TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Available online @ www.trinitylutherannorfolk.org

From Our Pastor

Rev. Jonathan Meraz

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

We're entering into one of the two highest seasons of the church – Advent/Christmas. My memories of this time are strong, a mixture of joy and melancholy. Many of those memories are connected to the church I grew up in in Iowa City, IA. The Christmas Eve children's program (I got to be Joseph one year – the Press-Citizen put a picture of our live Nativity scene on the front page of the paper), going to midweek Advent services and then getting glazed doughnuts in the basement afterward, decorating the fellowship hall with my friends in Walther League – I was blessed in that place.

More Christmas memories as my children grew up in the Southwest. Watching them as they participated in the Christmas programs at Christ the Redeemer in Phoenix, spending time with my son out on the patio, both of us bundled up and covered with blankets to protect ourselves from the bitter cold (about 50°), my daughters wearing matching homemade dresses given to them by a friend from church (Julie had one that matched theirs – you can ask her about it). Of course, there are memories from our time at the Seminary, too, such as traveling about the US on Advent tours with the seminary choir.

Although I haven't experienced a Christmas season here yet, I already have a wonderful memory from right here at Trinity. It was about this time last year that I received and began to consider the call to this congregation. With the all-access technology available to us today I was able to see pictures of the church on the internet. The first picture I remember seeing of the inside of the church was a picture taken from the balcony. It showed the altar and the surrounding chancel area adorned with the decorations of Christmas. I thought it was beautiful!

The cross hanging on the wall, the trees lit up, the colors of the season surrounding everything. It immediately brought back memories of the original, smaller church that my family and I worshipped in (until we built the big expansion when I was in 7th grade). It felt like home. I think that picture played a part in my final decision to take the call extended. I thought *I can see myself preaching there*.

We're nearing the end of my first year serving the church and the people of Trinity. Julie and I have experienced some home sickness for the family left in Nebraska but God has been very good and gracious to us here. We've moved into a new house that is slowly becoming home for us, we've fallen in love with the opportunities and activities available to us here in Virginia but most of all we're thankful for the people here at Trinity. You have all been such a gift. There are many kind and generous and spirit-filled hearts here.

I am looking forward to this Advent/Christmas season with excitement and joy. I am eager to once again tell the story of the birth of our Savior, the baby in the manger who was born to die, the person of the Holy Trinity who became flesh, the one who was to be named Jesus because He would save His people from their sins. Thank you for all of your prayers and support for Julie and me during this past year. We can't wait for the New Year to begin. May God grant you a very blessed and merry Christmas and blessings in the coming year.

Sunday Schedule

8:30 am Worship Service

9:45 am Sunday School

10:00 am Adult Bible Classes

11:00 am Worship Service

5th Sundays 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service

Holy Communion 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays

Nursery Available through Preschool age

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.



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Trinitarian

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TRINITY LUTHERAN'S MINISTRY TEAM

Pastor Rev. Jonathan Meraz Administrative Coordinator Anne Combes tlc@trinitylutherannorfolk.org

<u>Music Director</u> Kai Lin

Bookkeeper Janice Williams

<u>Sexton</u> Bill Sontag

<u>Custodian</u> Antonio Tutt

<u>Chairman of Deacons</u> Sharyn Leiding – Zone 1 & 3

<u>Deacons</u> Sharon Plawin – Zone 2

Ken Leiding – Zone 4

Bud and Lynn Hubert – Zone 5 & 7

Roger & Mary Ann Medlin – Zone 6



<u>Council President</u> Conrad Greif

Vice-President John Knickelbein

Recording Secretary Lynn Hubert

Financial Secretary Anne Combes

<u>Treasurer</u> David Petri

Christian Growth Chairman Cathy George

<u>LWML President</u> Sharon Knorr

<u>Special Ministries Chairman</u> Patty Malone

<u>Stewardship Chairman</u> Lynn Hubert - acting Chair

Outreach Chairman Doug Sulak

Worship Board Chairman Janice Gwin

Youth Ministries Vacant

<u>Church Properties Chairman</u> Dave Poston

<u>Trustees</u> Sam Locklear Jack Carter



43rd Annual German Christmas Service

Residents of Hampton Roads gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior by participating in a

