

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

"A family where Christ is Head and the entire congregation are ministers."

Rev. Jonathan Meraz ~ Pastor
Carroll Smith ~ Interim Organist

Peace



6001 Granby Street
Norfolk, VA 23505
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If you have a smart phone or tablet computer you can scan this code and the complete Order of Worship will appear on your screen.

WiFi Password – HelloFriend

Good Morning and a Special Welcome to all who are worshipping with us today. Trinity is a liturgical Lutheran church using the Divine Service as written in the Lutheran Service Book. Today's Divine Service is printed for you in this bulletin. Today's service is being live streamed to YouTube and will be available later in the day on Trinity's Facebook page and Website. The receiving of communion will not be recorded to preserve the sanctity of the sacrament. During this time, the recording will be directed to the stained-glass window above the altar so communion hymns can still be shared. By entering the service, you consent to the video recording to be used for live streaming, inclusion on our web site and Facebook, and/or any other purpose by Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. We hope that your experience here is meaningful and will be lasting.

All members and guests are asked to fill out the Welcome Book found in your pew.

PRAYERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED FOR – Flo and Richard Ball, Talma Butcher, Brian Dugan, Janet Eddy, Helen Everett, Pat Gregory, Terry Ingmire, Paul Lass, Julie and Sam Locklear, Ben Meraz, Nicholas Mick, Patrick Mick, Brenda Pendry, Thelma Scroxton, Scott and Natasha Thieman.

HOLY COMMUNION – In the Sacrament of Holy Communion our Lord Jesus comes to us with **His very body and blood** to eat and to drink **for the forgiveness of sins** and **to strengthen our union with Him and with one another**. He invites to His table those who trust His words, **repent of all their sin** and forgive and love one another as He forgives and loves us.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because **Holy Communion is a confession of the faith** which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the LCMS, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to **speak with the Pastor before communing**.

For further study, see Matt. 5:23ff, 10:32ff, 18:15-35, 26:26-29; Acts 2:38, 42; 1 Cor. 10:16, 11:17-34

Other Christians and children who have not completed instruction may come forward, cross their arms over their chest and receive a blessing. For those who prefer it for any reason, the cups in **the center of the tray contain a grape juice option**. Please let the pastor know if you need a **Gluten Free wafer**.

(Before communing, we ask that first time guests and visitors please speak with the Pastor.)

Today's Worship Participants

Lector
Communion Assistant

*Tresea Staley
Dave Petri*

Participants for Next Sunday

Lector
Communion Assistant

*Judy Sykes
John Knickelbein*

While Trinity still encourages members to wear masks inside the church (as 'recommended' by the CDC), Trinity will no longer require wearing masks. However, we do recommend those not comfortable without their masks to continue wearing them. We will still have masks available if someone wants one. Of note, Pastor and the Communion Assistant will wear their masks during Communion.

Divine Service Three

The congregation sits quietly. Please be aware that some people use the time prior to the service for reflection and meditation in the sanctuary. Please respect this time of silence.

Organ Prelude

Once He Came in Blessing

John Leavitt

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship *Stand and face the Processional Cross (rear of the Church)*

Processional Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LSB 359



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -
woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**Each Sunday we light a new candle on the Advent wreath.
 This week we light the second candle, the Peace candle.
 It represents the peace that will come to us in the birth of Jesus Christ.**

Advent Hymn

Arise, O Christian People

LSB 354, st. 2

2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
 best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
 heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.

Service of the Word

Introit

C The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”
Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!
I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.
But my people did not listen to my voice;
Israel would not submit to me.
Oh, that my people would listen to me,
that Israel would walk in my ways!



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Kyrie

Musical notation for the Kyrie, first system. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is primarily chordal, with some melodic lines in the treble staff.

C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

Musical notation for the Kyrie, second system. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music continues from the first system.

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

C Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:1-7b

¹“Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

C Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle

Philippians 1:2-11

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and

confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Offertory



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Sit

Offering

Music for Meditation

Comfort, Comfort, Now My People

Egil Hovland

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in your mercy...

Chear our prayer.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



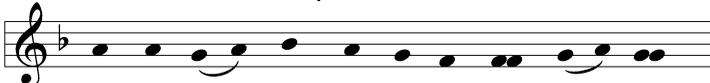
C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.



