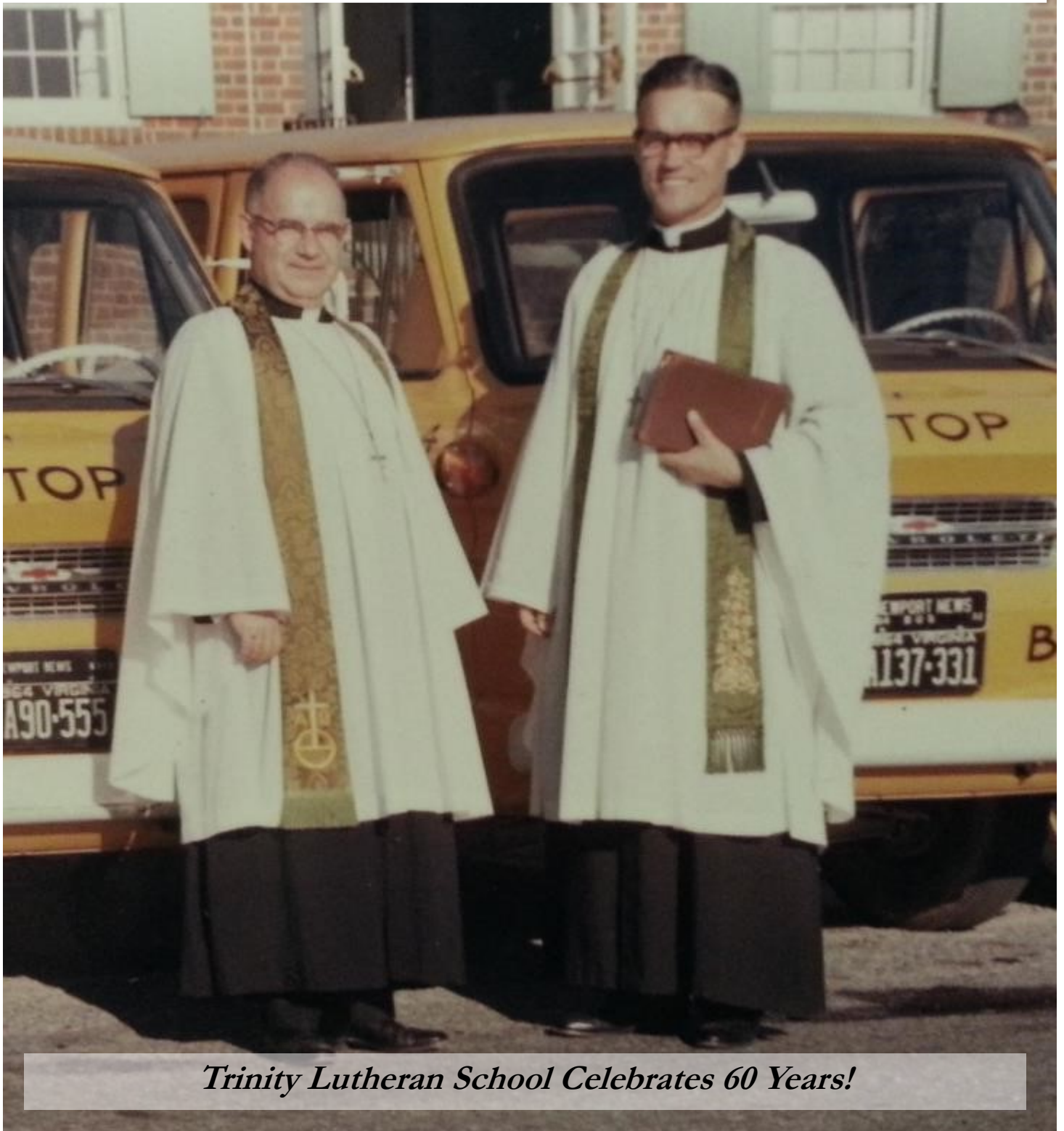


# Trinity Tidings

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newport News, VA

February 2020



*Trinity Lutheran School Celebrates 60 Years!*

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



When the Worship and Music Committee sat down to plan out worship services for February, we decided to shift things around a little bit to live into the dynamic life of the liturgical year since the opportunity presented itself. We decided that on February 2<sup>nd</sup> instead of observing just another day in the season after Epiphany, another Sunday of all of that green, we would take the opportunity to celebrate the Presentation of Our Lord, because for once it actually fell on a Sunday, so why not? It never hurts to mix things up a little bit. In the midst of our decision making, I made a joke that if we switched it up, it would let me off the hook from *once again* preaching on the Beatitudes, since that's the gospel if we were going to observe the normal, ordinary Sunday. I joked, because as a preacher, you somehow end up preaching on the Beatitudes *at least* once a year, if not twice, sometimes three times (!!!) depending on how the lectionary is feeling, and frankly one can only come up with so many sermons on the crazy, upside down ways in which Jesus comes into the world to heap blessings upon those whom the world would rather ignore or discount. So, I was relieved a bit...I was being given a reprieve from the Beatitude preaching. And then...that week, I got an email in my inbox.

