

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

TRINITARIAN

JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021

Available online @ www.trinitylutherannorfolk.org

From Our Pastor

Rev. Jonathan Meraz

God bless you with peace and joy... *Normal - conforming to the standard or the common type; usual; not abnormal; regular; natural.* This is the definition of normal according to Dictionary.com. It looks like we're returning to normal, to the way things used to be before we were so rudely interrupted by that pandemic thing. That means we have to recall exactly what normal looked like.

This past Sunday saw the return of the procession to open our worship service. The acolytes, communion assistant, and I had to jog memories and remember just what we used to do. The Gospel was walked out among the people. The offering plate made its return as a part of the service. We closed with a recession of the cross and our 100th Anniversary banner to end the service. We still wear face masks but total normality looks like it's just on the horizon and we'll have 'business as usual' and everything will be the way it was... only we won't have 'business as usual' and it won't be the way it was.

The events of the past year have affected us in many ways. The separation and the isolation have changed the way people interact throughout the world. The anxiety (and, yes, the fear) that was created with the pandemic distressed us and disturbed us in ways we may never totally be aware of. Many relationships were significantly changed, some for good and some not so good. All of this is the natural result of the passage of time and the events that occur within time. Thomas Wolfe said it well - *you can't go home again*. You can't truly go back to a place (or a time) you once lived because so much will have changed since you left that place (or time) that it isn't the same place (or time) anymore (inserted italics are mine).

So, does this mean we've lost everything? Does it leave us in a state of hopelessness? Are we doomed to depression and despair? Those of us who have lived a little while know that the fact that things change is an unchangeable fact. We also know that as we remember what we had and are thankful for it, things to come may bring us even greater joy. Worshiping with one another post-pandemic in person is bringing me a newly invigorated joy and encouragement. I love hearing your voices singing. I'm thankful God has seen us through a difficult time. I'm thankful for the perseverance shown by all of you throughout the past 15 months. As God says through James: **Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.** Your strength strengthened me.

(continued Page 2)

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am
Adult Bible Classes

10:00 am
Worship Service

Holy Communion
Every Sunday

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 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

(continued from Page 1)

Eventually masks will become an option and things will look a lot like they used to look but it won't be the same. I think that's a good thing. God has brought us through a time that has changed us in much the same way that grinding changes a raw diamond into a beautiful faceted jewel. Sometimes that's the way He works with His children, through pain and suffering but He blesses the results. I say along with Peter in **all [these trials we] greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.**

I'm really looking forward to the rest of this year. I'm confident that God has good plans for us and I can hardly wait for us to begin doing them together. Blessings to you who are traveling this summer. God be with you and may His angels protect you. My love and the love of God be with you all.

Pastor

Board of Deacons

Sharyn Leiding

Your deacons have resumed monthly meetings with Pastor Meraz, in May and June.

There was deacon presence at the June 5th funeral service for Geraldine Brighton, sister-in-law of Paul Lass.

Contact with parishioners has been limited to phone calls, e-mails and cards during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, with having received vaccinations, it is refreshing to be able to visit in person without masks in the church parking lot.

Deacons continue to faithfully worship in person, as well as virtually, and to receive communion.

As the Covid-19 cases are decreasing and more folks are being vaccinated, we look forward with joyful anticipation when we will be able to Worship without masks at Trinity!

Concerns or questions? Contact your deacon



Christian Growth

Judy Sykes

Missionaries from Puerto Rico Lutheran Church to visit July 11! Adult Bible Class, 9:00 a.m.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to personally meet Pastor Gustave and Ruth Maita, along with their 2 year old daughter, Mayaguez! They will discuss their work at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church on this island territory. Despite the devastation from recent hurricanes, etc., the Christian community is strong and serving the needs there.

The family arrives in Norfolk on July 9th and will stay at the home of Sharon Plawin/Judy and Al Sykes. A meet and greet time will occur immediately following the worship service on the 11th.

Please consider a contribution to this very vital ministry, which has been supported by Trinity's Sunday School offerings for a number of years, thanks to the faithful work of Cathy George, former head of Christian Growth.

Sunday School packets are now being distributed again to children visiting Trinity worship services.

Ladies Bible Study will resume on Thursday, September 2nd at 11:30 a.m. We will be in the TLC meeting room. All women are invited!!

LWML

Cathy George

In May your LWML Board met and discussed our calendar for the rest of 2021 and plans for 2022. For those of you who keep track of LWML events, there is one more event that will be postponed. That is the Arts and Craft Fair scheduled for August 22, 2021.

But there is good news!

We will have a kick-off meeting September 18th at 10am. We will have a brunch. We will discuss mission projects that we will be sponsoring for 2021. We will hold an Election of Officers. We will also be discussing the rest of 2021 events including LWML Sunday October 10th, Holiday Happenings November 21st and more. So mark your calendars for this meeting at church.

