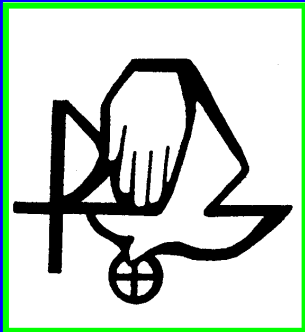


# The Voice of First Trinity

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**The Voice**  
**February 2013**

**First Trinity**  
**Lutheran Church**

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# THE VOICE

## THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### **A Change in Seasons**

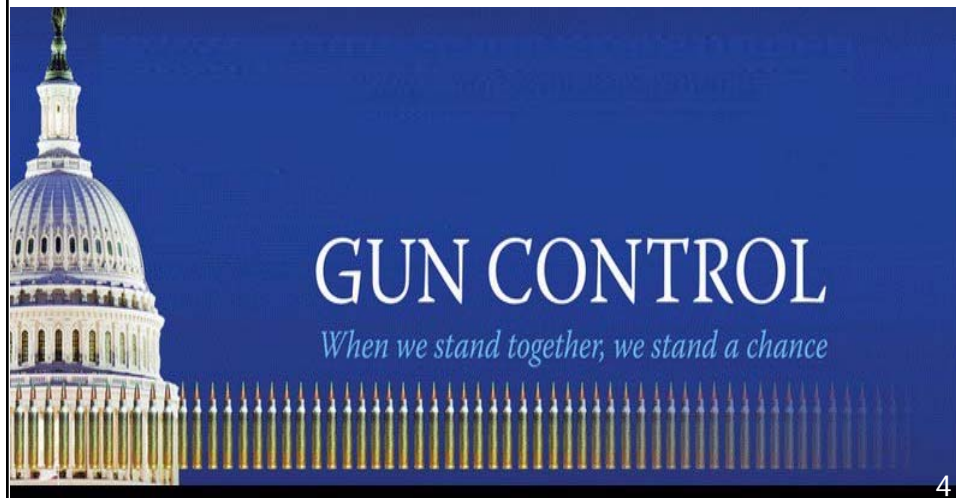
This newsletter comes to you in the middle of a very short Epiphany season and the beginning of the season of Lent. Epiphany is that season of the church year when we recognize that Jesus came not just for the Jews but also for the gentiles. Who are the gentiles? Well, everybody who is not a Jew. During this season of long dark days we recognize that the light of God has come to us through the Christ Child. Historic events such as the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation as well as the month of February's commemoration of Black History help us to remember that all people are equal and is evidence again that Christ is among us.

Then there is the church season of Lent which begins on February 13 with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time of looking at our own personal faith journey. Making adjustments to our life, repenting of those things we need to shake off, and realigning our life to how God wants us to live. For me personally I am going to use Lent as a time when I will personally contribute to and advocate for the banning of assault weapons, and making access to guns harder to obtain. Yes, I believe those who wish to hunt should have the right to purchase a gun, but to stockpile arms and ammunition in the name of "freedom" or in the name of "my right to bear arms" is simply idolatry. I know full well that this is a very politically charged issue but it is only politically charged because the gun lobby has made it that way. To me this is an issue of common sense and public safety. Our country's love and desire for weapons is something that I think we need to repent of and turn away from. When John the Baptist addressed the crowds of people who were coming to him

out of some kind of personal, spiritual, and social desperation he says to them, "Bear fruit worthy of repentance." What he means is stop doing the crazy things you are doing and do a new thing, a new thing that will bear fruit, that will bring about the change you seek.

As followers of Jesus we have the moral obligation to stand for the victims of gun violence and to work to end it. As followers of Jesus we know something about innocent suffering, because Jesus died at the hands of human violence. It is time to take a stand for what is right, repent for what is wrong, heal the wounded, protect the vulnerable, and stand for peace.

