



The Trinitarian

Our **Mission** is to **Worship... Learn... Serve...**
Our **Vision** is to **Seek, Serve, and Accept All.**

September 2019

Dear People of God,

Though most of us are no longer tied to the agrarian cycles of life, we live like we are! It's September, the fall harvest will follow soon, so it's time for the kids to head back to school. Even if you are not personally tied to the school year, which is tied to the old harvest cycle, we are all powerfully impacted by it. Morning traffic will increase. The beltway will become even more congested (if that's possible!) And life will quicken a step or two as the days grow increasingly shorter. We can never escape the world that surrounds us!

I hope the summer months afforded you some time away if that is what you wanted. For my part, I thoroughly enjoyed some of the extra time summer affords for time with my wife and family. Now, I am energized for the fall and the new program year. Over the summer many of you took the time to plan and prepare for ministries throughout the coming year. Trinity's new Minister of Music, Angela Small begins her work among us on September 8. Our transition process continues apace. Sunday School resumes soon. Confirmation is coming in October. In other words, the work of the church goes on!

In addition, I'd like to make a humble offering during the month of September, leading a class I call **Seldom Studied Bible Stories**. On the four **Wednesdays in September** (11 a.m. or 7:30 p.m.), I'll be offering adult members and friends a chance to take a closer look at four Bible accounts that don't usually appear in Sunday School materials or sermons. Thought provoking. Challenging. Fun. Come and join me!

Blessings,
Pastor Kern

FALL SCHEDULE



Begins

Sunday, September 8

Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Adult Ed 9:30 a.m.



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Sunday, September 8

A day to help those less fortunate than ourselves; see the story inside to learn more.



Sunday, September 8, is Rally Day, our opening day of Sunday School for all ages! We will begin the year with prayer and song, and then we will dismiss to our classes for the day. Watch for a special activity for all!

Introducing Angela Small

My name is Angela, and I am excited to be your new Minister of Music. I strongly believe in the collaborative nature of music, and I look forward to leading an inclusive music ministry where every vocalist and instrumentalist feels welcome and supported musically in worship.



Outside of Trinity, you can find me playing clarinet with the Washington Metropolitan Gamer Symphony Orchestra (WMGSO), playing keyboard with the Damascus-based praise band *Cor Jesu*, and teaching private music lessons at Jim's House of Music in New Market, Maryland.

I look forward to meeting each and every one of you!

Yours in Christ,
Angela

Council Summary, June 11, 2019

Pastor Kern offered a list of nine tasks important to complete (or have substantially underway) before the Call Committee for a new pastor is formed. His recommendations are based on member interviews, conversations, tasks identified in the Call process, as well as basic transition insights. Here is the list of tasks, in abbreviated form. Items marked* are already substantially underway.

1. Continue our work to get clarity about Trinity's mission and vision.*
2. Bridge the divide between various members/groups that exists within the congregation.*
3. Redress staff compensation inequities.
4. Increase member regular giving to ensure there is no deficit in 2019.
5. Raise awareness of the congregation's dependence on building use income (presently more than \$100k a year.)
6. Complete and Approve updating of the constitution and bylaws of the congregation.*
7. Secure the records of the congregation on site.
8. Hire a bookkeeper to reconcile financial data each month (under direction of the Treasurer.)
9. Revise and update staff job descriptions.*

The Council will continue to discuss these tasks over the summer so that we can get Trinity in the best possible position before a new pastor is called.

Welcoming

by Phil D

Meanwhile Saul (of Tarsus) was still breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord. He went to the High Priest and applied for letters to the synagogues of Damascus authorizing him to arrest anyone he found; men or women, who followed the new way, and bring them to Jerusalem.

Acts 9:1-2 (New English Bible)

And Saul (of Tarsus) yet, breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest...

Acts 9:1 (KJV)

One wonders what would have been anticipated if Saul of Tarsus would have had access to box cars, and concentration camps, and saran gas containers. What lines would he have crossed?

When Saul of Tarsus reached Jerusalem he tried to join the body of disciples there; but they were all afraid of him, because they did not believe he was really a convert.

