



# TRINITY BUILDER



October 2017

Trinity Lutheran Church, Alameda, CA



## The Forgiven Forgivers

Martin Luther is quoted as saying that he did not want our denomination to be called, as we call it today, Lutheran. I wonder what name would honor Martin Luther today, 500 years later?

In the movie "The Idea that Changed the World," recently shown on PBS, the narrator said that for Luther it comes down to two words, "God Forgives." That is it. We are forgiven, and when we are forgiven, we are free to forgive. Could we call ourselves the Forgiven Forgivers?

In Romans 3, Paul writes, "There is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." I like to say that we are all in the same boat, no one better than the others, all Saints and Sinners.

What if our name was "Forgiven Forgivers?" How would you explain the importance of forgiveness to your family, friends, and colleagues? What would it mean for each of us in our inner lives, in our family lives, and in the community?

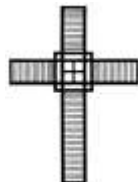
When Jesus tells Peter to forgive 7 times 70, he is not telling Peter to count; in fact he is saying let go of the counting. Jesus is saying make forgiveness a way of life. In a recent sermon at the 8:00 a.m. service, I shared that I had worked in a community that held up the words "All Are Welcome," bringing in many homeless people, people on drugs, and those from difficult circumstances in life. However, to have integrity and safety, we had to be clear that even though "All Are Welcome," not all behaviors are welcome. This makes me ask the question, "Could I say, that "not forgiving" is a behavior that is not welcome?"

I ponder on how much "not forgiving" has affected my life, our lives, and the whole world. We have systems that are built with "not forgiving" in their structures. There are those who have the privilege of being forgiven and those who are not forgiven even though they do similar things. In hierarchies, those at the top are forgiven more easily than those at the bottom. In the television show *West Wing*, when President Josiah Bartlett admits that he has hidden his diagnosis of multiple sclerosis from the people, he gets a reprimand from Congress. However, it is his wife who is most affected, giving up her medical license for the duration of his presidency. Josiah Bartlett, says, "The system, including the church, is harder on women," and I say: Yes that is true, and also harder on people of color, disabled, immigrants, the poor, the sick, and so on.

I wonder, can I say that "not forgiving" is a behavior that is not welcome? And I know I am getting close to the law, the law that easily turns into unforgiveness in my fragmented human hands. It is a paradox to me. I need to forgive the unforgivers, yet what does that mean?

I pray to live in forgiveness today; I pray that we all live in forgiveness today so that we can claim the fullness of our lives in Jesus Christ as "Forgiven Forgivers."

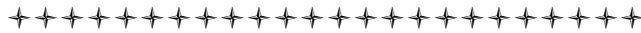
Grace and peace,  
Pastor Sharon



**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

**Sunday, October 8**

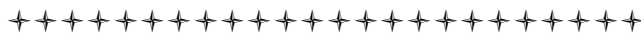
This is both Youth Sunday and Blessing of the Animals Sunday at the 10:30 service. Youth will be participating and leading the sermon. Individual animal blessings will be provided in the sanctuary (not outside this year). If your animal does not play well with others, please bring it in a carrier or leave it home and bring a picture or stuffed animal to represent it.



**LUTHERAN MINISTRY TO NURSING HOMES VOLUNTEER GATHERING**

**Sunday, October 8**

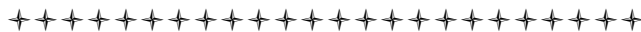
Pastor Ned O'Donnell and LMNH volunteers will meet at Trinity at 12:45 p.m. Join them and learn more about our nursing home ministry.



**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

**Sunday, October 15**

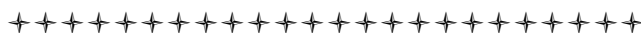
Please attend the luncheon and stewardship program after the 10:30 service.



**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

**Sunday, October 22**

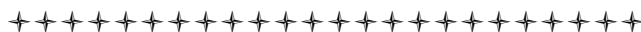
Come and celebrate confirmation of our youth. In addition, we welcome the participants of Alameda Adaptive Arts, who will lead us in the Hymn of the Day.



**CHAMBER MUSIC WITH THE JCT TRIO**

**Sunday, October 22**

At 3:00 p.m. at Trinity, the JCT Trio (Julie Haydon, Christine Meals, and Tom Fattaruso) will present a program of chamber music, including works by Bach, Haydn, Cremona, Borodin, and Joplin. A free will offering will be collected.



**CELEBRATION OF 500 YEARS OF REFORMATION**

**Sunday, October 29**

Reformation Day will be celebrated at Trinity at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services.