**Pastor Tom Knoll**



## *A Window into Life in One Monastery*

**Saturday, February 9, 10:00-1:00**  
**First Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**4th and E Streets, Washington, DC 20001**



Please join us as we welcome Pastor Tiina Talvitie of the Finnish Church in New York and Washington as she, in words and images, gives us a view of her life in the ecumenical monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland.

We will pray the monastic offices of Terce and Sext together, have time for both discussion and quiet reflection on Pastor Tiina's presentation, and enjoy a soup and salad luncheon with additional opportunity for conversation and community.

There is no cost for the day; a free-will offering will be gratefully received to help defray expenses.

We would appreciate your letting Pastor Wendy Moen, [wmoen@firsttrinitydc.org](mailto:wmoen@firsttrinitydc.org), 202-737-4859, know that you plan to attend so we can plan for the food.

*Tiina Talvitie has been the pastor of the New York Finnish Lutheran Congregation (ELCA) since 2009. She studied at Luther College and was ordained a deacon in 1986. The theology of the head she learned at Helsinki University, from which she received a Master of Theology in 1997. The theology of the heart she learned while a member of the Community of Grandchamp from 1994 until 2004, first as a postulant and later as a novice. She was ordained a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland in 2005. Prior to coming to New York, she served the parish of Rekola in Vantaa and the Ähtäri congregation in Central Finland.*

[firsttrinitydc.org](http://firsttrinitydc.org)  
[www.grandchamp.org](http://www.grandchamp.org)  
[evi.fi](http://evi.fi)

## Church Happenings

### *Lenten Focus: Science and Religion*

7.00pm Wednesdays: Feb. 20, 27, Mar 6, 13 @ First Trinity

Must we choose between God and science? Has science done away with the need for faith?

This Lent you are invited to engage the disciplines of study, reflection, prayer and community as we explore the ways God is found in and through science. You will have an opportunity to wrestle with any questions you have had around this topic.

For 4 weeks we will hear from 4 scientists that Dr. Francis Collins (author of *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*, geneticist, and former Director of the Human Genome Project) invites to address certain questions in the science and religion debate. ALL are invited to these Lenten Discussions.

Contact Pastor Wendy for more information.

## Synod Happenings

**Young Adult Prayer Retreat**—Please SAVE THE DATE for a one-day prayer retreat for DC-area young adults - **Sat Feb 2**. We are working with some other Lutheran young adults in the city. It will be a day to "retreat" to experiment with various prayer techniques. So if you want to strengthen your prayer life in 2013, please add it to your calendar. Likely to run 10am-5pm....location TBA.





## News From Lifeline Partnership

### Who Will Be the Next to Wear the Crown?

Lifeline Chili Cook Off February 24

*Come eat even if you don't cook!*

You too might have the unspeakable honor of receiving this amazing crown and the privilege of being declared "Chili Cook-Off King" or "Queen."

Pictured on this page is Pastor Tom who won the Chili Cook-Off in its inaugural year. I am told security around the judging has tightened up significantly and everyone has a fair chance of winning.

All you have to do is put together a chili – either a new recipe or an old family standard and drop it off in the kitchen before church on February 24. Judging will be during the service and then all are invited to our fellowship time to find out who the winner is and to sample all the entries.

No cost to enter but please let me know you will be bringing a chili. Prizes awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places.

Pastor Susanne  
Lifeline Partnership  
[Lifeline@FirstTrinityDC.org](mailto:Lifeline@FirstTrinityDC.org)  
202 628-4819



## **First Trinity/St Matthew's Disaster Rebuilding Team Goes to Crisfield's Md.**

**Join us on February 14-18  
(President's Day Weekend)**



Hurricane Sandy focused most of its devastation on New Jersey and New York. But in Maryland, the town of Crisfield and surrounding areas in Somerset County were also badly hit. Crisfield is the poorest community in the poorest county in the State of Maryland.

Hurricane Sandy swept a wall of water through this historic Maryland fishing town that was once called the Seafood Capital of the World. And while the storm spared the vast majority of Maryland's eastern shore, it flooded more than 500 homes in Crisfield, rendering many of them unlivable.

