

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

January Monthly Announcement Sheet

OFFICE HOURS AND INFORMATION

The church office is open Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Please say hello and welcome to our new Administrative Assistant, Sharon Mathison.

Sunday School for youth and adults: 8:45am

Sunday Services: 10am

Bell choir practice: after service on Sundays as scheduled

Bible study: Tuesdays at 10:30

Choir practice: Wednesdays at 7:30

CONGREGATIONAL VISIONING WITH PASTOR JOHN WIRTZ

Congregational Visioning for the Future

Visioning has become a bit of a byword in our modern day culture, and so you may see that heading and wonder what in the world we're doing. On Sunday, January 21, we will be joined by Rev. John Wertz, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission for the Virginia Synod to participate in a workshop designed to ask us as a congregation: what does our future look like? The conversation is going to be centered around our passions as a community, what we do well, and how we can transform those passions and gifts into a plan for the future.

There can be no denying that we have changed as a congregation since 2020. Every congregation has, but in order for us to move forward and build from where we are, we have to ask what we want to build, and the only way we can ask that is if you are present. It is paramount that as many members of the congregation as possible are present for this conversation so that we are making sure we're hearing from all of us.

Please mark your calendars for that Sunday after worship from 12-3. We will have a potluck to get us started, spending time in

fellowship before diving into our workshop conversations.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Last year marked the first time that we, as a congregation, observed and learned through Black History Month. This year we are going to expand conversations and opportunities to learn more about our siblings in Christ, and where God is calling us to walk in communion with one another. We will be discussing our relationship with our Black siblings through book and film this February. You are welcome to join us for any or all of our conversations!

Sunday, February 4: Showing of the new *The Color Purple* at AMC Theaters in Hampton, Time TBD

Thursday, February 8: Book discussion, *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone, 6:30 on Zoom

Thursday, February 22: Movie viewing and discussion of *Just Mercy*, TLC Youth Room, 6:00

Thursday, February 29: Book discussion, *Dear Justyce* by Nic Stone, 6:30 on Zoom

***Dear Martin* by Nic Stone**

Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League – but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. And despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out.

Then comes the day Justyce goes driving with his best friend, Manny, windows rolled down, music turned up – way up, sparking the fury of a white off-duty cop beside them. Words fly. Shots are fired. Justyce and Manny are caught

in the crosshairs. In the media fallout, it's Justyce who is under attack.

***Dear Justyce* by Nic Stone**

Shortly after teenager Quan enters a not guilty plea for the shooting death of a police officer, he is placed in a holding cell to await trial.

Through a series of flashbacks and letters to Justyce, the protagonist of *Dear Martin*, Quan's story unravels.

From a troubled childhood and bad timing to a coerced confession and prejudiced police work, Nic Stone's newest novel takes an unflinching look at the flawed practices and ideologies that discriminate against African American boys and minorities in the American justice system.

GALENTINE'S DAY 2.0

Women, gals, ladies of all ages are welcome to join us for a Galentine's Day celebration on Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00. We will meet for dinner at Salsa's in City Center to spend time together celebrating the unique and special bond of female friendship. Other plans for after dinner are still TBD but please plan to RSVP by Thursday, February 8.

RED FOOD BOX UPDATE

Please don't forget to bring in items for our Little Red Food Box! We're looking for items that are nutritious and taste well but that are also easily accessible. Examples would be the envelopes of variously-flavored tuna and chicken items, six packs of fruit (applesauce works best and does not draw "critters), crackers or chips, peanut butter cups, potted meat cans, vienna sausage cans, etc. Nothing wrong with an occasional sweet "treat," either! Also, water bottles are welcome, and various kinds of nutritious drinks, as long as they're well-packaged and don't leak.

Be creative! What would *you* like to munch on on your way down the street or home from work?!

Please do NOT bring large cans, items that must be heated or otherwise prepared, or cans that require a can opener. Those items are welcome in the Thrive food basket!

Thank you for helping to brighten the lives of our siblings in Christ!

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please remember to pick up your 2024 offering boxes in the church library, and save the church the cost of mailing them! If you visit any of our shut-ins, please also feel free to pick up these boxes as well and deliver them in person.

And a reminder -- while we all appreciate the convenience and consistency of Vanco or other online giving, please pick up your offering boxes as well. They contain envelopes for our Lenten and Advent additional special giving, as well as other envelopes that may be used to donate to World Hunger, the school, the church scholarship fund, etc. These extra gifts help us stay on track with our budget and increase our outreach to our siblings in Christ! Thank you!

RECONCILING IN CHRIST

There are comment/question boxes in the Narthex, lobby, and Sacristy hallway. We like hearing from you! All are welcome to join; you do not have to be part of the core group.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible study will meet Tuesdays at 10:30 AM in Library or on Zoom while the parlor is under renovation.

