

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

TRINITARIAN

DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018

Available online @ www.trinitylutherannorfolk.org

From Our Pastor

Rev. Jonathan Meraz

Grace and peace to you...

I'm not a big fan of the short days and long nights of winter. When the sun disappears by 5 PM it seems like the darkness is extra dark and extra-long. There is one night, though, when I actually embrace the darkness – Christmas Eve. A perfect Christmas Eve is still and cold with a sky so crystal clear that you are amazed at how many stars the Lord put in the sky. I like it because it is a darkness with hope. The dawn is coming and when it arrives there will be the birth of the Lord to celebrate.

It is hard to put into words the miracle of incarnation. The entirety of God (who is infinite, don't forget!) resides in the flesh and blood body of a new born infant boy. WOW! The creator of the universe and all that is in it **made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant**. It is hard to think about this while we are celebrating such a miraculous birth but we need to remember why this baby came. The shadow of the cross was already on Him.

This baby would go through the stages of life – infant, toddler, preteen, teenager, young man – with only one goal on His mind. He had come to save the world from itself. He came to be the Savior that the world needed. He came to take the penalty of our sin upon Himself and die. In that death He accomplished everything that needed to be done so that we could have forgiveness, life and eternal salvation. The proof is in His resurrection. We get to celebrate that a few months from now.

I pray that this season is a season of remembrance for you. I pray that you have peace and joy and the love of family and friends. I pray that you enjoy all that the Lord has provided for you but most of all that you are centered in Christ Jesus. Please remember to come receive His gifts of Word and Sacrament throughout this season and always.

May God bless and keep you all.

Pastor Meraz



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am
*Sunday School and
Adult Bible Classes*

10:00 am
Worship Service

*Holy Communion
1st, 3rd and 5th
Sundays*

*Nursery Available
through
Preschool age*

OUR MISSION

*United in Christ we will
proclaim the Gospel,
administer the Sacraments,
and provide Christian
education to children and
adults in a supportive and
nurturing environment.*



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TRINITY LUTHERAN'S MINISTRY TEAM

Pastor Rev. Jonathan Meraz

Church Secretary Anne Combes

Music Director Kai Lin

Bookkeeper Janice Williams

Sexton Bill Sontag

Custodian Antonio Tutt

Nursery Robyn Ocana

Chairman of Deacons

Sharyn Leiding – Zone 3

Deacons

Sharon Plawin – Zone 1

Craig Scott – Zone 4

Ken Leiding – Zone 5

Roger & Mary Ann Medlin –
Zone 6

Bud and Lynn Hubert –
Zone 7 & Active Guests

Council 2018

President

John Knickelbein

Vice-President

Chaplain Rick Townes

Recording Secretary

Lynn Hubert

Treasurer

David Petri

Christian Growth Chair

Cathy George

LWML President

Sharon Knorr

Special Ministries Chair

Patty Malone

Stewardship Chair

Craig Scott

Worship Board Chair

Janice Gwin

Church Properties

Dave Poston - Chair

Jack Carter - Trustee

Flat Luther

If you have not stopped to look at the Flat Luther board in the Welcome Center please do! Flat Luther has been to Greece, Rome, Cuba, Bahrain, Japan, Alaska, airshows, rode on a Harley, saw the solar eclipse and so much more over the summer. Flat Luther even was at the Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing just a few weeks ago. We even have a video of Flat Luther riding through the tunnel on a Harley on our Facebook page.



This has been a fun “project” and we will keep it up at least through the New Year! Thank you to everyone who has taken Flat Luther on their travels. The **Here I Stand** Facebook page has seen some of our photos and has shared them on their page. Yes, *Here I Stand*, featuring Flat Luther has his own Facebook account. Trinity Lutheran Norfolk is being seen beyond our own walls and in a fun way happy to be Lutheran!