Tina Thorn's quaint little ranch house took on feet of water during the storm, and is now completely gutted and being overrun by black mold. She has no flood insurance and it will cost her roughly \$100,000 to fix. Entire neighborhoods in Crisfield were demolished by the storm surge, displacing hundreds of people.

Up to four feet of water surged into Somerset County during Hurricane Sandy, flooding areas of the county that had never seen flooding in anyone's memory. Especially hard hit were areas housing the poor and elderly and the downtown business dis-





trict. "You don't see the dramatic destruction as on the New Jersey ocean-front," said Pastor Phil Huber. "The damage is invisible without a closer look," he said. Many of the affected houses have their heaters and electricity in the crawlspace, under the house. Propane and oil tanks broke loose and floated away.

Water soaked into walls and insulation. In a community dependent on automobiles for transportation to work, school and essential services, it was disastrous that so many cars were flooded and now unusable or badly damaged.

This event was especially devastating considering the amount of poverty in the county. Over eighty per-cent of the school population is eligible for the free lunch program, an indication of the great need in the area.

Our plan is to leave on Thursday, February 14 and work 5 days returning to the DC area on Monday, February 19 in the evening. Please plan to join us. Contact Pastor Tom for more information 301-213-1025 or [tknoll@firsttrinitydc.org](mailto:tknoll@firsttrinitydc.org).



## All In The Family



February 2012

Lots of people traveled to visit friends and relatives for the holidays and are now back home. It seems that each major holiday we have more visitors and our regulars are out and about. A number of people were in the hospital during the holidays but we are happy to report that they are all now out of the hospital. **Sandy Stock** and **Van Sigworth** are recovering at home, and **John Hazel** has been transferred to a new nursing home, Woodside Senior Center in Silver Spring, MD. We are sad report that Joe Gemmell died on December 13. His loving spouse **Betty Bryant** has moved to Aspenwood Senior Living in Silver Spring, MD, and would love a card. Facebook tells us that **Amanda Wahlig**, **Heather** and **Mike Kuta**, **Wendi** and **Will Bevins**, **Danielle** and **India**

**Brewer**, **Pastor Susanne**, **Kent Forte**, **Katie Anderson**, **Sara**, **Adriano**, and little **Emma Ayres** and others braved the crowds and took in the Inauguration on the Mall and/or the Inaugural Parade. New Course restaurant opened its doors at 5am on Inauguration day and had a huge stream of customers. They served well over 800 people. Several times the restaurant was so crowded people couldn't move, but they made sure they passed by the cash register. Pastor Wendy and Jonathan have a new housemate from Wittenberg Campus Ministry in Ohio, **Pastor Rachel Tune**. We welcome **Paul Keppy** back to DC. He's in conversations to get a job on the Hill when the sequestration is resolved. **Pastor Wendy's** parents, **Ann and Duane**, enjoyed seeing everyone at First Trinity and have arrived safely back home after several grandparenting activities with **Jonathan** and DIY jobs around **Pastor Wendy** and **Jonathan's** house. **Sheila McCoy** enjoyed putting together a doll house for daughter **Mona's** 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday – Happy Birthday **Mona!** Soon we will be planning a baptism for little brother **Os-**

**car.** On Sunday January 20<sup>th</sup> First Trinity had to cancel worship services for the first time in many years - maybe even the first time in our 162 year history. It seem that after the constitutionally required oath of office held on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> the president left the White House for a luncheon at the Building Museum. DC police and Secret Service locked the neighborhood down and barred parking and pedestrian traffic at 12:00 PM. Worship was still held for 17 brave souls who walked in

and somehow got past security. As we write, the temperatures have dipped into the teens, it has not been this cold for two years. Not to be discouraged - spring is on the way - in fact Ash Wednesday and Lent is the earliest it can be this year, according to the calendar. February is Black History month, celebrate and remember diverse leaders of the past, present, and future not just in February but all year long. "Keep your faith in beautiful things; in the sun when it is hidden, in the



# *Birthdays in*



# *February*

2	Betty Smith	21	David Beckmann
10	Dollace Gordon	23	Peter Gwynn
13	Gerald Hill	24	Dan Keister
14	Martine Joseph	25	Steve Schmoll
16	Karen Magestad	26	Griff Jones
17	Sheila McCoy		

Please notify the church office of any omissions or corrections.