Nadia Bolz-Weber has started sending out a weekly newsletter filled with reflections and sermons and ideas and just general ramblings depending on her mood. The one I got that week was only the second one she had ever put out, and as I read, well, all those jokes about the Beatitudes flew out the window, because there she was, of all the weeks she could have written it, talking about her own version of the Beatitudes and why we need them more than ever in today's world. She talked about why now is

## *Blessed Are The ...*

the time we need to be reminded that God blesses those that don't feel deserving of blessings, that God is able to find blessing in even the most hopeless, broken, and dark of situations. I sat at my desk and was like, well...shoot...apparently, we do need the Beatitudes this year, apparently we need them every year, frequently! So I want to share Nadia's reflections with you, her updated version of these blessings from God to remind us of all the ways in which God continues to move in our world and to remind us, as each of us may find ourselves on this list, that we are indeed blessed by our God who does remarkable things in the midst of what seems lost and impossible to face.

*Blessed are the agnostics.*

*Blessed are they who doubt. Those who aren't sure, who can still be surprised.*

*Blessed are they who are spiritually impoverished and therefore not so certain about everything that they no longer take in new information.*

*Blessed are those who have nothing to offer.*

*Blessed are the preschoolers who cut in line at communion.*

*Blessed are the poor in spirit. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.*

*Blessed are they for whom death is not an abstraction.*

*Blessed are they who have buried their loved ones, for whom tears could fill an ocean.*

*Blessed are they who have loved enough to know what loss feels like.*

*Blessed are the mothers of the miscarried.*

*Blessed are they who don't have the luxury of taking things for granted anymore.*

*Blessed are they who can't fall apart because they have to keep it together for everyone else.*

*Blessed are those who "still aren't over it yet."*

*Blessed are those who mourn. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.*

*Blessed are those who no one else notices. The kids who sit alone at middle-school lunch tables. The laundry guys at the hospital. The sex workers and the night-shift street sweepers.*

*Blessed are the forgotten.*

*Blessed are the closeted.*

*Blessed are the unemployed, the unimpressive, the underrepresented.*

*Blessed are the teens who have to figure out ways to hide the new cuts on their arms.*

*Blessed are the meek. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.*

*Blessed are the wrongly accused, the ones who never catch a break, the ones for whom life is hard, for Jesus chose to surround himself with people like them.*

*Blessed are those without documentation.*

*Blessed are the ones without lobbyists.*

*Blessed are foster kids and special-ed kids and every other kid who just wants to feel safe and loved.*

*Blessed are those who make terrible business decisions for the sake of people.*

*Blessed are the burned-out social workers and the overworked teachers and the pro bono case takers.*

*Blessed are the kindhearted football players and the fundraising trophy wives.*

*Blessed are the kids who step between the bullies and the weak.*

*Blessed are they who hear that they are forgiven.*

*Blessed is everyone who has ever forgiven me when I didn't deserve it.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they totally get it.*

Nadia gave everyone who gets her newsletter permission to print this out, use it, read it, proclaim

it from the mountaintops, however they needed to use it, for whomever needed to hear it. And I think we need to hear it...

Each of us has something in our lives, in our hearts, some feeling, some emotion, some state of being that feels like it is beyond the realm of God's blessing, beyond the scope of God's reach, and yet what the Beatitudes remind us of, Matthew's version and Nadia's version, is that there is nothing in this world that is incapable of being blessed by God. Our pain, our suffering, our doubt, our joy, our wonderment, it's all there for blessing. That's the wonder of God. God binds up those things which we don't know how to hold and says, here there can be blessing, even when it seems impossible.

So, my dear siblings in Christ, hear again the words of Christ, blessed are the...

But fill in that sentence with whatever it is in your life that craves, longs for, thirsts for, hungers for that blessing, and know that it is blessed, that Christ holds it with you and for you, so that you may know that you are cherished and beloved and blessed beyond measure.

