



# TRINITY BUILDER

April 2018

Trinity Lutheran Church, Alameda, CA



## A Word from the PASTOR



*I know that my Redeemer lives!  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;  
He lives my ever-living head!*

ELW 619

The hymn goes on to proclaim that he lives to bless us with his love, to plead for me above, to feed my hungry soul, to help in time of need, and to grant me daily breath. I love Easter hymns, but this is probably my favorite. It's my go-to, get-pumped-about-Jesus hymn (I know, my church-nerd is showing). This is a hymn where both words and tune bolster my faith and remind me what a resurrected Jesus really means for me and the world. You can't help being in a good mood when you sing this song – and if you weren't in a good mood at its beginning, you will be by the end.

We begin this month celebrating Christ's Resurrection, and the "Season of Sundays" won't end until the end of May! Seven weeks – nearly two months – of Easter! And yet, we pack away our celebration by Easter Sunday night and wait until Christmas for our next big opportunity to tell the world about Jesus. I recently saw a church sign extending a special welcome to their "Semi-Annual Visitors" (AKA Christmas and Easter visitors). There is a lot to be said for people who make celebrating the birth and resurrection of Jesus a central event in their Christmas and Easter traditions. Yet for those of us who make worship a weekly event, do we miss the boat? Of course we make Easter Sunday a special celebration, but Easter never ends. Every Sunday we are together we celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection together. Every day, Jesus has been raised *for us*: for the forgiveness of *our* sins, for *our* sake, to give *us* life.

Don't be too quick to put away your butterflies and bonnets. Don't pack away your willingness to invite a friend to church – whether it's for the special music, preaching, breakfast, or friends. Never stop rejoicing in Christ's resurrection – the tomb will forever be empty, and therefore our praise will be never-ending!

Resurrection Blessings,  
Pastor Stephanie



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

In April we're resuming the Women's Bible Study. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. on the first and third Wednesdays. This month we will start by looking at the book of Esther, and we will take a few moments to agree upon our next study.

**April 4:** Chapters 1-5

**April 18:** Chapters 6-10



## TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY - CHECK IT OUT!

Mary James

You just might be missing a blessing here: Recently there have been changes in our Tuesday morning Bible study. It now starts at 7:15 a.m. instead of 7:00, and we removed the distraction of breakfast. Now we have more time to dive into the Word and explore the lessons that we will be hearing the next Sunday in church.

It is really a most delightful time of fellowship and inspiration and enriches our Sunday worship time, since we have already had time to dig into the passages for that Sunday. Pastor Stephanie has had opportunities for some in-depth Bible study, which she shares with us on Tuesday mornings. She often brings new angles to consider. We also hear more about each other's faith journeys. I have found it to be a faith foundation building time and more.

So, I would challenge each of you to come at least one morning at 7:15 a.m. for this delightful time of encountering more about who we are as children of God and how very much God loves us.



## 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 the youth trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston in June.

## RWANDA PRESENTATION

Mission and Service Committee

Please join us for a potluck brunch and presentation by Paster Janelle Neubauer on **Saturday, April 21**, at 10:30 a.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Oakland. Pastor Neubauer is the Rwanda Program Coordinator for Young Adults in Global Missions. She will share generally about Rwanda and the Lutheran Church in Rwanda. As the coordinator of the YAGM program in Rwanda, she will also share the work of partnering churches in shaping and forming young adults in service and global learning. Please mark your calendar for this exciting event. Contact Kathy Booker for more information.



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each week in the Sunday bulletin there are names of people who are in need of our prayers. New prayer lists are started at the beginning of each quarter (January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1). 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 second quarter of 2018 (beginning the first Sunday in April). Make sure that you have permission from the named person to include him/her on the list.



## TRINITY BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Trinity Book Club will be **May 8** at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room. The book chosen for reading and discussion is *30 Lessons for Living: Tried and True Advice from the Wisest Americans* by Karl Pillemer. The Dows volunteered to bring refreshments. Everyone is welcome to join us for discussion of this book.

