

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

TRINITARIAN

APRIL/MAY/JUNE 2021

Available online @ www.trinitylutherannorfolk.org

From Our Pastor

Rev. Jonathan Meraz

God bless you with peace and joy...

We'll be celebrating Easter about the same time you receive this newsletter. Have you ever thought about where the word Easter comes from? One theory is that it came from a goddess named Eostre, who represented spring and fertility. Pagans celebrated her in a month they called Eosturmonath which corresponds to what we now call April. But language experts are quick to say there's no historical source that confirms this. The fact is Easter is a very old word that people began to use over 1000 years ago.

Another theory is that the word comes from an older German word for east, which comes from an even older Latin word for dawn. Spring dawns signal the beginning of days that are longer than nights and those dawns break in the east. Many European languages, like French, have words for Easter that come directly from the Hebrew word for Passover, the religious festival that celebrates the Jewish people's freedom from slavery in Egypt. I think it's safe to say we don't know the origin of the word Easter. What we do know is the incredible, miraculous and life-changing event that occurred on that day Christians now call Easter.

Christianity is unlike any other religion that has ever existed. Every other religion teaches people they have to earn their way to God. Christianity is the only religion that teaches that God came to us. Romans 5:8 tells us that **...God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Other religions have systems of rules that have to be followed in order to pacify and appease their god in the hope that they will be rewarded. Christianity is a relationship with God that God establishes. We don't have to humor God to receive His favor. He has already shown us His love for us by sending Jesus to die on a cross in our place, for our sins. The separation between us and God is repaired and we don't have to do a thing.

Lastly, no other religion has an empty tomb. Every other major religious leader is dead. We're the only people who follow a leader who died and came back to life. The tomb is empty because Jesus rose from the dead. Matthew reminds us of this truth: **He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.**

I'm looking forward to this Easter season like I always do but this year a little bit more. Last year was difficult for all of us in many ways - as a country, as a culture, and for many of us on a very personal level. Easter brings with it pictures of new birth and a fresh start. I pray that we all feel that throughout this season and this year. And I'm also eagerly anticipating your joyous response when I shout the traditional Easter proclamation with which I end this message:

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

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:
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Norfolk VA 23505

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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

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Cathy George

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Walter Staley - Trustee

Christian Growth

Judy Sykes

I hope a lot of you have followed *Portals of Prayer* during Lent; some really exceptional entries. And of course our prayers (more often, as suggested by Pastor Meraz) are filled right now, what with all our fellow members' concerns, the Pandemic, etc.

I believe most of us seniors at Trinity have received at least one vaccine shot so far. There finally seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel. Praise God!

Our Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter celebrations will not be the same this year, but the reality of their occasion is: **He is Risen; He is Risen indeed!**

Easter "baskets" of God's love will be distributed to children on Easter morning. Small tokens will be included in Easter brunch orders.

Thanks to Cathy George, we continue to communicate with/donate to the Lutheran Church in Puerto Rico (please see Page 10 for excerpts from their newsletter). A special opportunity to meet (either in person or virtually) one of the missionary members of this church will occur this summer. Please look for details to come!

LWML

Cathy George

The report for LWML is very brief. Our next event should be a Mother's Day luncheon. Our calendar of events shows this to be held May 1st. We would like to plan for this event, however, we will have to wait to find out what we will be allowed to do per the governor's pandemic rulings.

Thank You so much for being faithful in your MITE donations, our mission goals still go on.

Board of Special Ministries

Patty Malone

Special Ministries would like to thank everyone who donated pajamas for our Pajama Jams collection. We are excited about supporting the *Pajama Jams'* Mission.



Stewardship

Craig Scott

Below is a letter from LCMS President Rev. Matthew Harrison -

Christ is risen!!! He is risen indeed!! Alleluia!

Let those words ring out as you celebrate the Lord's resurrection this year on Easter. Let those words ring out as you welcome this spring and coming summer with certain and sure hope. Let those words ring out as you speak to one another with songs and hymns and spiritual songs (Col. 3:16). Let those words ring out as you give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thess. 5:18).

"Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19). These words of Jesus change everything. Jesus spoke these words to His disciples on the night before His crucifixion. He had given them His Holy Supper. He had washed their feet. He taught them. But they had no idea what lie ahead in the next 24 hours.

