



The Trinitarian

*Our Mission
Our Vision*

*Worship... Learn... Serve...
Seeking and Accepting All*

January 2020

Dear People of God,

How does the New Year strike you?

The rise of free-floating anxiety in our culture has been well documented. Therapists report the new normal that seems to affect most of us. And certainly there is a lot in the news that doesn't bring us comfort: the rise of authoritarianism; alarming climate change; a resurgence of white supremacy; laws that interfere with women's medical decisions; income disparity; immigration - the list goes on. In the face of all of that and more, dare we have hope?

The Nativity is quickly followed by the season of manifestation, of making known, the Epiphany of our Lord. In spite of all the evidence to the contrary, love and grace continue to be a force in our world. And with it, the possibility of transformation for each of us, and all of creation.

We don't have to deny reality to be hopeful - it's a choice we can choose to make.

I wish you a holy, hope-filled 2020, one in which you find yourself not just thinking about, but actually doing something to manifest the love of God in the world.

Pastor Kern

Sundays
Holy Communion
 8:15 and 10:45
Sunday School 9:30
Adult Education

www.trinitypotomac.org

Christmas at Trinity

Christmas Eve
 4:00 p.m. Children & Family Holy Communion
 7:30 p.m. Music of the Season
 8:00 p.m. Candlelight Festival Eucharist

Christmas Day
 11:00 a.m. Lessons & Carols with Communion

www.trinitypotomac.org

It's Time to De-decorate!

All are welcome.

Saturday, January 11, 10:00 am

Please join us to move from Christmas to Epiphany!

Annual Reports Due January 15

Attention: All Committee Chairs, Choir Directors, Church Officers, Youth Leaders, Financial Officers.

The deadline for your Annual Report to the congregation is due in the church office on January 15.

Thank you for your prompt response.

Trinity Men's Group

January Men's Group meeting will be held at ManorCare Potomac at 1:00pm on Wednesday, January 8.

ManorCare Potomac
10714 Potomac Tennis Ln
Potomac, MD 20854.

Youth News

Kids Morning Out - January 5 - Youth of all ages will be meeting on January 4 at 9:30 AM for snacks, fun, and games! Please let Anita know if you can be there.

Youth Group - January 12 - Our monthly meeting will be going to see *Star Wars* Episode 9! As we get closer, check your texts and emails for the time and location. We will be aiming for a start time of 5 pm.

Looking ahead:

- February 9:** Scout Sunday, Cook Off (soups and salads), Youth Group
February 23: Intergenerational Sunday School/Pretzel Sunday/Bury the Alleluia
February 25: Shrove Tuesday
February 26: Ash Wednesday

Council Summary, November 19, 2019

The Council held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on November 19. As shared in the December 8, semi-annual congregational meeting, the Council has established the following four, interrelated goals:

1. Trinity is on firm financial ground
2. Trinity governance follows best practice
3. Trinity staff are competent, receiving competitive and compassionate compensation
4. Trinity is united in Mission

This summary organizes the November Council actions by the goals:

Goals 1 and 2: The Council received and unanimously approved the audit report prepared by Kim B and Mathew C. The report concluded that that the audit did not find "any material errors of weakness in the church's financial records". However, the report has several recommendations for action by the Finance Committee to improve internal controls based on guidance in the ELCA Internal Control Best Practices. The Finance Committee will be following up on these recommendations

Goals 1: The council reviewed, amended and approved the proposed 2020 spending plan prepared by the Finance Committee to be presented at the December 8, 2019 Semi-annual Congregational Meeting.

Goal 2: The Council agreed to table review and approval of proposed constitutional amendments as the ELCA has again revised its model constitution and the ad hoc committee reviewing and proposing the amendments wants to have time to review and determine additional amendments to consider.

