

Trinity Tidings

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Newport News, VA

March 2020

Levent

january

february

march

april

may

june

july

august

september



From the Pastor's Desk . . .



What's the first thing that airlines do when you're checking in for your flight and checking your luggage? They put it on the scale in order to figure out if it's too heavy, if it surpasses the limit of what's deemed free for your flight. I think we can all admit we now find this mildly annoying, the new fees and limits placed on what can and cannot be brought with us regardless of where we're traveling, but as I've been thinking about the Lenten journey that lies ahead of us, I think we might be able to actually take a lesson or two from the airlines.

Whether or not we're comfortable admitting it or not, we all carry around baggage, lots of it. Granted for some of us, it's probably the size of a carry on, but for others of us, it feels like it would wildly surpass the amount allowed on a flight for free. Sometimes we're conscious of it and other times we're not, sometimes we are hyper aware of just what we're hauling behind us, and other times it feels invisible, like we barely notice it's there. However, for all of us, it's there. It takes various shapes and sizes, it comes in different packages, different forms, but there's something that lies within our hearts and minds that tugs along behind us no matter what.

I know that for many of us, the Lenten season feels like a struggle, a time when we're supposed to reflect and figure out what we need to repent of, lament of, the things which weigh us down and draw us away from God. There can be no doubt that there is a deep reality to that during Lent. We should be taking that time to inwardly reflect on those things which we need to repent of, but I also think that this year, it may be the time to reflect on our baggage. After all, what do we proclaim that Christ does for us on the cross, but take those things which weigh us down upon himself so that we don't have to carry

Repent and Release ...

them anymore, takes those things which bind us up and tear us down so that we can be free to live and serve and love in this world. This year, I believe is the time for us to haul our luggage up onto the scale and deem that it's so heavy it's time to say forget about it. To say, ya know what, this is too much, and I need to let some of it go. Some of that baggage may be sins that we need to repent of, but some of it may just be stuff that we need to plain and simple let go, leave behind at the foot of the cross so that we can move forward in our journey unburdened and free.

The reality of our salvation, of walking with Christ towards the cross is that we're walking towards freedom, freedom from our burdens, our sins, our baggage, and yet, day in and day out we continue to haul it around behind us as though we don't have a Savior who has offered to hang onto it for us. It's time that we live into that reality, to search our hearts and find the things that we long to be free of and actually allow ourselves to be just that...free. Lent is a time of reflection but it's also meant to be a time of unburdening. We're going to live into that in a very real and tangible way as a congregation on Sunday, March 1. We are going to take the time to reflect on what we want to let go of, sins and all and we are literally going to smash them into oblivion in the hopes that they will be reborn into something new and beautiful. I invite you to join us downstairs in the social hall in between services that Sunday for this experience, but even if you can't be here for it... give yourself that chance this Lenten season. Haul your baggage up onto the scale of salvation and leave it there, don't pay the fee, don't try to pick and choose what to keep in there to get it under weight, just leave it, let it go.

How much sweeter will the Easter sunrise dawn when we face it lighter, freer than we started this Lenten season? How much more can we appreciate the gift of mercy and salvation that we have received from Christ when we actually live into the reality of what we've been given? My dear siblings, let this

Lenten season not be another burden, but let it be something that sets you free. Christ can handle the baggage, that's what he came for, so let him do it. Leave it behind, smash it to pieces, and walk forward into the new dawn of love that calls you out into the

world to live your freedom for the sake of others. May this Lent lift your burdens, free your souls, and beckon you out into God's kingdom to live in love.

*Peace it Together,
Pastor Tina*

Pastor's Announcements

Interested in Joining Trinity?

If you are interested in joining or even just have questions about the congregation, please contact Pastor Tina.

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

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, March 26th.

Lenten Wednesdays: Fellowship and Prayer

Join us every Wednesday of the Lenten season for dinner and worship. We will gather at 6:00 PM for dinner in the social hall, followed by a service of Holden Evening Prayer starting around 6:45 PM. This is a great opportunity to be in community with your siblings in Christ during Lent, to catch and gather around the table, and then have the chance to worship together in quiet reflection as we journey together towards the cross.

If you would like to help provide soup or salad for our dinners, please see the sign up sheets on the bulletin board.

Save the Date Events!