The disciples faced the anguish of loss. The loss of a friend to death, the loss of their daily routines, the loss of their teacher, the loss of hearing His words. But even worse than all that, the loss of hope. With the crucifixion, their hearts were troubled, and it seemed that the world had won. It seemed that the government had squashed Jesus. It seemed that the religious leaders had succeeded in silencing this voice of God. It seemed like Israel had lost her hope.

Many today feel lost and hopeless. Many wonder where hope could possibly be found. Some turn to science or social healing. Many turn to wealth or knowledge. Too many turn to entertainment and social media. All of us are tempted to turn to ourselves to find hope.

Yet Jesus told His disciples that night, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). He reminds us of the same truth. The cross was a defeat, but not of Jesus. The cross was Jesus' defeat of all the things that cause you and me to lose hope. Jesus conquered sin, death and the power of the devil. Jesus paid for your sins and mine on the cross. Far from failing or losing, Jesus bore in His body on the tree the sins of all mankind. And God is now reconciled to sinners through the death of that righteous one.

Yet Jesus did not remain on the cross and He did not remain dead. He rose. And now He says to you and to me and to all who believe, "Because I live, you also will live." Christ is risen!!! There is nothing more sure and certain in this life than the life of God's own Son. There is nothing more solid for us to build our lives on than the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Because He lives, we will live. Absolutely certain.

But not everyone knows this wonderful Good News. That is why the church witnesses to this world of God's love and mercy in Jesus Christ. The LCMS works tirelessly to tell every sinner in this world that sin and death have been conquered.

You play a vital role in that witness. Your continued generous financial gifts enable this proclamation to continue in the avenues currently available. Your dollars also allow the LCMS to find new locations and ways to proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus for all.

*You have been baptized into this death and resurrection of Jesus (Rom. 6:3-5). You have been crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20) and joined to His resurrection (Col. 3:1). **Your contributions to the Global Mission Fund support those who are called to shout to this world, "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia."***

Listen to your Savior. Believe His words: "Because I live, you also will live." Trust Him. Be certain of His resurrection — and yours.

In Him who is life and salvation,

Matthew C. Harrison

President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

*P.S. The simple promise of Jesus is what this world needs right now. In some places, the church is persecuted. In other places, the church is freely preaching. But in all places, God continues to work through His church to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You are an important way that God provides for that witness. Thank you. **Thank you for your support in the past and thank you for whatever you can give in the future.***

Pandemic Reflections

In the fall of 2020, Patty Malone/Special Ministries asked members of Trinity to write a short piece on how the 2020 Global Pandemic had an impact on you and your family. This is hopefully a once in a lifetime pandemic but what better way to record our history than by doing it ourselves. Over the next few pages you will find the reflections of those who submitted them.

Reflections of the Events of 2020

Global Pandemic – Covid-19

Patty Malone

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church was all geared up to celebrate our 100th Anniversary then the global pandemic hit! We all had questions, how long will this last, will it even get to our city, it cannot happen to us...but it did. All the plans made for the 100th anniversary had to be cancelled. No celebration dinner, guest Pastors, Last Supper play, potlucks and so much more gone but was it? We have been around 100 years and we could not let a pandemic get in the way of our church's mission. We still had employees and bills that needed paid but how is that done when the church doors are locked? The normal as we knew it was no more. We had to adapt and figure out a way to get the Gospel to our people and to all people.

In the beginning of the pandemic everything just stopped, fear was everywhere, people shopped so they would have everything they needed at home and not have to leave. The leadership of Trinity was trying to figure out what to do too. Eventually, we were able to have prerecorded services done with Bud & Lynn Hubert's cell phone, Stephen playing the organ or piano and Pastor preaching. It wasn't what we were used to, but it was something we took comfort in. Being able to hear Pastor preach from the church even though we were not allowed to enter the building to hear.

We had stepped into the 21st century with an on-line presence for the first time ever. Pastor's words reached more than just the members of Trinity they reached others some of who we know and some that we did not know. The Worship Service could be found on our webpage, Facebook and YouTube. Who would have thought that a global pandemic would bring us to this new technology to Trinity? Jumping ahead a few months the church doors were opened with social distancing, masks and hand sanitizing (thank you Justin for making the hand sanitation station). This was the new normal. The leadership knew many people would still not be coming back into the building just yet, so the recordings continued along with in person worship.

