

TRINITY BUILDER

May 2018
Trinity Lutheran Church, Alameda, CA



A Word from the PASTOR



MAY BLESSINGS FROM PASTOR STEPHANIE

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. - *Colossians 1: 11 – 12*

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. - *1 Thessalonians 5:23*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. - *Romans 15:13*

May the LORD give strength to his people!

May the LORD bless his people with peace! - *Psalms 29:11*

May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance. - *Jude 1:2*

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. - *Psalms 126:5*

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. - *Romans 15:5-6*



MAKE TRINITY YOUR NEW CHURCH HOME

Have you been worshipping with us for a little while and thinking about making Trinity your church home? Pastor Stephanie would like to talk to you about ways you might get “plugged in” here at Trinity. Whether you have questions regarding what we as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America believe, how you might be able to put your skills and passion to work here with others, or if you simply want to stop being a “visitor” and begin digging your roots in here, Pastor Stephanie wants to help.

Please grab coffee/breakfast with her at our traditional first Sunday “Breakfast Between” **Sunday, May 6**, at 9:00 a.m. to begin our conversation!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

In May we welcome women to join the Women’s Bible Study as we look at Colossians. We meet at 9:00 a.m. on the first and third Wednesdays.

- May 2:** Colossians 1-2
- May 16:** Colossian 3-4



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.



MAY CONGREGATION MEETING

The regular May congregation meeting will be on **May 20** after the 10:30 worship service. The main purpose of the meeting is to elect new council members. Two seats are open as a result of two members resigning before the end of their terms.

MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE

Julie Haydon

Our spring concert is just around the corner. Don't miss the opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to come enjoy an afternoon of light-hearted music from musicals, movies, and TV shows, featuring our choir, bells, ukulele group, and our children's choir. Just inviting someone is a chance for them to hear more about our music ministry and our opportunities for young people and families. The program includes songs from *Rent*, *The Music Man*, *Carousel*, *The Sound of Music*, and more: **Sunday May 6** at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, free of charge! And after the concert, we'll all enjoy ice cream together.

Joyful Noise! Community Children's Choir continues to grow; we have over 20 members now! The most exciting part is that each week, we have had at least one new child come with a friend, so it is very exciting to see that other families are sharing the news about our program and are inviting their friends. Have you shared our news yet? We're just to about to go on break for the summer, but it's always a good idea to keep planting seeds about our offerings so that families can consider whether they might participate in the fall with us.



Music Ministry Sunday is coming up on **Sunday, June 3**, at the 10:30 service. We'll be filling the worship service with music through the choir, bells, and with guest instrumentalists celebrating all of the ways that we praise God through our Music Ministry.

Choir and bells take a break during the summer. We'll have a sign up available for volunteers to make musical offerings at the 10:30 services. We welcome you to share your gifts, even if you aren't a regular participant in the music ministry.

We'll be welcoming young families back again with a concert for young children in late August, more details to come!

We received some great news that Trinity received a grant from the "Giving is Receiving" fund of United Lutheran in order to support the work of Joyful Noise! Community Children's Choir. This grant will help defray costs associated with the program and help make it possible for us to continue offering this program free of charge to local families. We also received funds from the Thrivent foundation thanks to Peter Dow. All of this support helps make our efforts to reach out more sustainable.



MISSION AND SERVICE COMMITTEE

Kathy Booker

The Mission and Service Committee has just recently learned that Kagitumba has a new pastor. Rev. Robert Mukundane has responded to our email, and he seems excited to work with us. That we have already raised some money for their church building has restored their hope again. Pastor Robert writes that he is very happy to hear that our congregation keeps them in our weekly prayers. The Kagitumba congregation is small with about 86 people; about 44 are youth under 17 years old. The others are mostly women. Kagitumba is found in northeast part of the country (Rwanda). It is bordered to the east by Tanzania and to the north by Uganda.

