



# TRINITY BUILDER



May 2017

Trinity Lutheran Church, Alameda, CA

## A Word from the PASTOR



Dear Family in Christ,

What does the way we worship mean? What is important about the parts of worship? These questions have been posed several times during my sojourn here at Trinity. This newsletter article begins to answer these questions by providing a general explanation of our worship.

Our order of worship creates a path for us to open up to the means of God's grace around the Word and Holy Communion. The following article is from the website of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It provides a fine general understanding of Lutheran worship.

### A foundation of faith for everything we do

For Lutherans, worship stands at the center of our life of faith. Through God's word, water, bread, and prayer we are nurtured in faith and sent out into the world.

Connected with and central to everything we do, worship unites us in celebration, engages us in thoughtful dialogue, and helps us grow in faith. It grounds us in our Christian and Lutheran roots, while demonstrating practical relevance for today's world.

While some of the approaches to worship may differ from one ELCA congregation to another, we hold certain things in common. Central to our worship life is the presence of God through word and sacrament. This word proclaimed and the sacraments - both Holy Baptism and Holy Communion - are called the means of grace. We believe that Jesus Christ is present in these means through the power of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we describe worship as "gathering around the means of grace."

There is also a basic pattern for worship among Lutherans. We *gather*. We encounter God's *word*. We share a *meal* at the Lord's table. And we are *sent* into the world. But we do not think of worship so much in terms of what we do. Worship is fundamentally about what God is doing and our response to God's action. Worship is an encounter with God, who saves us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Worship>

Blessings on your worship experience.

Pastor Sharon



### TRINITY BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Trinity Book Club will be **May 11** at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room. The book chosen for reading and discussion is *Hidden Figures: The Story of the African-American Women Who Helped Win the Space Race*, a 2016 non-fiction book by Margot Lee Shetterly. Many book club attendees had seen the recent film and are interested in learning some of the details left out of the film. Everyone is welcome to join us for discussion of this book. Jean Abbe volunteered to bring refreshments.



### YOUTH VARIETY SHOW

A spaghetti dinner and youth variety show will be held at St. Paul Lutheran in Oakland (1658 Excelsior Ave.) on **Saturday, May 20**. Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m., and the show starts at 7:00 p.m. A donation of \$10 per person is suggested for the dinner. This will be a wonderful, heart-warming event with many youth acts filling our performance slots. Please come join us!



### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The regular May congregational meeting will be on **May 28** after the 10:30 worship service. The main purpose of the meeting is to elect new council members. Council members with terms ending are Kaye Fitzsimons, Nick Hayes, Marvera Kline, Rosalyn Luque, and Ray Wentz. Nominations for Trinity members who wish to be on the council are being solicited. Please make your interest known to Pastor Sharon or to a current council member or submit the form included in the Sunday bulletins.

A second item of business will be to vote on approval of a revised constitution. The Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA, suggests that congregations revise their constitution during an interim time.



### REVISED CONSTITUTION FOR TRINITY

In 2016, the ELCA approved a revised constitution, primarily to address changes made to combine Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses, and Diaconal Ministers into one roster called Word and Service. Congregational pastors are rostered to the Word and Sacrament roster. Another change is further clarification for congregations who decide to merge with a congregation of another denomination.

We are required to use this baseline Model Constitution. The ELCA notes the areas where we have choices to adapt the constitution for our congregation's situation. Soon you will have access to the proposed Trinity Constitution to look over for three weeks prior to congregational meeting. It will be emailed to members by May 7, and copies will also be available in the fellowship hall and narthex.

Thanks to Kaye Fitzsimons and Mary Kay Wentz for serving on the committee to revise Trinity's constitution along with Pastor Sharon.

**MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC, AND MORE MUSIC****HYMN FEST 2017**  
**"Welcome the Stranger"****May 7**  
**3:00pm****St. Paul Lutheran**  
**1658 Excelsior Ave.**  
**Oakland, CA 94602**

*All are invited to join the congregations from the Sierra Pacific Synod Bridges Conference in an afternoon of singing, reflection, and fellowship. Voices from the following choirs will enrich our hymn singing:*

*Christ El Cerrito ✦ Napa Valley*  
*St. Paul Oakland ✦ University Lutheran Chapel*

*Reception following.*  
*Free-will offering will benefit immigration support in our Conference and Synod.*

**Time and Fantasy**

Alameda Strings Academy and Guest Artists

**Friday May 19**  
7:00 p.m.Erica Ward-Violin, Ian Scarfe-Piano, Lucas  
Chen-CelloTrinity Lutheran Church  
1323 Central Avenue, AlamedaSuggested donation \$10  
Tickets at the door or online  
[www.alamedastringacademy.eventbrite.com](http://www.alamedastringacademy.eventbrite.com)**Mozart Requiem**Conductor Allen Simon leads Orchestra Gloria  
and Soli Deo Gloria  
in a performance of Mozart's RequiemThe program also includes  
Vivaldi, Magnificat Sibelius, Valse Triste  
Works by Gabrieli, Kristina Vasiliauskaite,  
Healey Willan, Hendrik Hofmeyr, and Imant  
Raminsh.Elena Gurevich, soprano, Mindy Ella Chu, alto,  
Andrew Morgan, tenor, Jim Monios, bass**Saturday, May 20** 4:30 p.m.  
Christ Episcopal Church, 1700 Santa Clara Ave,  
Alameda**Sunday, May 21** 3:30 p.m.  
Grace Lutheran Church, 3149 Waverley St.,  
Palo AltoPrice Range: \$21-\$26  
Tickets: 888-734-7664 or [www.sdgloria.org](http://www.sdgloria.org)**Music Sunday at Trinity Lutheran Church****Sunday May 21** 10:30 a.m.Come and worship with a special emphasis on  
Trinity's gifts of music**SAVE THE DATE****Georgia Youth Choir with Ken Medema****Sunday June 4** at 4:00 p.m.  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
1323 Central Avenue, Alameda

**"LET EV'RY INSTRUMENT BE TUNED FOR PRAISE! LET ALL REJOICE WHO HAVE A VOICE TO RAISE!  
AND MAY GOD GIVE US FAITH TO SING ALWAYS, ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!"**

*When in Our Music God is Glorified*, words by Fred Pratt Green

Julie Haydon

Music Ministry Sunday is coming up on May 21, and I am already looking forward to the glorious sounds! Trinity's choir, bell choir, youth, and the congregation will join with professional instrumentalists to make a joyful noise together. With diverse musical styles, our special music that morning will celebrate the ways in which we can uplift the world and glorify God through our Music Ministry. Music will include César Franck's magnificent Psalm 150, Robert Ray's gospel favorite "He Never Failed Me Yet," a moving piece for choir and bells called "Anthems of Love" by Dan Forrest, and a lot of beautiful singing for the congregation.

As a community, we've been preparing to take some new steps in expanding the scope of our Music Ministry. After gathering feedback about what makes our Music Ministry special and about how we can best carry out the mission of our church with our efforts, we will begin our first steps, focusing on ways we can especially serve young families and on ways to welcome the extended community through our church doors.

This fall, we will offer an opportunity for children from the community to sing in a brand-new children's choir at Trinity. The chance to find your voice is a powerful gift, and we will offer it to young children, ages 5-7, in the extended Alameda community. Weekly practices will give a chance for children to learn songs and singing games and to prepare some selections to sing in a community performance in November. I am really looking forward to using my experience directing children's choirs in this new initiative!

In November, we will join together the forces of our Music Ministry to offer a community concert that will include the choir, bell choir, Trinity youth, our new children's choir, and congregational singing. It will be wonderful to give the community an opportunity to experience the creativity, beauty, and diversity of our Music Ministry at this event. This event will also give us the opportunity to invite visitors back to join us during Advent and Christmas.