A confirmed son of Trinity, Mr. Robertson listening from California to our services sent the church an e-mail asking what we were using to record our services. After speaking to Bud since he was the one recording the services, he offered to upgrade our sound system. With Mr. Robertson's generous offer, we were able to install a new sound system with live streaming capabilities so Bud could stop using his cell phone. Now each Sunday our service is live streamed in real-time. Thank you, Mr. Robertson!

So, looking back at 2020 it was a year we will not soon forget! It is also a year where we came together even though apart and it is my hope that family and faith will remain forefront in our lives once this pandemic is behind us!

May God continue to bless every one of you today, tomorrow and always!



Charlotte Gunther
Norfolk, VA

The doors of our beloved Trinity Lutheran Church were closed for a time early in the year 2020 b/c of the Covid-19 pandemic. Faithful people like Pastor Meraz, Stephen Pruitt (music director) and the Huberts: Bud and Lynn (many more I can't name) taped our services. Those of us who chose could go to church service "on the computer."

When church doors opened again only those wearing a face mask could enter, and only at the side entrance. We had to "social distance." What is that? Staying away from other people by 6 feet.

This was also the 100th anniversary year and many celebrations had been planned. Several former pastors had been invited to speak. Those dates had to be cancelled. Our LWML group activities were cancelled, and a ladies Bible Study group could not meet.

Hopefully the year 2021 will show some improvement.



Cathy George
Norfolk, VA

When the pandemic first began, I felt confident that we as a society would get a handle on this quickly and in a few months we would be well. Not the case.

Wearing masks, six feet "social distancing" and confined at home, no church service of communion put me in mind to how the lepers in Jesus' time must have felt. Isolated, lonely, it made me sad. Having to cancel so many events that had been planned for the special anniversary year was hard for me also. As each month came and went I looked for change, it has not come yet. I have made peace with reality.

I have also been glad during the pandemic time. I have had the opportunity to attend two Bible studies on Facebook given by Donna Snow, one of my favorite study leaders and have been greatly encouraged and strengthened in my faith.

My church family has also given me great joy in responding to needs around us. The great outpouring of support: The food drives, the mite collections for LWML, the support of LWML mission work by the reformation lunch bag sale, the shoebox collections, making shawls and making masks, that is just what I have been aware of I'm sure there are others.

I learned that if you want certainty in your life turn to Jesus.

Sharyn Leiding
Norfolk, VA**ACTIVITIES DURING 2020 COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

How did we deal with the isolation felt during the COVID-19 shutdown?

In this household, we took daily neighborhood walks, became regular listeners to The Lutheran Hour as well as online worship services from Trinity Lutheran Church (until in-house services resumed), digested Portals of Prayer devotions, focused on other people in our prayers, relied on our younger daughter for grocery deliveries, limited visits to a few friends and family members except via telephone, completed the word search and crossword puzzles in The Virginian-Pilot, and voraciously read books.

Highlights – Witness (as deacon) to infant baptism of Owen Clute, observing Mother's Day in the back yard, attending the high school graduation of youngest grandson Jonathon Leiding in a condensed, walk-through ceremony, having lunch and fellowship in home of Charlotte Gunther with a few Trinity Lutheran School teachers, tooth extraction (Ouch!), tour of Michelangelo's Sistine Ceiling frescoes displayed at MacArthur Mall, and relaxing during three out of town vacation trips.

Thankful – Facing each day with spouse of many years, forgiveness of sins, healthy bodies, blessings and freedoms that we both enjoy.

Reflection of the Events of 2020**Rev. Jonathan Meraz****November 10, 2020**

The chairperson of our Board of Special Ministries (Patty Malone) has encouraged us to reflect on this extremely unusual year for posterity. I think that idea is inspired and will try to put down in a few words what this year has done to and for me. I'll also try to include a few perceptions and observations of this Trinity family that I'm privileged to serve.

2020 is the 100th Anniversary of this congregation. We had spent many months planning events, festivities, and speakers. Many of the pastors who served Trinity previously had committed to returning to preach on special Sundays throughout the year. A big celebration was planned to be held at *Grand Affairs* in VB near the anniversary date. Outreach activities were scheduled. All of this came to a grinding halt in the middle of Lent with the arrival of the Coronavirus (Covid-19).

Many restrictions were put in place to try to protect us from an illness that we knew very little about. A new term was introduced (at least it was new to me) - social distancing. The government and the CDC 'mandated' that people maintain a 6' distance between them. The wearing of facial masks to restrain droplets expelled by respirations became the norm. Businesses shut down, employees were told to work from home, laid off or dismissed from their jobs. And churches were told they should no longer worship together in person.