Trinity has partnered with Faith Lutheran in Chico for this Companionship with Kagitumba. They send \$500 every quarter to Kagitumba to pay the pastor’s salary, and the parish in Kagitumba has used some of that to start the foundation for the new church building. However, Faith, Chico has decided that they can’t raise funds for the building of the church because of other commitments. Pastor Robert has sent pictures of the old church that they have renovated with dry bricks and other good materials as required by government laws. He also sent a budget for the new building and pictures of the foundation. These will be posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. The Mission and Service Committee is hoping to send some of the funds soon as well as working to deepen our relationship with Kagitumba through continued prayers and sharing of photos, stories, celebrations, etc. We pray that our companionship will grow and be a blessing to both of our communities.



AN INVITATION TO THE WOMEN OF TRINITY

The Women of St. Paul Lutheran Church invite you to their 2018 Annual Women’s Retreat.

When: **September 14-16**

Where: San Damiano Retreat, Danville

Cost: (per person-including 6 meals)

Single Occupancy: \$274.00

Double Occupancy: \$244.00

Commuter Rate: \$76.00 (includes lunch and dinner on Saturday)

Space is limited. Make your reservation by contacting Joilee Webb at: jlpwebb@pacbell.net or 510-638-7935

Stay tuned for more information regarding the retreat program. Contact Elizabeth Madaras for general information about the retreat.

**SECOND ANNUAL
BENEFIT CONCERT**

WE ARE OAKLAND

**Friday, May 11, 2018
7:00pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
650 Alma Ave, Oakland, CA
FREE ENTRY**

A one-of-a-kind night of music and community, featuring rock & roll, classical, brass and Broadway works from a variety of local artists, including special guests **Oakland Youth Chorus, Joseph Hébert of the Oakland Symphony**, and more!



Your free will donation at this concert will benefit three groups in our Oakland community: **OUR YOUTH, OUR ELDERS, AND OUR HOMELESS.**
For more information, please contact Jon Gallo at weareoaklandconcert@gmail.com



EASTER FUNDAY THANK-YOU

Countless thanks to all those who made our Easter Funday such a delight! Through the generous sharing of gifts and time by many including Susan Bell, Carol Blomberg, Starr Brown, Geoff Burnaford, Eva Fields, Jessica Fleischman, Marjorie Garner, Candace Gutleben, Marvera Kline, and Pastor Stephanie, Trinity was able to offer a program of songs, Easter crafts, and a Easter egg hunt to the children in our community on March 31. Our goal was to present a program that gave the real message of Easter, and that truly happened. We look forward now to Easter Funday 2019!

With great gratitude,
Mary James



Pastor Craig Minich

FAMILY MINISTRY Easter 'Egg'stravaganza: Our Annual Easter Egg hunt held on Saturday, March 31, at United Lutheran Church was a smashing success. We had beautiful weather, and members hosted us warmly with a hot dog lunch with loads of healthy snacks and beverages. We had participants and families from each of our 5 EBLYP congregations attend, including families from Bethlehem Lutheran. Our senior high and middle school leaders led songs and the Lego and craft stations, implemented their plans for each of the 3 age-defined egg hunts, and led games after. Pastor Craig led a Bible story reminding everyone there of the real meaning of Easter. It was an intergenerational event, much of it led by our youth, and there were many smiles. We are already looking forward to next year's event!

JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR - I attended the April 18 Joyful Noise class, assisting Julie. I led some games and did a kinesthetic exercise using tree imagery to help the youth stay 'rooted' as they practice and perform. The kids are great and there is a wonderful energy!

G.E.T. MINISTRY UPDATE - Our elementary youth group, G.E.T., met April 15 at St. Paul Lutheran Church for our monthly meeting. We checked-in with each other about how we are doing, what challenges we are facing, and our hopes for the near future. We had a faith discussion about God's Easter Promise in Jesus, and we prayed together in a kinesthetic game we made up called 'prayer-sketball' (think h.o.r.s.e with each shot punctuated with prayer). It was active and fun, and boy can our youth come up with depthful and heartfelt prayers. G.E.T. together, G.E.T. excited, and G.E.T. connected with God!!!