Acts 9:26

What was it like to be welcoming to Saul of Tarsus? Whom had he hurt? Which families had been disrupted? Who had lost parents or children or family from this man?

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face; now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known... and now abideth faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love.

- Paul the Apostle
a.k.a. Saul of Tarsus
I Cor 13: 12-13 (KJV)

Trinity Singers

Do you love to sing? Think about joining the Trinity Singers! Our first Choir rehearsal is Thursday, September 5, at 7:30 p.m. We sing during Sunday morning worship at 10:45 a.m. and rehearse Sundays after church.



Passages and Milestones

September Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 01. Annie A | 12. Tamara C |
| 01. Diana B | 12. Sophia D |
| 01. Vimala P | 13. Jon M |
| 01. Patricia S | 16. Lily B |
| 02. James M Jr. | 21. Alexander L |
| 02. Marissa P | 22. Nicholas C |
| 05. Anders S | 27. John B |
| 05. Kathy T | 27. Gina C |
| 06. Jeanine B | 28. Mary B |
| 08. Winsome G | 29. Nicole S |
| 08. Brenden H | 30. Wayne D |
| 09. Andy B | |

September Baptismal Days

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 01. Jeff B | 12. Charles M |
| 03. Liam S | 15. Sean M |
| 04. Jan P | 19. Patricia S |
| 09. Steve S | 20. Madeline B |
| 11. Claire S | 20. Vera N |

Deaths:

- Carolyn P +May 25, 2019
(friend of Mary B)
Gail R +July 1, 2019
Don Rafael A C +July 5, 2019
(friend of Len & Ani S)
Ronita A +July 7, 2019
(cousin of Miriam M)

New Member: Sean W (joined July 14, 2019)

Remember in Your Prayers

THE CHURCH:

our synod & bishops:

Bishops Elizabeth Eaton, Richard Graham, Leila Ortiz

our missionaries: Stephen Deal & Marta Giron

our congregation: Trinity Church

THE NATIONS: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Korea, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Myanmar, Namibia, Palestine, Somalia, Spain/Cataluña, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, United States, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe

THE SICK AND SUFFERING:

nursing/rehabilitation center:

Philip T (Manor Care Potomac)

home:

Tigist G, Susan K, James T,

Chris T, Margo W

family and friends*

D. W, friend of Bill & Diana B

Steven W, uncle of Jonah W

Charlele Z, niece of Marilyn G



God's work. Our hands.

Sunday, September 8, Trinity will celebrate **God's Work, Our Hands Sunday**, together with 10,000 congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

During God's Work Our Hands Sunday, we serve our neighbors by preparing 200 School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We will have all the supplies ready to go. Just bring yourselves! We will begin during the Sunday School/Education hour. Come sing and play with us and join in on the fun and service!

October Coat Drive

Trinity will collect new and gently-used coats, fleeces, gloves, mittens, hats scarves and other winter gear for those in need throughout the month of October.

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:



Need a Ride to Church?

20886 Carol B

20850 Margaret F

20854 Peggy & Dick F

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.

My Faith Story

by Sarah G

Several weeks ago the Gospel reading was the story of Jesus visiting the home of siblings Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus (Luke 10:38-42). Surely you know this story; Martha is distracted and preparing a meal for Jesus (...and possibly the disciples too! That's a lot of work for one person!) while Mary sits at Jesus' feet listening to his teaching; basking in his presence. Frustrated, Martha complains to Jesus that Mary is not helping her, but Jesus responds by telling Martha that she is worried and distracted by many things... and that there is need of only one thing that Mary has chosen; which will not be taken away from her.

I love this story. It's all about women and about sisters, identities that both resonate strongly with me. I connect with what both women are doing in the story, too; Martha, the one doing all the work and Mary, the one who can't get enough of the Good News. At times in my adult life I have been a Martha, doing the work of the church in many and different important ways. And like Martha I have sometimes become overwhelmed by all that activity to the detriment of my own growth in faith. And so sometimes I have reacted by gravitating to the Mary extreme, selectively dropping out of church activities, making sermon outlines as I had to do in Confirmation, and retreating into a more introspective walk of faith. If you notice me writing in my bulletin during the sermon someday, you can be confident I'm not working on my grocery list.

