



TRINITY BUILDER

August 2017
Trinity Lutheran Church, Alameda, CA



A Word from the PASTOR



WORSHIP

When I think of worship and the information I have presented in the last several months, the importance of confession consistently rings in my heart and mind. We are not expected by God to be perfect, but we are expected to come to God and confess and therefore let God do God's work in, with, and around us.

We confess because we know we are forgiven. Those who confess are less likely to repeat the same behaviors, thoughts, or feelings. We confess because nothing will change until things are faced. And again we confess because we know we are forgiven.

On July 23rd in the sermon, I shared about Martin Luther's words that were discriminatory towards the Jewish people and that his writings were used to justify persecution of the Jewish people. Even Martin Luther with all his steadfastness in reforming the understanding of the Bible about God's grace was human and imperfect and thought that what he was doing was right. In August of 1994, the ELCA confessed this sin and apologized to the worldwide Jewish Community. With that confession, we have spoken the truth and then wounds have a chance to be mended, and the hope for a new life is present.

God knows us. God knows that it is difficult to be human and that life is filled with struggle. And at the same time God believes in us as people who can rise above what would pull us down, even past history of mistakes and sin. God frees us from the past so that we can go forward anew.

Trinity is at a time of beginning anew. The past is important here, but it doesn't determine the future. The present, here and now, determines the future. We are forgiven and we are loved.

May the light of Christ surround you and hold you,
May the light of Christ guide you, and
May the light of Christ shine from within you for the world to see.

Pastor Sharon



AUGUST CALENDAR

- August 1 Tuesday:** 7:30 p.m. Evangelism Committee meeting
- August 3 Thursday:** 7:30 p.m. Mission and Service Committee meeting
- August 6 Sunday:** Breakfast in between services AND Farewell and Godspeed for Philipos Ghaly
- August 13 Sunday:** Food Bank Sunday AND Youth Sunday at 10:30 a.m. service
- August 14 - August 18:** Vacation Bible School Monday through Friday
- August 20 Sunday:** Review of VBS during worship
- August 25 - 27:** WELCA Retreat with Saint Paul Lutheran, Oakland at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville
- August 26 Saturday:** 10:30 a.m. Family Discovery Concert

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 14-18



The theme of this year's Vacation Bible School is "God's love flows through our lives." The evening gatherings will begin with dinner, organized by Nick Hayes, at 6:00 p.m. Following dinner, there will be Bible stories, crafts, and music, led by Mary James with the help of Pastor Craig Minich and Director of Music Ministry Julie Haydon. The evening events will end about 7:45 p.m.



FAMILY DISCOVERY CONCERT

SATURDAY AUGUST 26 @ 10:30 AM
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1323 CENTRAL AVENUE, ALAMEDA

An interactive concert for families, featuring a community singalong, a demonstration of string instruments and the organ, followed by an instrument petting zoo and chance to make your own percussion instruments.
Refreshments provided.

MORE INFO: 510-522-5220 * WWW.TRINITYALAMEDA.ORG
offered in collaboration by Alameda String Academy & Trinity Lutheran Church

TRINITY LUTHERAN BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Trinity Book Club will be Tuesday, **September 12**, at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room. Kaye Fitzsimons will provide refreshments. The book chosen for discussion is *The Queen of Katwe: From One of the Poorest Places on Earth She Grew to be a Champion*. The author is Tom Crothers.

From Amazon's review:

"It's a story almost too uplifting to believe: a young girl from a dirt-poor slum in Uganda meets a man, a missionary from a similar background, who inspires her to take up chess, a game so unknown in her country that there is not even a word for it in her language. The girl rises to national champion and travels to the Chess Olympiad in Siberia, a journey that opens her eyes to a world she might never have known. Crothers tells Phiona Mutesi's story in a crisp, reportorial style (he's a former senior writer at *Sports Illustrated*), but it's nearly impossible to read the book without a strong emotional response. The author necessarily talks about the social and economic challenges that Phiona encountered in Uganda—most girls her age had no bigger dreams than simply surviving—but his focus remains centered on Phiona herself, the uneducated prodigy, the barely literate girl who, against all odds, stands poised to become a chess grand master. Inspiring without being strident about it."



ASANTE NETWORK RETURNS TO TRINITY!

Asante Network is returning to Trinity Lutheran Church on Saturday, **September 23**, and Sunday **September 24**, with an African Bazaar for your shopping pleasure. Hours on Saturday, Sept. 23, will be from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and on Sunday, Sept. 24, from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

For those of you who haven't experienced an Asante event or don't know much about us, we are an all volunteer, non-profit organization and a member of the Fair Trade Federation. This is a great opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping. Unique, well-crafted items are bought directly from Women's Cooperatives in Tanzania and Uganda and sold at reasonable prices. By purchasing Asante Network Crafts, you are helping the women to feed, shelter, clothe and educate their children and the many HIV/AIDS orphans for whom they are responsible. The women receive their wages as soon as we receive the products and any profit or donations are returned to East Africa to fund projects and scholarships. All efforts are designed to provide dignity, hope, and a better life for these women and their families.