German Language Service

December 15, 2016 at 7:00 pm

Saint John Lutheran Church 8918 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23505

TRINITARIAN

From our Pastor

Introduction to the Divine Service

Absolution

Last newsletter we looked at Confession. Its counterpart is Absolution. Confession and Absolution is the first completion of what will be a constant flow of Law & Gospel throughout the service. In Confession, God's Law has shown us our sins, and in response to our repentance we experience the first proclamation of the sweet Gospel in Absolution. The pastor says ...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.

Absolution is a gift from God that Christians should cherish because it is the Gospel of forgiveness applied to a specific individual even when proclaimed in the corporate setting of the liturgy. Absolution is for all repentant sinners whatever their sin. It is particularly comforting for terrified consciences because when we are absolved we are truly forgiven before God and in His eyes it is as though those sins had never been committed.

In the words of Absolution the minster says *I forgive* because Christ commanded His disciples saying **If you for-give anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven**. (John 20:22) The pastor says *I* because Christ said **you**. In fact, most rites of Individual Confession & Absolution pose the question to the penitent: *Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness*? But we must never understand the Word of Absolution as merely a human word. The Lutheran Confessions speak of absolution this way

... it is not the voice or word of the person speaking it, but it is the Word of God, who forgives sin. For it is spoken in God's stead and by God's command (Augsburg Confession xxv). The confessions go on to say, Therefore we must believe the voice of the one absolving no less than we would believe a voice from heaven. (Apology of the Augsburg Confession XII). During the Absolution, the pastor is standing before the Lord's people as a mouthpiece of God, Himself. The pastor is merely a vocal instrument that the Lord is using to proclaim His forgiveness, grace and mercy to His people. And that man is there with the full authority of the Office of the Keys which is why these words are often included ... I, by virtue of my Office as a called and ordained servant of Christ,... Those words serve as a further assurance that this poor miserable sinner who dares to stand in as the Lord's ambassador has the full authority granted to him by God and His Church.

Absolution ends the time of preparation of the service. Having confessed to God and received His forgiveness, we are truly ready to receive His Word and sing His praises. As mentioned last time, Confession/Absolution is available on an individual basis. By oath the pastor is forbidden to reveal those sins confessed to him in the context of private Confession/Absolution.

These notes were originally written in 2001 by Pastor David Oberdieck and have been edited.

Christian Growth

Cathy George

We finished our mission project Operation Christmas Child. Our next project will be for Lutheran World Relief, we will be collecting funds to buy hens and chicks, a lamb and a goat.

We are moving!!! The Sunday School bulletin board will now be in the hallway on the way to Belvedere Hall, coming soon!

December 18th is the Sunday School Christmas Pageant.

There will be no Sunday School classes on December 25th and January 1st.

Board of Deacons

Sharyn Leiding

SHARE YOUR SMILE AND SINGING VOICE with homebound members of Trinity, as well as residents in assisted living facilities.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18th – 4 pm CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Refreshments starting at 3:30 pm

Can't carry a tune? Doesn't matter; others will provide the harmonious notes and we will follow along. Besides, we sing favorite, familiar hymns as well as secular Christmas songs.

Don't like to drive after dark? Doesn't matter; we'll carpool, designating responsible drivers, as we leave Trinity at 4 pm, returning at approximately 7 pm.

Don't personally know these homebound folks? Doesn't matter, because they are SO APPRECIA-TIVE when we appear that you'll feel immediately like an old friend.

THEREFORE, we're eager to have you (bring a friend), your family, a neighbor join us on Sunday, December 18th at 3:30 pm and we will leave the church at 4 pm. JOIN THE FUN AND SPREAD CHRISTLIKE LOVE THROUGH MUSIC!!

