



TRINITY BUILDER

June 2018

Trinity Lutheran Church, Alameda, CA



A Word from the PASTOR



Happy June! Happy Summer! Happy Pentecost!

Welcome to the seemingly endless liturgical season of green. I've discovered over the years that though the question typically goes unanswered, many people are perplexed by this long season, its color, its name, and its purpose.

Essentially, this is the season that most closely articulates the time we are living in right now – the season of the Church led by the Holy Spirit. During the season we recognize the work of God's people and focus on being Jesus' disciples living between Easter Sunday and the End Times. It is intended to be a time of personal and corporate growth. Using green as our liturgical color reminds us of both the new growth and mature growth we see in the natural world around us.

Trinity is very much living in a season of Pentecost right now – a season of growth and growing maturity. Thank you for your flexibility and patience in these past months with the various matters of transition and change as I have been getting settled. And thank you, even more, for your encouragement to continue making new things happen. Important and exciting new things are on the horizon. Keep listening to announcements and reading our newsletter and weekly updates to find out how you can be a part of what the Holy Spirit is up to at Trinity.

Blessings,
Pastor Stephanie



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Trinity congratulates the Class of 2018! We look forward to what lies ahead for each of you and pray for God's blessings upon you.

Nick Hayes will enter the culinary program at Laney College.

Rosalyn Luque will study wildlife conservation at Colorado State University.

Brendan Mills enters the College of Letters and Science at UCSB. His major is undeclared at this time, but he intends to study Physics.



Come to the 10:30 a.m. service on **Sunday, June 17**, to help us celebrate this achievement and their next chapter in worship!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

A very special thank you to Mary James, Demeter Lamb, and Pam Luo. You've done so many special things this year to help our children learn about the love of God and the life of Jesus. Thank you for taking a special interest in passing on the faith to our youngest brothers and sisters.



CHILDREN'S LIBRARY AND SUMMER READING PROGRAM



At Trinity we are establishing a children's library and including a summer reading program for preschool and elementary aged children. The children's library is clearly labeled in the meeting room. In addition to offering a lively collection of books with Bible stories and faith steps, our summer reading program includes rewards of coupons for Tucker's ice cream for every 10 stories/books read. For more information on the library and reading program, pick up one of the flyers at the church.

We are hoping that this will be a summer blessing for children in our church and community. Please let us know if you have more questions about this.

Carol Blomberg and Mary James



TRINITY BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Trinity Book Club will be **Wednesday, July 11**, at 7:30 p.m. in the church meeting room. Beth Greene will provide refreshments. The book to be discussed will be *The Underground Railroad: A Novel* by Colson Whitehead, described below. If this book interests you, please read it and join the discussion on July 11. Anyone is welcome.

"Cora is a young slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. An outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is on the cusp of womanhood—where greater pain awaits. And so when Caesar, a slave who has recently arrived from Virginia, urges her to join him on the Underground Railroad, she seizes the opportunity and escapes with him. In Colson Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor: engineers and conductors operate a secret network of actual tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Cora embarks on a harrowing flight from one state to the next, encountering, like Gulliver, strange yet familiar iterations of her own world at each stop. As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the terrors of the antebellum era, he weaves in the saga of our nation, from the brutal abduction of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. *The Underground Railroad* is both the gripping tale of one woman's will to escape the horrors of bondage—and a powerful meditation on the history we all share." (from Amazon)

MUSIC MINISTRY

Julie Haydon

"525,600 minutes, how do you measure, measure a year?" These are the words to the opening song for our spring concert, "Seasons of Love." This has been such a significant year in the history of Trinity, and it could certainly be measured in love, in fellowship, in faith, and in rejoicing.

SPRING CONCERT

After one full year of our expanded Music Ministry efforts, I am most excited to see how we are reaching a wider community with our offerings. Through our Music Ministry, we are now serving and uplifting not only the Trinity community, but also reaching many young families who did not even know about us this time last year. Our two biggest endeavors to reach families were our Family Concert in August 2017 and Joyful Noise! Community Children's Choir. Through these two new initiatives, about 40 young children and their families spent time in our sanctuary, singing, learning, growing and exploring. What a great foundation for us to build on!



