



# TRINITY BUILDER



March 2018

Trinity Lutheran Church, Alameda, CA

## A Word from the PASTOR



### WALKING WITH JESUS

One of my favorite Lenten hymns has always been *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*. It's one of those hymns that reaches down into my soul to carry the deepest cries of my heart to God in a melodic prayer. It reminds me that one of Jesus' greatest missions here on earth was to walk in my shoes, to experience the life that regular folks like you and I live. When I really want to be reminded that Jesus knows what it takes to make it in this world, this is the tune I hum.

But I'm reminded this Lent (as I am so often) that it isn't about me. Many of our Lenten practices are based in the desire to walk with Jesus for a short time – to understand his pain. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever should believe in him shall have eternal life” (John 3:16). First John 3:16 says “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.” Suddenly, this idea of walking with Jesus is no longer a pity party for me, but rather a reminder of what Christ has already done for me. This hymn turns itself on its head and renews a desire to live my life with Christ by my side – not just as a nice image in my mind.

Jesus' life, ministry, and death were given for us, at great cost, and for good reason. God came to live and walk with us, that we might live and learn from him all because of his love for us. This, my friends, is what it's all about: Living, learning, loving, and walking with Jesus each day, throughout Lent, and all our lives long.

God's peace,  
Pastor Stephanie

### A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

First of all, thank you to everyone who helped to make my installation a special day in the history of Trinity! The musicians, the fellowship committee, the worship leaders, council, and call committee – truly, this was a congregational event and what a special celebration you helped to create! I also want to take time to thank you all for the very warm welcome you have shown me, the patience you have had for my short memory and piles of boxes. You have given me love and gifts and support in ways most pastors can only wish for. I know that this has taken extra effort on your part, and I want you to know how greatly I appreciate it.

Pastor Stephanie







## MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE

Julie Haydon

### Joyful Noise! Community Children’s Choir

Joyful Noise! is off to a great start this semester, and many new families have enrolled, both through word of mouth and thanks to the publicity efforts of our members. I am so thankful all of these children have the chance to sing and find their voice through this important program.

Last month we made a wonderful connection with the Alameda Boys and Girls Club, thanks to help from Don and Margie Sherratt. I just completed my first of two community sing-alongs at their after-school program. A diverse group of 20 young children joined me for a joyous afternoon of singing. We had so much fun! I continue to marvel at the way children so freely share their voices and their spirits and also see how hungry they are for a chance to express themselves and to be known. ABGC will help make it possible for students in their program to participate in Joyful Noise! by shuttling them to Trinity on Wednesday afternoons. This will help us reach some families who may not be able to transport their children to choir rehearsals.

### Spring Music Ministry

Our halls are filled with music here at Trinity, and I am so thankful to everyone who is devoting their time and energy to participate in and support our Music Ministry. I am forming a task force to help provide logistical support and planning for our upcoming spring concert and other events. Please let me know if you are interested in being a part of this.

Keep this date on your calendar: **Sunday, May 6**, at 3:00 p.m: Sing! Music from the Stage and Screen

A free community concert featuring our choir, bells, youth, and ukulele ensemble, performing songs from musicals and movies, followed by an ice cream social.

### Looking forward

Our recent transition and call process revealed the overwhelmingly common desire to attract new young families and children. All of us understand that this will require us to view some things differently and to do some things differently. We're pretty good at making changes here at Trinity, so that shouldn't be too difficult if we keep in mind that our goal is to welcome new, younger, and probably unchurched families into our community.

One such change is the use of choir robes by the choir. Some of you may have noticed that the choir is now wearing stoles rather than our traditional robes. There are a few of reasons for this change.

Many choir members want to feel more comfortable sitting with family and visitors, and robes make that difficult for some.

New stoles were purchased so we could reflect our desire to reach out to the wider community, making it easier for new people to join the choir. The Bell Choir is also able to use the new stoles.

We wish to be open-minded and look toward the future; many churches of our size are opting not to use robes.

Our beautiful new stoles come from the Asante network, a nonprofit organization we support. They were lovingly made by the Michi Women’s Group in Tanzania. You may still see the robes on occasions such as Easter or Christmas.

We appreciate all of the valuable input that is helping us navigate this new course.

