

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

TRINITARIAN

JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2020

Available online @ www.trinitylutherannorfolk.org

From Our Pastor

Rev. Jonathan Meraz

Grace and peace to you...

Let me take you back to the opening lines of my message from our newsletter last quarter... *The second quarter of 2020 is a big one for our family here at Trinity. The presentation of **The Living Last Supper** will be part of our Maundy Thursday service during Holy Week in April, followed by Good Friday and the celebration of Easter, the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and the high point of the Christian year.*

In May we have a hymn festival on the first Sunday of the month; our first guest proclaimer, Pastor Jim O'Conner, on the second Sunday as we celebrate our military; and a Spring Sing to the homebound on the last Sunday. June features one of the high points of our 100th anniversary celebration. On the 7th we will rejoice during our 100th anniversary worship that will include some of the servants the Lord has used in Trinity's past. That evening the festivities continue with the Thanksgiving Banquet at Grand Affairs.

Wow... It's not news to those of us who have a few years under our belts that things are always subject to change and that we don't always know what's going to happen in this mortal life but the events of the last quarter have taken us right off the charts. The Corona virus has literally changed the course of history. For us, it has greatly altered the events we'd planned for our anniversary celebration. We might need to paraphrase the passage just a little bit for our circumstances but James says it well: **Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."** James 4:13-15

Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. Truer words were never spoken. And yet, even in the face of all that's happened (*COVID-19*), that's happening (*race protests and riots*), and that will happen (?????) there's one thing we know, one thing we can be sure of, one thing that will never be affected by the events of this or any other time. We have a Savior who loves us, a Savior who is faithful, a Savior who is unaffected, whose promises are sure and certain and unfailing. We have Jesus.

The events planned for our celebration may have been changed. We'll still be able to have some of our celebration in the future (and plan to do so). The way we worship looks a little different today than it did several months ago but we're still able to worship. God still comes to us in His Word. He still comes to us through the sacraments that He established. He's still the same today as He was yesterday and will be in the future. Those things are assured and His promises are yours today just as they were before any of this began. Thank you, Lord Jesus.

It's been my ongoing prayer that you've been safe, sound and sheltered during the past few months. I'm thankful and grateful for your prayers for Trinity and for Julie and me. We'll see and be together with each other soon. Until then my love and God's blessings to all of you ...

Pastor

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

10:00 am
Worship Service

*Holy Communion
1st and 3rd
Sundays*

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.*

Check out our website:

trinitylutherannorfolk.org

 Find us on
Facebook

facebook.com/TLCNorfolk

 FOLLOW US ON
twitter

@tlcnorfolk



6001 Granby Street
Norfolk VA 23505

757/ 489-2551 Church

TRINITY'S MINISTRY TEAM

Pastor

Rev. Jonathan Meraz

Church Secretary

Anne Combes

Music Director

Stephen Pruitt

Bookkeeper

Lynn Hubert

Sexton

Bill Sontag

Custodian

Antonio Tutt

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 & Lynn Hubert—Zone 7 & AG

Council 2020

President

Bud Hubert

Vice-President

Scott Thieman

Recording Secretary

Lynn Hubert

Treasurer

David Petri

Christian Growth Chair

Judy Sykes

LWML President

Cathy George

Special Ministries Chair

Patty Malone

Stewardship Chair

Craig Scott

Worship Chair

Janice Gwin

Church Properties

Gerry Harger - Chair

Walter Staley - Trustee

Pastor's recommended reading ...

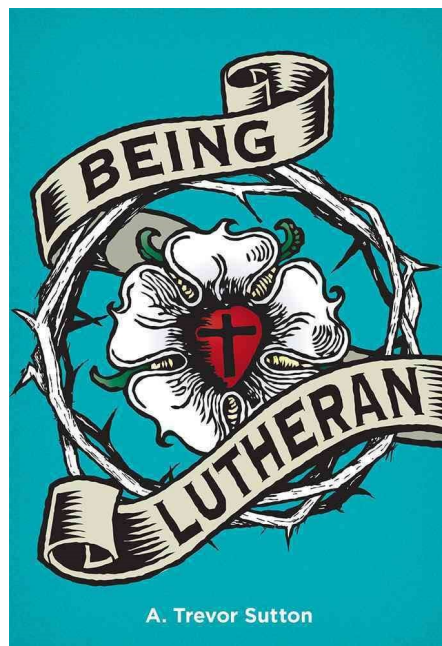
BEING LUTHERAN

A. Trevor Sutton

I read this book because I saw that the Foreword had been written by one of my favorite Lutheran authors - Gene Edward Veith. I appreciate and respect Veith's writings and was interested in what kind of book he might be endorsing. Suffice it to say I was not disappointed!