Thanks so much to everyone who came out to our spring concert and for everyone who sang, rang and strummed. It was wonderful to see the fellowship hall packed and to share time with old friends and new. I am especially thankful to Jessica and the Fellowship Committee for all of their work, Martin and Deborah Kelly and Pam Lothian for the hours they spent on setup and clean up, and to Starr Brown for not only making everything sound great, but putting together that fantastic Disney medley we all enjoyed so much. It was also a lot of fun having Pastor Stephanie sing with us and for all of us to celebrate our new beginning with her at Trinity.



Sunday, June 3, is Music Ministry Sunday at the 10:30 service. The choir and bells have special selections prepared that celebrate the ways we make a joyful noise unto the Lord at Trinity. Musical selections include "The Heavens are Telling" from Haydn's "The Creation" and a powerful arrangement of "How Great Thou Art." We will be joined by three instrumentalists.

As we look ahead to next year, we will have another concert targeting young families on the morning of Saturday, August 25. This will be an exploratory and interactive concert for young children to sing, learn about instruments, and get excited about music. This is perfect to bring young children and grandchildren to! We'll continue offering Joyful Noise! in the fall with two age groupings to better serve our families.



I am thankful to everyone in the Trinity family for the ways that you open your hearts to new ideas, new people, and new ways to share our faith. As Pastor Stephanie said in her opening message to us, this is a dance that we all know different steps to. Sometimes it goes smoothly and sometimes we lose the beat, but we all keep moving together toward our goal of furthering Trinity's mission.



MEET OUR NEWEST CHOIR MEMBER

A very special welcome to our newest choir member, Jagger (as in Mick Jagger), who will be singing in the bass section next to Tony Lewis! We are excited to support Tony as he takes this new step in his life with his guide dog.

A CONVERSATION ABOUT GUNS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Presented by the Alameda All Faiths Coalition and hosted by Christ Episcopal Church

Many people in our community have become concerned with the amount of gun violence in the United States. We wish to educate ourselves on the issues and see how we can become part of the solution. We decided to start locally, and it has come to our attention that semi-automatic, assault-style weapons can be purchased at Big 5 Sporting Goods at Southshore. We have approached their corporate office with our concerns and have hosted several community meetings. A public forum seems to be the best way to continue to educate ourselves and have a friendly conversation with the broader community.

You are encouraged to attend:

A CONVERSATION ABOUT GUNS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Monday, June 4, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.
Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall
1700 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda



We have invited the following panelists to answer this question: "How do you suggest we balance individuals' rights to protect themselves with firearms with the community's need to protect itself from firearms?"

- Alameda Police Chief Paul Rolleri
- Veteran and former NRA Member Paul Hauser
- Alameda High School sophomore Lucy Helms
- Vice Mayor Malia Vella
- Rabbi Barret Brickner
- Representative from Big 5 Sporting Goods (declined)

Each participant will be given five minutes and then we will have a question and answer session.



DONATIONS NEEDED

Sidewalk Chalk

You may have noticed that our Sunday School has been pretty busy with sidewalk chalk recently. As a result our supply of sidewalk chalk is low. If anyone is out and about and sees a good price on sidewalk chalk and would like to contribute to that art medium, your donation would be most welcome.

Many thanks, Mary James.

Hotel Toiletries

Have you been traveling? Do you still have a trip planned? Please bring in your unused hotel toiletries to help us fill homeless help bags for "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday.

Our goal is to provide basic necessities to the homeless we encounter everyday as we drive or walk through town. Bags will include basic toiletry items (shampoo, soap, lotion, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc), two protein/granola bars, two bottles of water, and a pair of socks.

More information will be forthcoming as September approaches, but please remember to grab your toiletries when you stay in a hotel or go on a cruise so you can donate them to this important project.