Sunday, April 5: Dinner Church @ 6:00 PM

We had our first dinner church last year on Maundy Thursday! This year, we're changing things up a bit and kicking off our Holy Week journey with dinner church on the evening of Palm Sunday. What is dinner church you ask? It's an ancient tradition of God's children gathering around tables together to share a meal and fellowship with worship incorporated throughout the meal. We'll laugh, we'll pray, we'll share communion together as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Please plan on bringing a dish to share!!

Sunday, April 19: Paint Night @ 5:30 PM

We're a little late on our spring edition of Easter, but plan to join us for another round of paint night. We'll gather in the social hall for an evening of fun and reflecting on Easter through art. \$5/person, bring friends!!!!

VBS Save the Date and Volunteer Opportunities!

Knights assemble!! This year's Hilton Area Vacation Bible school, Knights of North Castle will be Monday, July 27-Friday, July 31 with a new time!! VBS will be held in the evenings this year from 5:30-8:30, with dinner provided for children and volunteers.

Speaking of volunteers!! WE NEED YOU!!!! We cannot put on a VBS program without the help of folks who are willing to serve during the week in a variety of capacities. If you are willing to volunteer for VBS please sign up on the church bulletin board or get in contact with Pastor Tina. We need to have our volunteer corps set up by April so we can begin planning.

Youth News

Seventh Day Event

All 5th and 6th graders that are registered to attend the Seventh Day Synod Event at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg, VA will meet on Saturday March 7th 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 8th around dinner time, and they will call parents to pick them up at Trinity.

Virginia Aquarium Adventure Park

The youth group will go to the Virginia Beach Aquarium Adventure Park on March 22nd 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 1st.

Easter Eggs

The youth group will meet on March 29th between services to stuff our easter eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt to be held on Easter Sunday. Please meet in the youth room immediately following the first service.

Easter Candy Needed

The Youth Group is now collecting candy donations for the Easter Egg Hunt to be held on Easter Sunday. If you would like to purchase candy for the event, please make sure that it is individually wrapped candy, and place it in the youth room. Please avoid lollipops, hard candy, or mass packages of candy to include jellybeans that are not individually wrapped. Thank you in advance for your donations. Please have all donations to us by March 29th, the date we will stuff the eggs.



Worship and Music Committee

Calling all those who are interested in the worship services and music of this congregation. The Worship and Music Committee, currently chaired by Judy Hunt and Bill Solomon, meets with the pastor and church musician the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM to plan worship opportunities - regular Sunday morning services, Lenten services, walking worship, Advent and Christmas services and more. If you have ideas or questions, please come join us. All are welcome. If you want to help but

cannot attend evening meetings, please talk to Bill Solomon about serving as an acolyte or communion assistant, to Karoline Ardis (head of the Altar Guild) about preparing the altar for services, to Rick Johnson or Jerry Cobb about serving as an usher or to Patricia McClelland or Kathy Stevens about reading the lessons. No special invitations are needed. These opportunities are yours for the taking.

Trivia Question from Last Month

Last month I asked if anyone could identify the bus driver from this 1961 photograph that is still a member of Trinity today. If you guessed Gerda Hudgens (second from left), you were correct. Others also identified Edith Daggy as the third from left driver. If you know the names of the other two drivers, please let the editor know.

If you have a Trinity historical topic you would like posted in the Tidings, just contact the editor.



Happy Birthday to our Special Senior Saint



March Birthdays

Dan Jungkuntz	84	3/10
Jim Gribble.....	87	3/13
Shirley Anderson	86	3/18
Barbara Olson.....	88	3/22
Bobbie McWithey.....	85	3/25
Harry Hartman	83	3/28



Stewardship Message

If you have been following our stewardship messages from ASK, THANK, TELL Improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation by Charles R. Lane, you know that each one of us is called to be a steward of the gifts God has given us. The stewards of God's gifts are intentional, regular and generous; and they give to God first. Giving to God is also to be **proportional** according to the Bible. We are instructed to give in proportion to the blessings we have received. Those who have much wealth and those who have little wealth are both instructed to give proportionately.

Remember the story of the poor widow in Mark 12: 41-44. As Jesus watched the people putting money into the synagogue treasury, he saw the rich putting in large sums and he saw the widow putting in a penny. Jesus told his disciples that truly the poor widow had put in more than all the others for the rich had contributed out their abundance but she had contributed out of her poverty, all that she had.