In the Introduction Mr. Sutton provides a list of what to expect to see, read, and discuss in his book. Expect Jesus, expect honesty, expect theology, history, people... expect Lutheranism. This is arguably the most well written observation, definition and description of Lutheranism I've ever read. It talks plainly, bluntly and honestly about what it means to be Lutheran. Don't think that this is a book only for Lutherans, though. Every Christian could be well fed from its pages.

I had some wallpaper on my computer desktop for a while that was a quote from the recently sainted Rev. Dr. Herbert C. Mueller, first vice-president of the LCMS. It said *the reason I am Lutheran is simply that Lutheran theology is biblical theology*. I agree and so does Mr. Sutton. Lutheranism is less about the *how* and more about the *who*. We are and should be focused solely on Jesus, not because we're Lutheran but because we're believers in Christ. The book isn't short but it's a pretty easy and quick read. You can pick it up and put it down without losing continuity. I encourage you to find it in our library and take some time to read it. I don't believe you'll be disappointed.



A. Trevor Sutton

100th Anniversary

Bud and Lynn Hubert

Praising the Lord for 100 years of Grace - Trinity's 100th Anniversary year arrived around the same time as the Coronavirus causing us to postpone our Anniversary activities and celebration. We still have a lot to celebrate and we will!!!! We will not let this virus cancel our celebration.

Trinity has received a very generous gift from Mr. Richard Robertson in honor of Pastor Plawin. This gift will be used to update our sound system in the sanctuary. With the new upgrades not only will the sound be greatly improved but we will have the capabilities of live streaming (directly to Facebook and You Tube) and recording our services. What a blessing this will be to our homebound. What a wonderful tool for Outreach! On behalf of Trinity we thank Mr. Robertson for his generosity and his love for Trinity!

Each month we have published a 100th Anniversary Newsletter, the June issue was sent by email and distributed at church. We hope you have enjoyed these newsletters and the history of Trinity shown in each issue. It certainly is a labor of love compiled by Sharon Plawin. There will be more issues coming! Thank you, Sharon!

The Anniversary Directory has been distributed at church. Additional copies are available in the church office.

The cookbook will be available as soon as we can safely set up to sell them. A special thank you to everyone who submitted their recipes. We pray you will be happy with the outcome. This certainly became a larger project than we expected. When you read thru all of the recipes, we promise you will want to head to the kitchen and start trying out a few.

Once we can start meeting as a committee again, we will be making decisions on when to hold our banquet and other activities. Since it could be awhile the committee decided to refund everyone's deposit for the banquet. Once we know when and how the banquet will be held, we will let you know.

There will still be magnets to sell and t-shirt orders will be taken again.

As of the end of May, we have received \$28,051.71 in our 100th Anniversary Fund. Some of these funds will be used to cover expenses of our activities when we resume. Some funds have already been used to purchase mementoes and to update the Welcome Center with a new flat screen TV and furniture. We will be looking into other ways this money can be used around Trinity. Donations to the 100th Anniversary fund will be accepted through the year 2020. Thank you to all who have donated.

We will not let this pandemic stop our celebration! God has blessed Trinity for 100 years and we pray He will continue to do so. We all need something to celebrate and we hope you will join us in praising the Lord for all He has done. There will be lots of information to share as we move forward! Watch future bulletins and Trinitarian issues for more to come!

We thank the Lord every day for our Trinity family. Some of us have not been able to return to church service yet. We will when we feel ready to do so. Until then keep our Trinity family in your prayers. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Board of Worship

Janice Gwin

God's blessings and good health to all. Trinity has reopened for live services. Adjustments for social distancing are continually being assessed and implemented.

Pastor started including Holy Communion within the services on June 21st and will now be serving Communion on the first and third Sunday each month. Pastor has taken the lead on all these matters at this time. Online services will continue. The Worship Board will resume meetings soon.



Deacons

Sharyn Leiding

Your Board of Deacons is biding its time while safely sheltering in place. That isn't exactly true, because we've worshiped on Sundays at Trinity, albeit, wearing those suffocating masks and staying socially distanced. We'd prefer to sit next to one another, shake hands, receive the sacrament side by side at the communion rail, share coffee and refreshments after Worship, hug one another and wish God's peace in person. However, sadly, it's not to be as of this writing, June 14th.

