Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

TRINITARIAN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

Available online @ www.trinitylutherannorfolk.org

From Our Pastor

Rev. Jonathan Meraz

Grace and peace to you...

The beat goes on... Some of you may recognize that phrase as lyrics from a Sonny and Cher song of the same name released over 50 years ago (if you don't know who they are, ask your grandparents). We're currently offering services on Sunday but they don't really look anything like the ones we had back in February. Limited access to the building, separated seating in the pews, people wearing masks, hand sanitizer at the entrance, in the hallway and in the bathrooms, no touching, no hugging - it's all very different. And yet...

God has been good to us. He has made a way for us to hear His Word and receive His gifts. The Hubert's have been very faithful in recording and posting services online. Stephen, our Director of Music, has been very faithful in making trips back and forth across the water to provide us with some beautiful music. The Malones graciously provided us with a sanitation station that has sanitizer and masks available for anyone who forgets theirs.

Anne, our Church Secretary, formats our services for both recording and live on Sunday worship. Our Church Sexton, Bill, is caring for the community garden (which our neighbors love) and keeping up with the building maintenance. Errol Jennings keeps the candles burning and helps Bill with building maintenance. Money Counters are here every week. Trustees are tending to the yard well, making it attractive for the neighborhood (thank you, Walter, John and Justin). Judy Sykes works to maintain the beautiful flowers and other flora around the church.

There are many people to thank and appreciate (I apologize for not naming everyone. I realize the danger of missing somebody). One final thank you goes out to the congregation at large. You, too, have been faithful and it shows. 50+ people are worshipping each week in person but many more of you have joined online. We're in decent shape financially even though our practice is a little different (a thank you to Dave Petri for his work). Thank you all for that. God has worked through you with His strength and it shows.

So... we may look different than we did in February but the beat goes on. God continues to distribute His gifts of forgiveness and grace. He continues to work through His children. And He builds us up even in times of affliction. I would suggest He may even be making us stronger.

You are all in my prayers. If you have any need, please don't hesitate to contact me or the church office. Until then my love and God's blessings to all of you ...

Pastor

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am Adult Bible Classes

10:00 am Worship Service

Holy Communion as noted

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



facebook.com/TLCNorfolk



@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

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.

The new sound system was installed the last week of September. This means that we will no longer be recording Trinity's Sunday worship service mid-week and emailing it out to everyone on Saturday evening. Instead the service on Sunday morning will be live streamed beginning October 11th on Facebook and YouTube. The link to the YouTube video will also be posted on Trinity's website for viewing at any time. Again, we thank Mr. Richard Robertson for his very generous gift.

Each month we have published a 100th Anniversary Newsletter. We hope you have enjoyed these newsletters and the history of Trinity shown in each issue. If you have missed an issue, copies can be found in the church office as well as posted on Trinity's website.

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

The cookbook is ready for distribution and we hope to set up to sell them as soon as it is safe to do so.

The church calendar is included in this issue of the Trinitarian. You may notice that there are no 100th Anniversary Dates listed as we have not had a chance to meet to see what we plan on rescheduling. The Covid situation has left us with so many questions as to when we can safely schedule special services as well as our banquet. We promise to keep you updated as things hopefully get back to normal.

It had been agreed to continue to collect monetary donations for the 100th Anniversary Fund through 2020. We thank you for those donations. Maybe in 2021 you would consider sending those contributions to the general fund or another fund of your choosing. Once we return to our anniversary celebration, we promise the money collected will be put to good use at Trinity.

We will not let this set back 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!

Christian Growth

Judy Sykes

Attending worship services seems especially significant during this pandemic. The sense of normalcy it provides, as well as the opportunity to be around other human beings, the extra solemnity of wearing masks among a smaller group of parishioners, all give our "new" worship a profound sense of communication with our Lord and Savior and each other.

Of course we look forward to more normal worship, when more can attend and masks are not required, but it's wonderful to know that nothing can come between us and our God. The online taped services are a wonderful way to worship as well and we are so blessed to have that excellent alternative. Did you know that our lawn sign now reads, "HOPE LIVES HERE"?

Trinity is so fortunate to be able to offer this 'sanctuary' from the topsy-turvy world we live in right now. Thanks and praise to all those making our quarantine period spiritually meaningful -- Pastor Meraz, Stephen Pruitt, Bud and Lynn Hubert, Anne Combes... Continue to pray for them and for our entire congregation as we continue in God's grace.