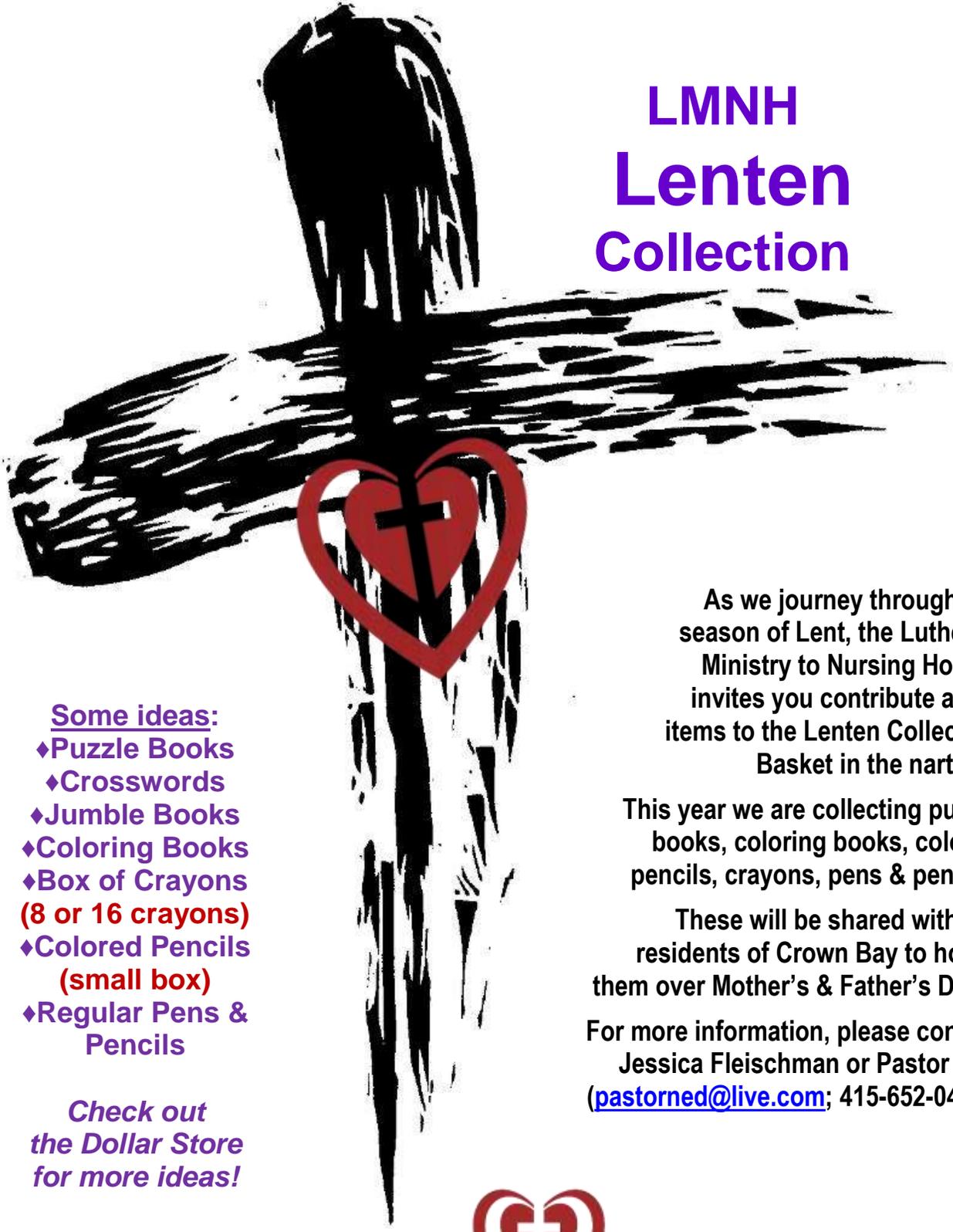
~~~~~

February Youth Sunday



Alameda Boys and Girls Club





## LMNH Lenten Collection

Some ideas:

- ◆ Puzzle Books
- ◆ Crosswords
- ◆ Jumble Books
- ◆ Coloring Books
- ◆ Box of Crayons  
(8 or 16 crayons)
- ◆ Colored Pencils  
(small box)
- ◆ Regular Pens &  
Pencils

*Check out  
the Dollar Store  
for more ideas!*

As we journey through the season of Lent, the Lutheran Ministry to Nursing Homes invites you contribute a few items to the Lenten Collection Basket in the narthex.

This year we are collecting puzzle books, coloring books, colored pencils, crayons, pens & pencils.

These will be shared with the residents of Crown Bay to honor them over Mother's & Father's Days.

For more information, please contact Jessica Fleischman or Pastor Ned ([pastorned@live.com](mailto:pastorned@live.com); 415-652-0427).



LUTHERAN MINISTRY TO  
NURSING HOMES



Pastor Craig Minich

**A THOUSAND MARDI-GRAS THANK YOUS!:** Our 18th annual Mardi Gras (MG) fund-raiser was a smashing success! We raised as many funds as our previous most successful MG fund-raiser, we had the most successful live auction and silent auction ever, and our attendance grew for 4 of our 5 congregations! I asked that this event be a strong reflection of our renewed energy for collaborative ministry in the East Bay; you all answered with gusto as we continue to create a groundswell of support in this new day for our individual churches and collaborative ministries! Many thanks to my steering committee, cooks and kitchen crew, childcare area volunteers, setup and cleanup crews, performers, church administrative assistants, EBLP pastors, auction bidders, and members and friends who attended our event. It was an inter-generational evening with youth and adults working together in all those roles. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

**CONFIRMATION AT UNITED LUTHERAN!!!** On February 18, the last confirmation student from our most recent collaborative EBLP confirmation class with Trinity Alameda, Trinity-Oakland, and United Lutheran churches was confirmed at his home congregation, United Lutheran of Oakland. Jeremy Carter affirmed his baptism and celebrated the completion of this two-year program. There are two students, Kori and Aiden Lamb, at Trinity-Alameda continuing their preparations, with an anticipated confirmation in the fall 2018. We meet monthly and have lively discussions about the foundations of our faith and tradition. Pr. Stephanie joined us in our class on her first Sunday, Feb 4, and we are both excited about working together, where possible, in the future! Please keep praying for our confirmation students. Our next class should be forming in the fall of 2018. Please contact Jessica or Pastor Craig to discuss joining the next class.

**NEXT FAMILY MINISTRY Event - Easter 'Egg'stravaganza:** Mark your calendars and help us set up ride shares to come to the church with the best view of the Bay for our EBLP Easter 'Egg'stravaganza on Saturday, March 31, at United Lutheran in Oakland. We will have three age-specific egg hunt groups, games, snacks, a faith talk to share Jesus' Good News, and crafts all led by our EBLYP Senior High Youth Group leaders and Pastor Craig. Please let Jessica Fleischman know if you plan to attend.

**PR. CRAIG AND THE JOYFUL NOISE! CHOIR:** I was able to attend the Jan, 28 Joyful Noise! rehearsal, where I met the kids and played some games with them. I'll be assisting Julie a couple times a month at her program. We love working together, laughing together, teaching together, and our collaboration strengthens both of our ministries!