*Peace it Together,  
Pastor Tina*

## ***Stewardship Message***

Giving first means giving to God first and living off the rest. The opposite, of course, is to take care of the needs and wants of this life first, and give God the leftovers.

In the modern world, giving first is an absolutely essential key to giving generously. We live in a world in which advertising is very adept at turning wants into needs. Daily we are bombarded with thousands of messages telling us that we will be happier if only we purchase this product or that. These messages are very sophisticated, and they work. If you don't give to God first, you will short-change God every time.

If you are going to give generously, you need to give first.

This message is from ASK, THANK, TELL Improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation by Charles R. Lane.





# Youth News

## Seventh Day Event

All 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders that are registered to attend the Seventh Day Synod Event at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg, VA will meet on Saturday March 6 at 7:15 AM at Trinity in the back parking lot. You should receive a registration welcome email from the Synod Office which shares a list of suggested items to bring. The youth stay in cabins with their advisors for the two days, but they will need a sleeping bag and pillow, extra clothes and PJs, toiletry items, and a snack to share. Remember to bring money (\$10) for a fast food lunch on the way up to the event. Kelly Rummel and Kathy Stevens will chaperone this event for us. The youth will return to Trinity on March 7 around dinner time, and they will call parents to pick them up at Trinity.

## Pancake Breakfast

All youth are to meet on Sunday, February 23 after communion at first service downstairs in the social hall to help cook for the pancake breakfast. The youth group will be helping the Congregational Life

committee with this fun event between services. Make sure that you sign up on the youth group bulletin board if you can assist us with this event.

## Ski Trip

All families and youth attending the annual Seven Springs Ski Trip will meet at the Rummel household on Thursday, February 6 at 3 PM ready to leave for our weekend away.

## Virginia Aquarium Adventure Park

The youth group will go to the VA Beach Aquarium Adventure Park on March 22 at 1 PM for an afternoon of fun in the trees. The Adventure Park is located in a wooded area between the aquarium buildings. It is an amazing ropes course with varying degrees of difficulty. We were able to get a special group rate and discount, so the cost per youth will only be \$29 each! Youth will bring a lunch for the car ride over there, and you will need a water bottle. Please sign up on the youth group bulletin board and get your payment for your ticket to Kelly Rummel by March 1.



Pancake Breakfast

## ***Fat Tuesday Pancake Breakfast***

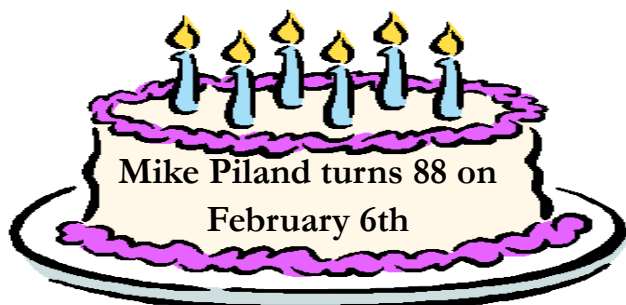
**Sunday, February 23rd at 9:30 AM**

***Trinity Social Hall***



Pancake Breakfast

***Happy Birthday to our Senior  
Saint for February***



## ***CNU Scholarship Update***

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that the Don Golden Scholarship at Christopher Newport University is now fully endowed. Thanks to too many members to mention, the scholarship has \$34,958 in the endowment. The next scholarship will be awarded in the fall of 2021. As part of the scholarship, the recipient will perform at Trinity sometime during the year they received the award.

# ***Pastor's Announcements***

## **4th Annual Galentine's Day!**

Need a little bit of a break during the day? Want some time to relax and enjoy the company of a group of ladies who love and support you? Join us for our 4th annual Galentine's Day celebration! A day to take some intentional time and say thank you for the women in our lives who make a difference to us every day. We will gather together at Smoke at 12:15 on Thursday, February 13th for lunch out together. If you plan to attend please let Pastor Tina know by Sunday, February 9th so we can make reservations.

## **Interested in Joining Trinity?**

We want to be able to start our the new year as a wonderful family of God, welcoming in new individuals and families to our congregation. If you are interested in joining or even just have questions about the congregation, please contact Pastor Tina. We are planning a new member welcome for February 23 and would love to see you there.