Another way that we will welcome the community is by making our church home open to community groups for performances. This June, Ken Medema will return to perform for the community, and in the fall, at least one community group will also offer a concert at Trinity, open to the public. In late August, Trinity will offer a free concert to local families that will offer children exposure to music through a demonstration of the organ, introduction to string instruments, and a community singalong. I'll have more details and a date for you next month. We had a great response from local families at our Easter Fun Day, so we are looking forward to the chance to welcome them back with this event.

I am looking forward to all of the opportunities this year offers us to "make a joyful noise" at Trinity. Mark your calendars for May 21 and watch the Trinity Facebook page for opportunities to share the word about our offerings with your friends. Walking through the door of Trinity could change someone's life, so that is an invitation we should offer freely.



### NEWS FROM THE MISSION AND SERVICE COMMITTEE

Mary James



Join in the fun and walk to end hunger. The ninth annual Alameda Hunger Walk will be held on **Sunday, May 21**. The event will follow a light lunch served in the fellowship hall after the 10:30 worship service at Trinity. Registration for the Alameda Hunger Walk will take place at Upper Washington Park (Central and 8th) starting at 12:30 p.m., and the walk will begin at 1:00 p.m. We will walk from Washington Park to Crab Cove and back, which is about one mile. For those wishing to complete the entire 3 miles of the event, the loop can be walked three times.

Water will be available, and, at the conclusion of the walk, there will popsicles.

Team Trinity plans to share our enthusiasm with our Alameda friends and neighbors! All proceeds donated by walk sponsors will go to the Alameda Food Bank and to Church World Service hunger and poverty initiatives around the world. Your participation will help those most in need in our community and worldwide.

If you want to walk as part of Team Trinity and sign up supporters, see Mary James or Jessica Fleischman to obtain your packet.

If you want to support Trinity’s effort and our walkers, say “yes” when a walker asks for your sponsorship. Additionally, envelopes will be provided in the Sunday bulletins for cash or check contributions. Make checks out to “Trinity Lutheran Church” and write “CWS/CROP” in the memo field on your check.

Last year Trinity raised over \$2,200 and we had 18 walkers. Let’s see what we can do this year!

All walkers - remember to wear your green Trinity T-shirt or the 2013 Alameda Hunger Walk t-shirt.



### EVANGELISM COMMITTEE REPORT

At the Evangelism Committee meeting on April 5, we put the finishing touches on our preparation for EASTER FUN DAY on April 15. Since this was our first event of this nature, we were not sure of the turnout.

We met informally again April 13 to check on how many “egg items” had been donated. We also finalized the schedule and tried to think through the mechanics of the Egg Hunt.

The Evangelism Committee thanks the congregation for all the flyers many members were willing to distribute. Flyers were posted in coffee shops, the library, grocery stores, and laundromats.

Julie Haydon opened Fun Day activities with a number of songs. This was repeated at the closing. It was a great addition to our time with the children and parents.

Our emphasis was on Easter. We had lots of eggs with coupons for gifts. These included books of the Easter story. The crafts were also centered on Easter. Each child received an Easter coloring book and/or picture book. Emails will be sent to the families who attended, inviting them to Sunday School and Children’s Choir events.

EASTER FUN DAY was a resounding success. There were 20 children with their parents.

**EASTER FUNDAY THANK-YOU**

A lot of prayer and planning was blessed with the most delightful event enjoyed in our fellowship hall and courtyard on April 14! We had invited children from our congregation and neighborhood to come together for music with Julie, Easter crafts, storytime, and an Easter egg hunt. We had 20 children with their parents and our event team - around 50 people in all. It was really great fun.

Many thanks to all who prayed that this event would meet a need in our community and be well attended. And hugs to all who supported and worked together to help make this a special time. The team of helpers and supporters included Sherri and Chuck Bangert, Susi Battaglia, Susan Bell, Carol Blomberg, Eva Fields, Kaye Fitzsimons, Jessica Fleischman, Candace Gutleben, Julie Haydon, Ann and Bob Kenyon, Nancy Leavitt, and Pastor Sharon.