Although Adult Bible Study has resumed, no Sunday School offerings are being collected. Therefore if you would like to make a donation to our ongoing support of ministry in Puerto Rico (still struggling to survive natural calamities), please drop a check in the offering plate or mail and add the memo "Sunday School Mission Project".

Adult, as well as children's, Advent Devotion Booklets will be available this year, as we continue to value our worship at home. Copies will be mailed to homebound and those unable to attend live services.

Council President

Bud Hubert

Deacons

Sharyn Leiding

Not much has changed since June 14th when the last article was written for THE TRINITARIAN. Your deacons are still faithfully attending worship services and receiving the sacrament, praying for Trinity's ministry, maintaining contact with members and guests via telephone calls, e-mails, and cards, making brief porch visits, and delivering children's toys and treats.

There was deacon presence at the baptism of Lorraine Othmer on July 26th.

Deacons were among the witnesses to the marriage ceremony performed by Pastor Meraz on August 9th between Jay Otero and Lisa Kern, a young US Navy couple.

Upon the death of long-time member Eugene Barker on August 11th, telephone contact was made with Shirley Barker to express condolences and offer the assistance of food and/or flowers. Shirley was most appreciative, but declined the offer as of now. "Convey my thanks to Trinity folks who prayed for Gene, and for those who sent cards."

Deacons were asked to contact all members of their zone to ascertain whether or not there was awareness of <u>online only</u> worship services for Sunday, August 16th.

We may be masked and socially distanced for now, but hope to SEE YOU IN THE PEW!



God's blessing to all. We have all been doing everything we can to keep Trinity running with the restrictions of the Covid 19 Virus. The Church Council this year has been meeting virtually. Since not much could be accomplished with the restrictions of Covid 19, those current members of the Church Council in positions coming up for election have volunteered to remain in those positions. This was approved by the Church Council and will be brought to the voters for approval in November. These billets are: Vice President - Scott Thieman, 2nd Trustee - Walter Staley, Treasurer - Dave Petri, Director of Christian Growth – Judy Sykes, Director of Deacons - Sharyn Leiding, LWML President as elected by the LWML - Cathy George. I have also volunteered to remain as President for one more year. The Voters' Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, November 8th. More details will follow as we make decisions on how to safely hold this meeting with the Covid 19 restrictions at that time. The agenda for this meeting will include Elections for 2021, Church Budget Approval for 2021, and the Financial Report on the State of the Church.

Board of Special Ministries

Patty Malone

To all those who donated to our drive-up food donation drive for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia – THANK YOU! We were able to collect, with your help, a total of 571 pounds of food. That amount equals 475 meals for those in need right here in our community. A thank you also for those who donated money for feeding our neighbors.

We will be doing another food donation drive in November. Look for the dates in Pastor's weekly message and on Facebook. It will be another drive-up drive to allow for social distancing.

Operation Christmas Child boxes have been filled and returned We were unable to have our 'Christmas in July' but everyone still came through.

These boxes will travel around the world to children who might otherwise not have Christmas. We thank you for helping us keep this mission work going even during the pandemic.



We had such an action-packed year planned and the pandemic put a wrench in the works. We were going to collect sleepers/pajamas for babies in September. With many still not feeling comfortable going out we will be postponing that until after the new year. Please keep in mind that we will be collecting the sleepers/pajamas for the babies so if you do venture out and see a good deal you could pick-up and save until early 2021.

Thank you for always stepping up and being the church when called upon. With your help we are making a difference locally and globally! We are being the church in the 757 – Thank you!!!

We pray that you and your family keep safe during this pandemic as things slowly start to get back to "normal"!

LWML

Cathy George

Greetings to all of our LWML'ers at Trinity! We are entering the last quarter of 2020 and we are still unsure of what will happen BUT we trust in God for we know HE is in control.

On September 12th the officers of our Trinity LWML met virtually to discuss upcoming events in 2020 and to discuss distribution of funds to our mission projects. Our first order of business was to make a change to officer positions, specifically the corresponding secretary. We discussed and voted to combine the corresponding secretary with the recording secretary positions.