We already had some experience recording and posting services online from the previous year. Now this was the only option if people were going to be served by the church. Bud and Lynn Hubert recorded services on their cell phone and posted those services on Facebook, YouTube and our church website. Stephen Pruitt, our Music Director, played the organ, I preached and Lynn and I sang.

We recorded midweek and posted on Saturdays. We finished the last few weeks of Lent, both midweek and Sunday services. We recorded the Easter service in the empty church and posted it. People were absent through the season of Pentecost.

There were a number of starts and stops nationally as doctors and scientists became more familiar with the virus. A couple weeks before Memorial Day the Virginia governor moved from the most restricted phase to Phase 2. This allowed churches to worship in person if they could maintain the safety protocols that had been established. We began to offer in person worship. People were only allowed to enter through the parking lot entrance. They had to be masked at all times. They had to maintain social distance.

We seated people by singles, couples and families. We used every other pew and seating was staggered - aisle side, two pews back wall side, two pews back aisle side again. Communion wasn't being offered yet. People in highly susceptible groups like the aged (65+) and those dealing with chronic illness (diabetics, people with high blood pressure, etc.) were discouraged from attending per CDC guidelines.

We continued this way until the middle of summer when Virginia moved to Phase 3. We now began to include communion in the service twice a month (still a departure from our every Sunday practice before Covid-19). There was a strict process in the distribution. I prepared the Sacrament alone to keep multiple hands off of it. People would come to the rail the same way they were seated, one pew at a time, whether single, couple or family. I was thankful that we could resume this practice. I also began to visit and commune shut-ins who were comfortable with me being in their home.

It would seem that all of this would have a strong effect on the members of Trinity. I believe it did but the effect hasn't been a negative one. I think many members developed a new love and respect for God, His Word and the Sacraments or strengthened an existing one. Sometimes we don't realize how much we love or need something or someone until it or they are taken away from us.

(continued next page)

(Pastor Meraz continued)

Many members have strengthened their bond with each other, in spite of the separation. Members check on each other by phone or social media like family. They have responded well with their gifts. Many who hadn't been connected to worship for a while for various reasons are now worshipping online through the recorded services. After watching the cell phone recorded services online, one of our members (Richard Robertson) was moved to personally fund a new and improved Audio/Visual capability, purchasing new recording cameras and upgrading the sound system. We can now live stream service and upload directly to YouTube and our website. God has used this time for His own purposes and I'm thankful for it.

For me, as difficult as it has been, this time has included many blessings. I've been able to sit back and reset the priorities in my life. We all lead such busy lives that we can be distracted from the things that are most important. I've had time to reflect on the gifts of family and friends. I've been able to spend a substantial amount of time with my wife (who is a nurse working through this time of virus). The congregation has been very supportive of me in all respects including continuing to provide me with an income (as I said before, not all were so fortunate). When I look closely, God has used this pandemic for good.

There's so much more to write but I'll stop here. I pray that those reading this will also be blessed with the opportunity to examine and, if needed, reset their lives. God allows or even causes things to happen that may appear to us to be bad or harmful, but He has His plan and uses those things for our salvation. Even in the face of pandemic God is good all the time - all the time, God is good.

Errol Jennings **Norfolk, VA**

Here is my story, unlike when I was growing up in ND on a farm with no electricity, running water or phone, we are living in luxury! And have become use to the good life, with TV, computers, smart phones and dependable transportation. We can communicate with loved ones and friends unlike waiting until 7pm to make a long-distance call to Hampton, as when I got stationed here in 1980. If we choose, we can watch tv with different movies and news day and night or have social contact with friends and family 24/7 by phone text/talk. Go online and order most everything you may want and receive it in a reasonable time.

Then there is the downside when you make a call to take care of business, and get a machine that gives you all kinds of options but the one you want! Thus "your call is very important to us"! Well, if it was so important, why not put a few more people to work to take these calls from home where they can give the answer we need and get a paycheck for their service! Or give us the direction we want without being on hold for 40 minutes and then here a "CLICK" and they are gone! OW, OW, OW, you just killed my day.

Of course, the abortion clinics and protesters, "BLM and Antifa" are out and about burning and looting, while churches and food service were told to observe the law! Many of our favorite places are closed and not coming back. Friends and family losing their jobs and our Fed debts going out of sight. Not to mention the fires, hurricanes that are worse than ever.