Way to go! ☺

Official Acts

Baptisms

Rylee Loraine Smith - November 19, 2017

Members Received

Mark Winterstein –November 21, 2017

OUR MISSION

*United in Christ we will proclaim the Gospel,
administer the Sacraments, and provide Christian
education to children and adults in a supportive and nurturing environment.*

From our Pastor

Introduction to the Divine Service

Notes on the Liturgy #10 –
Alleluia Verse and other responses

Alleluia means *praise the LORD*. It is an expression of joy that emphasizes victory in Christ. For this reason, it is common not to sing it during Lent, and substitute a different verse in its place. This is a voluntary devotion to highlight the passion of our Lord. Notice in the different Divine Services of LSB, the Alleluia is combined with other words of Scripture. In LSB Setting 1, we sing the words of the disciples in John 6:68 - **Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal Life.** In Setting 4, we sing John's summation about Jesus' miracles recorded in John 20:31 - **These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.** There are other verses taken from Scripture that may be used in accordance with a particular season of Sunday of the Church year.

The Alleluia Verse thrusts our attention forward to the hearing of Jesus' words, and originally served the mundane purpose of being "traveling music" in the early church as the procession of the Gospel took place. Thus, the Alleluia Verse is a tool to focus on and exalt the Gospel readings as well as adore the Lord of the Gospel. This is an important point. The liturgy has been formed by the church through the centuries. It is the culmination of the work of great theologians with which the Lord has blessed His Church. Lutherans have retained a liturgical form not because they love minutiae and tradition, but because the liturgy continues to point us beyond ourselves to the cross and the Gospel. The liturgy has been kept for the love of the Gospel.

Finally, here is a brief word on other responses to the Scripture readings. The phrase *Thanks be to God* was used by early Christians to gain entrance into houses of worship. During periods of persecution the door-keeper would accept this phrase and allow a person into the assembly. This phrase is retained in our Lutheran Service Book (LSB). Other responses like *Glorry to you, O Lord* and *Praise to you, O Christ*, highlight the fact that we are not simply reading Scripture but that the God of the Bible is present with us in the Divine Service.

*These notes were originally written in 2001
by Pastor David Oberdieck and have been edited.*

Board of Deacons

Sharyn Leiding

Stores have been decorated for Christmas since mid-October. Our mailboxes are being bombarded with ads appealing to our gift-giving thoughts. Television is constantly reminding us to SHOP – SHOP – SHOP. While enjoying a bit of the above, my thoughts drift to simpler pleasures, such as baking Christmas cookies and caroling to Trinity's homebound members.

When the third candle of Advent is lit on Sunday, December 17th, YOU are invited and encouraged to join your voices with others and make a joyful noise, singing familiar Christmas carols at the homes of Trinity's homebound members. Meet at Trinity at 4 p.m., enjoy snacks, carpool to two or three homes, sing and socialize, much to the delight of our homebound members. Last year we had 25-30 people take part in this ministry, including two toddlers. Bud Hubert recited *The Night before Christmas* and was applauded for his efforts. Don't miss this opportunity to share the message of Christ's birth via music with fellow believers! A sign-up sheet is on the hallway bulletin board. This event is sponsored by the Board of Deacons.



A deacon was present to welcome Rylee Smith into God's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 19th.

Your deacons continue to meet with Pastor Meraz each month. Do not hesitate to contact your deacon with concerns and/or suggestions related to the spiritual environment at Trinity Lutheran Church. We are looking forward to seeing you at worship services.

LWML

Lynn Hubert

A special thank you to everyone who donated crafts and baked goods for our Holiday Happenings on November 19th. Maybe you stopped by the Welcome Center and enjoyed some goodies or picked up a craft; whatever you purchased we want you to know that you are helping to support our mission work through the LWML. We raised approximately \$550!

We have been invited to join our sisters-in-Christ at Hope Lutheran Church for their Advent Tea on Saturday December 2nd from 2-4 pm. Many of our ladies will be in attendance.

The Poinsettia sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway. Poinsettias will be \$8.00 this year and must be paid for in advance. Order deadline is Sunday, December 3rd. Poinsettias may be taken home after the service on Christmas Eve. Please make checks payable to LWML.