For any questions, contact Kathy Booker at 510-522-7879 or at kbooker817@comcast.net.

**Asante Sana (thank you very much in Swahili)
for purchasing products that make a difference.**



LUTHERAN MINISTRY TO NURSING HOMES SPAGHETTI DINNER AND AUCTION

Trinity’s annual spaghetti dinner and auction will be **Friday, September 29**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:00. A \$15 ticket (\$10 for children age 12 and under) will provide you with a delicious spaghetti dinner (including dessert). A silent auction will be happening before and during dinner. All proceeds from this event will be directed to LMNH.

It’s time to gather items for the Silent Auction, a popular part of this fundraiser. Trinity members and friends contribute everything offered at the auction. This is an amazing testimony to our talents, creativity, and generosity. Think about what you might contribute this year. You could:

- make and deliver a meal to a person or family
- create a theme basket, i.e. relaxation, movie night, garden produce, wine and cheese
- offer a morning of yard work or an evening of babysitting
- serve dinner or dessert to a group in your home
- donate something you have made – artwork, knitting, quilting, etc.
- share vacation time at your cabin, condo, or on your boat
- get a gift certificate to a favorite restaurant or tickets to a local theater (you could even offer to provide transportation and go along as a way to make new friends)
- teach someone how to fish
- donate anything else you like that someone would want to buy (or think of something you would like to buy and find someone to donate it!)

Jessica Fleischman is heading up this year’s auction. Please let her know as soon as possible if you are going to contribute an auction item, and please have auction items to her by Sunday, September 24. Call (522-5220 or 812-4752) or email (trinityalameda@gmail.com) for more information.

Finally, please watch for sign-up sheets to make reservations for dinner or to assist with clean-up, or to donate home-baked goods for dessert.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR REFORMATION FESTIVITIES

Reformation 500 Hymn Festival

October 28 at 1:00 p.m.
 St. Mark's Lutheran Church
 San Francisco



Reformation 500 Worship Service

October 29 at 3:00 p.m.
 Grace Cathedral - San Francisco
 Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop Mark Holmerud
 presiding. Reception to follow
<http://sanfrancisco.carpediem.cd/events/4139823-500th-reformation-anniv-festival-eucharist-celebration-at-grace-cathedral-san-francisco/>

YOUR GREEN TEAM SAYS: "SAVE THE ALBATROSS!"

Jean Abbe

Scientists predict that by 2050 there will be more plastics than fish in the ocean. Plastic bottle lids are hazardous to marine life, including birds. The lids float on the water or are found on shore. They look and smell like food. Birds eat them and feed them to their babies, whose bellies fill up with plastic, causing them to starve.

Known as the Sailor's Companion, the Laysan Albatross, threatened with extinction, is the poster child for this problem. The Save the Albatross Coalition has formed to help eliminate one part of the plastic plague.

What can you do?

- Join your local Beach Cleanup days
- When recycling plastic bottles, leave the lids on. Loose plastic lids fall through the sorting troughs and end up in the landfill.
- Contact your state representative (in Alameda, Rob Bonta, 510-286-1670) and ask him/her to support AB319, which requires bottlers to leash the lids to the containers (they did it with metal pull tabs!).
- Sign the petition asking Coke and Pepsi to leash their lids: <https://www.change.org/p/april-crow-and-tell-coca-cola-pepsico-nestle-waters-to-leash-their-lids>
- Donate to the Save the Albatross Coalition: <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/save-the-albatross#/>



GERMANY TRAVELS: GRACE 500 FESTIVAL

Mary James

Chances are good that you may have heard the recent youth trip to Germany described as the "Luther 500 Festival" since it was to celebrate the 500 years since Martin Luther (not King, jr.) nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. However, from what I know and have learned of Martin Luther, he would very much not like having his name be so prominent. His message and main concern was not about him, but that everyone know of God's (really amazing) Grace all around us.

At that time the church had practices that prevented people from really knowing about the Grace of God in our lives: that Jesus Christ has paid the price for us. The Theses were written to address all the ways that the church was impeding people in their experience of God's Grace. So I think that Martin Luther might have called this "Grace 500 Festival" to celebrate efforts to help everyone deeply know the Grace of God lives. The fact that the Bible was only in Latin at that time was a hurdle in the "Get God's Grace" effort. So Martin Luther, in his spare time, translated the Bible from Latin, (which few people could read) to German, the language read by many more people then and there. From this trip I gained a renewed appreciation for the fact that we have such easy access to the Bible in our language – we even have multiple versions to help us understand!

A special blessing for me as a result of this trip was getting a deeper understanding of the incredible miracle that was the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 and the reunification of Germany after that. And this was accomplished WITHOUT A WAR!

In the program that our youth group experienced in Wittenberg, one of the organizers had grown up in West Berlin. He was 23 when the wall fell. The situation before that was really grim, not at all tolerable, with a very oppressive occupation by Russia in East Germany. However the German people had just lost 2 wars in 30 years and just couldn't stomach another one no matter how desperately change was needed. As I see it, God used leaders like Ronald Reagan, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Pope John Paul, as well as all the hundreds of thousands of peaceful protesters in Leipzig, to bring about a truly miraculous healing. At the time, I had a three month old baby boy and while I realized then that this was a very good thing, going there now and learning close up gave me a clearer a vision of the awesome hope and amazing potential for unexpected peaceful changes. May we be surprised by more reminders of God's Grace in our world now!

