



The Trinitarian

*Trinity welcomes all to a community in Christ;
serving others, growing in faith,
living in hope, and reaching out in love.*

February 2018

Dear People of God,

We find ourselves in the middle of the Epiphany season. This year the season is just about as long as it can be (some years it is one Sunday longer.) So for the entire month of February we will be celebrating the many and varied ways that Christ shines out into the world.

A great friend of mine has spent his life helping some of the great minds our time probe the unfathomable depths of the universe. He programmed telescopes so that astronomers could “see” the objects of their interest. I confess I am humbled by my friend’s intellect and knowledge, just as I am when I simply look up at the night sky. The magi looked at that same sky as they made their way to Jesus and I can’t help but wonder what other revelations of God’s glory are shining down on us even now. It is Epiphany, after all.

Two quick announcements: During the month of February, during the 9:30 a.m. Sunday School hour, I am going to lead an adult forum I’m calling, **The Kingdom of God and the Church: what’s the difference?** Each week we’ll explore some aspect of our faith and life and consider just how “holy” these things are and how vision of the church has evolved through the ages, using the history of Trinity as our template. This is a fun, lighthearted look at the strengths and foibles of the saints!

Also during February, I am offering a different, more contemplative kind of experience for adults on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. Using the work of Margaret Wheatley as a springboard, we will take a deep dive into what it means **To Be Human and a Child of God in the 21st century** and what it means to be a child of God. In the introduction of her book, *Who Do We Choose to Be?*, Wheatley writes: *This world does not need more entrepreneurs. This world does not need more technology breakthroughs. This world needs leaders. We need leaders who put service over self, who can be steadfast through crises and failures, who want to stay present and make a difference to the people, situations, and causes they care about.* My goal is to focus our reflection and conversation on the idea that every one of us has the

God-given capacity to lead in some way, in some place that not only makes a difference in our world, but is critical to its success.

The Sunday sessions are open to any and all. You need not attend every Sunday to participate. If you are interested in the Wednesday sessions – and I hope you are! – please let me know via Brian in the church office. For this group I do need to ask that participants, as much as possible, attend each week and note that enrollment will close after the first session.

Blessings!

Pr Kern

Annual Cook-Off

**Different Timing, but the Trinity tradition continues;
get out your recipes for the annual cook-off**

Trinity’s Annual Cook-off is a month later, but the fun and flavor continue. Sunday, February 24, after the late service will be a Meatball & Bar Cookie Cook-Off. The last time we tested meatballs, the winner included a secret filling... what magical meatball will win this time? How creative can you be with a bar cookie?



If you do not want to enter, then you need to hang around to taste and vote. It is always a great fellowship event. The funds raised will go to support Trinity’s youth mission trip (75%) and Manna Food Bank (25%). Who will be the winners this year? Entry sign up will be in the social hall. Please help us make this a delicious success.

Trinity Lutheran Church | 11200 Old Georgetown Road | North Bethesda, MD 20852-3202

A Reconciling in Christ and a Stephen Ministry congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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February Service Opportunities

Each February Trinity focuses its mission activities on the issue of hunger.

February Food Drive – Social Ministry & Youth Teams Join Forces

During February, Trinity will collect specific foods to support the efforts of Bethesda Help, a local all-volunteer non-profit organization providing emergency assistance to needy persons of southern Montgomery County, including food, limited financial assistance (for rent, utility, prescriptions), and referrals to shelters, clothing, or appropriate professional agency.

Emergency food deliveries to households in crisis provide a three-day supply of food for each member of the household. Each delivery includes:

- 1 – Can of Meat (chicken) 12.5 oz
- 2 – Cans of Tuna 5 oz (usually packed in water)
- 3 – Cans of vegetables (preferably low/no salt)
- 2 – Can of beans 15.5 oz (garbanzo, black, red kidney, navy, cannellini, pinto, baked)
- 1 – Can of fruit (preferably any packed in juice)
- 1 – Box of Oatmeal (cannister or box of individual packs)/ cereal
- 1 – Jar Peanut Butter 18 oz
- 1 – Box of Pasta 16 oz (spaghetti or various pasta)
- 1 – Can of Pasta/ Spaghetti Sauce 24 oz
- 1 – Bag of Rice (white or brown) 16 oz
- 2 – Boxes of macaroni and cheese 7.25 oz

In early March, Trinity will sponsor a service project for Tilden Middle School students to organize the bags. The students will also learn about Bethesda Help and the urgent needs so close to home.

Trinity's goal is to prepare deliveries for 75 families.

How can you help?

- Bring in items from the list above
- If you do not have time to shop, please include a contribution with your weekly offering and note the amount for Bethesda Help Project, we will do the shopping
- We will need the plastic reusable bags available from Giant (for about 10 cents)

As always we appreciate the support of the Congregation to fight hunger near and far. If you have questions, please reach out to Margaret F.