I know that Jesus loved both Martha and Mary. These women represent equally important aspects of membership in the body of Christ. The ability to be of service to others, like Martha, is a gift from God but it has an expiration date. There will come a time when the Martha in each of us can no longer be of any service to anyone. And at that point each of us will have to rely on our inner Mary to sustain us in our last days, because our trust in the resurrection and the love of Christ will not be taken from us.

Church Constitution Progress

When you think of Constitution, you may think of great philosophical debates on the structure of Government, perhaps the Federalist papers or Constitution Conventions. Some of you might think of constitutions or by-laws for corporations or non-profits. Whether you view Constitutions and Bylaws with romanticism or dread, as a congregation of the ELCA a lot of the work and decisions are really out of our hands. The ELCA provides a model constitution for congregations and mandates the use of the exact language in many areas for theological (and legal!) reasons. The ELCA is an interconnected church which finds its full expression through congregations, synods, and churchwide expressions, together. So for example, when the Churchwide Assembly meets every three years and makes changes to the documents of the ELCA, those changes de facto become changes in synod and congregation constitutions. There are, however, a few areas where congregations are given some latitude.

It's been more than ten years since Trinity has updated our Constitution. As part of our transition work before we call the next Pastor, a small group of us has undertaken a review of the current constitution. We are primarily updating the constitution to be in compliance with the 2016 ELCA Model Constitution, but are also taking a look at any other updates that may need to be made. For example, we are looking at some of the Committee functions and activities as the Congregation has changed the focus and transformed them into mission teams.

If you're interested in supporting the constitution & by-law updates, it's not too late to join our team. Please reach out if you are interested. We also encourage you to take a look at our constitution and the ELCA model constitution. They are available at links below.

<https://www.elca.org/About/Churchwide/Office-of-the-Secretary/Constitutions>

<https://www.trinityelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/2008-12-7-Trinity-Constitution.pdf>

In Christ,
Jerry B, Pam B, Kim B

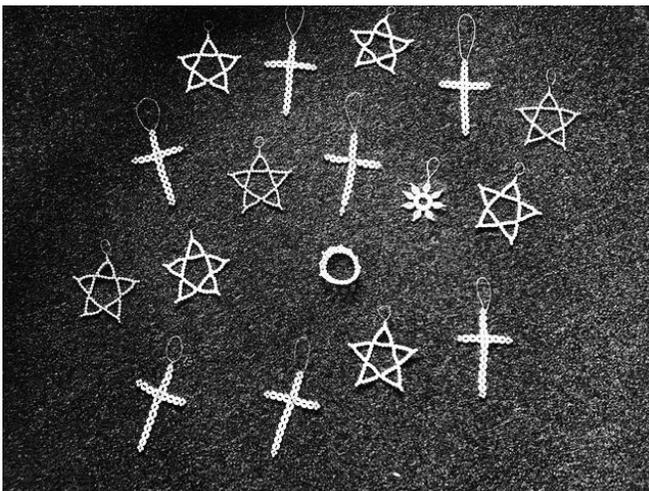
Chrismons for Trinity – The Sequel

A Chrismon is the combination of Christ and Monogram, and many churches, especially in the South, decorate their church Christmas trees with these religious-themed ornaments. On July 25 and 26, Carol B and Sabrina R attended Chrismon-making classes in Salisbury, NC, with the intent of teaching this art to others.

On Saturday, August 3, eleven additional Trinity members assembled to make the first of many Chrismons for Trinity's new Christmas tree. While all started with stars and crosses, several people from the class also took home additional patterns: a fish, an angel, a butterfly, an eternal circle, interlocking circles representing the Trinity, a Resurrection cross, and a sunburst.

We plan to hold another class on **Saturday, September 14, at 10 am** and all are welcome to come make additional Chrismons to adorn our new tree. Please preregister with Carol if you plan to attend. All Chrismons finished to date will be on display in the Social Hall during the autumn months. Please come to see our handiwork, and the album explaining the meaning of each one.