Pancake Breakfast Photos

photos by Ashleigh Ardis



PORT's 22nd Year—Again, So Many Thanks Are Due

Thank you to our partner churches: Grafton Baptist Harris Grove, St. Mary Coptic, Congregation Emet V'Or, St. Mark's Lutheran, Our Lady Queen of Peace and Providence United Methodist Church. A variety of faiths, all with kindred hearts and special talents.

Thank you to the Trinity Lutheran School supporters, who supplied us with a supply of brownie mixes; and thank you to the youth and their patient advisors for baking a terrific dessert on our night to serve!



Thank you to Shawn Murphy for reconstructing all the wooden racks to hang the clothing closet items on; our clothes closet looked the most organized and was the easiest to pack up than ever before.



Thank you to the Sunday school class for allowing us to use it for the women guests and thank you to Linda Madler for also letting us use her room for a private and quiet room for the social intake workers to work with new guests.

Thank you to Dottie Self, for offering to help at the ninth hour which kept one worried 'Sous Chef' calm and organized!



Thank you to all of the volunteers who lost sleep and gave of their time, especially those who volunteered for extra shifts: Dave Carlson, Grant Owens, John Lundsford, Harlan Hamby and Rock Moeslein. One other person who came in nightly and made all the difference in lending a helping hand was Trinity Lutheran School parent, Ashley North. She was so much more than a PORT Buddy; she was an unofficial coordinator who knew just where to be at the right time.

And last but not least, thank you to Anne Evans and Fred Ardis for splitting the coordinator duties with Sue Moeslein; it was a terrific partnership to the very end!



Committees of Trinity Lutheran Church

Beyond every member's opportunity to make a financial offering to the Church, there is the need for volunteer service to projects, events (as evidenced by the report on PORT), and Church committees. This month we will focus on what the committee's are as defined by the Church's constitution and published in the *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Committee Guidelines* (available for any member by asking the Church Office Administrator).

Suffice is to say that many of the committees are understaffed and have had the same people for many years. It is our hope that congregation members will review the guideline as an invitation to participate in the mission and ministries of our church. As you read through these pages, prayerfully consider God's call on your life and where your precious gifts of the Holy Spirit may model Jesus in loving service to others.

The following excerpted information lists the various committee of the Church and their responsibilities.

Audit Committee

An Audit Committee shall follow written audit procedures adopted by the Congregation Council and based on the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Congregational Audit Guide, audit the financial books of record prior to the annual congregation meeting, and report findings to the Congregation Council in writing, signed by each member of the committee, after the audit.

Call Committee

A Call Committee shall consult with the Bishop of the Virginia Synod, or his/her representative, and shall proceed in accordance with the guidelines established as a result of this consultation.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall plan the agenda for the Congregation Council meetings, report actions taken to the Congregation Council at the Congregation Council's next meeting, and act on behalf of the

Congregation Council at times when it is not expedient to call a meeting of the full Congregation Council, except that the Executive Committee shall not adopt or amend continuing resolutions. Note: This committee is made up of the Council President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Pastor(s).

Mutual Ministry Committee(s)

A Mutual Ministry Committee is comprised of voting members of the congregation (six members for each pastor) who confidentially listen to and support each of the pastors as they seek to shepherd the congregation of Trinity into future endeavors. Meeting frequency is determined by the pastor(s), and members are appointed for a two-year, January-through-December term.

Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee, appointed by the Congregation Council at its September meeting, shall prepare a list of one or more candidates drawn from the voting members of the congregation for each council member position and trustee position to be filled, and report the list of candidates to the Congregation Council at its October meeting.

Christian Education

The standing committee on Christian Education shall:

Sunday Church School Program. Work with Sunday Church School superintendent and pastor(s) to select curriculum, order materials, and update class rosters. Determine staffing needs, recruit teachers, and provide teacher orientation/training. Organize Rally Day, plan/conduct Sunday Church School Gatherings, and teacher appreciation event. Prepare publicity on Sunday Church School programs, such as articles in the Tidings. Maintain weekly statistics to include amount of offering, attendance, and guest list. Provide outreach to those youth missing classes, having birthdays, guests, etc. Solicit sponsors for Bibles to be purchased and presented to youth and prepare patron bookplates.

See that classrooms and the resource room are maintained.

Cradle Roll: Send materials to young children and families at designated intervals.

First Communion Instruction: Determine eligible students and give list to pastor(s). Consult with pastor(s) to select teacher and curriculum.

Confirmation: Determine eligible students and give list to pastor(s) to schedule orientation. Pastor(s) or catechists chosen by pastor(s) to provide classes.