Not to make this a political football, but it has, and now we wait for the next shoe to drop. And God almighty does what He does best, like it or not. He only has the answer!



November 9, 2020**Sarah Mosel, Daughter of Pastor Meraz, Omaha, Nebraska**

How has this pandemic changed things? WOW, what a question. I think there are so many things that have happened or perhaps they have been happening and I had the time to slow down and realize it in that past 8-10 months. When this all started to really progress around March-April of 2020, the biggest initial impact for me was that the month I enjoy most in sports came to a screeching halt as they cancelled the 2020 NCAA basketball tournament better known as March Madness. It was at that moment, as I sat having drinks with a couple of friends that I knew this wasn't a joke. What would have been a night of celebration of teams making the tournament quickly became a somewhat scary situation as we watched things quickly unfold on the televisions that would have been airing excited college teams chasing after their basketball dreams. The cancelling of sports for the current seasons wasn't the biggest impact, although a very eerie feeling to have no access to live, televised competition which I hadn't previously realized fuels my social life.

I also teach third grade at a public school. The same week that sports were cancelled, school was also significantly impacted with our in person teaching shifting to teaching our children 100% remotely. This caused a lot of friction and chaos within our school community as parents tried to navigate becoming a part-time teacher while also trying to maintain their jobs which may or may not have also been shifted to remote. Those families that were unable to work remotely were put in a very tough position trying to find full time care for their child. The jobs of "day care providers" became even more intense as they were trying to meet expectations of children from different school districts maintaining their online schedules and remote work. I once concluded that one of the more challenging aspects of teaching was to find ways to motivate kids to want to learn and complete their work—that conclusion magnified X10 while working remotely. School academics quickly became secondary to checking in with kids and connecting to one another as we all sort of lived in a life of isolation with our families. There were and still are lots of emotions and ups and downs. My job as an educator became more important than ever before and in a powerful way. I took on the role of just maintaining calm and checking in while trying to provide a schedule for students to follow and work that was manageable without the presence of an instructor. Families were reaching out for help and sometimes it was simple conversations where parents just wanted and needed to vent. At this time, I knew that my own mental health was essential in order for me to serve others in this way that God was calling.

My own family has fared pretty well with the transition. As a mom of a 2-year-old and a husband who now was working remotely, we quickly had to set some boundaries and learn how to communicate effectively while feeling the emotional impact that it seems this pandemic has had on everyone. It was an interesting time of finding new ways to connect with others. We FaceTimed with family, Zoomed board game parties with friends and had Google Hangouts video time to just chat and have a socially distanced drink with one another. I found peace in the fact that I was isolated with my own family whom I love so much. I felt very blessed to be in that position as I know that was not the case for every family. I really homed in on being aware of my own feelings and tried to remember the things that I teach my own students every year—name the feeling, talk about it, don't dwell, plan for what is next and seek support.

As time has passed and I've experienced being scared, angry, sad, lonely and now content, I have realized that this pandemic has shifted my world for the better and that maybe this is God's purpose for this obstacle of a year. I was forced to slow down which in turn helped me realize the benefits of a more simplified routine. I realized that my connections with other people are an important part of my life and I've really tried to strengthen those connections. I was forced to remember that I am not in charge and as a result have become better at giving my anxieties to God, who is and always has been, ultimately in charge. I have accepted that sometimes his plan doesn't match mine but that maybe that isn't such a bad thing. My bond with my family is stronger than ever. My world at work as an educator has changed drastically, but looking back, I feel that is was a necessary change in order to better serve our kids for their future jobs. This time has taught me as an educator, not to teach how to use technology (most kids are better at that than I am anyway) but instead to teach them how to set boundaries with it, how to communicate with it, how to problem solve and collaborate and the importance of using it as a tool. I continue to pray that I live according to God's will and that people see Him through me. I pray for everyone's safety and health and that our world leaders do so according to God's will. This pandemic hasn't been easy, but I value the good that has come from it in my own life.

Patty Malone
Norfolk, VA

I am thankful that there are still kind people in this crazy world who still enable us to do good even if from afar. I've been on Zoom missions to South America, Bulgaria and Israel. Even with Covid-19 and bad economies these people still find the "joy" in everyday things that so many take for granted. Music from balconies, food delivered to those who could not get out, on-line exercise classes and so much more.