This year we will be decorating the church for Christmas after the late service on December 10th. Many hands make the work easier. Please join us for a wonderful afternoon of fellowship.

We will be holding our Women's Epiphany Luncheon on Saturday January 6th at The Pagoda Restaurant and Tea House, 265 W. Tazewell Street in Norfolk at 11:30 am. Please sign up by January 1st on the LWML board to let us you know you are attending. All ladies of the congregation are invited!

Love Boxes for our military and college students will be packed on Saturday February 3rd at 10:00 am. Don't forget to gather your donations and drop them off in the Welcome Center in January. Look for a sign-up sheet on the LWML bulletin board. Please help us make sure we have an accurate list of our military members who are deployed and our youth who are currently attending college. Call Anne in the office to update this list.

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 10th at 10:00 am. Please join us for a wonderful brunch, fellowship and catching up with everything that the ladies do around Trinity!!

We pray each of you have a blessed Christmas!

**Christian Growth**

Cathy George

It is the intention of the Board of Christian Growth and Pastor Meraz to present a book review on a regular basis of one of the books available from our Trinity Library shelves in the Welcome Center.

Below is Pastor's Review of a new book recently entered onto our shelves.

WILL THE REAL JESUS PLEASE STAND UP?***12 False Christs***

Rev Dr. Matthew Richard

While listening to one of the podcasts I regularly follow (Table Talk radio) I heard Pastor Richard being interviewed about his new book. The title intrigued me as did the ensuing discussion. Jesus once asked His disciples "who do people say that I am?" Pastor Richard has written 12 short vignettes about some of the answers that people in our world today give to that questions.

I found the book to be very interesting. I also found myself thinking of certain people I have encountered in my life who answer the "who do people say that I am" question much like some of these people do. In fact, I could look back in my own life and see where I might have answered similarly.

This book falls into the apologetic category - defending of the faith. It presents scenarios, the false ideas in them, and possible ways to counteract, lead and instruct those you meet who have these false ideas about who Jesus is, what He has done and what it really means for us.

The book is set up for possible bible study use and is easy to read. I would encourage you to take the time to read this for your own benefit and as a way to lead others that you encounter who may have a misunderstanding of who Jesus is.

Upcoming Events you do not want to miss:

December 10th decorating the Chrismon Tree in the church yard, during the Sunday School hour. The Saturday before, December 9th, we are asking for volunteers to help put up the tree. See Cathy or Errol if you can help.

December 17th the Christmas Pageant. During the Sunday School hour. All Sunday School classes will be participating.

Make these events a part of your Advent activities.

Special Ministries

Patty Malone

Did you know that 3rd grade students that are not able to read efficiently are four times more likely to drop out of school? Did you know that 25% of children in the U.S. grow up not learning how to read? We at Trinity can help change the tide of these statistics. We are **collecting new and gently loved books for children and teens. We are going to Fill-a-Bookshelf and become part of the solution.** We hope to see the bookshelf overflowing with books we all loved to read as children!

When we talked with Reach, Inc. we found out that besides collected books they also do read-a-louds at homeless shelters and low-income schools. They need individuals to deliver the books to the children as well as stay and read to them. Hopefully, we can go all in and visit the shelters or schools and be that reader that makes a difference in the life of a child.

Trinity, wouldn't it be great to work with Reach, Inc. as they support the regional priorities of improving literacy and education for children ages 0-17, especially those facing adverse situations such as poverty and homelessness? Help where you can and prayerfully consider being a reader!

If you have never heard of them - Reach, Inc. is a local non-profit who over the last five years, has supported the literacy needs of over 5,000 children, distributing over 77,500 new and used books valued close to \$250,000. They started in 1998 and expanded from one Read-Aloud program to 20 shelter and community initiatives.