At 3:00 p.m. the Sierra Pacific Synod celebrates 500 years of Reformation at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco. Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop Mark Holmerud will preside, and a reception will follow. <http://sanfrancisco.carpediem.cd/events/4139823-500th-reformation-anniv-festival-eucharist-celebration-at-grace-cathedral-san-francisco/>. If you plan to go to this service, please contact Pastor Sharon to coordinate car pools.

## MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE

Julie Haydon, Director of Music Ministry

Our new community children's choir Joyful Noise! is off to a great start! We have a wonderful group of children from the community who love to sing. Special thanks to Trinity members who helped publicize our new program. It is so lovely to hear the church filled with the sound of children singing! Our Sunday School youth are also busy preparing musical offerings for our Youth Sundays and Advent. Join us at the opening of Sunday School to participate.

[Note from Pastor Sharon: You can view a video of Julie leading Joyful Noise! in "Shoo Fly, Don't Bother Me" on the Trinity Facebook page.]

We are still accepting new singers and ringers for Trinity's choir and bell choir! Get started now and participate in our musical offerings for Advent. This is a meaningful way to contribute to the Trinity community and to nurture your own spiritual growth. Bells practice Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15 p.m. and the choir rehearses from 7:30-9:00 p.m., both in the sanctuary.

In October, we have two guest musicians: Larry London is joining the choir on clarinet on Sunday, October 1, and Tom Fattarusso on cello October 15.

**Music Ministry Concert: Sunday November 5 at 3:00 p.m.** Mark your calendars for our Music Ministry concert, which will bring together the choir, bells, Sunday School youth, Joyful Noise!, ukuleles, and you to celebrate all of the ways that Trinity makes music. This will be a wonderful afternoon to enjoy together, so invite friends and family. The program will include favorite selections that everyone will enjoy, including "How Great Thou Art," "Just a Closer Walk," and "When the Saints Go Marching In."



Name that group: One suggestion that came up during our "reimagining the Music Ministry" process last spring was to give names to Trinity's adult musical ensembles, the choir and bell choir. Do you have a suggestion to share? Submit your ideas to the suggestion box in the narthex or forward them to Julie Haydon, Director of Music Ministry.



## SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

### Pastor's Report:

Pastor Ned has moved out of the LMNH office at Trinity-Alameda. LMNH and Pastor Ned are now based at Trinity-Oakland.

Saemi Ladue has asked to be removed from the membership rolls of Trinity.

**Office Administrator's Report:** Usage of Trinity's space: Our current recurring renters are Alameda String Academy and Full Gospel Healing Ministry, who pay a specified rental fee; and Soli Deo Gloria and Alameda Quilt Guild, who give a donation annually. The following groups use space for free (but with a rental agreement and waiver submitted yearly): a Girl Scout troop (led by Demeter Lamb), a Daisy Troop, Kathy Booker's quilt group, Alameda Adaptive Arts (Marcy Morrison's special needs adult dance class), and Joanne Robinson's Red Cross high school youth.

### Committee Reports:

**Call Committee:** The committee is waiting for a new slate of pastoral candidates from the synod.

**Fellowship:** Anita Burnaford noted that disposition of the proceeds from the Crab Feed fundraiser should be determined by the council. The Fellowship Committee can submit a recommendation to the council but does not have the final say as to how the proceeds are distributed.

**Mission & Service:** At the "God's Work Our Hands" service day on September 9, the Ploughshares project had 9 volunteers and the Asante project had 7 volunteers.

The committee is planning to host an event centered around immigrant refugees. The date is tentatively set for January 22. The committee will be working with Michael Yoshi from Buena Vista United Methodist Church.

The committee is looking into having someone from the City of Alameda come to speak about what it means to be a sanctuary city.

A letter writing session is scheduled for October 22. The topic will be DACA.

There is a Hunger Workshop in Davis on October 7 from 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p. m.

**Property:** The church's 20 year-old vacuum cleaner needs to be replaced. John Kofranek discussed new vacuums with custodians Debbie and Martin Kelly. The price on a new commercial model with HEPA filter system and a 10 amp motor is \$250-300.

There will be a work day in October or November to declutter and paint the meeting room and Pastor's office.

Two estimates have been received to fix the education building roof, which leaked in last winter's rains. One estimate is \$18,500. John Kofranek is looking for another estimate.

John is also looking for a gutter cleaning service.

The copy machine is 13 years old and still running, but it is now obsolete, and therefore parts are harder to get, and we can no longer purchase toner from the manufacturer. Jessica Fleischman will get estimates for a new machine with lease options.