The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

The pastor distributes the body and blood of Christ to those who come to receive.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

Distribution Hymn

O Lord, We Praise Thee

LSB 617



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,
2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,
3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor



In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy
Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er
That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that
love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -
geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this



they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!
of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!



May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our
Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy
Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead
blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see



In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!
Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

Distribution Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo-ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom-ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar-ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

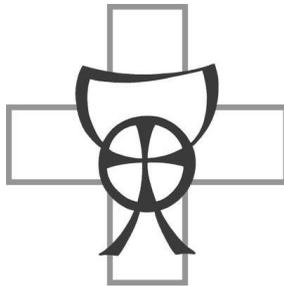
Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Tune: Public domain

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1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
 2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
 4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
 sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
 In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
 From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
 As with cease - less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

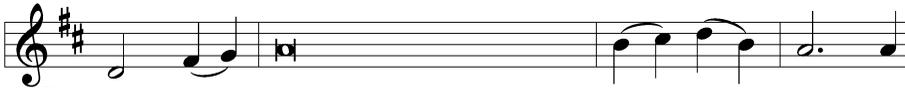


scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
 faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
 van - quish As the dark - ness clears a - way.
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

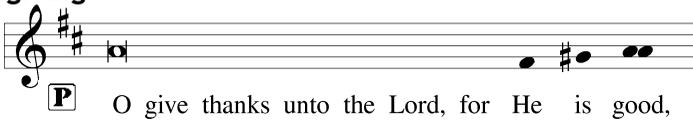


a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A-men.

Thanksgiving

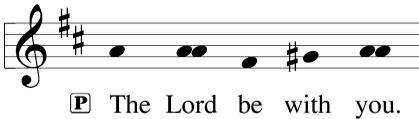


P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

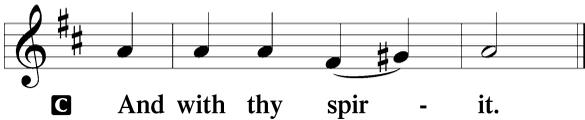


C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

P We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



P The Lord be with you.

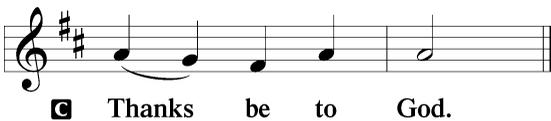


C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus



P Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Following the service, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Organ Postlude

Variations on *Puer Nobis*

Michael Burkhardt

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Please join us after the Worship Service today to help decorate the church for Christmas. Our tradition is to place handmade Chrismons on the Christmas trees that stand on either side of the altar.

Join us on Wednesday evenings for our Advent services - December 8th and 15th. We will begin at 7:00 pm with a hymn sing. This is an opportunity to sing your favorite hymns/ Christmas carols.

New Pictorial Directory A new pictorial directory will be available for pick up next Sunday. Please remember to keep the office updated on any changes to your email, address or phone numbers.

Christmas Caroling to the Homebound will be held next Sunday, December 12th. Trinity's shut-in members look forward to visits from you. Share Christmas spirit by lending your voice and enjoy good fellowship. A light lunch will be served after Worship Service before we go caroling. Please sign-up in the Welcome Center so that we know how many lunches to prepare.

Cookie Pack for the Military – This year we will be supplying **HOMEMADE COOKIES** for Boyd Sylvester to deliver to service members standing their watch on the piers on Christmas Eve. If you could make a dozen cookies and bring them to church on December 19th (labeled for **COOKIE PACK**) the ladies will get together on Monday, December 20th and pack the cookies into gift bags along with a note of blessing from Trinity. Please sign up in the Welcome Center and let us know to expect your cookies. We are truly excited to be able to minister to our military and let them know they are thought of at Christmas.

The Poinsettia sign-up sheet is on the LWML Flower bulletin board in the hallway. Please indicate whether they are in honor or memory of someone and whether you want to take them home or gift to a shut-in. Poinsettias will be \$10.00 this year and must be paid for in advance. Order deadline is Sunday, December 19th. Poinsettias may be taken home after the service on Christmas Eve. Please make checks payable to LWML and drop them in the offering plate or mail to the Church Office. Please make the notation of "POINSETTIA" in the memo line.