Summary: After a chance encounter with an extraordinary ninety-year-old woman, renowned gerontologist Karl Pillemer began to wonder what older people know about life that the rest of us don't. His quest led him to interview more than one thousand Americans over the age of sixty-five to seek their counsel on all the big issues- children, marriage, money, career, aging. Their moving stories and uncompromisingly honest answers often surprised him. And he found that he consistently heard advice that pointed to these thirty lessons for living. Here he weaves their personal recollections of difficulties overcome and lives well lived into a timeless book filled with the hard-won advice these older Americans wish someone had given them when they were young.  
[From Amazon review]

## MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

Julie Haydon

The children of Joyful Noise! are making great musical progress. We have 8 students signed up from the Alameda Boys and Girls Club, and it is really wonderful to welcome these children through our doors. We have also had some new singers joining in with the adult choir. I am thankful to all of the singers and ringers who keep our halls filled with music each week.

Our Trinity musical ensembles are busy preparing a fun afternoon for you to enjoy songs from musicals, movies, and TV shows on **Sunday, May 6**, at 3:00 p.m. Afterwards, we'll enjoy ice cream together. This is a great chance to invite your friends and neighbors to Trinity. We are all seeking moments of connection, joy and laughter. Offer that gift freely!



Finally, consider stopping by Trinity on **Saturday, April 21**, to join in with singers from far and near for a day of music from the Sacred Harp tradition. This event, in memory of Linda Domholt, who participated in this group, will be from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is beautiful music, and anyone can join in on the fun, no previous experience required.



Pastor Craig Minich

**MOST SUCCESSFUL EBLYP MARDI-GRAS FUNDRAISER EVER!** We've closed the books on this event and it's official - our 18th annual Mardi Gras Fund-raiser was our most successful event in the EBLYP's history in terms of attendance, amounts of money we raised, and overall fun from the event! We raised close to \$14,000 to support our Youth Ministries, and we couldn't have done it without you! This event is budgeted to raise one sixth of our entire budget for the year. Thank you again for helping the EBLYP remain fiscally strong!

**NEW CONFIRMATION CLASS PROPOSED FOR FALL 2018!** Our next EBLYP confirmation class should be forming in the fall of 2018 (I and the other pastors of the EBLYP congregations are still in talks about this). Please contact Jessica Fleischman, Pastor Stephanie, or Pastor Craig to discuss joining the next class.

**FAMILY MINISTRY EVENTS.** EBLYP's Easter 'Egg'stravaganza, our annual Easter Egg hunt was held on Saturday, March 31 at United Lutheran Church. Since it occurred after the writing of this article, please look to next month's article for that update.

**JOYFUL NOISE! CHOIR.** I attended the March 21 Joyful Noise! class, assisting Julie. We love working together, laughing together, teaching together, and our collaboration strengthens both our ministries! The kids are great, and there is a wonderful energy!

**GET MINISTRY UPDATE.** Our elementary youth group, GET, met March 18 at St. Paul Lutheran Church for our monthly meeting. We enjoyed snacks, checked-in with each other about how we are doing, prayed together, sang songs together, and did a interactive Bible study about Lenten preparation for Easter. GET together, GET excited, and GET connected with God!!!

**MYLK MINISTRY UPDATE.** Our middle school youth group met at Trinity Alameda March 11 for our monthly meeting. We are planning a roller skating party for late April or early May, dates TBA. Also, on March 4, our MYLK group went to see the movie *Black Panther* in Alameda with Pr. Stephanie! We returned to church where we had an in depth and fascinating hour-long discussion about the movie in relation to our faith.

**SNL MINISTRY UPDATES!!!** SEVEN EBLYP youth were elected to the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee at the Synod-wide senior high retreat in the Santa Cruz mountains at Mt. Cross February 23-25! Four Trinity Alameda youth were elected for another, or a new, one-year term to serve - Chase Beardsley (secretary), Sophia Hoffman, Joanna Ruiz, and Nick Hayes. Three youth from St Paul Lutheran Church were elected as well. They are Kylie Halmi, Kiki Valenzuela, and Maggie Werner. Olivia Tyreman from St. Paul and Terran Smiley from United Lutheran finished up one-year terms. To those finishing up, thank you for your service; for those serving for this new year, we are praying for your leadership and faith development. Our next event is to attend the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly in Sacramento in May.

**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. SNLers will be serving at Trinity-Alameda's crab feed April 7. Also, Trinity-Alameda senior high youth will be serving at Trinity's Easter Sunday breakfast on April 1 (no foolin'!), again to help raise funds. In addition to these opportunities, please support us with prayers to help us get there!!!

## MARCH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

### Pastor's Stephanie's Report:

I continue unpacking, and am settling in well at Trinity and in Alameda, acquainting myself with our members and local colleagues.