Goal 4: The Council discussed several issues that relate to uniting the congregation in mission, including what lessons we can learn from past actions to promote more effective communication and decision making in the future and how we want to proceed with the call process. Previous ad hoc Council meetings in November had produced a "roadmap" that identified what steps had been taken and what should be taken over the course of 2020 to have a successful call process. Council agreed the roadmap should be presented to the congregation at the December semi-annual meeting as a work in progress, open to suggestions, additions, and clarifications from all.

The January meeting is Tuesday, January 21, 2020. Minutes of past meetings are available from the Church Office.

Sarah M, Secretary

Trinity Mailbag

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Mar-Lu-Ridge, thank you for your generous year-end gift of \$500 in support of our outdoor ministry site. For more than 60 years, our community has been committed to upholding our mission, and you are part of the important work!

*God's peace,
Sarah Lefler
Exec. Dr. Mar-Lu-Ridge*



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 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.

December Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Summary

The semi-annual meeting of the Congregation was held at noon on December 8, 2019. Sixty-four adults and 12 children/youth attended. Sarah G, Council President, led the meeting, explained the four council goals, and had council members introduce themselves and their respective council responsibilities. During the meeting, several 2019 accomplishments were highlighted: (1) an audit that concluded we could be confident our financial reporting is accurate; (2) a sizeable mortgage payment from the Bigger than an a Building Fund; (3) our 2019 Stewardship Campaign has, to date, resulted in 56 households pledging approximately \$270,000 for 2020 – reflecting an increase in both pledging households and dollar commitment over 2019 and 2018; (4) a small group of dedicated members helped two refugee families successfully transition to their new lives in the United States over the last few years; and (5) we hired a new Director of Music. The key action taken was the nearly unanimous approval of the 2020 spending plan as developed by the Finance Committee.

Sarah M, Secretary

Trinity's First Chrismon Christmas

By now you have seen Trinity's new Christmas tree in the sanctuary, covered with over 50 handmade Chrismon ornaments. We would like to thank the many Trinity members and friends who donated their time to craft these Monograms of Christ, and also these families who made cash and in-kind donations to help fund the Chrismon project in 2019:

Annie A
Angela B
Carol B
Eugene and Jackie K
Karl and Miriam M
Sabrina R
Len and Ani S
Dan and Rob S

We welcome additional cash donations in any amount to fund future Chrismon-making sessions in 2020. Please mark your donation "Chrismons." Perhaps you would like to dedicate your donation in honor or in memory of someone who helped you in your faith journey. Place it in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Thank you!

Carol B and Sabrina R

How Can I Support a Good Mission?

Nominate it for a Trinity Mission Endowment Award!

The Mission Endowment Committee looks to the congregation for recommendations of organizations to receive awards in the spring. Annually, income from Mission Endowment Fund is used to enhance our mission outreach apart from the operating budget. By sustaining the annual awards, the fund is a gift that keeps on giving!

Mission Endowment Fund awards are made in three categories:

1. Special (non-budgeted) projects of Trinity Lutheran Church – our congregation
2. Special ministries in the community
3. Special benevolence – supporting mission of the church beyond our congregation

Submit nominees to the church office (office@trinityelca.org), or place this form in the offering plate, or return it to the church office. Nominations are due by **January 15**.

I nominate:

Name: _____



Grill Master Greg!
Homecoming Weekend, Nov 10

President's Message

Happy New Year Trinity Friends!

As we welcome the birth of the savior and a new church year, will you pause with me to reflect a bit on 2019? This is part of how I say goodbye to the old and hello to the new. If you are at all like me (a person who feels deeply and with conviction - and I know I share these traits with many of you), your year was probably at times joyful, painful, frustrating, exhilarating. Your year probably included times when you felt hope was lost, no one was listening, or that you were under-appreciated. I know I did. Hopefully your year also included joyful, grace-filled times when you felt enveloped by the love of Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit here on earth. I had plenty of those times as well. And for me, those extremes often happened within 24 hours of each other, and because of that, I am grateful to those who still take my calls :). All of these times, whether in the moment good or not so good, are gifts of God. It is not easy, but my faith is built on trusting that all of these times are part of God's plan that I do not see and cannot possibly understand. And so I am grateful for all of the lessons of 2019.