My family is almost all essential, so we worked, tried our best to keep our distance, washed our hands and wore our masks. A big thank you to Anne Starke who made masks and I was able to make sure each of my family members had a good mask when at work.

Our granddaughter came for her 16th birthday. She was sure she would be bored since there was nothing to do. Well, she wasn't because we made sure she had a great time. She was yard carded on her birthday. I even taught her how to do crewel work. She made a neon owl and we framed it for her. We played board games several nights, went swimming in our daughter-in-law's parent's pool, took walks, watched movies and went to the VIBE district to look at the art. All of this was able to be done with masks and social distancing. I do believe the worst part of the trip was her long drive from TN to VA, as normally she flies but we did not want her getting on an airplane.

I had the honor to be present when Rebecca and Tyler Clute had their son baptized. As Pastor Meraz performed the baptism, Sharyn Leiding and I came together to witness as Owen became a baptized child of God.

Our family enjoyed the prerecorded worship services at the beginning of the pandemic and once church was opened for in person we came back. I felt so good to worship again in the sanctuary with our Trinity family. Even though we had to social distance and wear masks. A special thank you to Pastor, Stephen, Bud and Lynn for getting together to make the prerecorded worship services possible.

We didn't go on our normal family vacation but stayed close with family and friends via the phone and the U.S. Post Office. Not the same but it sure is nice to be in touch with people however we can.

As the team lead for Special Ministries, I wanted to make sure Trinity was still doing the work of the church. Below you will find how we kept busy during 2020.

Trinity at the beginning of the pandemic was closed but our mission was not. Always keeping in mind, the safety of our congregation and the new normal of social distancing. On Easter Sunday when the church stood empty, we all made a difference by coming by throughout the day and flowering the cross on the church lawn. What a wonderful witness to all that drove by 6001 Granby St. on Easter Sunday the cross looked beautiful!

We were not able to serve at the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia in person, but we could collect food for those in our community who so desperately needed the assistance. Three food drives were set-up, during the time when we should have been volunteering, with each one offering a drive-by option to allow for social distancing. Even some of the church neighbors dropped off donations. Trinity was able to collect **1,447 pounds of food** which equates to **1,117 meals** for those in need.

We were unable to have *Christmas in July*, but we were able to take a shoebox or two and fill them up for "*Operation Christmas Child*". In total we collected **21** shoeboxes and they were delivered in time for Christmas halfway around the world to Tanzania.

Trinity started collecting pajamas for *Pajama Jam* a local non-profit through Lent. We were going to start collecting them in September but moved it due to the food drives. This was the first time we are collecting the pajamas and we are very excited. This 501(c)3 organization is dedicated to delivering new pajamas to children in need in Hampton Roads since 2009. They have delivered over 10,000 pairs to children in our community since 2009. We are so excited to be a part of this mission outreach this year.



Puerto Rico FORO

Register for FORO

The Spring FORO meeting for Puerto Rico will be virtually held over Zoom. This will be an opportunity to see videos, hear from our missionaries about their work and plans, and offer prayers and support to the Christians at Principe de Paz and Fuente de Vida. We would love to see you there! Please RSVP by email to card@lcmsintl.org.

Why should you come?

Because you are the Champions for the work going on in this US island commonwealth nation. You are the eyes and ears that become our mouths in Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana, Florida, and all over the United States mainland. You are a part of this mission of our Lord!

ART MINISTRY

Every month Missionary Ruth Maita and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf host a craft morning - one Saturday in Ponce and one in Mayaguez. We invite those that we visit as well as those who have been attending our weekly Facebook art classes. Our art ministry helps provide opportunities for us to minister to individual's social and emotional health by providing a time of fellowship. It's been a great blessing to gather together around crafts and the Word of God, as well as being able to see those we have not seen very much over this last year.

ESL MINISTRY

Teaching English as a Second language has been a big part of ministry in Puerto Rico.

During the months of November and December, we started English classes for children which has helped us connect with new families. During these classes we have used Bible stories to teach vocabulary while sharing the Gospel of Jesus. Some of the children that were involved in our English classes are now involved in our Club de Exploradores de la Creación- our children's Bible school ministry. A few students mentioned that they did not own a Bible, so we sent them a bilingual children's Bible with the stories in both Spanish and English. Our English classes are connecting children and families to the Gospel and Mercy of Jesus.