## **Opportunities for Ash Wednesday**

Lent is all about the journey--the steps that we take in order to follow Christ to the cross, and for each of us that journey is going to look different. However, one thing we all have in common, every journey has a beginning, and you will have multiple opportunities to begin that journey towards the cross on Ash Wednesday, February 26th.

Don't have a lot of time, but still want to have a few moments of prayer and penitence for the journey?

**Drive-By (Walk Up) Ashes:** Pastor Tina will be

outside the main glass doors at 7:45 and 3:00 during school drop-off and pick-up, to offer prayer and the imposition of ashes.

Don't have time in the evening but still want to come to worship? Join us for our **12:00** Ash Wednesday service, where we will gather around a simple liturgy and Holy Communion.

Can't get away until the evening? Join us for our **7:00** Ash Wednesday service, an expansion of our noon service, with scripture, liturgy, and communion.

## **Trinity Reads! Spring Session**

Book club continues (see dates below) at 5:30 PM at Aroma's in City Center. 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 (even if you did not make the first meeting), laughter, and coffee (if coffee is your jam!).

## **Remaining Schedule**

- 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!**

The next Theology on Tap at Tradition Brewery is Thursday, February 27th.

## ***PORT Still Needs You***

As a congregation, you voted to support PORT for the homeless and if you have been waiting, now is the time to sign up! As of 1/28/20, with two weeks left before we host PORT 2/12-2/19, we still have a total of 19 open slots – this is only to cover Trinity's slots without even offering any assistance to our partners. Please go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E45ADAF2AA0F94-port2> for the most recent list of needs, sign up directly there (Trinity needs are marked with a T) or contact Sue Moeslein at 871-7378 to volunteer for a slot. We cannot do this without your support.



*Youth Photos: Winter Celebration*      photos by Kelly Rummel











# TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

February 2020 marks the 60th anniversary of a revered Newport News institution.

Trinity Lutheran School was founded on February 1, 1960 by Trinity Lutheran Church Pastor and Mrs. Elmer Bosserman as a mission of the church. Their goal: to offer a rigorous, high quality education that develops the whole child in a Christian environment. That mission continues today, as evidenced by Trinity's 2015 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence award from the U.S. Department of Education, its high marks in standardized test scores, and its community support over the past six decades.

A number of prominent alumni have graced the halls of Trinity Lutheran School, including numerous business and community leaders across Hampton Roads. Perhaps the best indicator of the quality of a TLS education, though, is the number of alumni who either work at Trinity or choose to send their children to school there.

The Trinity community is celebrating this special anniversary on Sunday, February 2nd with a joint Trinity Lutheran Church and School service at 10:00 AM. Highlights of the service will include guest speakers, alumni servers and Trinity student readers. A reception will follow.

For more information about Trinity Lutheran School, please visit [trinitynn.com](http://trinitynn.com).

*Pastor Elmer Bosserman (Pastor B.) and Margarett Bosserman*





# ***A Letter from Claudette Taylor—Former Head of School***

Dear Pastor Melusky,

I was at Trinity Lutheran School from 1975 to 2000. I began as a classroom teacher and completed my tenure as Head of School.

Trinity is memorable for me not because it is a beautiful structure, but for the people who chose to worship and work there each day. I have no connection with the very early years of the school, but I do know that many members of the congregation contributed their time and energy preparing snacks and lunches, driving children to school and doing whatever was necessary in those early days. When I came in 1975, Mrs. Bosserman was still very much involved in the work of the school. Tom Bosserman and Pastor B. shared the administrative/pastoral duties of the congregation. They alternated conducting chapel for the school once a week. The teachers preferred to have Tom conduct chapel since the children came back to the classroom quiet and ready to begin the day. Pastor B. had a knack for winding them up, but one of my favorite memories connected with those chapels was when Pastor B. conducted the service he would have the children leave the chapel singing *Let there be Peace on Earth*. It was a much smaller building in those days and the sound of children's voices echoing through the halls remains with me to this day.

Mrs. B. was very particular about the dress and conduct of the teaching staff and reminded them that their conduct beyond the school reflected on the school, and she expected that it would be exemplary. Money was tight. Many of the teachers spent a significant portion of their pay for materials for their classrooms while in the kindergarten and extended day classrooms, paper towels were cut in half to make them go further. Teachers and staff were motivated by their love of children and the community of the school. Until the day, I retired, I never came to school barelegged during the time the school was in session. Hose and no clothing that cupped below your buttocks were the order of the day even in the era of pant suits.