If you would like to support this project but cannot be present in classes, donations are always welcome. We suggest a donation of \$20-25 per ornament. Please make checks out to Trinity, and mark the check/envelope Chrismons.



Some Highlights from the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

8/14/2019 2:10 PM –

Gathering under the theme "We are church," voting members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) made a number of key decisions to further the mission and ministry of this church. The assembly met Aug. 5-10 at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee.

More than 900 voting members:

- Re-elected on the first ballot the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton to a six-year term as ELCA presiding bishop.
- Approved the social statement "*Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action*" and its implementing resolutions. The social statement, in part, names patriarchy and sexism as sins and calls the church to action on a range of issues, including gender-based violence, workplace discrimination and economic inequality.
- Adopted the "Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA," which consists of a report and recommendations on how the ELCA exhibits authentic diversity and formulates goals for racial diversity and inclusion.
- Witnessed the presentation of the "Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent," which was accepted by the Rev. Lamont A. Wells, president of the African Descent Lutheran Association (ADLA), and members of ADLA.
- Adopted a memorial that affirms the ELCA's long-standing commitment to migrants and refugees and declares the ELCA a sanctuary church body.
- Adopted a memorial to encourage all synods and congregations to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ELCA's ordination of women in 2020, the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women of color in the Lutheran tradition and the 10th anniversary of the ELCA's decision to remove barriers to ordination for people in same-gender relationships.
- Adopted a memorial to support the vision and goals of the Poor People's Campaign that align with the ELCA's social teachings.

- Adopted a resolution that committed the ELCA to support the World Council of Church's "Thursdays in Black" campaign toward a world without rape and violence.
- Adopted a resolution to condemn white supremacy, calling all ELCA congregations to engage in a "study of the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy and to take to heart the teaching of Scriptures, so we may all be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons in the eyes of God."

Live video of the plenary sessions: elca.org/cwa

Read the complete summary on the ELCA website: <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8003>



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Youth News

Youth Group – September 8 – All 6th – 12th Grade youth are welcome to come over to the youth room at 6 pm for pizza. After dinner, we will be planning the whole year! See you then!

Tilden Project – October 4 – We will be gathering youth from Tilden MS for a service project. We will begin around 12:45 pm (after school) and end at 3. Please let Anita know if you are available to help.

Kids Morning Out – October 5 – Come on over to Trinity at 9:30 for snacks, games, and a whole bunch of fun. We will finish up at 12 noon.

Upcoming Dates:

October 6 – Bible Sunday & Blessing of the Animals

October 13 – Youth Group (6th – 12th Grade)

October 27 – Confirmation Sunday, 10 am Worship

Assisting in Our Worship – September 2019

		Sept 1 (10 a.m.)	Sept 8	Sept 15	Sept 22	Sept 29
Acolytes	8:15 10:45	Anusha A (10 a.m. only)	Matthew B Colin G	TBD Vincent M	Matthew B Anders S	TBD Colin G
Assisting Ministers	8:15 10:45	John B (10 a.m. only)	Nancy N Sarah G	Bill B Robyn K	Jerry B Leslie C	Sarah M Nalini A
Children's Church	8:15 10:45	David C (10 a.m. only)	Margaret F Jane R	TBD Nicholas C	TBD Jane R	TBD Nicholas C
Greeters	8:15 10:45	Pam B (10 a.m. only)	Jerry B, Brian A, Stella Trevor H	Dan & Rob S Susan S	Joan E Hagen & Kristina S	Diana B Matthew & Tamara C
Lector	8:15 10:45	Nicholas C (10 a.m. only)	Jonah W Susan S	John B Hagen S	Phil D Linnea A	Nancy N Greg F
Ushers	8:15 10:45	Joan E, Mike J (10 a.m. only)	Ross A, Mike J Paul D, Richard G	Steve & Donna S Gregory & Margaret F	Thor & Nancy N Angela B, Robert P	Ross A, Joan E Dick & Peggy J
Coffee Hour	8:15 10:45	Carol B, Julie N (10 a.m. only)	Tad & Vi D TBD	Bill & Diana B TBD	Tom & Nancy M TBD	Phil & Noralyn D Lynn & Bud B
Altar Custodians	8:15 10:45	Carol B Carol B	Carol B Carol B	Carol B Carol B	Carol B Carol B	Carol B Carol B
Tellers		Lynn & Bud B	Greg & Margaret F	Thor N, Petra T	Annie A, Mina	Greg & Margaret F
Bulletin (Prior Thurs)		Noralyn D	Diana B	Dick J	Louise G	Noralyn D