TRINITARIAN articles are due by December 15th for the January/February/March issue. This will be during Epiphany and the beginning of Lent, please plan your articles accordingly. Place your article in the Trinitarian mailbox or email to tlc@trinitylutherannorfolk.org.

WELCOME CENTER REFRESHMENTS are available each Sunday after service. Host/Hostesses are always needed! A sign-up sheet can be found in the Welcome Center on the Volunteer Bulletin Board. Please consider lending a hand!

December 2021

Applying Bible Principles

What we do with our money is both an indicator and a determiner of where our hearts are.

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:18-19

Anyone who has ever been personally involved in the construction of a building knows that the foundation is of utmost importance. The finest architectural design and the best construction materials are of little value if the foundation is not built correctly.

The same is true of life itself and of our giving. The Apostle Paul instructed Timothy, “As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life” (1 Tim. 6:17-19).

Do not misunderstand: Jesus is the foundation. He is the Cornerstone. When it comes to the matter of our salvation, Christ and Christ alone is the “sure foundation.” Nothing we can do — not even giving of our resources — can add one bit to that foundation.

But we can follow the counsel of the Apostle Paul concerning our giving. Through our giving, we can send our treasure on ahead. We can follow the admonition of the Lord Jesus and through our giving, we can “lay up treasure in heaven.” John Bunyan summarized both teachings in this statement: “Whatever good thing you do for Him, if done according to the Word, is laid up for you as treasure in chests and coffers, to be brought out to be rewarded before men and angels, to your eternal comfort.”

Our giving, then, becomes a foundation, not concerning salvation, but rather, concerning our investments. Suppose for a moment that you had invested 100% of your life’s savings in the stock of a company. Would you not be watching with great eagerness how that company was performing? Would you not be checking up on how well it was doing, on management’s goals for the future, and on how it was faring against the competition? In a similar way, our investments in the work of the Lord not only indicate where we are placing our emphasis, but also, they will determine where our interest lies. We will be checking up on them, evaluating their performance, and giving thought to the day when they will yield eternal dividends in our behalf.

One writer expressed it this way: “We can trade temporal possessions that we cannot keep anyway to gain eternal possessions that we cannot lose. This is like a child given a chance to trade bubble gum for a new bicycle, or a man offered ownership of the Coca-Cola company in exchange for a sack of bottle caps. Only a fool would pass up this opportunity. What we keep we will lose. What we give and share and do in Christ’s name will ultimately come back to us in heaven in a far better and permanent form.”

Remember, Jesus Christ is the “sure foundation.” Jesus is the Cornerstone. As we work and as we give, we are building on Him and on what He accomplished on Calvary. What kind of builder are you?

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday, December 5th

Second Sunday in Advent

Communion Worship Service 10:00 am

Greening of the Church 11:30 am

Monday, December 6th

Bowling League 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 8th

Advent Mid-Week Worship 7:00 pm

Thursday, December 9th

Ladies Bible Study 11:30 am

Sunday, December 12th

Third Sunday in Advent

Communion Worship Service 10:00 am

Christmas Caroling to the Homebound Following Worship

Cookies for Military due – to be placed in kitchen

Scriptures for December 12th

Zephaniah 3:14-20 ~ Philippians 4:4-7 ~ Luke 7:18-28

Sunday, November 28, 2021

Worship Attendance - 63

General Offerings - \$6,653.00



Farewell/Retirement Dinner for Pastor Meraz - A potluck dinner will be held on Sunday, December 19th following the worship service. The LWML will supply chicken tenders. Those attending are asked to help supply the side dishes, salads and desserts. Please sign up to let us know you plan on attending and the dish you will be bringing! (On Volunteer Board in the Welcome Center.) The Church Council has put aside a financial thank you gift for Pastor Meraz. If you are interested in adding to this gift please place your contribution in a pew envelope marked for Pastor's gift. Please join us as we gather to say Goodbye and Godspeed to Pastor Meraz in his retirement. A gift basket is available in the Welcome Center where you can place your personal cards and gifts of appreciation.