

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

TRINITARIAN

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2021

Available online @ www.trinitylutherannorfolk.org

From Our Pastor

Rev. Jonathan Meraz

God bless you with peace and joy... I'm writing this on December 14th following my latest Covid test this morning. If it's clear my surgery will be this Thursday. I realize all of this will be in the 'rear view mirror' by the time you read it. We're expecting better results than the first attempt at surgery in November. We'll see. Regardless, this entire ordeal has reminded me of how much I have to be thankful for and how much I take for granted, so this message will focus on thanks and gratefulness.

On Thanksgiving, when my children were little, I asked them to write a list of all they were thankful for. Mostly, they drew a blank. I had to remind them of all that they had been gifted and given. This current experience has reminded me of all that I've been gifted and given, too. Martin Luther wrote a nice list for us in his explanation to the First Article:

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my limbs, my reason, and all my senses, and still preserves them; in addition thereto, clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and homestead, wife and children, fields, cattle, and all my goods; that He provides me richly and daily with all that I need to support this body and life, protects me from all danger, and guards me and preserves me from all evil; and all this out of pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I owe it to Him to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

There's another list given in his explanation to the Fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer: *Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.*

God has given me an incredible wife and family. He's given me the ability to work. He's given me a wonderful church family to serve. He's surrounded me with exceptional co-workers. I have never truly wanted for anything. God has been very generous to me. We have a nice home, good neighbors. There is so much to be thankful for. And I have to admit that I take it all for granted on a daily basis.

This trial has been good for me. It has helped me to remember again what's important. It's strengthened my faith and helped me to reprioritize the things in my life. God did this during my first cancer 27 years ago. He's doing it again now and for that I thank Him.

This doesn't mean I will now be the perfect husband (sorry, Julie) or father or pastor. It does mean that God continues to work in my life and He has let me know that. I pray that I do better, not for me because God has already given me all that I need. I pray I do better for you and for those who have yet to hear about God. I'm looking forward to returning to serve with all of you in the mission. Until that time, I give thanks with a grateful heart. My prayers are for peace and comfort and joy and a new post-pandemic year with a clean start for all of us.

My love and the love of God be with 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

 Find us on
Facebook

facebook.com/TLCNorfolk

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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 2021

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 has come and gone. Though it is true we did not celebrate the way we had hoped to, we did accomplish many things in 2020.

- Thanks to Sharon Plawin a monthly newsletter filled with Trinity's history was published each month.
- Thanks to Pastor Meraz and Stephen Pruitt (with the assistance from Bud and Lynn) we were able to record worship services and email a service to everyone each week that we could not meet as a congregation.
- Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Robertson, we were able to install a new sound system with recording capabilities and started Live Streaming our Worship Services.
- Thanks to everyone who contributed their recipes, our 100th Anniversary Cookbook was completed and sold.
- Thanks to the generosity of our congregation and the PPP Loan we were able to continue paying the salaries of our staff as well as pay our bills.

It was not an easy year for anyone. Although we are disappointed, we did not get to celebrate as we had planned. We are so proud of our Trinity family for stepping up and helping where you were needed. Whether it was wearing a mask, contributing food for the Foodbank, or saying extra prayers on someone's behalf. We never lost sight of our faith. Faith that our Lord is in charge and watching over all of us. We are so thankful to be a part of God's family at Trinity and to call each of you our Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Although this pandemic will still be a big part of our history thru 2021, we know we can survive, together with God's help.

We wish we could announce what our plans are for 2021 concerning our 100th Anniversary celebration. We still have no idea as to what those plans will be. We will celebrate!!!! As soon as things start returning to some sense of normal, we will gather the committee to make some decisions and we will let you know what those decisions are.

Praying that each of you have a blessed New Year!

Thank you, Lord for seeing us through 2020!



Christian Growth

Judy Sykes

Hope everyone enjoyed the "Jesse Tree" Advent Devotional. It reminded me of the Sunday School and Kindergarten Christmas pageants of the past, when the program always began with Adam and Eve, and traced Jesus' coming through the Old Testament. It was nice to revisit that history and remember how God had always planned to send us a Savior, Jesus Christ.

Prayers for Pastor Meraz are going up everyday among our congregation, that he might have a full recovery and return to us soon. Please share your well wishes with him.

A very small, simple way of showing God's love (especially during this Pandemic period) came to me recently. In Ghent where I live, it is not unusual to see homeless people on the streets, especially in front of certain stores, etc. Are there more now? I don't know, but you can simply buy a box of gallon baggies and fill them with mostly edible non-consumable items, like individual packages of cheese or peanut butter crackers, cookies, or nuts; add a juice box or water bottle, maybe some Kleenex or small sanitizer, the list can go on and on.. even add a little Bible verse or "God's blessings" on the bag. Then the next time you see one of these folks, you can share it with them, instead of just ignoring them. Just a thought...