September 2019

September is Christian Education month

Sunday, September 1 Lect 22 / 12 Pentecost
 Coffee Hour Potluck (names A-L)
 Backpack & Kindergarten Blessing
 10:00am Combined Service Holy Communion

Monday, September 2
 Labor Day (church office closed)
 7:30pm Heavenly Handbells (Wor)
Tuesday, September 3
 11:15am Staff Meeting
 6:30pm Stephen Ministry Supervision (10)
 7:30pm Stewardship Team (Lib)
Wednesday, September 4
 TBA Seldom Studied Bible Stories
Thursday, September 5
 7:30pm Trinity Singers Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, September 7
 10:30am Sunday School Setup

Sunday, September 8 Lect 23 / 13 Pentecost
Rally Day / God's Work Our Hands Sunday
LWR School Kits
 TBA Volunteer at A Wider Circle
 8:15am **Holy Communion**
 9:30am Inter-generational Sunday School
 10:45am **Holy Communion**
 12:00pm Sunday School Teacher meeting
 12:15pm Trinity Singers choir rehearsal
 12:15pm Worship & Music Team (11)
 6:00pm Youth Group

Monday, September 9
 7:30pm Handbell Polishing & Potluck (SH, Wor)
 7:30pm Heavenly Handbells (Wor)
Tuesday, September 10
 11:15am Staff Meeting
 7:30pm MEF Team (11)
Wednesday, September 11
 TBA Seldom Studied Bible Stories
 1:00pm Trinity Men's Group (Steve S residence)
 10:00am Chrismon Workshop (SH)

Sunday, September 15 Lect 24 / 14 Pentecost
 8:15am **Holy Communion**
 9:30am Adult Forum & Sunday School
 10:45am **Holy Communion**
 12:15pm Parish Life Team (10)
 12:15pm Social Ministry Team (Lib)
 12:15pm Trinity Singers choir rehearsal
 1:45pm Bethesda H&R (Christian Education)

Monday, September 16
 7:30pm Heavenly Handbells (Wor)
Tuesday, September 17
 11:15am Staff Meeting
 7:30pm Congregation Council (10)
Wednesday, September 18
 TBA Seldom Studied Bible Stories

Sunday, September 22 Lect 25 / 15 Pentecost
 8:15am **Holy Communion**
 9:30am Adult Forum & Sunday School
 10:45am **Holy Communion**
 12:15pm Trinity Singers choir rehearsal

Monday, September 23
 9:15am Trinitarian mailing
 7:30pm Heavenly Handbells (Wor)
Tuesday, September 24
 11:15am Staff Meeting
 7:30pm Mutual Ministry (11)
Wednesday, September 25
 TBA Seldom Studied Bible Stories
 7:00pm Finance Team (11)
Friday, September 27
 7:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (11)
Saturday, September 28
 9:00am Stephen Ministry Training (11)

Sunday, September 29 Lect 26 / 16 Pentecost
 Altar Guild Installation
 8:15am **Holy Communion**
 9:30am Adult Forum & Sunday School
 10:45am **Holy Communion**
 12:15pm Trinity Singers choir rehearsal

Monday, September 30
 7:30pm Heavenly Handbells (Wor)



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

Address Service Requested

301-881-7275
office@trinityelca.org
www.trinityelca.org
facebook.com/TrinityELCA

Date Mailed
August 27, 2019

Non-profit Org
US Postage Paid
Permit #34
Suburban, MD 208

**Seldom Studied
Bible Stories**

Join us as we take a closer look at four Bible accounts that don't usually appear in Sunday School materials or sermons. Thought provoking. Challenging. Fun!

Wednesdays in September




The Trinitarian deadline is the 15th of the prior month.

Sunday bulletin deadline is 9:00 am on the preceding Tuesday




Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.