**Seniors:** Trinity Seniors has asked for \$300 in the budget for 2018 to help pay for entertainment. Although their year just began in September, they are down to \$28 in petty cash, which has been used to pay for the entertainer's lunches, and in some cases, a small stipend for the entertainer. Council noted that there is money in the Seniors Designated Fund account. A motion passed that the Senior program put in a request for not more than \$300 from the Seniors Designated Fund to cover the costs associated with providing entertainment.

### Old/New Business:

The council reviewed the final proposed changes to Trinity's constitution. There was some question about the language used. Karol Luque will work on refining the language.

[Continued on Page 5]

**SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING NOTES (continued)**

**Old/New Business:**

The council has proposed that Trinity hire an assistant to help Bertie Salisbury with childcare on Sundays. At \$20 an hour (the going rate) for 2 hours per Sunday, this will require \$2,080 to be added to our 2018 budget.

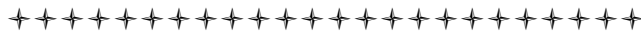
There needs to be more communication between committees in regard to scheduling events. The office administrator should be notified of the proposed date for any event to make sure there isn't something else scheduled. Council members should let the committee for which they are liaison know of this policy, which will also be announced in the Sunday bulletin.

The Slip and Fall Protocol will be posted in the sacristy, the kitchen, and at the desk for Trinity

Seniors. There is also a copy in the Property Committee binder.

Anita Burnaford read a letter from Bishop Mark Holmerud asking congregations to include the cost of the Professional Leader Conference in their budgets for this year and coming years to pay for pastors to go to this conference (continuing education). The cost is roughly \$700. Since Trinity has money in a Continuing Education Designated Fund, a motion was made and passed to take \$700 from this fund to pay the Pastor's cost to attend the conference this October and to increase the line item for continuing education in the 2018 budget from \$1000 to \$1700 to cover the cost of attending the PLC next year.

The next council meeting will be October 19.



**TRINITY LUTHERAN BOOK CLUB**

The next meeting of the Trinity Book Club will be at 7:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, November 14** in the church meeting room. Ruth and Peter Dow will provide refreshments.

The book chosen for discussion in November is *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J. D. Vance. If you are interested in discussing this book, please come to our meeting. (There is no commitment to future meetings/books.)

*Hillbilly Elegy* is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance, a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.

The Vance family story begins hopefully as J. D.'s grandparents move north from Kentucky's Appalachia region to Ohio hoping to escape the dreadful poverty around them. They raised a middle-class family, and eventually their grandchild (the author) would graduate from Yale Law School, a conventional marker of their success in achieving generational upward mobility. But we learn that this is only the short, superficial version of the story. Vance's grandparents, aunt, uncle, sister, and, most of all, his mother, struggled profoundly with the demands of their new middle-class life and were never able to fully escape the legacy of abuse, alcoholism, poverty, and trauma so characteristic of their part of America.

A deeply moving memoir with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, *Hillbilly Elegy* is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country. [This summary is excerpted from Amazon]

### FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Our next Food Bank Sunday is **October 8**. 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.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

New prayer lists are started at the beginning of each quarter. Please contact the church office ([office@trinityalameda.org](mailto:office@trinityalameda.org) or 510-522-5220) to have names included on the prayer list for the fourth quarter of 2017 (beginning the first Sunday in October). Make sure that you have **permission from the named person to include him/her on the list.**

### SECOND-MILE GIVING FOR OCTOBER

#### California Lutheran University

Founded in 1959, California Lutheran University is home to more than 2,810 undergraduate and 1,316 graduate students who come from more than 61 countries and represent a wide variety of faiths. Our dedicated, accomplished faculty works with small classes of students who are open-minded—about ideas, about people, and about faith—and are seeking to grow as individuals. Both in the classroom and outside of it, everyone at Cal Lutheran is committed to helping each student pursue their passions to discover their purpose, and follow that purpose to transform their community—and the world. Please keep CLU in your prayers this month and consider an additional offering toward their ministries.



### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Ken Gutleben
- 3 Kori Lamb
- 3 Guillermo Ruiz
- 4 Christopher Collins
- 5 Betty Jaber
- 5 Joanna Ruiz



- 7 Tana Moschetti
- 7 Bill Pond
- 10 Kylie Beardsley
- 21 Joyce Blamire
- 21 Sophia Hofmann
- 31 Karol Luque



<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 &amp; Music)          Vice President: John Kofranek-19 (Property)          Secretary: Mike Luque-19 (EBLP)          Recording Secretary: Jessica Fleischman          Treasurer: Ann Kenyon          Interim Pastor: Rev. Sharon Stalkfleet          Susan Bell-20 (Evangelism)          Nick Hayes-20 (Mission &amp; Service)          Karol Luque-20 (EBLYP, Worship &amp; Music)          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>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------