We then discussed upcoming events. The first being LWML Sunday on Oct 11th. This will be limited due to social distancing. In celebration of the LWML we ask that members of the congregation make contributions to mites. (By the way, we have made a promise that when we can <u>all</u> be together "We will Party!")

November 22nd is the date for Holiday Happenings. Again, we will have to wait and see what this year will allow us to do. We will keep you posted.

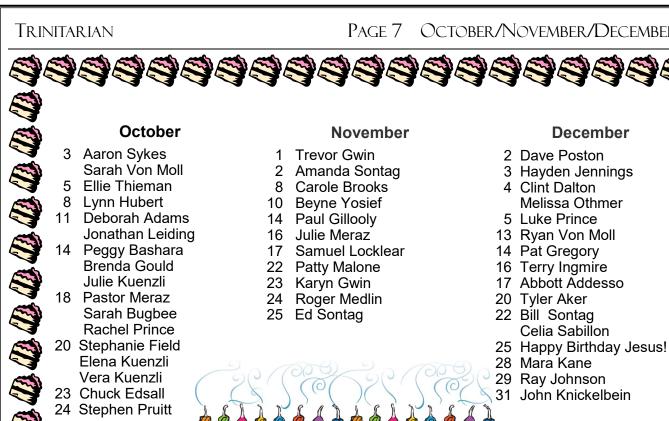
December 13th is the date for decorating the Church for Christmas. This will happen <u>but</u> it will be organized differently than in the past. Look for more information as we get closer to the date.

Your LWML leadership discussed our mission projects. We will be sending funds to the following programs:

- Union Mission
- Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia
- Hope Lutheran Food Pantry
- Lutheran World Relief (International Disaster Relief)
- *LCMS Human Care* (National Disaster Relief)
- *Friends of NEPAL Hope For Freedom* (Support to fight human trafficking)
- *Virginia Beach Justice Initiative* (Support to Fight Human Trafficking in the Hampton Roads Area)
- Mercy Chefs (Portsmouth)

One of our members, Anne Starke, is very busy making masks and now has taken on making quilts! Anne has told me that she has a lot of fabric she would like to share with anyone willing to make a quilt for LWR. Please let Anne or myself know. If we have a lot of quilts made we can arrange delivery to the LWR Center for sending them on to those in need.

Thank you ladies for your support in this unusual year. We have a new year coming with new mission projects! The need continues and it will take all of us to make it happen. Please consider submitting your mites every month if possible.





November

9 Paul ♥ Jean Diehl

December

16 Roger ♥ Mary Ann Medlin

October

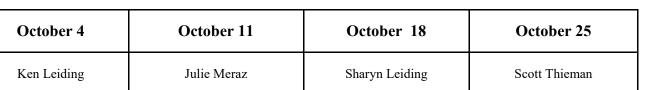
- 1 Ralph ♥ Sharon Knorr
- 2 Trevor ♥ Karyn Gwin
- 10 Timothy ♥ Brenda Gould
- 12 Ian ♥ Sarah Bugbee
- 21 Walter ♥ Tresea Staley
- 27 Ryan ♥ Sarah Von Moll



Anniversaries







November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Cathy George	ТВА	TBA	ТВА	ТВА

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 18th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 19th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Worship Service LWML Sunday	12 Columbus Day Office Closed	13	14	15	16 Boss's Day	17
18 20th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Reformation 9 am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween



REFORMATION DAY

"Regardless of how terrified the Christian is by the Law and how much he acknowledges his sin, he does not despair; for he believes in Christ into whom he has been baptized and through whom he has the forgiveness of sins. Now if our sin has been forgiven through Christ Himself ... we have become free by the deliverance of the Son."

Luther's Works, American Edition 26:447

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Day 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service Daylight Saving Time Ends	2	3 Election Day	4	5	6	7
8 23rd Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Worship Service 11:30am Voters' Assembly after service	9	10	11 Veterans Day Office Closed	12	13	14 10am LWML Meeting
15 24th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service	16	17	18	19	20	21
Deadline Jan/ Feb/Mar Issue 22 Last Sunday of the Church Year 9am Bible Study 10am Worship Service Stewardship Sunday LWML Holiday Happenings	23	24	25 7pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service	26 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent 9am Bible Study 10am Worship Service	30					

O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good.