Your Board of Deacons was represented by Sharon Plawin at the confirmation of Jason Loper on Sunday, October 23rd.

Attendance in Worship Services is now being tabulated via the church's computer software program and being provided to deacons. Please sign the pew book so that our records can be kept up to date.

Trinitarian

Stewardship

Lynn Hubert (acting chair)

Thank you to everyone who has turned in their completed Biographical/Opportunities for Service and Participation sheets. If you have not had a chance to turn yours in please do so as soon as possible. You can place them in the offering plate on any Sunday. Please fill out both sides as completely as you are able. It is important to include dates, phone numbers and email addresses so that we are able to properly communicate with you. Even if you believe the information we have on file is correct, please complete and return this form, so that we may verify that what we have is accurate.

Regarding your time: We encourage your first commitment be to regularly attend Bible Class and Sunday worship services. It is in those activities that God purposefully, intentionally distributes His gifts of forgiveness and life through Word and Sacrament to His children.

Regarding your talents: Consider how God has gifted you and commit to offering your talents and skills to the Lord to benefit His church.

Regarding your treasure: Your unopened pledges for 2016 have been kept securely in the white box under the lectern. They will be returned with your end of year statements for your review. Supporting the church financially is a factual necessity. We ask you to meditate and reflect on how you have been blessed and how you, in turn, can be a blessing.

In order to carry out our mission at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, we need the support of all of our members through your financial gifts as well as your time and talents. May God bless you to be a cheerful giver!

Reminder that at our last Voters' Assembly the voters approved moving from Fiscal Year <u>August 1 –</u> <u>July 31</u> to <u>January 1 to December 31.</u> Your accounting team works very hard every day to keep track of Trinity's finances! Special thank you to Dave Petri (Treasurer), Anne Combes (Financial Secretary), and Janice Williams (Bookkeeper).

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



Trinity will be celebrating our 100th Anniversary in 2020!!!

DID YOU KNOW? After the end of World War I several Lutheran families arranged to meet weekly for worship services in Williams Funeral Home in Norfolk. On May 30, 1920 the church was organized by 10 men signing the original constitution (no voting rights for the congregation's women in those days). Since that day also happened to be Trinity Sunday in the church calendar, Trinity became the name of the congregation.

The church purchased a house and lot on 34th and Omohundro Ave. in Norfolk in 1921 at a cost of \$17,000. This home served as a parsonage and place of worship.

On February 14, 1923, construction began on a small chapel on the lot next to the parsonage. The cost of the chapel was \$1,800 of which \$1,200 was contributed by members and \$600 was received from fellow Lutherans, mainly from Bethlehem Church in Richmond. It served as the primary location for services through 1945.

In May 1940 the current church site at Granby and West Belvedere was purchased at a cost of \$2200. However, as it was wartime and there was a scarcity of building materials, and problems obtaining funds from District, the building was not started until 1944. In September 1944, construction began on the main building and it was completed one year later. A dedication of the new building was held on September 9, 1945. The cost of the building plus furnishings was \$60,000.

We hope to have a year of celebrations for this milestone anniversary! If you are interested in serving on any of the planning committees please sign up on the Volunteer Board in the Welcome Center and you will be contacted as we begin to plan in 2017.

Trinitarian

LWML

Lynn Hubert

A special thank you to everyone who donated crafts and baked goods for our Holiday Happenings on November 20th. Maybe you stopped by the Welcome Center and enjoyed some goodies or picked up a craft; whatever you purchased we want you to know that you are helping to support our mission work through the LWML.

A special thank you to everyone who donated to our Kitchen Shower in the month of October. We received many items in our basket in the Welcome Center as well as \$375.00 in financial donations which so far has helped to purchase new coffee carafes and pots and pans.