With a very grateful heart,  
Mary James



**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Trinity is currently undergoing an audit as required to be completed before Trinity's new pastor arrives. Thanks to Jim Ostergren, Mark Schoenrock, and Margie Sherratt for serving on the committee. Thank you to all who are participating in the audit process: Ann Kenyon, Treasurer, and Jessica Fleischmann, Office Manager.

**TRINITY TO BE FEATURED IN THE LIVING COLOR GARDEN TOUR**

**Living Color Garden Tour and Charity Plant Sale**

**Saturday, May 6** from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Alameda Support Foundation sponsors the tour and all proceeds go to the animals at FAAS. See more than 10 spectacular climate-friendly gardens. Each ticket is \$20.00 and lists the first garden where you receive a map to all the other showplaces as well as the location of the Charity Plant Sale.

Questions? Call Alameda Support Foundation: 415-244-3184



**TRINITY'S WEBSITE**

Trinity's website is under revision. Check it out: <http://trinityalameda.org>



**APRIL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES**

The April church council meeting was cancelled since many council members were unable to attend.



### FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Remember Food Bank Sunday on **May 14**. There is a barrel in the fellowship hall or narthex in which to put your non-perishable food donations. Please continue to help to support the Alameda Food Bank.



### MEN'S BLUE JEANS NEEDED

The Yeah Shelter in Berkeley needs men's blue jeans for their transitional age youth, ages 18-25. Pastor Sharon is collecting blue jeans over the next several months. Used blue jeans in good condition or new blue jeans are appreciated. A box will be provided in the narthex.

### SECOND MILE GIVING FOR MAY

#### Mt. Cross Camp/Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

Mt. Cross Ministries' main site is located in the coastal redwood forest of the Santa Cruz Mountains, 20 minutes from the Santa Cruz beaches. Mt. Cross offers summer camp and retreat opportunities for all ages. Most Mt. Cross directed camps are on the main site and many, like Day Camps, take place in communities all over northern California.

Churches, schools, clubs, and other organizations use Mt. Cross as their group retreat center by utilizing the Outdoor Conference Center (OCC). Mt. Cross provides facilities, meal service and program support (as desired) to make your group's experience as successful as possible. Many groups take advantage of the Challenge Course and/or climbing tower.

Please keep Mt Cross in your prayers this month and consider an additional offering toward their ministries. The Sierra Pacific Synod is blessed to accompany this organization in mutual ministry as we proclaim God's creative, redeeming and sanctifying love in our synod.



### MAY BIRTHDAYS

- May 5 Chase Beardsley
- May 6 Ray Fitzsimons
- May 9 Joanne Robinson
- May 11 Roberta Salisbury
- May 12 Carol Blomberg
- May 15 Eva Fields
- May 16 Brendan Mills
- May 18 John Kofranek
- May 19 Demeter Lamb



- May 20 Candace Gutleben
- May 23 Annie Dustin
- May 23 Jason Hayes
- May 23 Kristin Moeller
- May 24 Mary James
- May 26 Mark Menge
- May 31 Fern Stern
- May 31 Karen Vertanen



<p><i>Trinity Builder</i> is a monthly publication of Trinity Lutheran Church 1323 Central Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501 510-522-5220</p> <p>Interim Pastor: Rev. Sharon Stalkfleet 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 (Worship &amp; Music) Vice President: John Kofranek-19 (Property) Secretary: Jessica Fleischman (EBLP Youth &amp; Visual Enrichment) Treasurer: Ann Kenyon Interim Pastor: Rev. Sharon Stalkfleet Kaye Fitzsimons-17 (Green Team &amp; Personnel) Nick Hayes-17 (Mission &amp; Service) Marvera Kline-17 (Fellowship) Mike Luque-19 (EBLP) Rosalyn Luque-17 Mary Kay Wentz-19 (Visual Enrichment) Ray Wentz-17 (Finance)</p>
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