**SNL MINISTRY UPDATES:** The Synod-wide senior high retreat in the Santa Cruz Mountains at Mt. Cross was a success February 23-25! Pr. Craig and seven SNLers were able to go up to the mountains on a chilly weekend. Our theme was "Young! Faithful! Reforming!" What a testimony it was to see our young leaders from across our Synod, including our EBLYP members, actively making this retreat happen.

**PR. STEPHANIE'S INSTALLATION SERVICE:** EBLYP welcomes Rev. Stephanie Johnson, newly-called pastor at Trinity Alameda, and Pr. Craig was honored to be assisting minister at her installation service! What a beautiful beginning to her new ministries at Trinity-Alameda. We're praying for you, and we are excited to partner together in ministry!

**NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING THIS SUMMER:** We are continuing our service and fund-raising efforts for our senior high youth trip to Houston for the ELCA Youth Gathering and Multi-Cultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) the last week of June 2018. Specifically, some of our Senior high Youth will be serving at a community prawn feed fundraiser in San Leandro March 4, and an even bigger group of SNLers will be serving at Trinity-Alameda's crab feed April 7. Also, Trinity-Alameda senior high youth will be serving at the Easter Breakfast again to help raise funds on Easter Sunday, April 1 (no foolin!). In addition to these opportunities, please support us with prayers to help us get there!!!

**CRAB FEED FUNDRAISER**

**Saturday, April 7 6:00 p.m.**

\$50.00 per adult

\$20.00 per child age 12 and under



The Crab Feed will feature crab, potato salad, green salad, bread, dessert, and wine (extra charge). Chicken will be available for those who do not want crab. There will also be a raffle, with raffle tickets available at the Crab Feed. Proceeds will be directed to an as-yet-undetermined program at Trinity.



**FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING NOTES**

**Pastor’s report**

Pastor Stephanie’s installation service will take place on February 25. The offering from this worship service will be dedicated to a Trinity outreach program selected by Pastor Stephanie. Pastor Stephanie attended a recent meeting of the Alameda All Faith Coalition, at which she had the opportunity to meet clergy from other churches in Alameda. She is also attending pericope study with EBLP pastors at Resurrection Lutheran on Tuesdays.

**Committee Reports**

**Fellowship:** The Crab Feed is planned for Saturday, April 7. [See above]

**Mission and Service:** In January, \$330 and one box of items were collected for the Welcome Basket program at APC.

The committee is setting dates for upcoming special offerings: ELCA World Hunger, Building Futures for Women and Children- Midway Shelter & Bessie Coleman; school supplies; local refugees’ bundles and gift cards.

There will be another Asante Bazaar later this year. Committee members have plans to order copies of the ELCA’s Women and Justice Social Statement and review it.

At the last meeting there was a discussion about how to use the \$1,000 donation given by Mildred Holley’s estate to Mission and Service.

**Property:** The fire extinguishers have been replaced/refilled and are now good for another year (Cost \$350), and the kitchen stove sprinkler system

has been inspected and tested (\$203.50). We need 2 replacement filters that International Fire will ship. Karol Luque will follow up with Industrial to get on a semi annual inspection schedule and perhaps get a discount for a multi-year contract. It appears we can test our alarm system ourselves and call for service only if it does not function.