February 3 – Souper Bowl Sunday

Support your favorite team by donating to the Souper Bowl of Caring (put your donation in the soup pot designated for your favorite team, and we'll see if Trinity's "winner" is a prognosticator for the actual game.) Souper Bowl engages youth across the nation to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities. In 2018, 3,811 participating groups collected more than \$8 million in cash and food items for 2,586 local charities.

Trinity's Souper Bowl donations will be designated for Manna Food Center in Gaithersburg which serves over 32,000 people in our local area annually.

February 21 – Prepare Dinner for Shelter Residents

Trinity will prepare a hot dinner for 35 women at the Interfaith Works Women's Center in Rockville. Please see the sign-up sheet in the social hall if you would like to contribute to the meal. Contact Lynn Booth or Kathy Thrower with any questions.



Congregation Council Highlights

January 8, 2018

- Received two proposals regarding their Eagle Scout projects. After discussion, both projects were approved by the Council.
- Received a proposal from the Audio/Video Group regarding upgrade of the Sanctuary audio system. Following Council deliberation, it was decided to get a second quote, but everyone agreed that this was a matter of some urgency and we should proceed forthwith to get the system fixed.
- Received and approved a proposal for purchase of a LIFEPAK CR Plus Complete AED Package. The Fire Department as well as the Vendor usually will provide the instruction needed.

Youth News

Junior Youth Group! - (1st - 5th grade)

We will meet on February 9 for snacks and fun! Please watch your email for times.

Youth Group! - (6th - 12th grade)

We will meet... and head over to an escape room on February 10!

Bethesda Health and Rehab! –

We will head over to Bethesda Health and Rehab to help lead worship on February 17. We need to be there at 1:45, and we should be done around 2:40 p.m. Please let Anita know if you will be able to be there.

Kids Morning Out! –

Youth of ALL ages will be gathering on February 23, for a morning of fun and games. We will make a dish for the Cook off. We will gather at 9:30 a.m., and finish up at noon. Please let Anita know if you will be there!

Tilden Project! –

Our friends from Tilden will be heading our way for two hours of community service. We will be putting bags together for Bethesda Help. If you are able to help, please let Anita know. The project will begin at 12:30 and finish up at 2:00.

Looking ahead:

Junior Youth Group	March 2
Lenten Fair & Pretzels	March 10
Youth Group	March 10
Shekinah (Middle School Retreat)	March 15-17
Blessing of New Drivers	March 31
High School Gathering	March 31

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet at the home of Steve S

Wednesday, February 13, 1 p.m.

Parking is restricted.

Those attending call Steve.



Rides to Church

Have you missed Trinity events because you lacked transportation? Trinity has missed you too and the following members of the congregation would like to provide you with a ride to Trinity events:



20886	Carol B
20850	Marilyn C
20850	Margaret F
20854	Peggy & Dick J
20854	Miriam M
20853	Nancy N

Zip codes are provided to aid in finding a driver close to you. Do not hesitate to call. If you would like volunteer to drive, call Dick J.

Pledges and Gifts

For the 2019 Living in Grace and Gratitude annual Stewardship Appeal, as of **January 17**, 47 family units have pledged \$195,156, and 54 adults and 10 youth have turned in their Time & Talent forms. If you have not yet pledged, Pledge Cards and Time & Talent Forms are available in the church office or from ushers on Sunday. Completed cards and forms may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office, Attn: Financial Secretary. Thank you.



BIGGER Than A Building! (2015-2018)

The final amount received for the original BTAB! Mission Appeal was \$462,593.12. Although we did not meet the pledged goal of \$479,040, Trinity would like to thank every member for contributing to the first BTAB! appeal, and we look forward to meeting our goal for the final push of \$350,000 for BTAB 2! in the next three years (2019-2021). Thank you.

BTAB! 2: As of **December 30**, for the new 3-year **BIGGER Than A Building! 2 (BTAB! 2) Mission Appeal (2019-2021)**, 33 family units have pledged \$276,520. We need everyone's pledge to meet our goal of \$350,000 to pay off our mortgage for the new building and refurbishments to Trinity. Pledge cards and envelopes are available from the ushers. If you have not yet pledged, place your pledge card in the offering, or mail it to the church, Attn: Financial Secretary. Thank you.





Trinity Lutheran Church
11200 Old Georgetown Road
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Date Mailed
January 29, 2018

Non-profit Org
US Postage Paid
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February Highlights

Opportunities to Learn and Grow

Kingdom of God and the Church: What's the Difference? Sunday mornings at 9:30
To Be Human and a Child of God Wednesday evenings, beginning February 6

Opportunities to Help Others

Souper Bowl Sunday Sunday, February 3
Prepare Dinner for Shelter Thursday, February 21

Opportunities for Fellowship and Fun

Kids' Morning Out Saturday, February 23
Annual Cook-Off Sunday, February 24