Psalm 136:1

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7pm Advent Worship Service	3	4	5 LWML Advent Tea @ Hope Lutheran
6 2nd Sunday of Advent 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service 11:30am Chrismon Tree Decorating after service	7	8	9 7pm Advent Worship Service	10	11	12
13 3rd Sunday of Advent 9am Bible Study 10am Worship Service	14	15	16 7pm Advent Worship Service	17	18	19
20 4th Sunday of Advent 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 7pm Christmas Eve Communion Worship Service	25 Christmas Day - The Nativity of our Lord 10am Christmas Day Communion Worship Service	26
27 1st Sunday after Christ- mas 9am Bible Study 10am Service of Lessons & Carols	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve		



The Eve of the Nativity of our Lord

this night so special and joining together to worship the one true God who made Christians all over the world are lighting candles, singing hymns Tonight we begin the season of Christmas. On this night,

from all other nights? What makes this night different

wonderful night! sins. What a blessed and save all people from their born of the Virgin Mary, to our God became a man, arrival! This is the night that celebrate and remember His birth of Jesus. Tonight we been preparing for the Advent, the Church has All through the season of Tonight is the big night!







and saves all those who believe. that fill the sanctuary. Remind them that Jesus is the children to explore the decorations of the church Light of the World. He overcame the darkness of sin Direct their attention to all of the lights and candles Instruct them to be reverent in God's holy places Parents: Before or after the service, allow your



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of the Nativity of our Lord? What is The Festival

of our Savior Jesus! Church Year. This is the day that we celebrate the birth traditional way of saying Christmas Day. December 25 is one of the most important festival days in the The Festival of the Nativity of our Lord is the

at Christmas? the things we do Why do we do



ever been given, our Lord Jesus! After all, today we celebrate in their own celebrations. For example, when we give and Jesus' birthday, and He is the real reason for the season! receive presents, we can remember the greatest gift that has as outward reminders of Christmas and began to use them the Romans. Early Christians soon saw some of these things do at Christmas have their beginnings with



might have eternal life. What a great message to share! present we could ever have. He gave up His life so that we Parents: What a great way to spend Christmas! Thanks home, be sure to remind your children that Jesus is the best the wonderful Good News of Jesus today! When you go be to God that you have brought your children to hear



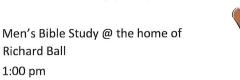
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church 2021 Calendar

Monthly Recurring Activities

Sunday School/Adult Bible Class - 9:00 am

Men's Bible Study @ the home of Richard Ball 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 7:00 pm

1st, 3rd and 5thThursdays, 1:00 pm



Men's Breakfast 3rd Saturdays, 8:00 am

Ladies Weekly Bible Study Thursdays, 11:30 am

Ladies Monthly Bible Study @ Coaster Coffee on Tidewater Drive 3rd Saturdays, 8:00 am

Lutheran Confessions Wednesdays, 6:30 pm

Trinity Chorale Rehearsal Tuesdays, 2:00 pm

Joyful Ringers Rehearsal Sundays following worship

Bowling League Mondays, 6:30 pm

Preteen Night Activities

2nd Friday of each month, 6:30 pm

Except September, June, July and August

Deacon's Meeting
Third Tuesday of each month except December @
1:00 pm

January 2021

- 1/1 Friday, New Year's Day Holiday Office Closed
- 1/9 Saturday, LWML Luncheon Out, 11:30 am
- 1/10 Sunday, The Epiphany of our Lord/Baptism of our Lord Undecorating of church after service
- 1/18 Monday, Martin Luther King Jr., Day Office Closed
- 1/23 Saturday, LWML Tidewater Zone Winter Retreat

February 2021

- 2/6 Saturday, LWML Love Box Packing, 10:00 am
- 2/15 Monday, President's Day -Office Closed
- 2/16 Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:30 pm
- 2/17 Wednesday, Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm
- 2/21 Sunday, 1st Sunday in Lent
- 2/24 Wednesday, Lenten Soup Supper, 5:30 pm Lenten Worship Service, 7:00 pm
- 2/28 Sunday, 2nd Sunday in Lent