VISIONING TRINITY'S FUTURE

On April 28, the church council met for a day long retreat to discuss who Trinity is and who we want Trinity to continue to be. We dreamed together, we reimagined together, and we were infused with a new energy and passion about Trinity's future. Drawing on work that was done during the transition process, we reminded ourselves of the congregation's priorities when calling Pastor Stephanie:

Continue the efforts to make music and music ministries central at Trinity
 Bring in young families, and support/value youth
 Continue the legacy of Trinity by continually adding more people to our congregation.

Pastor Stephanie asked attendees to share key words we believed were the heart of Trinity. The conversation began with the words "serve/service" and took off from there. We realized together that at our heart we want to remain a congregation that serves our community.

The discussion about our identity was important because when we are clear about who Trinity is and what Trinity is about, we are more comfortable sharing that with other people. One of our goals is to develop an impact statement that clearly communicates the heart of who we are and the focus of what we do.

We spoke about concerns we have about reaching out to others and about challenges we perceive we have in attracting younger families. We discussed the challenge families face with increasingly limited opportunities for "family time." Many families choose to spend time "being family" with few or no commitments on Sunday mornings rather than coming to church. We asked ourselves a question we will continue to ask: "How do we make Family Time = Trinity Time?"

We also discussed the challenge of making our visitors' initial experiences more engaging. One concern was learning how to "be church without being churchy," which was getting at the delicate balance between worshiping authentically while also recognizing that what we do at church is increasingly a foreign experience for many of our neighbors.

Then we began brainstorming small and big ways we could be Church together. We discussed programs, activities, and initiatives that we would like to do together and invite our community to participate in with us. Some of these ideas are new, some are revitalizing programs that we miss, and others are

ways we can re-imagine activities we already have at Trinity that could be modified to reach out to our broader community.

Here are some of the creative ideas we discussed:

For Dia de Los Muertos: View the movie *Coco*

Prayer: coaching/class on prayer

Summer: "Journeys with Jesus" and Spirit Sundays

Organize groups for community activities (e.g.

The Women's March)

Adopt/sponsor a Little League (or basketball) team

Potluck nights

Family nights: parents night out or family nights in

Little Libraries on our corner (a big person little

library and a little person little library)

Outreach in laundromats

Service trips (intergenerational): Houston or other places recovering from disasters

Fun trips (like the Germany trip) for anyone to go on

Pizza and Praise: casual, family-friendly worship in the fellowship hall on a mid-week or weekend evening

Add visual interest in the sanctuary by inviting a muralist/graffiti artist to create a mural on the large wall leading into the narthex from the sanctuary.

Examples of possible program/event re-imagining:

Spaghetti dinner: could be a BBQ to which we invite the surrounding community letting them know it supports ministry to a local nursing home.

Seniors luncheon might evolve into a meal for the homeless where we could invite the community/membership to "buy a meal for the hungry" so that it would be at no cost to the recipient and little additional cost to Trinity.

All in all, we left our day together feeling renewed passion and excitement about what we would like to do together as a church family in Alameda, the East Bay, and the world. We want you to be renewed and inspired with us! **This summer we will be asking for you to help us answer five questions.** Each week, a new question will be asked. Questions from previous weeks will be available to answer until July 29. (Packets with all of the questions are available in the narthex.) You will be able to submit answers by several means including writing on large sheets of paper in the fellowship hall each Sunday, writing on slips of paper handed out in the narthex, and/or writing on a form that will be sent via email.



Pastor Craig Minich

G.E.T. MINISTRY UPDATE - Our elementary youth group, G.E.T., has finished our regular meetings for this school year. This summer we will be attending the Upper Elementary Camp week, Pathfinders, at Mount Cross Lutheran Camp in the Santa Cruz Mountains, July 8-13. So far, four youth and I are registered. If you have a 3rd thru 5th grader who would be interested in spending a week deepening their faith and making new friends in the redwoods, please contact me ASAP! G.E.T. together, G.E.T. excited, and G.E.T. connected with God!!!