Karol will also start to review earthquake procedures/protocols.

Spring clean up will be on Saturday, March 24, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Work has begun on fixing the roof over the education building. Ken Gutleben has been working closely with the roofers and saw the extensive dry rot damage that was around the skylight, which will need to be replaced. Ken is looking into the cost for that.

**Old/New Business:**

Anita Burnaford’s fingerprints have cleared the Department of Justice, and she is now assigned the Custodian of Records for Trinity. We are waiting on the identification ‘codes’ assigned to Trinity by the DOJ so that we can proceed with the hiring of the new nursery attendant.

Anita attended a recent planning meeting for a Warming Center for the City of Alameda. We are looking into getting more information and exploring the possibility of Trinity being a part of a Warming Center. Anita will be reaching out to Building Futures to get more information.

The next council meeting will be March 15.

### FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Our next Food Bank Sunday is **March 11**. There is a barrel in the fellowship hall or narthex in which to put your **non-expired, non-perishable food** donations. Please continue to help to support the Alameda Food Bank.



### SECOND MILE GIVING

#### ELCA Campus Ministry

ELCA campus ministry is a Lutheran ministry for students, faculty, staff and others on campus, not just a ministry for Lutherans. It provides an ELCA presence at more than 180 state and private colleges and universities with cooperating congregations in campus ministry at an additional 400 campuses nationwide. Through worship, study, fellowship and service, members of the academic community taste the fullness of God's grace. As expansive as Christ's love, campus ministry reaches out to all who teach and learn, inviting them to experience the challenge of following Jesus.



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Nancy Leavitt
- 1 Craig Minich
- 5 Craig Blyeth
- 5 Chris Laine
- 5 Antonio Ruiz
- 7 Helen Pedersen
- 11 Elizabeth Madaras
- 11 Judith Pence
- 11 Dorothy Wingire



- 15 Stevie O'Connell
- 19 Mike Luque
- 21 Jackson Bohm
- 21 Karen Haines
- 26 Bob Abbe
- 26 Lou O'Connell
- 29 Judy Lamb
- 31 Catie Norboe
- 31 Susan Widule



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><i>Trinity Builder</i> is a monthly publication of<br/>Trinity Lutheran Church<br/>1323 Central Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501<br/>510-522-5220</p> <p>Pastor: Rev. Stephanie Johnson<br/>Nursing Home Ministry Pastor: Rev. Ned O'Donnell<br/>Youth Pastor: Rev. Craig Minich<br/>Council President: Anita Burnaford<br/>Organist/pianist: Starr Brown<br/>Director of Music Ministry: Julie Haydon<br/>Custodian: Martin Kelly<br/>Groundskeeper: Martin Kelly<br/>Office manager: Jessica Fleischman<br/><i>Builder</i> editor: Marilyn Ohm-Smith</p> | <p>Trinity Church Council (Ministry Area Liaisons)<br/>President: Anita Burnaford-19 (Stewardship, Worship &amp; Music)<br/>Vice President: John Kofranek-19 (Property)<br/>Secretary: Mike Luque-19 (EBLP)<br/>Recording Secretary: Jessica Fleischman<br/>Treasurer: Ann Kenyon<br/>Pastor: Rev. Stephanie Johnson<br/>Susan Bell-20 (Evangelism)<br/>Nick Hayes-20 (Mission &amp; Service)<br/>Karol Luque-20 (EBLYP, Worship &amp; Music)<br/>Elizabeth Madaras-20 (EBLP, Fellowship, Finance)<br/>Henry Mills-18<br/>Mark Schoenrock-20 (Green Team)<br/>Mary Kay Wentz-19 (Trinity Seniors, Visual Enrichment)<br/>Susan Widule-20 (Education)</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|