March 2021

- 3/3 Wednesday, Lenten Soup Supper, 5:30 pm Lenten Worship Service, 7:00 pm
- 3/7 Sunday, 3rd Sunday in Lent
- 3/10 Wednesday, Lenten Soup Supper, 5:30 pm Lenten Worship Service, 7:00 pm
- 3/13 Saturday, LWML Meeting, 10:00 am
- 3/14 Sunday, 4th Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 3/15 Trinitarian Deadline, April/May/June Issue
- 3/17 Wednesday, Lenten Soup Supper, 5:30 pm Lenten Worship Service, 7:00 pm
- 3/21 Sunday, 5th Sunday in Lent
- 3/24 Wednesday, Lenten Soup Supper, 5:30 pm Lenten Worship Service, 7:00 pm
- 3/27 Saturday, LWML Cleaning of the Sanctuary for Holy Week, 9:00 am
- 3/28 Sunday, Palm Sunday

April 2021

- 4/1 Thursday, Maundy Thursday Worship Service, 7:00 pm
- 4/2 Friday, Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7:00 pm Office Closed Half Day



4/4 Sunday, Easter -Resurrection of our Lord Sunrise Service, 7:00 am Easter Breakfast, 8:30 am Easter Egg Hunt 9:30 am Family Worship Service, 10:00 am 4/5 Monday, Office Closed

May 2021

5/1 Saturday, LWML Mother's Day Lunch Out, 11:30 am 5/9 Sunday, Mother's Day 5/13 Thursday, The Ascension of our Lord 5/16 Sunday, Spring Sing to Homebound 5/23 Sunday, Pentecost 5/30 Sunday, Holy Trinity Sunday 5/31 Monday, Memorial Day, Office Closed

June 2021

6/15 Sunday. Trinitarian Deadline July/August/Sept 6/20 Sunday, Father's Day 6/24-27 LWML National Convention, Lexington KY

July 2021

7/4 Sunday, Independence Day 7/5 Independence Day observed, Office Closed

August 2021

8/29 Sunday, Blessing of Students/Teachers

September 2021

9/6 Monday, Labor Day, Church Office Closed 9/11 Saturday, LWML Meeting, 10:00 am 9/15 Tuesday, Trinitarian Deadline October/November/December Issue 9/26 Sunday, Mission Sunday Service 10:00 am

October 2021

10/10 Sunday, LWML Sunday 10/11 Columbus Day, Office Closed 10/17-21 SE District Convention Video Sessions 10/22 Friday, SE District Convention, In-person Richmond, VA

10/31 Sunday, Reformation Sunday Oktoberfest, lunch/Bel. Hall

November 2021

11/2 Tuesday, Election Day 11/7 Sunday, All Saints Day **Daylight Saving Time Ends**

11/11 Thursday, Veterans Day, Office Closed 11/13 Saturday, LWML Meeting, 10:00 am

11/21 Sunday, Last Sunday of the Church Year Stewardship Sunday **LWML Holiday Happenings**

11/24 Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service, 7:00 pm

11/25 Thursday - Thanksgiving Day Office closed

11/26 Friday, Office Closed

11/28 Sunday, 1st Sunday of Advent

December 2021

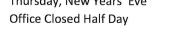
12/1 Wednesday, Midweek Advent Service, 7:00 pm 12/4 Saturday, LWML Advent Tea, Hope Lutheran Sunday, 2nd Sunday of Advent 12/5 Chrismon Trees Decorating after service 12/8 Wednesday, Midweek Advent Service, 7:00 pm 12/12 Sunday, 3rd Sunday of Advent Lighting of the Chancel Christmas Trees 12/15 Wednesday, Midweek Advent Service, 7:00 pm 12/19 Sunday, 4th Sunday of Advent Caroling to Homebound

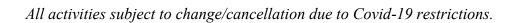
12/24 Friday, Christmas Eve Family/Candlelight Worship Service, 7:00 pm Office Closed Half Day

12/25 Saturday, Christmas Day Christmas Day Comm. Worship Service, 10:00 am

12/26 Sunday, 1st Sunday after Christmas

12/27 Monday, Office Closed 12/31 Thursday, New Years' Eve





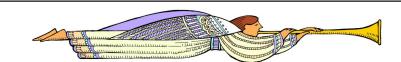
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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, Stephen Pruitt, Lynn Hubert and Bill Sontag

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve Service - Thursday, December 24th 7:00 pm Communion Worship Service

Christmas Day Service - Friday, December 25th 10:00 am Communion Worship Service

First Sunday after Christmas - December 27th 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:00 am A Service of Readings and Carols