And so, I move forward into 2020. Mostly with questions. What is God calling me to do? What is God calling Trinity to do? What is God calling YOU to do? These questions have no easy answers but I look forward to engaging all of you in conversation as Trinity looks to the future. A future we can attempt to plan for* but that we cannot control. We can be sure that 2020 will bring both frustrating and joyful times but I pray that we will trust that God has a plan we cannot see or understand and that we be guided by the savior's light and love in all things.

Yours in Service,
Sarah G.

**Please see the Pastoral Call Process Roadmap, next page.*

Listening Conversations begin in January!

The Congregation is cordially invited to participate in small group discussions facilitated by Council members. We want to hear your perspectives about Trinity's future as a community and as servants of Christ. We want your help to understand what God is calling us to do as we begin the process of calling a permanent Pastor.

If you have not yet received your invitation or can't attend the session you were invited to but want to be part of the discussions, please reach out to Jane R or Sarah G.

Trinity Lutheran Church Pastoral Call Roadmap

12/8/2019

Prepare

1. Interim Pastor begins (November 2018)
2. Congregation accepts the past and looks to the future (2019)
3. Council works on 4 goals (2019-2020):
 - Trinity is on firm financial ground
 - Trinity staff are competent and effective; receiving competitive and compassionate compensation
 - Trinity governance follows best practice
 - Trinity is united in Mission

Advance

1. Metro DC ELCA Assistant to the Bishop speaks at Trinity (January 2020)
2. Listening Cohorts (Q1 2020):
 - What is Trinity's role in making Christ known?
 - How could we be living out this role?
 - What do we need to do as a Congregation to make this happen?
 - What contribution could we each make?
3. Congregation Mission Self Study (Q1 2020)
4. Elect Call Committee (Q1/Q2 2020)
5. Complete and submit Ministry Site Profile (Q2 2020)

Call

- Call Committee (Q3/Q4 2020):
1. Receives names of pastoral candidates from the Bishop/Synod
 2. Interviews candidates and selects primary candidate
 3. Council interviews primary candidate
 4. If endorsed by council, arranges for Congregation wide introduction
 5. Congregational meeting called to vote

Assisting in Our Worship – January 2020

		JAN 5	JAN 12	JAN 19	JAN 26
Acolytes	8:15 10:45	Matthew B Anusha A	Vincent M	Matthew B Colin G	Linnea S
Altar Guild	8:15 10:45	Noralyn D Particia S	Noralyn D Particia S	Noralyn D Particia S	Noralyn D Particia S
Assisting Ministers	8:15 10:45				
Children's Church	8:15 10:45	Jane R	David C	Nicholas C	Jane R
Coffee Hour	8:15 10:45	potluck	potluck	potluck	potluck
Greeters	8:15 10:45	Joan E Peggy J	Steve, Donna S Linnea A	Sarah G Trevor H	Tom M Susan S
Lectors	8:15 10:45	Sarah G David C	Nathan L Robyn K	Tom K David K	Phil D Len S
Tellers		Dick, Peggy J	Annie A, Mina	Thor N, Kirsten G	Greg, Margaret F
Ushers	8:15 10:45				

Passages and Milestones

January Birthdays:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 7. Charles M | 17. Brian L |
| 8. Chloe D | 17. Leander R |
| 9. Karin H | 21. Kirsten M |
| 11. Alex T | 24. Robyn K |
| 12. Nancy M | 26. Cavin N |
| 14. Laurel C | 27. Lee Ann W |
| 15. Keith C | 28. Linda H |
| 15. Elizabeth W | 28. Topher S |
| 16. Nalini A | 29. Martha R |
| 16. Carol H | 31. Jim L |
| | 31. Anita S |