The **Judeo-Christian Outreach Center** had their annual sign-up dinner in late October and our two dates for 2018 have been selected. Please mark your calendars for **cooking and serving on Saturday, February 24, 2018** and **Saturday, April 28, 2018.**

We will be cooking and serving the same day, which most of our volunteers liked better. If you are new to the congregation these days are when we cook for the homeless then go to where they are and serve them. Last year, a nutritious, free dinner was available every evening to individuals and families in need. The JCOC's incredible volunteers served 83,000 meals last year helping those who otherwise would go hungry.

We are humbled to have been able to help serve (twice) some of those 83,000 meals last year! We are in the community and trying to make a difference. **We hope you will join us!**

The JCOC does a lot more than feed people and here are just a few of the things they did last year - They ran a food pantry, supplied family food boxes, offer emergency housing programs, have a veterans transitional housing program, offer winter shelter program, employment training and life skills just to name a few.

Our dates for 2018 at the FoodBank of Southeastern VA have not been firmed up as of this writing. We hope to have those dates soon, Stayed tuned!

Look on the Special Ministry board at the map and see the pins of all the places we have helped. Do you see any other places on the map you would like to help? If so, please let the Special Ministry Team know as we are always looking for new ideas and ways to make a difference.

If you would like to be a part of this great team, please come and join us. ALL are welcome! Our team members are Jo-Nell and David Chadwick, Cathy George, Sharon Knorr, Linda Loper and Patty Malone.

Preteens

Patty Malone

Our last preteen fun night for 2017 will be held on **Friday, December 8, 2017 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** Come out as we have a **birthday party for Jesus!** This is always a FUN night of games, crafts, bible object lesson and of course snacks. There will even be some Christmas BINGO in December. Come out as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Parents please mark your calendars for Preteen Fun Nights. They are held the 2nd Friday of each month from September – May. This is our second year holding the Fun Night and the children really seem to enjoy coming out for their own night of fun. Thank you for all the support from the parents and helpers, this night is not possible without you!



Dear Operation Barnabas Congregations/Chapters,
 Here is the address for the latest Warning Order - <http://www.lcms.org/operationbarnabas/resources>.
 Chaplain Craig G. Muehler
 CAPT, CHC, USN,(ret.)
 Director, Ministry to the Armed Forces
 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

**Paul Plawin Scholarships granted to
Ben Berteau and Terrell Davis
for their studies at Concordia Seminary**

Trinity's Paul Plawin Scholarship was established 50 years ago with memorial funds donated in memory of Pastor Paul Plawin who served Trinity for 35 years and Joanne Wittersheim, a teenage girl in the congregation who died in a boating accident. Both went to their heavenly home in 1966.

The Scholarship has assisted many students and teachers in their theological studies over the years — most recently granting Ben Berteau, Chaplain Dan Berteau's son, an \$8,000 scholarship in 2010, an additional \$5,000 scholarship in 2014, and another \$10,000 in 2016 for Ben's studies at Concordia Seminary.

By the end of 2016 the Paul Plawin Scholarship Fund had pretty well run its course and used up its funds. The scholarship committee felt it was time to end the program after its 50 years. But the Lord works in mysterious ways. Trinity received a very generous donation from a long time Trinity member, Bertha Hart, who went to her heavenly home in April of 2016. She and her husband were members of Trinity dating back to the days of Pastor Plawin.

This donation came at a time when Ben Berteau was completing his last year at seminary and we learned that Terrell Davis, a member of Unity Lutheran Church in Norfolk, whose family attended Trinity for 19 years prior to going to Unity, is preparing to enter Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, next fall 2018, to become an LCMS pastor. It will be a second career for him.

The scholarship committee decided to award Ben an \$8,000 scholarship for his final year at Concordia and a \$20,000 scholarship over 4 years to Terrell for his ministerial studies at Concordia.

Terrell and his wife Anjetta were active members of Trinity from 1989 to 2008 and are currently members of Unity Lutheran Church in Norfolk where they play a very active role in the ministry. They served as youth counselors for a number of years at Trinity and their three children were confirmed at Trinity.