JULY COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Sharon is updating Trinity's membership roster. Brenda Rapp has joined a church in Oregon where she now resides.

Katie, Luke, and Annie Dustin have decided not to continue their membership at Trinity.

The Grief Survey has been handed out to congregants. The deadline for return of the survey is August 1. Kate Ganschow will compile the data for us to send to the Synod.

Committee Reports:

Call Committee: The committee is interviewing six candidates via Skype. Initial interviews will be completed by the end of July, after which the committee will make a decision about the next steps in the call process.

Evangelism: Carol Blomberg will review the Evangelism Committee duties to be listed in the revised Constitution.

Carol also agreed to put together more "Welcome Trinity Visitor" packets.

Ideas about how to update the members' picture board in the Fellowship Hall were discussed at the last committee meeting.

Fellowship: There were 5 neighborhood visitors at the 4th of July BBQ.

The next fellowship event will be the Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for LMNH on Friday, Sept. 29.

Mission and Service: Donations to the school supply collection were significantly down this year, but we still feel it was a successful event.

\$919 was collected for Philipos Ghaly's seminary fees (goal was \$500).

"God's Work Our Hands" Service Day will take place on Saturday, September 9. We will have two projects from which to choose - one with Ploughshares Nursery and one working with Kathy Booker and Asante Network.

The committee is working to set up an August meeting to visit Senator Kamela Harris with Bread for the World.

New Business:

Anita Burnaford and John Kofranek were re-elected council president and vice-president, respectively.

Council member liaisons to the committees were chosen. [See council roster on the last page of the *Builder*.]

Committees are being requested to submit their reports in writing to Jessica by the second Tuesday of each month so that council members can review them before the meeting. This will eliminate the need for oral reports at the meetings.

As work continues on revising Trinity's constitution, the council discussed the constitution wording regarding an Executive Committee and a Nominating Committee. A motion passed to accept the wording proposed by Anita Burnaford to describe the Nominating Committee.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

John Kofranek

The gas oven/range in the kitchen was serviced recently since people reported smelling gas. The person servicing the oven gave tips on proper maintenance and said that the oven/range was in good shape.

Estimates to fix the flat roof on the Sunday School building, which leaked last winter, are being sought. Unfortunately roofers are extremely busy right now.

The new landscaping, put in last October, is using a drip irrigation system to help get the plants established. So far our plant failure rate is minimal, and growth of the plants is phenomenal.

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Remember Food Bank Sunday on **August 13**. There is a barrel in the fellowship hall or narthex in which to put your non-perishable food donations. Please continue to support the Alameda Food Bank. The need is great as the number of Alamedans requesting food increases.

Also, remember: if your fruit trees and/or gardens have more fruit or produce than you can use, the excess can be donated directly to the Food Bank at 1900 Thau Way. Call 510-523-5850 for hours or if you have questions.

purpose” the name to stand for LUTHERAN ENGAGEMENT and ADVOCACY IN NEVADA. We wanted to bring “engagement” into it, to highlight the fact that everyone is invited to do advocacy and to be an engaged citizen. Lutherans have such a great tradition, dating back to Martin Luther, of speaking out in the public square in order to hold accountable those in authority. LEAN’S mission is to educate and equip every parishioner in Nevada to advocate for issues they care about.

Representing member congregations of the Grand Canyon and Sierra Pacific Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, LEAN advocates for the common good and promotes public policies that reflect the Christian values of peacemaking, hospitality to strangers, care for creation, and concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger and disease.

Please keep LEAN 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.

SECOND MILE GIVING FOR AUGUST

Lutheran Advocacy in Nevada is not dead, but back in a new way. We were last known as LEAN, for Lutheran-Episcopal Advocacy in Nevada. That entity has been replaced with a new, all-Lutheran effort. We kept the acronym LEAN, but we’ve “re-



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- Aug. 5 Marvera Kline
- Aug. 7 Stan Booker
- Aug. 13 William Norboe
- Aug. 17 Kathy Booker
- Aug. 19 Rob Cabrera



- Aug. 19 Deborah Kelly
- Aug. 20 Pam Lothian
- Aug. 20 Pastor Sharon Stalkfleet
- Aug. 27 Peter Dow
- Aug. 29 Linda Domholt



<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 (Stewardship & Worship & Music) Vice President: John Kofranek-19 (Property) Recording Secretary: Jessica Fleischman Treasurer: Ann Kenyon Interim Pastor: Rev. Sharon Stalkfleet Susan Bell –20 (Evangelism) Nick Hayes-20 (Mission & Service) Karol Luque-20 (EBLYP & Worship & Music) Mike Luque-19 (EBLP) Elizabeth Madaras-20 (EBLP, Fellowship, Finance) Henry Mills-18 Mark Schoenrock-20 (Green Team) Mary Kay Wentz-19 (Trinity Seniors & Visual Enrichment) Susan Widule-20 (Education)</p>
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