We started our third round of ESL adult conversation classes in the middle of January with the help of LCMS volunteers, with about 21 students in attendance; 10 on Tuesday and 11 on Thursday. Our kid's English program also started up again at the same time. For the children's English ministry, we have 4 different classes a week with kids separated by ages with a total of 12 kids. We have begun to make visits to the students and their families while continuing to share the Gospel of Jesus with them through the English classes.

Education Centers Remodel

During the Month of January our team has been working together to create and remodel our education rooms in both CARD locations.

In Ponce, there is a small building behind the church building that was used for offices from the previous owner. This month it has been cleaned up and rewired to be a place for Bible classes, Sunday school, workshops, etc. One big improvement was a ramp for anyone needing extra assistance to enter.

In Mayaguez, we are reworking the space at our CARD house in order to serve our students and volunteers better. Originally, all the classrooms and offices were upstairs in the house and the lower levels were apartments for short term teams. After consideration the apartment space would work the best for a class that could hold in person and virtual classes. We have done a location swap and moved all bunkbeds upstairs and the lower level will be our education center for art, music classes, and English classes as well as for workshop.

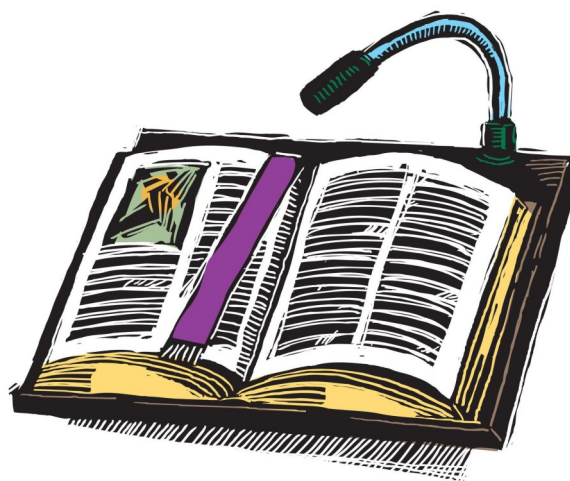
If you would like to support the Puerto Rico mission go to -
<https://www.lcms.org/givenow/puerto-rico-foro>

LECTOR SCHEDULE

April 4th - Judy Sykes
April 11th - Cathy George
April 18th - Ken Leiding
April 25th - Julie Meraz

May 2nd - Anna Carter
May 9th - Scott Thieman
May 16th - Judy Sykes
May 23rd - Cathy George
May 30th - Ken Leiding

June 6th - Julie Meraz
June 13th - Anna Carter
June 20th - Scott Thieman
June 27th - Judy Sykes