We have been invited to join our sisters-in-Christ at Hope Lutheran Church for their Advent Tea on Saturday December 3rd from 2-4 pm. Many of our ladies will be in attendance.

The Poinsettia sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway. Poinsettias will be \$8.00 this year and must be paid for in advance. Order deadline is Sunday, December 11th. Poinsettias may be taken home after the service on Christmas Day. Please make checks payable to LWML.

The LWML will be sending a Christmas gift to our adopted seminary student, Ben Berteau. Anyone who would like to add to this gift may do so by making your check out to the LWML and placing it in a pew envelope marked for the LWML/ Seminary student gift. Deadline December 18th.

This year we will be decorating the church for Christmas after the late service on December 4th. Many hands make the work easier. Please join us for a wonderful afternoon of fellowship.

We will be holding our Epiphany Luncheon on January 7th at Lynnhaven Fish House in Virginia Beach at 11:30 am. Please sign up on the LWML board to let us you know you are attending. All ladies of the congregation are invited!

Love Boxes for our military and college students will be packed on Saturday February 4th at 10:00 am. Don't forget to gather your donations and drop them off in the Welcome Center in January. Look for a sign-up sheet on the LWML bulletin board. Please help us make sure we have an accurate list of our military members who are deployed and our youth who are currently attending college. Call Anne in the office to update this list. Did you know that the LWML furnishes all of the paper plates, napkins, plastic ware, cups, paper tablecloths/placemats and cloth tablecloths used at all of our receptions and luncheons. We also cover the cost for all coffee supplies including sugar/equal packets, creamer, coffee stirrers, instant sweet tea and lemonade mix. We also pay for all cleaning supplies for the brass and silver and dishwashing detergent. The LWML covers all receptions, including funeral receptions. If a reception is not held at Trinity we usually cover the cost of a meat and cheese tray and rolls being sent to the family. We are truly blessed with donations (paid for by individuals) that include: Regular/ decaf coffee; Kleenex - for Chancel pews; Hand Sanitizer - for pews; Latex gloves; hand soap for Welcome Center and the washing of dish towels and cloth tablecloths. Thank you for all of your support (both past and future) of the LWML so that we can continue to

Worship Board

support our family of Christ at Trinity.

Janice Gwin

As you are reading this, we have celebrated Thanksgiving and are into Advent. We have many things to be thankful for including having a new pastor. We are thankful to have Pastor and Julie Meraz here for their first Advent and Christmas season with us.



The Sundays of Advent are: November 27th, December 4th, 11th and 18th. (regular 8:30 and 11:00 am services). Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th we will have two services at 7:00 and 10:00 pm. Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th and New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1st, we will have only one service each at 10:00 am.

We will celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 8th, with our two regular services at 8:30 and 11:00 am. Please stay (or come back) after the 11:00 am service to help un-decorate the church and put away the decorations.

Remember our joint 10:00 am services: January 29th, April 30th, July 30th and October 29, 2017 (Reformation).

We are planning on honoring Seniors in the Faith on April 30, 2017. Any ideas?

Love, peace and blessings to our families and our Trinity family.

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017

Special Ministries

Patty Malone

We are still collecting diapers for the Greater Hampton Roads Diaper Bank starting in November up through Christmas. We will be collecting coupons for diapers along with diapers from infant to adult sizes. Access to a sufficient supply of diapers is essential for the health of Greater Hampton Roads infants, disabled and elderly, and the quality of life in our community, but too many individuals don't have the resources to adequately provide this basic need.

The shortage of diapers can lead to serious impacts on the wellbeing of those in need. Parents without sufficient resources often allow children to wear diapers for too long during the day, or try to clean and reuse disposable diapers, putting children at risk for staph and other infections.

Parents and caregivers sometimes have to make the choice between purchasing diapers, paying bills or buying groceries. Please bring diapers to church and put in the collection box in the welcome center starting in November through Christmas.

It is alright to bring in partial packs as long as they are still in the package and taped shut. Thank you for supporting this diaper drive!