May we all experience a New Year of new hope for the future as we welcome the COVID vaccine and its efficient distribution.

LWML

Cathy George

We are in a holding pattern for the beginning of 2021, waiting for the next steps to begin. I have been sending emails to the ladies with interesting information from the National and area LWML. REMINDER we are still collecting mites to help support our missions. We will be collecting items for our Love Boxes to be given out in February. Please watch the bulletin and emails for more information.



Board of Special Ministries

Patty Malone

Special Ministries would like to thank everyone who donated food for our final food drive of 2020. We collected a total of **344 pounds** which equates to **287 meals**. The food was delivered to the Food Bank on Monday, November 30, 2020 by John and Patty Malone.

The church should be extremely proud of the amount of food donated to those in our community who would otherwise do without. The joy we gain in knowing we helped our neighbors in need is immeasurable! In this pandemic year of 2020, Trinity has collected and delivered a grand total of **1,447 pounds** of food which equates to **1,117 meals**. Each food drive received \$250 from Thrivent as "seed money". With the "seed money" we were able to go out and purchase protein rich items - stews, canned meats, beans, sardines and much more.

Again, thank you to everyone in the congregation and neighborhood who donated food or funds for the Foodbank of Southeastern VA and the Eastern Shore and the support of Thrivent.

Stewardship Update

As you may remember we were able to borrow \$35,100 through the PPP (Payroll Protection Program) back in May. We have just received word from the bank that we have "FULL FORGIVENESS" of this loan. A special thank you to our Treasurer, Dave Petri and our bookkeeper, Lynn Hubert for their work on the paperwork for securing this loan as well as qualifying for the loan forgiveness.

Praise God
from whom
all blessings flow!



January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Years Day Circumcision and Name of Jesus <i>Office Closed</i>	2
3 Epiphany of Our Lord (celebrated) 10am Communion Worship Service	4	5	6 Epiphany of Our Lord	7	8	9
10 Baptism of Our Lord 10am Worship Service	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Second Sun- day after Epiphany 10am Communion Worship Service	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day <i>Office Closed</i>	19	20	21	22	23
24 Third Sunday after Epiphany 10am Worship Service	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 10am Worship Service						



A **snowman** is an anthropomorphic snow sculpture. In many places, typical snowmen consist of three large snowballs of different sizes with some additional accoutrements for facial and other features. Some common accessories include branches for arms and a rudimentary smiley face, with a carrot used for a nose. Clothing, such as a hat or scarf, may be included.

Documentation of the first snowman is unclear. However, Bob Eckstein, author of *The History of the Snowman*, documented snowmen from medieval times by researching artistic depictions in European museums, art galleries, and libraries. The earliest documentation he found was a marginal illustration from a 1380 book of hours, found in the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in *The Hague*. The earliest known photograph of a snowman was taken in 1853 by Welsh photographer Mary Dillwyn, the original of which is in the collections of the National Library of Wales.

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.



February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 10am Communion Worship Service	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Transfigura- tion of Our Lord Valentines Day 10am Worship Service	15 President's Day <i>Office Closed</i>	16 Shrove Tuesday *Pancake Supper	17 Ash Wednesday 7pm Worship Service	18	19	20
21 First Sunday in Lent 10am Communion Worship Service	22	23	24 *7pm Lenten Midweek Worship Service	25	26	27
28 Second Sunday in Lent 10am Worship Service						

*to be decided - please watch weekly bulletin and email for updates

Saint Valentine known as **Saint Valentine of Rome** was a widely recognized 3rd-century Roman saint, commemorated in Christianity on February 14. From the High Middle Ages his Saints' Day has been associated with a tradition of courtly love.

Saint Valentine was a clergyman – either a priest or a bishop – in the Roman Empire who ministered to persecuted Christians. He was martyred and his body buried at a Christian cemetery on February 14, which has been observed as the Feast of Saint Valentine (Valentine's Day) since 496 AD.

There are many other legends behind Saint Valentine. One is that in the 3rd century AD it is said that Valentine defied the order of the emperor Claudius and secretly performed Christian weddings for couples, allowing the husbands involved to escape conscription into the pagan army. This legend claims that soldiers were sparse at this time so this was a big inconvenience to the emperor. The account mentions that in order "to remind these men of their vows and God's love, Saint Valentine is said to have cut hearts from parchment", giving them to these persecuted Christians, a possible origin of the widespread use of hearts on St. Valentine's Day.