MYLK MINISTRY UPDATE - Our Middle School youth are planning a roller-skating party in mid-May for our end of year party, date to be announced.

SNL MINISTRY UPDATES!!!

Three EBLYP youth attended the Sierra Pacific Synod BASH at St. John Lutheran Church in Sacramento on Saturday, April 21, to prepare for the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston 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 were servers at Trinity-Alameda's crab feed April 7 and made \$274 just in tips. It was a fun night! Our next fundraiser is a cupcake sale that will take place in early May; orders taken in late April. In addition to these opportunities, please support us with prayers to help us get there!!!"

SNL had a SafeTalk Suicide prevention workshop on Sunday, April 29, at St. Paul Lutheran Church. It was led by Pr. John Swanson, Coast Guard chaplain, who is a trainer with LifeWorks. See next month's article for a report. Also, on that note, Pr. Craig took part in an intensive two-day training on suicide intervention called ASIST in March on Coast Guard Island. It was an incredibly challenging and useful training.

MYLK & SNL SERVICE UPDATE: Our middle and high school youth served with Rebuilding Together Oakland to help refurbish the home of an elderly resident who is not able to adequately upkeep their house. This event took place on Saturday, April 28. Please look to next month's article for how this event turned out!

SPSYC YOUTH LEADERS update: Our next event is to attend the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly in Sacramento in June.

Holy Week affords me a special opportunity to worship at each of the EBLP congregations I serve, all in the same (!) week. For the month of April I attended all five of EBLP congregations, and preached at 4 out of the 5 congregations (I preached at Trinity Alameda on April 29). It is a meaningful opportunity to share in the journey to Easter and in proclaiming God's promises in the season of Easter; what a blessing to be able to have such consistent connections with our congregations for the last week of March and the whole of the month of April. It's not usually a possibility with the varied schedule our youth ministry requires. #gratitude

APRIL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

Pastor's Stephanie's Report:

With Lenten and Easter Sunday services behind me, I have been able to focus on "next steps" – programming, visitation, and vision casting.

- Until now, relationship building has been rather informal, through participation in committee meetings, church programs, and other events. This has helped me get to know people by name and face in less overwhelming numbers than those at large gatherings like Sunday morning. I hosted Trinity's junior high and senior high youth for "Pizza at the Parsonage" in an effort to begin establishing rapport with the youth and invite them to approach me with their thoughts and concerns. Now I will begin visiting people in their homes.

First I will focus on a couple of our shut-ins, some "repeat visitors" who haven't become formal members of Trinity yet, and a few people who have been brought to my attention as having not attended in an extended period of time. I intend to visit with each household in the congregation by the end of August, but that may need to extend into September depending upon vacation schedules.

- My general rules of thumb about visitation:
 - Visit each shut-in with communion at least once a month.
 - Make a call to regular worship attendees we haven't seen for 2 consecutive Sundays unless I know that they are away. (I will need your help to recognize this as I'm often distracted on Sunday mornings, and it is hard to remember exactly who is there when).
 - Make hospital visits as necessary.
- I will hold new member conversations/classes in May after coordinating times with a couple prospective new members.
- Beginning with this year's high school graduates, I am going to begin congregational recognition of rites of passage. Some of these events will include:

welcoming young adults (at high school graduation), celebrating when someone receives his/her first driver's license, a special blessing for those starting at a new school during our blessing of the backpacks, blessing families with a newly adopted child, presentation of a children's level Bible - 2nd grade, presentation with a student Bible – 7th grade, and other events in the life of families and our children.

I will be at Synod Assembly June 1-3, meaning I most likely will not be available to lead worship on Sunday June 3 (which is Music Sunday). Rev. Meg Brogan has agreed to preside.