In January we will be going to the Judeo-Christian Outreach Center to feed the homeless. The lives we touch are many and in our own community. It is sad to see so many in need but it is rewarding knowing they are each getting a hand-up not a hand-out. This program has such a high rate of returning the homeless back to society living and working on their own. The programs offered at JCOC are not only serving meals, but other vital services as well: a food pantry, housing, counseling, advocacy, education and employment assistance. They provide the opportunity for a second chance.

We will be preparing the food on Saturday, January 14, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. and we will be serving on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. We have to be at the JCOC at 2:00 to get everything ready to be served at exactly 3:00 p.m.

If this is something you are interested in helping with please sign-up on the Special Ministry board in the hallway, it has balloons on it. We need people both days. If you can only help one day or both all hands are needed. We need 10 people to go and serve the meal on Sunday.

If you have an idea and would like us to try something different please let us know. We are always looking for new ideas to support. Don't forget our recycling efforts as we reduce our carbon footprint!

Team members always welcome! If you think this is something you would like to get involved with, please contact Patty Malone.

YOUTH

Patty Malone

Junior/Senior High Youth

The high school youth will be going the Escape Room in Virginia Beach soon. The only thing they have to do is pick a date the majority of them can go. It sounds like a fun time! The room holds eight people so there will be a sign-up first come until we get to eight. An announcement will be made in church, Sunday School and in the bulletin. Stay tuned!!!

Preteens

The preteens enjoyed a Friday of fun recently! A special thank you to Mrs. Sykes for coming and doing the object lesson on being GRATEFUL. The children all sat in their bean bags and listened to Mrs. Sykes tell them how they are to be grateful for all they have in life. As she asked everyone what they were grateful for each letter of the word. They came up with a lot of good answers for each letter, God, love, grandparents, unity, eternity, family, grapes etc.

The former Trinity students requested Mrs. Sykes, as they miss her. When she showed up they all went and talked with her and even were looking through an old yearbook. They were very happy she showed up for them. She even said she would come back sometime.

December's fun night will be a little Christmas Party for the preteens. The second Friday of the month!

If you have a preteen in your life, starting at first grade consider bringing them to preteen night. They have fun fellowship, learn a bible object lesson, do a craft and have a snack.

Hope to see you at our next FUN NIGHT !!

Young Investors (Y.I.) Club

for children ages 0-18 offers a fun and easy way to help kids learn valuable stewardship concepts. LCEF's Y.I. Club StewardAccount features:

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- *Minimum of \$25 to open account.
- *Premium interest rate on balances up to \$1,000
- *Savings grow with child, but are accessible
- *Debit card available at age 16
- *Make additional investments with checks or Y.I. Stamps
- *Extra credit deposits for good grades and service hours
- *Scholarship program available for high school seniors



www.lcef.org



		December 2016				
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Choir 6:00 pm	1 Ladies Bible Study 11:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm	2	3 Advent Tea @ Hope Lutheran 2:00-4:00 pm Living Nativity 6:30 pm
4 Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 am SS/BC 9:45 am Adult BC 10:00 am Greening of the Church 12:15 pm	5 Stewardship Com- mittee Meeting 5:30 pm By-Laws Commit- tee Meeting 6:30 pm Bowling League 6:30 pm	6	7 Choir 6:00 pm	8 Ladies Bible Study 11:00 am	9 PreTeen Night Activities 6:30 pm	10
11 Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 am SS/BC 9:45 am Adult BC 10:00 am	12 Bowling League 6:30 pm	13	14 Choir 6:00 pm	15 Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm 43 rd Annual German Service @ Saint John Luther- an Church 8918 Tidewater Dr. 7:00 pm	16	17 Men's Breakfast 8:00 am Ladies Monthly Bible Study 10:00 am
18 Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 am Sunday School Christmas Pageant 9:45 am Shut-In Christmas Caroling 3:30 pm	19 Bowling League 6:30 pm	20	21 Choir 6:00 pm	22	23	24 Family Worship Service 7:00 pm Candlelight Wor- ship Service 10:00 pm
25 Worship Service 10:00 am	26 Church Office closed	27	28	29	30	31

WORSHIP SERVER SCHEDULE

If you are unable to serve on your designated Sunday, please make arrangements for someone to cover for you and let the church office know as soon as possible.

