



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Norfolk, Virginia
Praising the Lord for 100 years of Grace
1920-2020



100th Anniversary—July 2020 Issue

Trinity Traditions Over The Years

Trinity has always been a liturgical Missouri Synod Lutheran Church - proclaiming God's Word and ministering to His people. Many pastors and chaplains have led the congregation in worship over the past 100 years, preaching the Word, administering communion and baptism, and conducting confirmations, marriages and funerals.

Many souls have worshipped at Trinity over those years including many members of the military who made Trinity their home church while stationed in the area. Others settled in Norfolk and became permanent members. It's always been a welcoming and loving congregation. Over those 100 years Trinity developed traditions to enhance its worship.



Reformation

Trinity's Sunday School and School students sang Martin Luther songs at the Reformation celebration after church, dressed as German children, monks and nuns of Martin Luther's time. Everyone enjoyed "German" food and children played with paper swords in "hay stacks" of shredded paper reminiscent of Luther's day.



Backpack Blessing

Children are given a special blessing as they begin a new school year.



Children's Church Bags

This was started by the LWML to give children Bible lessons and coloring sheets to focus on during the church service. A Sunday School TAKE HOME packet was also introduced for kids.



Advent, Christmas and Thanksgiving

Christmas Trees and poinsettias have always decorated the sanctuary to proclaim the Christmas season. For many years a ceramic manger scene, made by one of the ladies of the congregation, Dot Simms, has been placed under the altar. During the Advent season one figure is put in place each Sunday and then on Christmas Eve a child carries in the Christ Child to complete the scene. At Thanksgiving a cornucopia with fresh fruit is put in place under the altar by Bud and Lynn Hubert in thanksgiving to God.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper has always been a time of fellowship as well as a great fund raiser by many organizations within the church. Church and school families have enjoyed the food and activities for children. It made children aware that Lent is a special time for reflecting on God's Love in sending His Son to die for our sins. A Soup and Bread Supper prior to midweek Lenten services is also offered.



Lent and Palm Sunday

For many years Trinity's chancel cross has been draped in purple during the Lenten season, then draped in black for Good Friday and white for Easter. At the end of the Ash Wednesday service, the congregation moves to the front lawn to sing *Abide with Me* in front of the three crosses placed there. On Palm Sunday children carry palms and line the aisle to welcome Jesus.

Easter



On Easter Sunday lilies adorn the chancel and windowsills! The outdoor cross which was draped in purple for Lent and black for Good Friday is adorned with flowers as people make their way to church. It's a perfect place for family pictures. For many years there was an inside wooden floor cross with candles, made by Paul Lass. This cross was decorated with flowers by Bud and Lynn Hubert for Easter morning services.





Baptism - 2,034 Souls Baptized

Trinity's white marble baptismal font was brought from the church building on 34th Street. 2,034 babies, children and adults have been brought into God's Kingdom through baptism at this font. It was put on a moveable platform several years ago so it could be wheeled to the center aisle in view of the whole congregation. A remembrance candle is given to the child and Cradle Roll lessons of faith are sent to the parents until the child reaches Sunday School age.



Confirmation - 1,429 Confirmed



Pastors: (Top Left/Right) Pastor Meraz,
(Above Left to Right) Pastor Meyer, Pastor Bliese and Pastor Quiram.
(Right) Pastor Plawin and Chaplain Ernstmeyer

Confirmation has always been an important part of a child's faith walk. In the old days 2-hour confirmation classes were held on Saturday mornings during the school year. Confirmation attire went from white robes to suits and dresses and back to robes. 1,429 young people and adults were confirmed at Trinity over its first 100 years.



Acolytes

Acolytes were introduced in the 50's. Only boys served at that time and they had to wear dress shoes. Girls were welcomed in the 60's. Dick Robertson still remembers his dress shoes and sitting next to Pastor Plawin and hearing him sing!



Children's Sermon

The children's sermon is a more "modern" tradition at Trinity. Children are invited to hear God's Word presented on their level.



Above: Chaplain Berteau talks with the children.

Military Presence at Trinity

Trinity has always welcomed the military, many of whom were Lutherans from the Midwest. Most moved on to other duty stations or retired to their home states.... but others stayed in the area and made Trinity their home church.

Operation Barnabas, is an LCMS outreach to the military. At the suggestion of Chaplain Berteau, Pastor Smith initiated Trinity's OB in 2011. Errol Jennings and Howard Copeland led the initial effort to organize OB activities for military men and women and their families and to extend help when needed. Trinity's latest event was a "Welcome Home" for crew members of the USS Mason and their families. Chaplain Prince served aboard that ship.

Trinity's military have been a blessing to Trinity serving in many capacities over the years. Most recently OB members have participated in building the two outside sheds, transformed the attic into a huge storage area, and replaced the lighting in the church.



Above: Trinity's annual military portraits

Right: Military members enjoy a Pirates' night out with the Young Adult group.



Visiting Trinity's Homebound

Caroling at Christmas and hymn singing in the Spring bring joy to Trinity's homebound.



727 Marriages 439 Funerals

In joy and in sorrow the church is there. Trinity pastors have conducted 727 marriages and 439 funerals during its first 100 years.

Talma and John Butcher find a Church Home at Trinity

John and I were both raised in a different protestant denomination from Lutheran. We became increasingly disturbed about the services in the church we belonged to. We felt like members of a studio audience rather than members of a church family. We knew we needed to find a church service that was more reverent and Biblical.

Through much prayer and research of different churches beliefs, we were drawn to the Lutheran denomination as being closest to Biblical teachings. We visited some local Lutheran churches and eventually came to Trinity. We knew we had found our church home. The beauty of the church was only surpassed by the warmth of the people in the congregation.

We became members in early 2011, after completing classes and catechism. We continue to be blessed by the liturgical services and the sincerity and Christian love within the membership.