Have a fun and Safe Summer.
Looking forward to seeing all of you

Board of Special Ministries

Patty Malone

We will be collecting Pop Tops (aluminum tabs) to benefit our local *Ronald McDonald House Charity*. RMHC's are able to generate thousands of dollars from pop top collection programs every year and that helps keep the lights on! That's important for RMHC, which is open 24 hours/day, 365 days a year. There will be a container in the Narthex and one in the hallway by the side door. This will be an ongoing project.

We are currently holding our first of several food drives this year to benefit the Foodbank of South-eastern VA. It began in June and runs through July 11, 2021. I know we can top what we did last year. David Chadwick has requested Thrivent Action Teams funding for this project. Thank you David! Please leave dry goods in the collection box in the parking lot hallway.

Graduation Announcements

Shelby Blaker, daughter of Linda and Bryan Blaker, graduated Magna Cum Laude from ODU with a degree in Health Services Administration and a minor in Business. She will be attending George Washington University's Masters Program for Public Health.

Nathan Eichelberger, son of Patty and John Malone, graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Strome College of Business at Old Dominion University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration specializing in Information Systems and Technology.

Kendyll Joy Gunther graduated from Blue Ridge Mountain College. She is the granddaughter of Charlotte Gunther.

Elena Grace Gunther is the last of 6 students Home Schooled by Denise and Larry Gunther. (Mom is happy to be retiring after 25 years of teaching.) Elena is the granddaughter of Charlotte Gunter.

And the granddaughter in Annapolis, Catherine Gunther, graduated from "Gunther Academy" on May 23rd. The same day as her piano recital.

Nicholas Mick graduated from Granby High School. Nick is the son of Julie Mick and the grandson of Buster and Candy Sontag.

Helena Pett graduated from EVMS with a degree of Master of Physician Assistant. She will be moving to Essexville, MI for a job in Family Medicine.




Birthdays

July



2 Ted Barood
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
18 Courtney Bullaboy
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 Scroton
29 Alex Ruediger
30




Anniversaries

July


15 Clint ♥ Dana Dalton
21 David ♥ Jo Nell Chadwick

August

9 Jay ♥ Lisa Otero
12 Don ♥ Deborah Adams
12 John ♥ Jan Knickelbein
14 Jonathan ♥ Julie Meraz
29 Kevin ♥ Anne Combes
30 Craig ♥ Mary Lou Scott

September


5 Jon ♥ Christine Leiding
14 Robert ♥ Ashlynn Sawyer



Operation Barnabas

Here is the address for the latest Warning Order -

<http://www.lcms.org/operationbarnabas/resources>



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.



Sunday	Monday				Friday	Saturday
					2	3
4 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Independence Day Armed Forces Sunday celebrated 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service	5 Office Closed	6	7	8	9	10
11 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	31

JULY WORSHIP SERVER SCHEDULE

	July 4	July 11	July 18	July 25
Lector	Cathy George	Ken Leiding	Julie Meraz	Anna Carter
Communion Assistant	Dave Petri	John Knickelbein	Roger Medlin	Jeff Ingmire



Sunday	Monday				Friday	Saturday
1 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service	2				6	7
8 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service	9	10	11 Faithful Neighbors (Red Cross) Blood Drive @ Trinity 2-7pm	12	13	14
15 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service Blessing of Students and Teachers	30	31				

AUGUST WORSHIP SERVER SCHEDULE

	August 1	August 8	August 15	August 22	August 29
Lector	Scott Thieman	Judy Sykes	Cathy George	Ken Leiding	Julie Meraz
Communion Assistant	Dave Petri	John Knickelbein	Roger Medlin	Jeff Ingmire	Bill Sontag



Sunday	Monday				Friday	Saturday
			1	2 11:30am Ladies Bible Study	3	4
5 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service	6 Labor Day Office Closed	7	8	9 11:30am Ladies Bible Study	10	11 10am LWML Meeting
12 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service 11:30 am Church Council Meeting	13	14	15 Trinitarian Deadline - Oct/Nov/Dec	16 11:30am Ladies Bible Study	17	18
19 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service	20	21	22	23 11:30am Ladies Bible Study	24	25
26 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9am Bible Study 10am Communion Worship Service	27	28	29	30 11:30am Ladies Bible Study		

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVER SCHEDULE

	September 5	September 12	September 19	September 26
Lector	Anna Carter	Scott Thieman	Judy Sykes	Cathy George
Communion Assistant	Dave Petri	John Knickelbein	Roger Medlin	Jeff Ingmire

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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!



We Are Back (to Normal)

Beginning Sunday, July 4th, in accordance with the CDC and VA guidelines, Trinity will no longer require wearing masks for fully vaccinated people. However, we do recommend those not vaccinated or those not comfortable without their masks to continue wearing masks. Dismissal will no longer be done by pew. Everyone will be dismissed as a group following the recessional.

Welcome Center refreshments/fellowship will be reinstated following service each week. Please look for a Host/Hostess sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center on the Volunteer Board. Belvedere Hall will be open to receptions/dinners.

Now that the church building is open to everyone, please stop by the Flower Chart across from the office and sign-up for a Sunday to place flowers behind the altar. The price for two arrangements is \$25.00.