I have been in touch with Rev. Laura Rose at First Congregational to discuss participation in a local CROP walk.

I'm working to better utilize our Facebook account and Nextdoor to publicize special events and special worship at Trinity.

### Committee Reports:

**Christian education:** Resources (websites) for Christian education programs and ideas for types of Christian education programs (to include all age groups) were discussed at the last committee meeting.

**Fellowship:** The EBLYP Youth will again provide necessary help at the Crab Feed, and the council approved the committee's recommendation that the proceeds from this event go to help fund the Youth Group's trip to the National Youth Gathering this June in Houston.

**Mission and Service:** The committee received copies of the ELCA's draft Social Statement on Women and Justice and is looking at ways to review it and how to get congregation input. The ELCA is looking for remarks on it before September.

The committee has received no further information about how we can be active in supporting Alameda's Warming Center (for homeless).

**Property:** There is again water leakage in the narthex and the sanctuary from the underground heating pipes. Three courses of action have been suggested:

- turn off the 'zones' in which there is a leak (this has been done) and see whether the remaining zone is sufficient to heat the church;
- abandon the radiant heating and purchase above ground radiators that would utilize the same boiler that we now have – cost unknown;
- tear up the floor, replace the coils, and repair the floor - cost unknown.

**Worship and Music:** Julie Haydon recently conducted sing-a-longs with the Alameda Boys and Girls Club and is interested in connecting with

other organizations or underserved children in Alameda to widen the reach of Trinity's music ministry. She would also like to explore ways to have more consistent children/youth participation in Sunday School and church services.

Rob Cabrera is helping Julie transcribe music to be translated into Braille, as the choir now has two visually-impaired members: Tony and Alysa.

Peter Dow arranged to get a \$250 gift card from Thrivent to spend on supplies for the children's choir. It will be used to purchase items like song folders, some small percussion instruments, and practice CDs for the kids and to help pay for program printing costs for the concert.

**WELCA:** Trinity women again plan to join women of St. Paul Lutheran for a Women's Retreat scheduled for September 14-16.

### Old/New Business

A motion passed that Trinity will pay the fees associated with background checks of those needing clearance to work or volunteer at Trinity.

Pastor Stephanie is working with the Altar Guild and Visual Enrichment Committee to determine the responsibilities of each, with the eventual goal of getting both groups functioning as part of the Music and Worship team instead of separately.

As of March 15, the total amount raised to pay for the educational building roof was \$8,040.

There was some discussion about fund-raising efforts –how to make fund-raising more intentional to decrease the feeling of constantly being asked to give to various causes.

Plans are being made for a Visioning Retreat for council members and Julie Haydon. The council prefers a day-long session rather than an overnight. The Synod Assembly is June 1-3 in Sacramento. It's the same weekend as Music Ministry Sunday, so council members who are choir members are not available to attend. Pastor Stephanie will reach out to congregation members for volunteers (2) to attend with her.

The next council meeting will be April 19.

### FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Our next Food Bank Sunday is **April 8**. There is a barrel in the fellowship hall or narthex in which to put your non-perishable food donations. Please make sure that packages are unopened and do not exceed the "Sell by/Use by" date. As the number of Food Bank clients increases, the Alameda Food Bank appreciates your help.

### SECOND MILE GIVING for APRIL

#### Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Since 1952, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary has equipped faithful leaders who enliven the church and care for the world. Today is a new day for theological education in the West. With expanded residential and online learning options, new faculty, shared teaching resources within Cal Lutheran and the Graduate Theological Union, our students learn, live, and

serve in a place that is multi-cultural, economically diverse, and invigorating.

PLTS is one of eight seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a founding member of the Graduate Theological Union, and a graduate school of California Lutheran University. PLTS was the first ELCA seminary to become Reconciling in Christ (RIC).

Theological education at PLTS is done in the context of people who are rich and poor, liberal and conservative, and a wide array of human race, religion, sexuality, education, experience, and background. If our theology did not take all people into account, it would be deficient.

Visit [www.plts.edu](http://www.plts.edu) to learn more about our programs and upcoming events, or follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pltsofclu/>. Please keep the seminary in your prayers this month and consider an additional offering toward their ministries.



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4 Nick Hayes  
14 Mary Kay Wentz



23 Jim Ostergren  
25 Pastor Stephanie Johnson



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