Adult Education: Provide and support all opportunities for adult education. Solicit volunteers for adult education class(es) (as needed).

Advent Event: Select Advent Event coordinator. Select crafts and supplies. Publicize event. Coordinate setup and cleanup of event.

Family Christmas Eve Service: Plan service. Maintain inventory of costumes.

Vacation Bible School: Provide liaisons to ecumenical steering committee. Prepare publicity and registration forms. Recruit volunteers and solicit supplies.

Library

Maintain the church library collection, adding and deleting books in accordance with collection development policy. Encourage donations of books and solicit funds for purchases. Order books as funds permit. Decide on appropriate books with pastoral guidance. Develop and maintain library database. Coordinate congregational reviews of books available. Recommend this group be led by a librarian or former librarian.

Congregational Archives

Gather, protect, and maintain records of the congregation's history. Encourage congregation members to remember and build on past events and strengths. Report directly to the senior pastor on matters relating to the church archives.

Congregational Life

Set up supporting groups for various recreational events. Plan and execute congregational activities such as Oktoberfest, Mardi Gras, monthly or sea-

sonal socials, and picnic.

Reception

Plan and set up receptions for the congregation to encourage fellowship. Plan and set up receptions for memorial services.

Finance

Solicit committee budgetary requests for the development of the annual budget. Develop estimates for operational costs. Be responsible for all investments and credit cards. Appoint members to the Counting Team and Bank Deposit Team and monitor their work. Ensure that the treasurer and others with financial oversight are bonded. Monitor revenue of church and communicate cash flow as necessary to the Congregation Council. Recommend to the Congregation Council constraints on expenditures as necessary. Oversee the treasurer's work. (The treasurer is a paid church employee. He/she follows employment procedures as outlined in the Personnel Manual.) Designate a liaison to School Finance Committee.

Counting Team

Retrieve deposit bag containing offerings from bank. Meet weekly to count and deposit the congregation's offerings. Report all regular and special offerings to the treasurer and pastor(s). Assist with the preparation and distribution of offering envelope boxes.

Bank Deposit Team

Remove offerings from collection plates located in the sanctuary following each service. Place in a bank deposit bag. Take the bank deposit to the bank after the final worship service for that day.

Memorial Garden

Care for the Memorial Garden. Arrange for reservations for niches. Arrange for names for the memorial wall and brick pavers. Fulfill all responsibilities as outlined in the Policy and Governance document. Market the columbarium to the congregation.

Personnel

Write and update job descriptions. Develop and maintain the Personnel Manual. Provide salary and

benefits recommendations to the Finance Committee. Provide forms and procedures for performance evaluations. Maintain personnel files which include employment contracts, performance reviews, resumes, exit interviews, federal and state forms, background checks, and training/ continuing education documents. Serve as a sounding board for employees; hear grievances. Create and maintain templates for standardized personnel-related forms.

Property

Monitor use and maintenance of church van. Work with head of school to respond to congregation's maintenance requests in a timely fashion. Develop operational and major project budget requests. Design landscaping projects. Oversee proper usage of the sanctuary.

Social Ministry

The standing committee on Social Ministry works with numerous organizations within the Hampton Roads area and around the world, such as Denbigh United Christian Outreach (DUCO), Edmarc Hospice for Children, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer International, People Offering Resources Together (PORT), Living Interfaith Network (LINK), Red Cross Blood Drive, Shoe and Food Collection (Thrive), and World Hunger. One member of Social Ministry serves on the Ad hoc Committee on the Distribution of Trinity Endowment and Ministries (TEAM) Funds.

Stewardship

Promote the idea that all of life is a gift from God and how we respond as "stewards." Promote benevolence giving by educating and informing the members of the congregation about the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Promote special gifts through wills and bequests. Lead voting members to higher levels of proportionate giving for the Lord's work. Educate the congregation in the Christian use of time, talent, and money. Plan and carry out a year-round stewardship program. Solicit voting members' responses in a time and talent survey and disseminate responses to interested committees/groups.

Witness

Welcome guests and deliver bread bags containing information about the church. Maintain contact with companion synod and missionaries. Lift up global concerns. Maintain area shepherd group lists. Assist in updating church directories and pictorial directories with area shepherd group information. Plan events for new members. Market the church to the community. Coordinate Summer Sunday Coffees. Plan and coordinate Homecoming Event. One member of Witness serves on the Ad hoc Committee on the Distribution of Trinity Endowment and Ministries (TEAM) Funds.