January Baptismal Days:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Robert C | 14. Anne Nielsen D |
| 1. Paul D | 17. Jim K |
| 1. Marilyn G | 20. Lois F |
| 1. Rob S | 25. Henri H |
| 12. Christine B | 25. Susan S |
| | 27. Angela B |

Remember in Your Prayers

THE CHURCH

our synod & bishops:

Bishops Elizabeth Eaton, Leila Ortiz

our missionaries: Stephen Deal, Marta Giron (C.America)

our congregation: Trinity Church

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

THE SICK AND SUFFERING

nursing/rehabilitation center:

Philip Thornton (Manor Care Potomac)

home: Tigist G, Susan K, James T, Margo W

family and friends*

Brian B

Carol B, aunt of Leslie C

Audie M, brother of Margaret F

Joyce R, friend of Diana B

Francis R, friend of Bill B

**For family and friends, prayer requests will be kept on the list for four weeks. After four weeks, please complete another card.*

January 2020

January is Ecumenism Outreach Month

Wednesday, January 1

church office closed

Saturday, January 4

9:30am Kids Morning Out

Sunday, January 5 (2 Christmas)

Coffee Hour Potluck (names A-L)

8:15am **Holy Communion**

9:30am Adult Forum

9:30am Sunday School

10:45am **Holy Communion**

12:15pm Trinity Singers choir rehearsal

Monday, January 6 (Epiphany of Our Lord)

7:30pm Heavenly Handbells (Wor)

Tuesday, January 7

1:45pm Staff Meeting

6:30pm Stephen Ministry Supervision (10)

7:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (11)

Wednesday, January 8

1:00pm Trinity Men's Group (off-site)

Saturday, January 11

10:00am Church De-Decorating

Sunday, January 12 (Baptism of Our Lord)

8:15am **Holy Communion**

9:30am Adult Forum

9:30am Sunday School

10:45am **Holy Communion**

12:15pm Trinity Singers choir rehearsal

12:15pm Parish Life Team

12:15pm Worship & Music Team (11)

6:00pm Youth Group

Monday, January 13

7:30pm Heavenly Handbells (Wor)

Tuesday, January 14

1:45pm Staff Meeting

7:30pm Congregation Council (10)

Wednesday, January 15

Trinitarian February Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, January 19 (2 Epiphany)

8:15am **Holy Communion**

9:30am Adult Forum

9:30am Sunday School

10:45am **Holy Communion**

12:15pm Get the Word Out E-Team (11)

12:15pm Social Ministry Team (Lib)

12:15pm Trinity Singers choir rehearsal

1:45pm **Bethesda H&R** (Property)

Monday, January 20

7:30pm Heavenly Handbells (Wor)

Tuesday, January 21

1:45pm Staff Meeting

7:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (11)

Sunday, January 26 (3 Epiphany)

Reconciling in Christ Sunday

8:15am **Holy Communion**

9:30am Adult Forum

9:30am Sunday School

10:45am **Holy Communion**

12:15pm Trinity Singers choir rehearsal

3:00pm **Christian Unity Service** (location TBD)

Monday, January 27

9:15am Trinitarian mailing

7:30pm Heavenly Handbells (Wor)

Tuesday, January 28

1:45pm Staff Meeting

7:30pm Mutual Ministry (11)

Wednesday, January 29

7:30pm Mission Endowment (11)

See the full, up-to-date calendar any time at www.trinityelca.org/calendar



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

Date Mailed
Dec 30, 2019

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

Address Service Requested

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

January Highlights

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------|
| January 1 | Church Office Closed |
| January 4 | Kids Morning Out |
| January 11 | Church De-Decorating |
| January 15 | Annual Reports Deadline |
| January 26 | Christian Unity Service |

Sunday bulletin deadline

is 9:00 am Tuesday.

The Trinitarian deadline

is the 15th of the prior month. Submissions should be no more than 150 words. The editor and church staff reserve the right to determine the content of *The Trinitarian* and may edit articles for clarity, grammar, or length.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.