Pastor's message today got me to wondering how, or if, I have been using this extended gift of time to do the Lord's work. It certainly has not been attending actual meetings, preparing for children's messages, delivering altar flowers and prayer shawls or making visits to the homebound. But God is caring and creative and wants us to be as well. We can still send greeting and get well cards, make phone calls and encourage one another in our spiritual journey. Above all, we should be praying for one another. Let's be witnesses of God's love in our stay-at-home lives to those with whom we engage. Our mission field is right where we are, as Pastor so vividly expressed today.

Patience during the pandemic, leaning on the Lord, following health guidelines, reading devotions, concentrate on others, those are some of my intentions.

Christian Growth

Judy Sykes

Obviously there are many ways to pursue Christian Growth during the pandemic. I have been reading daily devotions more faithfully - online or in print. Anytime of course you can pick up your Bible and just open to any page; it's amazing what you can find! And of course, you can always pray - anytime/anywhere.

There are certainly a lot of things to pray for especially now -- all those affected by COVID 19, those who have suffered with it and those fighting it - our brave doctors, nurses and other health personnel. We can pray for all the frontline essential workers too - EMT's, police & firefighters, public transportation workers, cashiers, etc. And of course we can pray about the racial inequities causing so much discord and pain. Many Americans are really hurting right now and can certainly use our prayers, so don't forget to use some of your down time to include them in your petitions to God.

Our Sunday School offerings are still assisting folks in Puerto Rico. After another earthquake in May, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Mayaguez has helped provide shelter for those whose homes were destroyed, working with local hotels to offer places to live.

Until we can share more Christian Growth with one another, keep us all close to your heart in your daily thoughts and prayers.

LWML

Cathy George

As I write this article I am praising GOD for Trinity's LWML! In this difficult time of separation we have not been together since February, yet the response to my email requesting mites be sent in to our treasurer was powerful. We have collected \$826.79 in mites. These funds are being sent to support LWML district and national mission projects. GOD will do much with our mites.

During the past six weeks, LWML has sponsored a Bible study presented by Donna Snow, "Overflowing Abundance". There were over 500 LWMLers participating across the country. I learned a lot and was encouraged. There will be another study presented by Donna. I will let you know when I have more information. The study was viewed on Facebook.

Upcoming Activities:

August 22nd we had planned an Arts and Crafts Fair. Because of the uncertainty of the Corona virus and the necessity of social distancing I have decided to postpone the Fair until such time as it will be safer for all who wish to participate. I am disappointed as I am sure you are also, but this decision is made with everyone's safety in mind. As the situation improves, we can look at having the Fair scheduled. Thank you for your understanding.

Birthdays

July

2 Ted Baroodly
3 Judy Sykes
4 Shelby Blaker
6 Flo Ball
6 Sofia Capehart
9 Cathy George
10 Rachel Gillooly
12 Craig Bayse
13 Kenneth Leiding
13 Colette Gilson
16 Antonio Tutt
18 Sara Harger
19 Viola Person
22 Tom Othmer
26 Ryan Gillooly
28 Cullan Thieman
30 Luis Delgado

August

2 Philip Gilson
4 Gerald Harger
7 Evelyn Kuenzli
12 Candy Sontag
12 Jeanette Gilson
15 Sophia Robertson
16 Nani Sabillion
18 Ada Bugbee
22 Arthur Christy
22 Maggie Bayse
23 Richard Robertson
24 Nora Bugbee
25 Richard Ball
25 Buster Sontag
25 Walter Staley
26 Donna Pitt
27 Victor Duarte, Sr.

September

3 Bud Hubert
5 Justin Malone
7 Rebecca Peele
11 Robert Sawyer
12 Jon Leiding
13 Anne Combes
13 Hannah Prince
14 Janice Gwin
15 Marshawn Campbell
19 Bettie Terrell
20 Ruth Kaufman
24 Thelma Scroxtion
25 Tyler Clute
29 Alex Ruediger

Anniversaries

July

15 Clint ♥ Dana Dalton
21 David ♥ Jo Nell Chadwick

August

12 Don ♥ Deborah Adams
12 John ♥ Jan Knickelbein
14 Jonathan ♥ Julie Meraz
29 Eugene ♥ Shirley Barker
29 Kevin ♥ Anne Combes
30 Craig ♥ Mary Lou Scott

September

5 Jon ♥ Christine Leiding
14 Robert ♥ Ashlynn Sawyer



*In the event of inclement weather please visit our website at www.trinitylutherannorfolk.org
and our Facebook page at TLCNorfolk for announcements concerning any cancellations.
Notifications will also be sent by email to those with an email address on file
and by phone to those who do not.*

July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Independence Day Observed	4 Independence Day
5 5th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Communion Worship Service	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 6th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship Service	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 7th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Communion Worship Service	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 8th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship Service	27	28	29	30	31	

Special Ministries

Patty Malone

A big thank you to everyone who donated to our drive-up food donation drive for the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia. The response was overwhelming! We will be doing another food donation drive in August. Look for the dates in Pastor's weekly message and on Facebook. It will be another drive-up drive to allow for social distancing.