# Serving in February

DATE	WORSHIP ASST.	CRUCIFER	GREETER	USHERS	SANDWICH MAKERS	FELLOWSHIP HOUR
Sun Feb 3	Peter Buscemi	Brian Werner	Roger Wissman	Jim Hunter Doris Gbala	Vernon and Lisa Vassou	FT Group 1
Sun Feb 10	Jennifer Mersing	Chris Orvin	Jim Hunter	Ed Stock Louis Woods	Brad and Katie Rundquist	FT Group 2
Sun Feb 17	Ron Morgan	Will Bevins	Chris Orvin	Jeff Barnes Amanda Patton	Jennifer Nye	FT Group 3
Sun Feb 24	Katie Anderson	Kent Forde	Mark and Jean Raabe	Judson James Sara Ayres	John Priebe	St. Matthew's

# February 2013

February 2013							March 2013						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 27 - Feb 2	<b>Jan 27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Feb 1</b>	<b>2</b>
						12:00pm 1:00pm NA (Library) 1:30pm 2:30pm Rebecca Roberts (Music Room)	
Feb 3 - 9	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
	9:15am 10:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am 10:15am Bible Study 10:30am 11:30am Worship Service/Sunday School 11:45am 12:45pm Fellowship Hour (Parlor) 12:00pm 1:00pm Lifeline Bible Study (Gy) 12:00pm 1:00pm Wise Women (CFLS Lo) 1:00pm 3:00pm Quilting Group (Fellowsh)	12:00pm 1:00pm N.A. (Library) 1:30pm 2:30pm Rebecca Roberts (Music Room) 5:00pm 9:00pm 501 Church (Parlor and Sanctuary) 7:00pm 10:00pm 18th Street Singers (Sanctuary) 7:00pm 9:00pm Employment Support Group (Library)	12:00pm 1:00pm Al-Anon (Library) 6:00pm 9:00pm Brodd/Cherry (Sanctuary, Parlor)	12:00pm 1:00pm NA (Library) 12:15pm 1:15pm Bible Study (Parlor) 1:30pm 2:30pm Rebecca Roberts (Music Room)	12:00pm 1:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Library) 12:15pm 1:15pm Monastery of the Heart (Sanctuary) 6:00pm 6:45pm Soup Supper (Parlor) 6:45pm 7:15pm Evening Prayer (Sanctuary) 7:15pm 8:30pm Life In Balance (Sanctuary)	12:00pm 1:00pm NA (Library) 1:30pm 2:30pm Rebecca Roberts (Music Room)	10:00am 1:00pm Lifeline Cooking Class (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen) 2:00pm 9:00pm Lifeline Valentine's Day Dress Up Dance (Fellowship Hall)
Feb 10 - 16	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
	9:15am 10:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am 10:15am Bible Study 10:30am 11:30am Worship Service/Sunday School 11:45am 12:45pm Fellowship Hour (Parlor) 12:00pm 1:00pm Lifeline Bible Study (Gym) 12:30pm 2:00pm Memorial Service for Ke	12:00pm 1:00pm N.A. (Library) 1:30pm 2:30pm Rebecca Roberts (Music Room) 4:00pm 8:00pm Career Fair (Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm 10:00pm 18th Street Singers (Sanctuary) 7:00pm 9:00pm Employment Support Group (Library)	12:00pm 1:00pm Al-Anon (Library) 1:00pm 2:30pm CFLS Manager's Meeting (Parlor) 6:00pm 9:00pm Brodd/Cherry (Sanctuary, Parlor) 6:30pm 8:30pm Divorce Support Group (Library)	12:00pm 1:00pm NA (Library) 12:15pm 1:15pm Bible Study (Parlor) 1:30pm 3:00pm CFLS