MYLK MINISTRY UPDATE - Our Middle School youth group met for our end-of-year party at Barney's Burgers on Piedmont Ave. on Sunday, May 18. I treated everyone to shakes to celebrate a successful youth group and school year. We spent time visioning what service projects and youth group trips we would be taking in the next year. We decided to stick with many of our traditional activities, while also adding some exciting new opportunities. Look for our new youth group calendar (released early this summer) to see what those new offerings will be!

SNL MINISTRY UPDATES!!!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those students and faculty who were killed in the Santa Fe High School shooting. This all-too-common tragedy strikes close to home as this event took place just outside of Houston where our group will be traveling to in late June. We are preparing our hearts for our journey, and we are praying for all of those who grieve and mourn. We also bring justice-minded and reforming hearts geared toward action to Houston and to the debate around this national crisis.

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING - We are closing our fund-raising efforts for our senior high youth trip to Houston for the ELCA Youth Gathering and Multi-Cultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and working now on preparing our group theologically and logistically for our journey. Our last fundraiser is a button and poster sale that will take place in early June. Our cupcake sale that took place in early May was a smashing (and yummy) success! Thanks to all who supported us! Now that our fundraising is almost complete, please continue to support us with prayers to help us get to Houston and for our youth and adults to have a transformative experience!!!

8th ANNUAL SNL VARIETY SHOW - On Saturday May 17, SNL had their end-of-year celebration by putting on a variety show for EBLP youth of all ages, families, and friends at St. Paul Lutheran Church. There were over 15 acts at this spaghetti dinner and variety show fundraiser. We met our goal by raising \$500! Most importantly there was a great spirit and energy with lots of laughter included. We look forward to next year's variety show and hope that each of our five EBLP congregations has acts to contribute! It's never too early to start planning ahead now!

SNL had a SafeTalk Suicide Prevention workshop on Sunday, April 29 at St. Paul Lutheran Church. It was led by Pr. John Swanson, Coast Guard Captain and chaplain, who is a trainer with LifeWorks. This 3-hour intensive workshop helped empower the 12 youth and adults who attended from four of our EBLP congregations to be active and caring individuals to help make the communities in which they engage safer in regard to suicide prevention. Thanks to all of the youth and adults who took part in this important workshop.

MYLK & SNL SERVICE UPDATE - On Saturday, April 28, our middle and high school youth served with Rebuilding Together Oakland to help refurbish the home of an elderly resident who has not been able to adequately keep up her house. We had 17 youth and adults from four of our EBLP congregations. We primarily worked on emptying and decluttering an overfilled garage, doing much-needed landscaping by taming an overgrown palm bush, and tackling many years of collected recycling which had gotten out of control. There were other projects that happened on the inside of the house led by skilled volunteer tradespeople. We look forward to serving with Rebuilding Together Again next fall and in the spring of 2019.

[Continued on next page]

[More EBLYP news]

JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR - I attended the May 2 Joyful Noise class, assisting Julie. We focused on rehearsing the youth to prepare them for their concert that following Sunday. The kids were great, and there is a wonderful energy!

SPSYC YOUTH LEADERS UPDATE - Six of our eight Synod youth committee leaders attended the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly in Sacramento, June 1-3: Nick Hayes, Chase Beardsley, Sophia Hofmann, Maggie Warner, Kylie Halmi, and Kiki Valenzuela. These young leaders are representing our youth ministry in the greater synod! Please look to July's article for more about this.

JOINT SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVIE NIGHT SERIES BETWEEN RESURRECTION LUTHERAN AND EBLYP - Our first semester movie night series was a success! On Friday, May 4, we showed *The Great Debaters*, a movie about an all African-American debate team competing against Harvard in the 1930s in the midst of racial struggles and injustices in America's South; and Friday, May 18, we showed *Marshall*, a recent movie about Thurgood Marshall struggling against white supremacy in an early court case before he became a Supreme Court Justice. Both films had to do with resisting and dismantling racism in America. There was a sumptuous dinner with pizza, fruit, veggies, beverages, and we had popcorn to snack on to boot! The newly renovated movie-theater-quality setup in Resurrection's Fellowship Hall was choice. Our discussion after the movies was lively and meaningful!