Bible study will **NOT** meet on Tuesday, January 23, 2024

CANNED GOODS FOR THRIVE

When you go to the grocery store, please remember our neighbors being helped by Thrive. All canned goods as well as personal care items can be left in the basket in the narthex. These items will be given to those in

our community who are in need. The food will be delivered to Thrive. Please do not leave clothing and other items for the homeless. THRIVE will not take them. They would need to go either in the yard sale or taken to LINK who will accept them.

FRESH FOOD DONATIONS

For all our gardeners out there... if you have an overabundance of fresh produce from your gardens and you want to donate it to Thrive, please drop off the produce in the cooler located in the narthex. We will run the produce up to Thrive for you, along with the produce we are growing here at Trinity.

CARDS FOR HOMEBOUND

We are renewing the cards for homebound members effort. If you find cards in the Narthex, please feel free to sign them and share a happy message. We will mail them to our members who can't be with us in person.

A NOTE FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thank you to all the members of Trinity who are generously responding to the approval of the 2023-2024 Ministry Spending Plan by increasing their regular offerings to the general fund. Growing support of our financial goals helps Trinity become a powerful force for good in our community and world, a living example of "God's Work – Our Hands."

As you prayerfully consider your own ability to increase your financial response, please remember that the amount of increase doesn't matter. What matters is the desire to contribute time, talent, and treasure to grow in our service to God and to our siblings, both in our community and in a world where our love and support are desperately needed.

YOUTH CORNER

February 2-4: Winter Celebration for youth in 9-12th grades. Senior High members of the youth group that are attending Winter Celebration will meet at 1:30 PM at the Rummel house on Friday, February 2 prepared to leave for Eagle Eyrie. Make sure that you review the list sent out via email by Dave Delaney in regards to items that you should or should not bring with you. Also, remember to bring money for dinner on the way up Friday and lunch on the way home Sunday. Parents can pick up their youth at the Rummel house on Sunday, February 4 around 5 PM.

February 11: "Soup"er Bowl Party: The youth group will gather at the Rummel household at 5:30 PM on Sunday, February 11, 2023 to watch the Super Bowl! The youth group will provide pizza and soda. We are asking each youth group family that attends (and yes, this is a family event) to bring their favorite football junk food to go along with it (side or dessert). Entry is one canned good per family member, and all food gathered will be donated to THRIVE. Everyone must vacate the Rummel household after the half time show because it is a school night. Sign up on the Youth Group Facebook page if you can attend.

Looking ahead: March 2-3: Seventh Day: All 5th and 6th grade students are invited to register for the Seventh Day overnight event which takes place at Eagle Eyrie on Saturday March 2 - Sunday March 3. Join Kelly Rummel and Kathy Stevens who are serving on the planning team for the event for a fun filled weekend at beautiful Eagle Eyrie. If you are interested in attending, please make sure that you sign up on the youth group Facebook page, and that you complete all paperwork and payment through the VA Synod website. Cost is \$115, and registration is due February 7.

MEET YOUR NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Brett Moore

I joined TLC in the late-1990s (and my three daughters attended TLS). This year I participated in two synod assemblies at Roanoke College and one synod Bible study via Zoom. I work as an engineer (35+ years of experience). Perspectives from my professional life that I would bring to the church council would include: Evaluate options/decisions in a methodical manner (where applicable), value dissenting (minority) opinion, and look out for unintended consequences of possible options. I look forward to taking my church participation to a higher level.

Erik Rummel

Erik Rummel can be described as a cradle Lutheran. Although born in San Juan, Puerto Rico (thanks US Coast Guard!), he was baptized at Emmaus Lutheran Church in South Bend, IN where his father was also baptized many moons ago. A few moves courtesy of the Coast Guard led the Rummels to Newport News in 1983. They attended Resurrection Lutheran Church, where Erik and his two sisters were confirmed. Erik joined the Trinity family when he and Kelly wed in 2001. Shortly thereafter, they began working with the youth group, and have enjoyed over 20 years of youth ministry. Erik is a 1995 graduate of Denbigh High School, and a 2002 graduate of Old Dominion University with a degree in Business Administration. In 2003, Erik joined the Hampton Police Division, and just hit his 20-year mark. He is currently a Detective Sergeant supervising the Forensic Unit. In his free time, Erik is very involved with scouting, which he has been involved with since he was 6 years old. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1994 and is currently the Scoutmaster of Troop 6 in Denbigh. Erik enjoys all kinds of outdoor activities, but especially camping, hiking, cycling, and paddling. Erik is extremely proud of his two sons, Nathan and Andrew, and enjoys cheering them on in swimming, band, scouts, or any other activity they join.

Lina Recupero

Hello, I'm Lina Recupero and I'm 18! A lot of you have watched me grow up through my years with the youth group and serving in church! I can't serve during services anymore due to medical issues but I can serve through the church council while I'm taking a gap year from college! I look forward to it!