Managers Team Meeting (Parlor) 1:30pm 2:30pm Rebecca Roberts (Music Room) 7:00pm 9:00pm Shalom Small Group	12:00pm 1:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Library) 6:00pm 6:45pm Soup Supper (Parlor) 6:45pm 7:15pm Evening Prayer (Sanctuary) 7:15pm 8:30pm Life In Balance (Sanctuary)	12:00pm 1:00pm NA (Library) 1:30pm 2:30pm Rebecca Roberts (Music Room)	8:00am 12:00pm CFLS Community Breakfast (Kitchen, Fellowship Hall) 10:00am 12:00pm Lifeline Partnership Board Meeting (Parlor) 11:00am 1:00pm Spillin the Tea (Library) 12:00pm 6:00pm Washingtonians for Children Career Fair for youth in Foste 6:00pm 10:00pm Ole Hass Concert (Sanctuary, Parlor)
Feb 17 - 23	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
	9:15am 10:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am 10:15am Bible Study 10:30am 11:30am Worship Service/Sunday School 11:45am 12:45pm Fellowship Hour (Parlor) 12:00pm 1:00pm Visitor Lunch (nearby restaurant) 12:00pm 1:00pm Lifeline Bible Study (Gy)	12:00pm 1:00pm N.A. (Library) 1:30pm 2:30pm Rebecca Roberts (Music Room) 7:00pm 10:00pm 18th Street Singers (Sanctuary) 7:00pm 9:00pm Employment Support Group (Library)	12:00pm 1:00pm Al-Anon (Library) 6:00pm 9:00pm Brodd/Cherry (Sanctuary, Parlor)	12:00pm 1:00pm NA (Library) 12:15pm 1:15pm Bible Study (Parlor) 1:30pm 2:30pm Rebecca Roberts (Music Room) 6:00pm 8:00pm CFLS Board Meeting (Parlor)	12:00pm 1:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Library) 12:15pm 1:15pm Monastery of the Heart (Sanctuary) 6:00pm 6:45pm Soup Supper (Parlor) 6:45pm 7:15pm Evening Prayer (Sanctuary) 7:15pm 8:30pm Life In Balance (Sanctuary)	12:00pm 1:00pm NA (Library) 1:30pm 2:30pm Rebecca Roberts (Music Room)	6:00pm 7:00pm Sing Praise Service (Sanctuary) 7:00pm 8:00pm Lifeline Pasta Party (Fellowship Hall)
Feb 24 - Mar 2	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Mar 1</b>	<b>2</b>
	9:15am 10:15am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am 10:15am Bible Study 10:00am 1:30pm Lifeline Chili Cook Off (Fellowship Hall) 10:30am 11:30am Worship Service/Sunday School 11:45am 12:45pm Fellowship Hour (Parlor) 12:00pm 1:00pm Lifeline Bible Study (Gy)	10:30am 1:00pm CFLS Staff Meeting (Parlor) 12:00pm 1:00pm N.A. (Library) 1:30pm 2:30pm Rebecca Roberts (Music Room) 7:00pm 10:00pm 18th Street Singers (Sanctuary) 7:00pm 9:00pm Employment Support Group (Library)	12:00pm 1:00pm Al-Anon (Library) 1:00pm 2:30pm CFLS Manager's Meeting (Parlor) 6:00pm 9:00pm Brodd/Cherry (Sanctuary, Parlor) 6:30pm 8:30pm Divorce Support Group (Library)	12:00pm 1:00pm NA (Library) 12:15pm 1:15pm Bible Study (Parlor) 1:30pm 2:30pm Rebecca Roberts (Music Room)	12:00pm 1:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous (Library) 6:00pm 6:45pm Soup Supper (Parlor) 6:45pm 7:15pm Evening Prayer (Sanctuary) 7:15pm 8:30pm Life In Balance (Sanctuary)		