Another legend is that Valentine refused to sacrifice to pagan gods. Being imprisoned for this, Valentine gave his testimony in prison and through his prayers healed the jailer's daughter who was suffering from blindness. On the day of his execution, he left her a note that was signed, "Your Valentine".

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 *7pm Lenten Midweek Worship Service	4	5	6
7 Third Sunday in Lent 10am Communion Worship Service	8	9	10 *7pm Lenten Midweek Worship Service	11	12	13
14 Fourth Sun- day in Lent 10am Worship Service <i>Daylight Saving Time begins</i>	15 Trinitarian deadline	16	17 St. Patrick's Day *7pm Lenten Midweek Worship Service	18	19	20 Spring Begins
21 Fifth Sunday in Lent 10am Communion Worship Service	22	23	24 *7pm Lenten Midweek Worship Service	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday 10am Communion Worship Service	29	30	31			

*to be decided - please watch weekly bulletin and email for updates

Saint Patrick was a fifth-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Known as the "Apostle of Ireland", he is the primary patron saint of Ireland.

The dates of Patrick's life cannot be fixed with certainty, but there is broad agreement that he was active as a missionary in Ireland during the fifth century. Nevertheless, as the most recent biography on Patrick shows, a late fourth-century date for the saint is not impossible. Early medieval tradition credits him with being the first bishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland, and regards him as the founder of Christianity in Ireland, converting a society practising a form of Celtic polytheism. He has been generally so regarded ever since, despite evidence of some earlier Christian presence in Ireland.

According to the autobiographical *Confessio* of Patrick, when he was about sixteen, he was captured by Irish pirates from his home in Britain and taken as a slave to Ireland, looking after animals; he lived there for six years before escaping and returning to his family. After becoming a cleric, he returned to northern and western Ireland. In later life, he served as a bishop, but little is known about the places where he worked. By the seventh century, he had already come to be revered as the patron saint of Ireland.

Saint Patrick's Day is observed on March 17, the supposed date of his death. It is celebrated inside and outside Ireland as a religious and cultural holiday. In the dioceses of Ireland, it is both a solemnity and a holy day of obligation; it is also a celebration of Ireland itself.

LECTOR SCHEDULE

January 3rd - Scott Thieman
January 10th - Judy Sykes
January 17th - Cathy George
January 24th - Ken Leiding
January 31st - Julie Meraz

February 7th - Anna Carter
February 14th - Scott Thieman
February 21st - Judy Sykes
February 28th - Cathy George

March 7th - Ken Leiding
March 14th - Julie Meraz
March 21st - Anna Carter
March 28th - Scott Thieman



Significance of the Lenten Season

The season of Lent has a long tradition in the Christian Church. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and then runs for forty days, not including Sundays, until Easter. It is traditionally a time of fasting and repentance; reflecting the forty years that Israel spent in the desert and the fasting and soul searching of our Lord, when he spent forty days in the wilderness.

It is important to note, therefore, that while Lent is a time for meditating upon your ways and your life, its ultimate purpose is to prepare us for the good news of Easter, the coming of new and abundant life in Christ. During Lent we are asked to slow down, take a deep spiritual breath, and await God's grace. It is to be a sober, but not a somber opportunity, to revive our souls.

Shrove Tuesday

The origin of the name Shrove Tuesday lies in the archaic English verb "to shrive". Shrive means to obtain absolution for one's sin by confessing. Traditionally this was done before the beginning of Lent. It was common in the Middle Ages for "shriveners" (priests) to hear people's confessions at this time, to prepare them for Lent.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. In effect, the Ash Wednesday Service sets the scene for the forty days of reflection to follow. It is a service of great moment. As is our custom, during the evening service ashes made from palms from the previous Palm Sunday are placed by the pastor on the foreheads of worshipers in the sign of the Cross. In this act we are reminded that we are human and therefore will ourselves return to the dust. Ash Wednesday allows us not to retreat from life, but to begin to once again recognize the profound gift of grace and new life that we find in Jesus. It is a way of recognizing that the love of God is real and the beginning of a meaningful life.

Operation Barnabas

Here is the address for the latest Warning Order -
<http://www.lcms.org/operationbarnabas/resources>

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6001 Granby Street
Norfolk VA 23505

757/ 489-2551 Church

www.trinitylutherannorfolk.org



If your mailing information or
email address has changed,
please notify the Church Office.

Thank you!

Worship Service with
Imposition of Ashes
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
7:00 pm

A graphic of a cross made of black dots, positioned diagonally across the page, overlapping the text 'ASH' and 'WEDNESDAY'.

ASH WEDNESDAY