	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 24	December 25
L	Brenda Pendry 8:30 am	Anna Carter 8:30 am	Ralph Knorr 8:30 am	TBA 7:00 pm	Brenda Pendry
	John Butcher 11:00 am	Linda Blaker 11:00 am	Pat Gregory 11:00 am	Anna Carter 10:00 pm	10:00 am
C	Ken Leiding 8:30 am		Ralph Knorr 8:30 am	Jeff Ingmire 7:00 pm	Ken Leiding
A	Jeff Ingmire 11:00 am		Bill Gregory 11:00 am	TBA 10:00 pm	10:00 am
А	Janet and Ana 8:30 am	8:30 am Ana Mallie	8:30 am Janet Gould	7:00 pm Ana Mallie	Shelby Blaker and
	Justin Malone 11:00 am	11:00 am Shelby Blaker	11:00 am Justin Malone	10:00 pm Shelby Blaker	Justin Malone 10:00 am
C S	Ian Bugbee/ David Chadwick	Chaplain Prince	Linda Blaker	NA	Pastor Meraz

Sun 1 Service of Read- ings and Carols 10:00 am	Mon 2 Bowling League 6:30 pm	<u>Тие</u> 3	Wed 4 Choir 6:00 pm Lutheran Confessions Study	Thu 5	<i>Fri</i> 6	Sat 7 LWML Epiphany Luncheon 11:30 am
8 Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 am SS/BC 9:45 am De-Greening of the Church 12:15 pm	9 Bowling League 6:30 pm	10	7:00 pm 11 Choir 6:00 pm Lutheran Confessions Study 7:00 pm	12 Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm	13 PreTeen Night Activities 6:30 pm	14 Special Ministries cooking for JCOC 10:00 am
15 Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 am SS/BC 9:45 am Special Ministries serving for JCOC	16 Narihi Luher Nind, Jr. Day Church Office Closed Bowling League 6:30 pm	17	18 Choir 6:00 pm Lutheran Confessions Study 7:00 pm	19	20	21 Men's Breakfast 8:00 am Circuit 12 Meeting @Williamsburg 8:30 am Ladies Monthly Bible Study 10:00 am
22 Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 am SS/BC 9:45 am	23 Bowling League 6:30 pm	24 Deacon's Meeting 3:30 pm	25 Choir 6:00 pm Lutheran Confessions Study 7:00 pm	26 Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm	27	28
29 Worship Service 10:00 am SS/BC 9:00 am	30 Bowling League 6:30 pm	31		Janu	uary 2	2017

WORSHIP SERVER SCHEDULE

If you are unable to serve on your designated Sunday, please make arrangements for someone to cover for you and let the church office know as soon as possible. Thank you!

	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
L	Cathy George 10:00 am	Anna Carter 8:30 am Bettie Terrell 11:00 am	Ralph Knorr 8:30 am Julie Meraz 11:00 am	Anna Carter 8:30 am Linda Blaker 11:00 am	Ken Leiding 10:00 am
C A	Ralph George 8:30 am		Ralph Knorr 8:30 am Jeff Ingmire 11:00 am		Ken Leiding 10:00 am
А	Janet Gould 10:00 am	8:30 am Ana Mallie 11:00 am Shelby Blaker	8:30 am Janet Gould 11:00 am Justin Malone	8:30 am Janet Gould 11:00 am Shelby Blaker	Shelby Blaker and Ana Mallie10:00 am
C S	Judy Sykes	Sharyn Leiding	Pastor Meraz	Chaplain Prince	Linda Blaker