Terrell was active duty Navy for 17 years, serving on the USS Theodore Roosevelt and serving 3 years in Naples, Italy, working for the Sixth Fleet in Europe. He completed his college degree and has been a federal employee for 20 years. The Lord is calling him to a second career. He is already taking online courses from Concordia. He and Anjetta will be moving to Fort Wayne next summer.

The Paul Plawin Scholarship Committee includes Ken Leiding, Sharyn Leiding, Jack Carter, Anna Carter, Craig Scott, Mary Lou Scott, Judy Sykes and Sharon Plawin, chairman.



44th Annual German Christmas Service

Residents of Hampton Roads gather to
celebrate the birth of our Savior
by participating in a

German Language Service

December 14, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Saint John Lutheran Church
8918 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

December

Birthdays

- 2 Dave Poston
- 3 Hayden Jennings
- 4 Clint Dalton
- 5 Luke Prince
- 10 Sybil Klabuhn
- Rachel Adams Futrell
- Eric Keplar
- 12 Nicholas Mick
- 14 Pat Gregory
- 16 Terry Ingmire
- 17 Abbott Adesso
- 19 Jordan Bradley
- 20 Tyler Aker
- 22 Bill Sontag
- Celia Sabillon
- 25 Happy Birthday Jesus!
- 28 Mara Kane
- 29 Ray Johnson
- 31 John Knickelbein

Anniversaries

- 16 – Roger ♥ Mary Ann Medlin

January

Birthdays

- 2 Doug Sulak
- Janet Gould
- 5 Suri Capehart
- 6 Helen Everett
- Brenda Townes
- 8 Christiana Leiding
- 8 David Chadwick
- 9 Ana Mallie
- 10 Sarah Prince
- 11 Ralph Knorr
- 13 Margaret Conrad
- 15 Paul Diehl
- Scott Thieman
- 17 Ash Davidson
- 18 Bill Gunther
- 20 Linda Loper
- 23 Howard Copeland
- 24 Katherine Nytko
- 25 Julie Boyette
- 27 Tyler Roll
- 28 Cesar Sabillon

Anniversaries

- 4 Robyn ♥ Tyler Ocana
- 11 Flo ♥ Richard Ball

100th Anniversary

Bud and Lynn Hubert
Co-Chairmen 100th Anniversary Committee



Trinity Celebrating 100 years in 2020 – It may sound like there is a lot of time between now and 2020. But time flies and there is lots to do to plan a year of celebration. In preparation for our 100th Anniversary Celebration we would like to introduce a new fund raiser, "\$100,000 for 100 Years", beginning January 2018 and running through December 2020. Our prayers are to raise \$100,000 that would be divided between Building and Repair needs and to fund our yearlong celebration. You may contribute to this campaign by writing "100th Annv" on your offering envelope or in the memo section of your check. We will keep you updated on our progress.

A 100th Anniversary Committee will be established with volunteers from the congregation who would like to be involved with the planning process for this celebration. If you would like to be involved and share your ideas please sign up on the Volunteer Board in the Welcome Center. We will have our first meeting in early 2018 to get started.

Please keep our committee and Trinity in your prayers as we plan for this amazing milestone in the life of our Trinity congregation.

WORSHIP SERVER SCHEDULE

	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
U	John Knickelbein and Doug Sulak	Linda Blaker and Doug Sulak	John Knickelbein and Julie Meraz	Bud Hubert and Errol Jennings	John Knickelbein and Doug Sulak
L	Anna Carter	Chaplain Mallie	John Butcher	Julie Meraz	Anna Carter
C A	Chaplain Mallie		Jeff Ingmire		Jeff Ingmire
A	Ana Mallie		Jeanette Gilson		Ana Mallie
C S	Pastor Meraz	Chaplain Townes	Sharyn Leiding	Chaplain Mallie	Chaplain Townes