The EBLYP continues our partnership with Resurrection Lutheran for this social justice-focused movie series this fall when we will have a new slate of movies. Please spread the word! We hope to see you there next fall at our next event.

OVERVIEW OF ELCA NATIONAL GATHERING AND MULTICULTURAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP EVENT (MYLE) - So what is it that our youth will be doing in Houston this summer? I'm glad you asked! From June 24-27, three of our African American and Hispanic youth group members and I will be attending the MYLE event, which will have about 800 participants from across the US, its territories, and internationally. MYLE's core values include:

- A) Culture is explored
- B) Leaders are formed
- C) Identity is claimed
- D) Faith is deepened
- E) Friends are made

At the MYLE event, as well as at the National Youth Gathering, our youth will have opportunities to learn about their faith and glean opportunities to work for God's justice in the world, to do hands-on service work and learn the accompaniment model of hearing other people's stories and sharing our own, to meet fellow Lutheran youth from across our country, and to worship and play together.

At the ELCA Youth Gathering, our overall theme is "This Changes Everything," and each day is broken up into a different theme:

- Thursday: God's Love Changes Everything
- Friday: God's Grace Changes Everything
- Saturday: God's Hope Changes Everything
- Sunday (closing worship): Jesus Changes Everything

In addition to service learning in the accompaniment model in Houston and immersion in the Interactive Learning Center, we will also gather as a synod under the leadership of our Bishop, Mark Holmerud, as well as gather each night, all 35,000 participants, in NRG Stadium to sing and hear renowned speakers and to worship together in Houston. We are very much looking forward to our time in Houston. Please pray for us!

MAY COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Pastor Stephanie’s Report:

I have made a start on visiting members. I am enjoying getting to know people’s stories.

I am working to have individual conversations with prospective new members. There are 8 prospects.

On June 17 (Father’s Day) we will celebrate our high school graduates with a special rite of passage in worship.

Synod Assembly is June 1-3 in Sacramento. June 3 is Music Sunday. Meg Brogan will lead the liturgy and preside at communion.

I have been working on permanent pew cards with information to welcome visitors.

Committee Reports:

Fellowship: The next event will be the BBQ following the 4th of July parade in Alameda.

Mission and Service: The ELCA’s social statement on Women and Justice will be the subject of discussion at adult forums led by Pastor Stephanie on August 12, 19, and 26.

Asante Bazaar will be hosted at Trinity again this year on September 22 and 23.

There will be a “God’s Work, Our Hands” service day on Saturday, September 8. The committee is working to set up projects.

The Hunger Workshop in Davis is on October 13.

Property: As of April 29, we have received donations totaling \$9,435 to help pay off the cost (\$24,041.33) of the roof project.

Music & Worship: Pastor Stephanie commented that the service length should be targeted at no more than an hour and a quarter. Announcements need to be limited. A laminated pew information sheet is planned for “permanent” announcements and information.

Pastor Stephanie explained the new microphones. Julie will look into getting a little help with them from her sound engineer.

The bulletin style is changing to make the bulletin more readable. The weekly bulletin insert with servers, birthdays, prayer list, etc will continue.

The use of electronic devices to access a PDF file of the order of service is increasing.

Old/New Business:

The council discussed the April retreat. [See a summary on Page 5.]

Joanne Robinson partners with Jim Franz from Christ Episcopal Church in organizing a holiday dinner program for homebound seniors. Christ Episcopal has been the keeper of the funds for this program, which, as we understand it, are funds that come from a grant and therefore need to be kept by a non-profit organization. Christ Episcopal cannot or is no longer willing to be the keeper of these funds and so it has been asked that Trinity be the holder of these funds. After a discussion the following motion was passed: *To allow the program directed by Joanne Robinson and Jim Franz that gives holiday meals to homebound seniors to have Trinity be the holder of the funds for the year 2018, with the stipulation that this ministry involve more than one member of Trinity and that there is a Council review in January or February 2019 to determine if Trinity will continue to be the holder of the funds for this project.* Elizabeth Madaras volunteered to be the second Trinity member involved with Joanne on this project.