HAVE A BLESSED
Easter

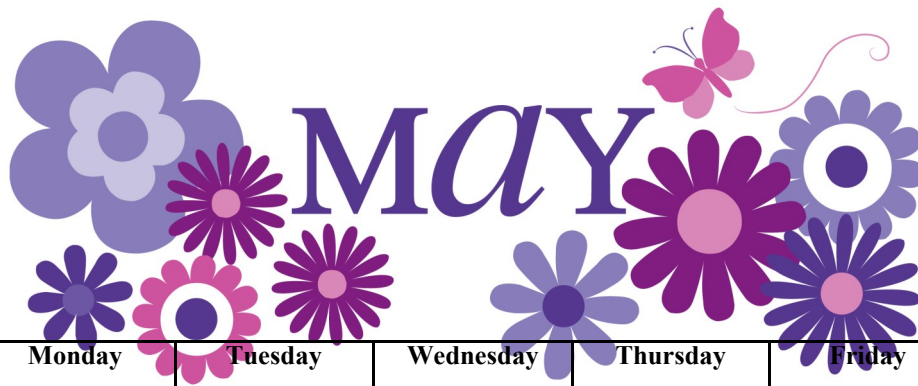
Operation Barnabas

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

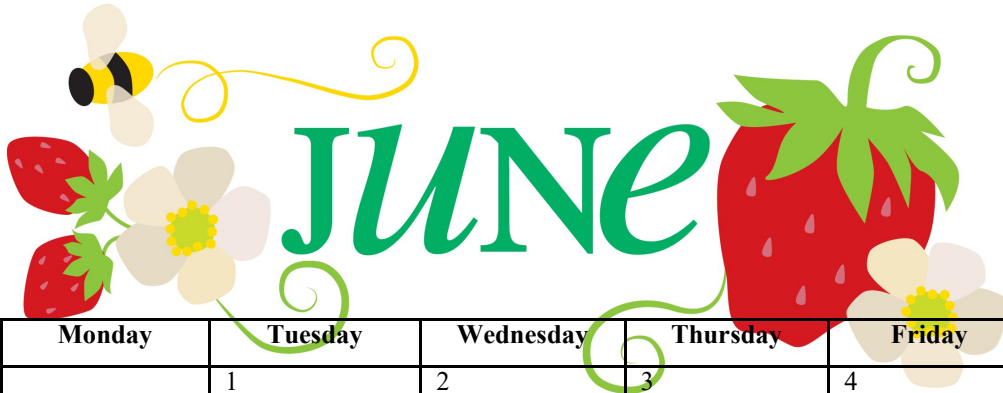




Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maundy Thursday 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service	2 Good Friday Office Closes at Noon 7pm Good Friday Worship Service	3
4 Resurrection of Our LORD/ Easter Sunday 10am Communion Worship Service	5 Easter Monday Office Closed	6	7	8	9	10
11 Second Sunday of Easter 10am Worship Service Council Mtg following Worship	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Third Sunday of Easter 10am Communion Worship Service	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Fourth Sunday of Easter 10am Worship Service Voters' Assembly Meeting following Worship	26	27	28	29	30	



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 11:30am LWML Mother's Day Lunch Out
2 Fifth Sunday of Easter 10am Communion Worship Service	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Sixth Sunday of Easter 10am Worship Service <i>Mother's Day</i>	10	11	12	13 The Ascension of Our LORD	14	15
16 Seventh Sunday of Easter 10am Communion Worship Service	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 The Day of Pentecost 10am Worship Service	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 The Holy Trinity 10am Worship Service	31 Memorial Day Office Closed					



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Second Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Third Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Worship Service	14	15 Trinitarian Deadline - July/ August /September	16	17	18	19
20 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service <i>Father's Day</i> Summer Begins	21	22	23	24 LWML National Convention	25 LWML National Convention	26 LWML National Convention
27 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Worship Service LWML National Convention	28	29	30			



Birthdays

April

4 – Bobbie Gillooly
 5 – John Butcher
 6 – Christy Sontag
 10 – Karmen Petri
 15 – Dana Dalton
 16 – Errol Jennings
 19 – Emilie Hauser
 Lydia Kuenzli
 21 – John Malone
 23 – Linda Blaker
 24 – Al Sykes
 25 – Brooke Sawyer

May

2 – Jean Diehl
 7 – Bryan Blaker
 Joseph Christy
 8 – Sharon Knorr
 Sharon Plawin
 Ellie Duarte
 11 – Susan Prince
 13 – Hilary Bayse
 17 – Shirley Barker
 18 – Jason Loper
 19 – Jan Knickelbein
 20 – Salem Yosief
 22 – Martha Johnson
 24 – Kimberlee Rolfsmeier
 25 – Maurice Field
 26 – Tim Gould
 David Petri
 31 – Jeff Ingmire

June

1 - Traver O'Keefe
 4 - Hannah Harger
 5 - Tresea Staley
 6 - Christine Leiding
 Brooke Christy
 9 - Bendra Pendry
 11 - Porter Bayse
 14 - Sam Gilson
 17 - Mary Lou Scott
 20 - Charlotte Gunther
 22 - Erika Straddeck
 23 - James O'Connor
 25 - Anne Starke
 28 - Matt Prince
 29 - Mark Loper
 Elizabeth Barooddy



Anniversaries

May

20 – Bud ♥ Lynn Hubert
 25 – Bill ♥ Christy Sontag
 27 – Paul ♥ Bobbie Gillooly
 27 – John ♥ Patty Malone

**June**

11 Ken ♥ Sharyn Leiding
 15 John ♥ Talma Butcher
 21 Scott ♥ Natasha Thieman
 23 Arthur ♥ Brenda Christy



*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.*

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6001 Granby Street
Norfolk VA 23505

757/ 489-2551 Church

www.trinitylutherannorfolk.org



**There will be a Spring Voters' Assembly Meeting,
Sunday, April 25th immediately following
the Worship Service.**

**Updates will be given on Trinity's finances
and the activities of the Church.**

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Worship Service
with
Holy Communion
Thursday, April 1st
7:00 pm



GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
FRIDAY, APRIL 2nd
7:00 PM



*Easter
Sunday*

April 4th
Worship Service
10:00 am