	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Ushers	Jack Carter and Errol Jennings	John Knickelbein and Julie Meraz	Craig Bayse and Doug Sulak	Linda Blaker and Bud Hubert
Lector	John Knickelbein	Chaplain Townes	John Knickelbein	Cathy George
Communion Assistant	John Knickelbein		John Knickelbein	
Acolyte	Janet Gould		Justin Malone	
Children's Sermon	Pastor Meraz	Chaplain Mallie	Sharyn Leiding	Chaplain Townes

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 6:30pm Live Nativity
3 1st Sunday of Advent 9am Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class 10am Worship w/ Communion Installation of Church Council Members New member recognition	4 6:30pm Bowling League	5	6 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Lutheran Confessions Study Group	7 11:30am Ladies Weekly Bible Study	8 6:30pm PreTeen Night Activities	9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 9am Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class 10am Worship Service 11:30am Sunday School Teacher's Meeting 11:30am Deck the Halls	11 6:30pm Bowling League	12	13 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Lutheran Confessions Study Group	14 11:30am Ladies Weekly Bible Study 7pm Men's Bible Study	15	16 8am Men's Breakfast 8am Ladies Monthly Bible Study
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 9am Sunday School Christmas Program 10am Worship w/ Communion 4pm Homebound Christmas Caroling	18 6:30pm Bowling League	19	20 6:30pm Lutheran Confessions Study Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	21 11:30am Ladies Weekly Bible Study	22	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent/ Christmas Eve 9am Sunday School/ Adult Bible Class 10am Worship Service 7pm Christmas Eve Family Comm. Service 10pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Comm. Service	25 Christmas Day - The Nativity of our Lord 10am Christmas Day Worship Service Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed	28 Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	30
31 1st Sunday after Christmas/ New Years Eve 9am Sunday School 10am Service of Readings and Carols						

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Circumcision and Name of Jesus 6:30pm Bowling League	2	3	4 11:30am Ladies Weekly Bible Study	5	6 Epiphany LWML Epiphany Luncheon 11:30 am
7 The Baptism of our Lord/ 1st Sunday after Epiphany 9am Sunday School 10am Communion Worship 11:30am Undecorating of Trees	8 6:30pm Bowling League	9 7pm Church Council Meeting	10 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Lutheran Confessions Study Group	11 11:30am Ladies Weekly Bible Study 7pm Men's Bible Study	12 6:30pm PreTeen Night Activites	13
14 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 9am Sunday School 10am Worship Service 11:30am Sunday School Teacher's Meeting	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 6:30pm Bowling League Trinitarian Deadline for Feb/Mar Issue Church Office Closed	16	17 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Lutheran Confessions Study Group	18 11:30am Ladies Weekly Bible Study	19	20 8am Men's Breakfast 8am Ladies Monthly Bible Study @ Coaster Coffee on Tidewater Drive
21 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 9am Sunday School 10am Communion Worship	22 6:30pm Bowling League	23	24 6:30pm Lutheran Confessions Study Group 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	25 11:30am Ladies Weekly Bible Study 7pm Men's Bible Study	26	27
28 4th Sunday after Epiphany 9am Sunday School 10am Worship Service	29 6:30pm Bowling League	30	31 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Lutheran Confessions Study Group			

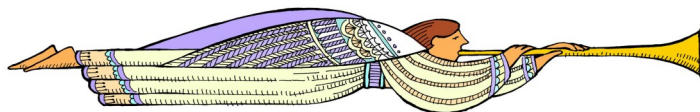
January 2018

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6001 Granby Street
Norfolk VA 23505

757/ 489-2551 Church

www.trinitylutherannorfolk.org



YOUR CHURCH STAFF prays that the peace and joy of Christ will be yours always. Have a blessed Christmas & Happy New Year!

Pastor Meraz, Anne Combes, Kai Lin, Janice Williams and Bill Sontag

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve Services - Sunday, December 24th

9:00 am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study

10:00 am Worship Service

7:00 pm Family Communion Service

10:00 pm Candlelight Communion Service

Christmas Day Service - Monday, December 25th

10:00 am Communion Celebration

First Sunday after Christmas - December 31st

9:00 am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study

10:00 am A Service of Readings and Carols