I will be attending a continuing education program (Executive Skills for Church Leaders) July 16-18 at Cal Lutheran.

Pastor Stephanie would like to purchase two new wireless lavalier microphones at a cost approximately \$300 for both. This was approved by the council, with money to come from the IT Fund, since we think that our new website project will come in under budget.

Pastor Stephanie would like us to consider installing an Audio Induction Loop in the sanctuary. It pairs with t-switches in hearing aids and cochlear implants to broadcast the sound from the wireless mikes directly into the hearing aids/implants. It will cost about \$6,000 with installation. Pastor Stephanie will research this some more.

Committee Reports:

Evangelism: VBS is set for August 13-17.

The committee decided to order visitor cards from Augsburg.

The committee will be ordering some books to add to our Children's Library and wants to host a coffee hour to introduce the Children's Library. They will also sponsor a summer reading program with prizes.

There were not as many children at Easter Funday this year, but the response from parents was good.

(Council meeting notes continued on next page)

(April council meeting notes continued)

The committee is exploring the possibility of periodic Saturday Fundays and also the possibility of having activity days when school is closed for teacher workdays.

Fellowship: About \$2,400 was raised from the Crab Feed for the EBLYP for their trip to Houston.

Mission and Service: The Committee voted to give \$1,000 from our Kagitumba fund to PICO International, specifically to Pastor John R. for his work with Rwanda.

The Hunger Workshop in Davis will be Oct. 13.

Property: The final cost of the roofing project for the education building (including installation of a new flat roof, replacement of rotted sections, and replacement of a skylight) was \$24,041.33. As of April 15, we have received donations totaling \$8,990.

Anita Burnaford applied for and received a \$250 Thrivent Action Team Grant to purchase new blinds and some cabinets for the laundry room in the parsonage.

Worship and Music: The partnership with the Alameda Boys and Girls Club is going well. A diverse group of 8 children signed up to be a part of Joyful Noise. Two Joyful Noise! families attended our Easter Funday celebration. Recently, a new family joined after seeing our poster out front, so the publicity really does make a difference.

The Christian Education committee members want to build connections with families participating in Joyful Noise!, so they will start

to do that with small roles like ushering at our concerts, making gift bags for the kids, and occasionally helping out at Wednesday rehearsals.

Music and Worship is in favor of another community event targeting families in August (around back to school time) as we did last year. This helped us a lot in starting up Joyful Noise! Possible dates are Saturday August 25 or Saturday Sept. 15.

Peter Dow secured \$250 to buy supplies for Joyful Noise! In addition, Julie received a grant from United Lutheran's Giving is Receiving Fund. Both of these sources will help us defray expenses for this program.

Old/New Business

A Visioning Retreat for council members will take place on Saturday, April 28.

Carol Blomberg and Nick Hayes will attend the Synod Assembly with Pastor Stephanie as voting members. Harvey Blomberg will also be there as a retired pastor.

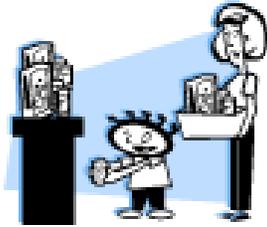
Henry Mills has agreed to serve on the council as Youth Rep for another year. Susan Widule and possibly Susan Bell are resigning from the council. Nominations for replacements will be taken for the next two Sundays. If there are people who are willing to serve, we will have a congregation meeting on May 20 to elect members. If there are no members who wish to serve, the council will have only 9 members, which is the fewest allowed by our constitution.

GOD IS HERE!



FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Remember Food Bank Sunday on **May 13**. 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.



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 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>Pastor: Rev. Stephanie Johnson 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) Secretary: Mike Luque-19 (EBLP) Recording Secretary: Jessica Fleischman Treasurer: Ann Kenyon Pastor: Rev. Stephanie Johnson Susan Bell-20 (Evangelism) Nick Hayes-20 (Mission & Service) Karol Luque-20 (EBLYP, Worship & 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>
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