Technology (Sub-group of Witness Committee)

Set up and maintain all technology systems to enhance worship. Maintain the church website and ensure connection with school website. Record services and provide CDs and/or DVDs to the homebound upon requested. Coordinate use of church technology systems for school programs.

Worship and Music

Prepare the nave and chancel for worship services including Sundays, Advent, Lenten and Holy Week services, funerals, weddings, etc. Recommend hymn selection and liturgy. Set up communion and baptism including flowers, candles, and paraments. Insure individuals are present to serve as lectors, ushers, presenters, greeters, acolytes and communion assistants. Coordinate all choirs. Coordinate the decoration of the church for Christmas.

Acolyte Corps and Communion Assistants (Sub-Group of W&M)

Light and extinguish candles. Assist with Holy Communion and/or Holy Baptism. Bring the children from the nursery for Sunday worship service Time with the Children. Participate in the Gospel procession on appropriate festival Sundays. Acolyte corps coordinator trains and schedules individuals for service.

Altar Guild (Sub-Group of W&M)

Prepare worship space, including preparation for Holy Communion. Maintain the supply of bread,

wine, candles, etc. Maintain the paraments and assure appropriate paraments for each worship service throughout the year are displayed. Clean and maintain order in the sacristy kitchen. Ensure baptismal font is prepared before each worship service. Follow the procedures outlined in the Altar Guild Manual.

Communion Presenters (Sub-Group of W&M)

Following the offering, present bread and wine to the celebrant at the altar. Coordinator of communion presenters reports schedule to administrative assistant for publication.

Ecclesiastical Arts Society (Sub-Group of W&M)

Integrate the arts with the liturgical seasons. Create baptismal banner when baptism is scheduled on the church calendar. Create and repair other banners. Maintain meditation area.

Greeters (Sub-Group of W&M)

Welcome worshipers. Direct guests to nursery, rest rooms, etc. Encourage guests to sign guest registry or pew register. Greeter coordinator schedules greeters for each service and reports this schedule to the administrative assistant for publication.

Lectors (Sub-Group of W&M)

Announce the scripture citation for the First and Second Readings prior to reading them. Lector coordinator schedules volunteers and reports this schedule to the administrative assistant for publication.

Ushers (Sub-Group of W&M)

Pass out bulletins to worshipers at entrances to sanctuary. Collect offerings. Supervise an orderly flow of communicants. Record number of worshipers and nursery attendees. Unlock and lock church building for worship services. Clean and organize pew racks, worship space, and narthex following service. Recycle worship materials. Prepare for emergencies. The usher coordinator provides ushers for special services upon request as well as schedules ushers for Sunday services. He/she is responsible for providing the usher schedule to the administrative assistant for publication.

Youth Ministry

Oversee the Junior Evangelical Luther League Organization (JELLO) (grades 6-8) and Luther League (grades 9-12) programs at Trinity. Maintain correspondence with college-age youth. Plan all events for the youth group program in the church, including community service projects and retreats. Coordinate Trinity's participation in Synod events for the youth. Build strong relationships between youth and trusted adults other than parents. One youth advisor is a member of the Ad hoc Committee on Scholarship Fund. One youth advisor serves on the Ad hoc Committee on the Distribution of Trinity Endowment and Ministries (TEAM) Funds.

Stephen Ministry

Individual Christian caregiving to congregation members and the community at large. Assignments made by the senior pastor. Attend small group supervision to support fellow Stephen Ministers in their concerns about their caregiving, without disclosing the identity of care receivers, and maintaining total confidentiality. Participate in refresher courses for Stephen Ministry training.

Scholarship Fund

Encourage contributions to and maintain the scholarship fund. Screen applications and award grants annually. Establish and publish criteria for application and deliberation process. Collect and produce complete scholarship applications for deliberation.

Distribution of TEAM Funds

When monies are received from the Trinity Endowment And Ministries (TEAM) Foundation, Inc. for distribution to mission programs, an ad hoc committee shall be formed to solicit inputs for worthy causes from the congregation and make recommendations to the Congregation Council. Members of the ad hoc committee shall be, at a minimum, the pastor (s), the Congregation Council president or vice president, and a representative from the following committees: Witness, Social Ministry, and Youth Ministry.

Where do you fit in?

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).*

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