



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



100th Anniversary—October 2020 Issue

Trinity's Lutheran Women's Missionary League

The women of Trinity have always been an important part of its ministry. Keep in mind that 100 years ago, when Trinity's first Ladies Aid Society was organized in May of 1923, women couldn't vote in national elections nor in church elections. But they worked hard in the church and their influence was powerful.

In 1944 Trinity's ladies' group joined the national body of the Lutheran Women's League - later the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Trinity's women attended spring rallies, fall christian growth retreats, district conventions and zone workshops with other Southeastern District churches. This built strength and unity among the women.

In the early days, the ladies served Sunday dinners for servicemen during WWII and took care of communion preparation and altar duties. In 1945 when the new church was built on Granby Street the LWML made a gift of pews for the new church and in 1958 they donated new chancel flags. Turkey dinners became a way of raising funds for various needs for a number of years. Fund raising for these needs in the church has been ongoing.



Above—Ladies Aid Society 1933

Below—LWL 1947



Above—LWML 1983

Below—LWML 2018



Tailgate Fund Raisers in Trinity's Parking Lot



LWML District Gatherings



Receptions for Bach Festivals

Pastor James O'Connor and organist Lee Hendricks organized a Bach Music Festival in 2000 during the Reformation season at Trinity. Organist Kai Lin continued this tradition after coming to Trinity. Many musicians helped to make it a delightful evening including students from ODU and members of Trinity. It was a way of celebrating the rich culture of music in the Lutheran church as well as inviting others into our midst. The LWML prepared beautiful receptions for the occasion. It was a delight for everyone.



Altar Guild



One of the responsibilities of the LWML is covered by the Altar Guild, which prepares the sanctuary for worship, communion, baptisms, funerals and weddings. It involves the preparation and clean-up of communion and custodianship of the Sanctuary Fund which is used to purchase communion wafers, wine, candle oil, palms for Palm Sunday, baptismal napkins, and other altar needs. They also maintain/clean the robes worn by Pastor, Acolytes and Communion Assistants.

The Altar Guild also handles altar flowers. For those wishing to donate altar flowers in memory of loved ones or for special occasions, a signup sheet can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office. Donations of poinsettias at Christmas and lilies at Easter are also made in memory of or in honor of loved ones.



Decorating the Sanctuary for Special Occasions



Beginning in the 70s, Chrismons (Christian symbols) were made by LWML ladies for Trinity's two chancel Christmas trees during the Advent/Christmas season. More were added over the years and have been admired ever since. The manger is placed under the altar during Advent and poinsettias adorn the altar and windowsills at Christmas. The cross is draped during Lent and Easter - and Easter lilies adorn the altar and windowsills.

Valentine LOVE Boxes

In 1992, the ladies began making LOVE Boxes, filled with food treats and useful items, for our college students and deployed military members at Valentines - a much appreciated remembrance from the church family. This tradition continues today!



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Begun by LWML



The pancake supper signals the beginning of the Lenten season. It was initiated by the LWML but has since been sponsored by various Trinity organizations as a fund raiser for various projects. It was very popular with Trinity's School families. The LWML also initiated a **Soup and Bread meal before Lenten services in 1995**. Volunteers bring homemade soups and bread each week for the convenience of those attending the Lenten services. There's also an **Easter Breakfast** between services on Easter Sunday.



Something New—Baby Showers!



Baby Showers - a recent LWML project - is a fun way to celebrate Trinity babies on the way. What a blessing it has been.

Nursery

Families were offered a place to bring their young children when they didn't feel comfortable in the church service. The nursery was offered by the LWML ladies for many years.



Prayer Shawl Ministry Began in 2010



The Prayer Shawl Ministry has touched many at Trinity. Prayers are offered for the protection, comfort and blessings of the shawl's recipients as it is knitted/crocheted. Shawls are then blessed by pastor and LWML ladies kneeling at the communion rail, praying that recipients receive warmth and comfort from the Lord, and that they feel the 'hugs' from Trinity's LWML. To date, 92 shawls have been distributed.

LWML “Adopts” Seminary Students



The LWML has a tradition of adopting a seminary student. Monetary gifts, cards of support and prayers are sent to a student while he attends seminary. In recent years our adopted students have included Justin Pahl, Ben Berteau (son of Chaplain Berteau) and Terrell Davis. (Terrell Davis and Ben Berteau pictured left.)

Holiday Happenings



In 1993 the LWML began a fund raiser—Holiday Happenings—to support mission projects. The ladies make homemade goodies and crafts that are sold after service the end of November. MITES are also collected to support local/national missions.

Receptions

Welcome Center



There are always happenings at Trinity that require food preparation and the LWML ladies are always there to get the job done—that includes funeral receptions and refreshments for the Welcome Center.

**LWML has always been a hard working, spirit-filled group of women.
Thank you ladies!**