Chase Beardsley and Margie Sherratt have been nominated and have agreed to serve on the Council. Margie is filling a vacated term (two years), and Chase will be a second youth rep (one year term with opportunity to stay on if he desires).

After a summer break, the council will next meet on August 16.



NOTES FROM MAY 20 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Margie Sherratt and Chase Beardsley were elected to the church council by acclamation.

Anita Burnaford provided a summary of our year-to-date expenses and income. Both income and expenses were less than what was budgeted:
YTD Income: \$87, 160 YTD Expenses: \$84,445

As of April 29, we have raised \$9,435 of the total cost of the roof project - \$24,041.33. This amounts to 39% of the goal.

A brief summary of the April Council Visioning Retreat was given. [See Page 5 for a summary.]

THE PASSING OF A TRINITY MEMBER

Doug Williams, a member of Trinity who moved to Arizona in 2015 with his wife, Barbara Williams, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 23. If you would like to send condolences to Barbara and do not have her address, please contact Jessica in the office: trinityalameda@gmail.com.

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Remember Food Bank Sunday on **June 10**. There is a barrel in the fellowship hall or narthex in which to put your non-perishable food donations. (Please – **no expired food or dented cans**.) Your continued support of the Alameda Food Bank is appreciated.

SECOND MILE GIVING FOR JUNE

Lutheran Office of Public Policy (LOPP) - California

LOPP is a ministry of public policy education and advocacy on matters of hunger and economic justice, the health and integrity of God’s creation, and human rights and human dignity. It serves the California

expressions of the ELCA as they seek to express God’s love and care for our neighbors – especially the “least of these” – who experience poverty, deprivation, and discrimination. Priorities for LOPP are determined by a Policy Council appointed by the ELCA bishops in California. Issue areas and specific positions on public policy choices must be within the framework and direction of ELCA social statements.

Funding for LOPP - CALIFORNIA comes from ELCA World Hunger Funds, the three synods that cover California, Women of the ELCA (Southwest California Synod), and congregational and individual donations. Contributions to ELCA World Hunger and Sierra Pacific Synod Second Mile Giving are critical to the mission of speaking with a compassionate, reasoned, constructive, and experienced voice in the public arena; of enabling a ministry in the state capital of hospitality, accompaniment, and solidarity with those who are struggling to meet basic survival needs; and of supporting the caring voices of Lutherans statewide.

Please keep LOPP in your prayers this month and consider an additional offering toward their ministries.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 6 Geoff Kline
June 17 Chuck Bangert
June 18 Ted Rodriguez
June 24 Shawn Alexander



June 27 Carol Mathews
June 27 Maya Post
June 28 Mike Lamb
June 30 Alice Chalip



<p><i>Trinity Builder</i> is a monthly publication of Trinity Lutheran Church 1323 Central Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501 510-522-5220</p> <p>Pastor: Rev. Stephanie Johnson Nursing Home Ministry Pastor: Rev. Ned O’Donnell Youth Pastor: Rev. Craig Minich Council President: Anita Burnaford Organist/pianist: Starr Brown Director of Music Ministry: Julie Haydon Custodian: Martin Kelly Groundskeeper: Martin Kelly Office manager: Jessica Fleischman <i>Builder</i> editor: Marilyn Ohm-Smith</p>	<p>Trinity Church Council (Ministry Area Liaisons) President: Anita Burnaford-19 (Stewardship, Worship & Music) Vice President: John Kofranek-19 (Property) Secretary: Mike Luque-19 (EBLP) Recording Secretary: Jessica Fleischman Treasurer: Ann Kenyon Pastor: Rev. Stephanie Johnson Chase Beardsley-19 Nick Hayes-20 (Mission & Service) Karol Luque-20 (EBLYP, Worship & Music) Elizabeth Madaras-20 (EBLP, Fellowship, Finance) Henry Mills-19 Mark Schoenrock-20 (Green Team) Margie Sherratt-20 Mary Kay Wentz-19 (Trinity Seniors, Visual Enrichment)</p>
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