In July we usually have **Christmas in July** to raise funds and collect items for **"Operation Christmas Child"**. We are still unable to meet for social events but we are still having Christmas in July. This year our hope is families will take a box and fill it up. We will have the boxes available in July for you to take home.

When packing the boxes, they ask that the box is packed for a girl or boy and include one "WOW" item. Please keep in mind everything has to be able to fit into the shoebox. The wow item could be an inflatable ball, stuffed animal, small doll or car.

They ask that no religious symbols or name of organizations be on anything that is donated. We ask that no items require batteries. Most of the boxes go to third world countries or poor areas and batteries are not something they have access to.

Here is a short list of some items that are recommended: Nail clippers, combs, hair ribbons, wash cloth, small towel, sun glasses, crayons, pencil and sharpener, index cards, pens, small coloring book, pencil holder, solar calculator, ruler erasers, hat gloves, scarf, socks, flip flops, yoyo, marbles, card games, jacks etc... As you can see the list is endless.

Recommended "WOW" items: Fishing line, coin purse, puzzles, compass, magnifier, costume jewelry, small story books, mixing spoons, cups, measuring cups, screw driver, hammers, nails and screws. Again, you can see the list is endless.

Most items are able to be purchased at the Dollar Tree. So, if you are able to take a box and fill it up it would be greatly appreciated!

We pray for an end to this pandemic and a time where we can get back together, until then, we hope you will take a box and fill it up.

August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Communion Worship Service	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship Service	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 11th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Communion Worship Service	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 12th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship Service	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 13th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Worship Service	31					

Board of Stewardship

The past few months have certainly been difficult for us all. We are sure Trinity will persevere as we always have as a family. Many volunteers have continued their work on behalf of the congregation. So, whether it has been thru monetary gifts or gifts of your talent or your prayers, we all at Trinity are very grateful for your stewardship.

We would also like to say a special thank you to Pastor Meraz and Stephen Pruitt. Thank you for your leadership, your guidance, and your prayers on Trinity's behalf. Thank you for the video messages and service music over the last several months. It certainly has lifted our spirits to be able to continue our worship even if it has not been in church. Hopefully, everyone will feel safe soon to return to service on Sunday mornings. Thank you, God, for the gift of our Pastor and Director of Music.

As previously stated, through the collaborative efforts of the Treasurer and the Bookkeeper, Trinity was able to secure a loan through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). This is a secured loan with the Small Business Administration (SBA), administered through our bank, BB&T/Truist. The loan is being used for payroll and utilities. Thank you to Dave Petri for the many hours working with the bank from the beginning of this process thru to the end.

It is a blessing that Trinity was able to obtain this loan to assure that we could continue to maintain our payroll during the Corona virus shutdown. If 75% of the original loan amount is used for payroll, it will be forgivable. Based on our estimates, we expect we will qualify for forgiveness of a portion, if not all, the loan. That would be an additional blessing.

During the initial four months of 2020, Trinity's expenses exceeded income by nearly \$8000. As we approach the end of June, for the first time in many years Trinity is no longer showing a deficit thanks to the loan and thanks to your offerings. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

We thank God for all who have given faithfully even during the shutdown. The summer months are usually a timeframe where offerings decline. Please continue to support God's work through Trinity as He has provided you with the means.

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6001 Granby Street
Norfolk VA 23505

757/ 489-2551 Church

www.trinitylutherannorfolk.org



**If your mailing address or email address
has changed,
PLEASE notify the Church Office.**

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 14th Sunday after Pente- cost 10am Commu- ion Worship Service	7 Office Closed Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
13 15th Sunday after Pente- cost 10am Worship Service	14	15 Trinitarian Deadline Oct/ Nov/Dec Issue	16	17	18	19
20 16th Sunday after Pente- cost 10am Commu- ion Worship Service	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 17th Sunday after Pente- cost 10am Worship Service/Mission Service Sunday	28	29	30			