Each successive Head of School brought their own personality and interests to the make up of the

school Peggy Smith who worked along with Mrs. B. was very much interested in the counseling aspect of teaching and Dan Landis was what my granddaughters would call a "fun date". He helped to set up the middle school, hired Sandy Butler and encouraged sports teams and retreats for the middle school at Jamestown. Our enrollment blossomed during his tenure.

For me it is always about the people who were there. Members of the congregation like Louise Mazingo, Jeanette Thomas, and Cathie Wall gave uncounted hours and years to the work of the school. Those early teachers worked for salaries that I would be embarrassed to quote because they loved the school and the work they did with children. The number of those who contributed their teaching skills to make the school strong were too numerous to list. They, along with support personnel like Mrs. Waggner, Sandy Hampton and Teresa Carr all of whom worked to prepare lunches, helped to create an environment in which children knew they were valued and loved. Even Jim Smith, the custodian, watched out for their interests.

When I became the Head of School, Dan had made notes for me on a variety of topics. Under Parents' Association he just wrote, *En garde*, but my experience with the Parents' Association was not adversarial. They were a wonderful asset to the school. Many of them became allies and friends that I hold dear. I hope their value continues to be recognized.

When I resigned from the school, I thanked the Board for allowing me to do what I loved in a place that I loved and had enjoyed doing it. I could write a book full of stories about the people (students, staff, and teachers), but I truly feel that it would be inappropriate and a betrayal of their trust for me to do that. The twenty-six years I spent at Trinity enriched my life and I will be forever grateful for my time there and the friends and memories I made.

*Best wishes for all success in your work.*

*Claudette H. Taylor*

# Classroom Construction

When the current Church building was originally built, the library and classrooms were not included in the construction. The basement (the current youth room and Sunday School rooms), first, and second floor classrooms were added in the early 1960's. These are some pictures of that construction project. At one point, the library had a door in the back left corner, which led through a short hallway to the house shown in one of the pictures. Eventually, that walkway and the house were torn down to build the current two-story school building (1970's). The school library and media center building was added in the 1990's.



...the gift of a ...  
...nd sponsored by Mr. and Mrs.

## Lutheran Church To Dedicate \$70,000 Educational Building

Services will be held tomorrow in Trinity Lutheran Church to dedicate newly acquired properties and equipment. Honored guest for the day will be Dr. J. Luther Mauney, president of the Virginia Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.

At the 8:30 a. m. service a new altar book, donated by Mrs. J. C. Holston, in memory of her son Bobby Johnson, will be dedicated. During the 11 a. m. service, dedication of the church's new public address system will be observed.

A Service of Dedication will be held at 1 p. m. for the church's new educational unit, the newly acquired parish house at 6025 River Rd., and the five new Greenleaf buses which serve the transportation of the church's day school.

The recent educational addition includes six large air-conditioned classrooms for the church's day school, which are subdivided on Sundays to form 12 Sunday School classrooms. Day school offices are also in this structure.

The parish house now houses the church offices, the library, a mimeograph room, plus additional offices. It has been connected physically to the church proper.

Dr. Mauney, who will conduct all three services, is a native of North Carolina. A frequent visitor to Lutheran Churches on the Peninsula, Dr. Mauney has served parishes at Waynesboro, Pulaski, Marion and Arlington. He has held the office of president of the Lutheran Synod of Virginia since 1948, and president of the Virginia Council of Churches since January, 1963.

He is a member of the Parish Education Board of the LCA, and of the Board of Trustees of Roanoke College, Marion College and Southern Seminary.

Invitations have been extended to the congregations of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hampton, and Reformation Lutheran Church, Newport News, to join with Trinity in the day of dedication.

Also at 4 p. m. a missionary of the Board of World Missions of the Lutheran Church in America, the Rev. Robert E. Oberly, D. D., a veteran missionary of nearly forty years will speak to the congregation.





## *School Buses and Drivers circa 1961*

Below is a photo of the four school buses and their drivers in 1961. At least one of the drivers is still a member of Trinity today. Can you recognize which one and who she is?



# 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](mailto:tina.melusky@gmail.com))

Administrative Assistant: Anne Obara ([admin@trinitynn.org](mailto:admin@trinitynn.org))

Treasurer: Carol Bessom ([cbessom@trinitynn.com](mailto:cbessom@trinitynn.com))

Website: <http://www.trinitylutheran-nn.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityNN/>

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is a member of the Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center, Habitat for Humanity, and the Link, Inc.

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**This photo is of Sudie Wagner serving lunch to TLS children circa 1973.**