

# TRINITY BUILDER

July 2018

Trinity Lutheran Church, Alameda, CA

## A Word from the PASTOR



Each July 4<sup>th</sup> we pause to remember and be thankful for our freedom. Women and men have paid a high price so that we might live in relative safety and so that our rights and freedom might be protected.

When was the last time you pondered the freedom you have through Christ's death? The letter to the Galatians speaks directly to this freedom. Paul writes: "For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (5:13-14).

Martin Luther took these lines and wrote an entire treatise about how Christ has set us free from the bondage of "sin, death, and the power of the devil." He wrote, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all" (Freedom of a Christian). He speaks about these seemingly contradictory statements in regards to the justification and salvation we receive through Christ. Because of Christ's death on the Cross, we no longer live in fear of having to prove to God we are worthy of God's love and protection. Rather, God gives that to us freely. However, God sent Christ to save us for a purpose. That purpose is that we might focus less on our own needs and wants – how we can become more attractive or acceptable to society or our God – and focus our efforts on loving and serving our neighbor.

In this era of imagining that our freedom means protecting our own individual rights, let us ponder the responsibility that this costly freedom lays upon our own shoulders. Our freedom has been granted to us, both in this nation and by Christ's death, that we would love and serve our neighbors. Not just the neighbors who look like us; not simply the neighbors we agree with; not only the neighbors we enjoy spending time with. We are free to love and serve anyone in need – our homeless neighbor; our hungry neighbor; our refugee neighbor; our inquisitive neighbor; our LGBTQ neighbor; our elderly neighbor; our young neighbor; our uppity neighbor; our smelly neighbor; our loud neighbor; our neighbors of other faiths, our neighbors of a different color – all of our neighbors. This Independence Day as you give thanks for the freedom won by our brave women and men throughout our nation's history, spend a few more moments thanking God for the freedom we enjoy through Christ and consider where God may be asking you to serve His cause as well.

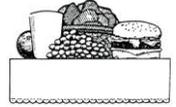
Blessings,

Pastor Stephanie



## FOURTH OF JULY BARBECUE

As most of you know, **July 4<sup>th</sup>** is the day for a big parade in Alameda. You are again invited to join Trinity members and friends in viewing the parade as it passes near Trinity on Encinal Avenue. Following the parade there will be a **potluck barbecue**, organized by the Fellowship Committee, in the fellowship hall. The Fellowship Committee will provide sausages/hot dog/vegetarian options, and drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.



## TRINITY BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Trinity Book Club will be **Wednesday, July 11**, at 7:30 p.m. in the church meeting room. Beth Greene will provide refreshments. The book to be discussed will be *The Underground Railroad: A Novel* by Colson Whitehead. If this book interests you, please read it and join the discussion on July 11. Anyone is welcome.



## SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

Again this year there is a community-wide drive to collect school supplies for Alameda's formerly homeless and very low-income students through a campaign named "Equipped 4 Success." The goal is 1,000 filled backpacks. Alameda Point Collaborative is a partner in this effort. The 250 school-aged youth at APC are included in the 1,000. Faith communities are being asked to participate in the drive. Each student, kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, should have a new backpack with grade appropriate supplies that they need to be ready to learn on the first day of school.

Trinity will be collecting school supplies on **July 1, July 8, July 15, and July 22**. There will be a specially designated box in the church entryway for your contributions. The list of needed items is below. A shopping list of the items will be available in the church entryway on July 1.

You may also contribute financially. Our special offering dates will be **July 22 and 29**. Please make checks out to Trinity and mark in the memo field that it is for School Supplies. The need is greater now than ever before.

The following items are being collected (new only please):

Backpacks	Glue sticks	Pencil Sharpeners
Binder paper, college ruled	Highlighter pens	Pencils #2
Binder paper, wide ruled	Index cards	Mechanical pencils
Binders, 1" hard cover 3 ring	Markers, broad tip	Pens- blue ink
Colored pencils	Markers, thin tip	Pens- black ink
Composition notebooks	Notebooks, college-ruled, spiral bound	Pocket folders
Crayons (Crayola)	Notebooks, wide-ruled, spiral bound	Scissors, adult
Drawing pads (white paper)		Scissors, blunt
Erasers, pink		Subject dividers





**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 2018 SUMMER FAMILY WEEK**  
(The week formerly known as Vacation Bible School)

**August 13 – August 17**

**6:00 p.m. to approx. 7:30 p.m.**

ReNew Family Week invites kids and their families to learn about Jesus, help build our community, and grow as we all become stewards of God's creation.

**At ReNew: The Green VBS we will:**

- Explore God's Word through Jesus' Parable of the Sower
- Learn about God's creation and what we can do to care for it
- Meet members of our community who are stewards of the environment
- Gather as multi-generational family groups, participating together as moms, dads, siblings, grandparents and those we welcome into our family to fill those rolls during the week.
  - Make new friends and have a great time!

Calling all kids ages 2 through 102 who want to ReNew!  
Let's grow in faith, have fun, and change the world!

To register, contact: Trinity Lutheran Church's Office – 510.522.5220 or [TrinityAlameda@gmail.com](mailto:TrinityAlameda@gmail.com)



### **KAGITUMBA UPDATE**

Pastor Stephanie and Kathy Booker attended their first ever Rwanda Connection on June 9 at Church of the Masters in Sacramento, CA. The Rwanda Connection is a gathering of all the congregations that are in companionship with Rwanda. Pastor John Rutsindintwarane reported on his work with PICO-Rwanda in several different communities. Karl Smith reported on the Rwamagana Lutheran School. One of the school's success stories is graduate Pacifique Mucyo, who received a full scholarship to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The school is interviewing applicants for Director of the Rwamagana Lutheran School as Robin is retiring. Jim Line of Peace Lutheran Church in Grass Valley spoke of the seminary student that they are sponsoring. Bishop Mark Holmerud spoke about planning a 2019 delegation to Rwanda. It would be great if some members of Trinity would consider going.



Pastor Craig Minich

**FAMILY MINISTRY** - On Friday, June 8, our senior high youth (SNL) put on the final Parents' Night Out babysitting event for the semester for youth aged 10 and under. We had over fifteen kids attend with five Senior High leaders and myself. We prayed and played games outside, and we sang, watched a video, and ate pizza for dinner. There was a great energy and beautiful weather!

On July 1, we offered an all ages Oakland Athletics game outing, and 19 congregants from EBLYP congregations bought tickets. Please see next month's EBLYP update for the full story.

**G.E.T. MINISTRY UPDATE - SUMMER CAMP EDITION!** - Four youth (Cecil, Nicholas, Hazel, and my niece Samantha from Florida,) and I will be attending the Upper-Elementary Camp Week, Pathfinders, at Mount Cross Lutheran Camp in the Santa Cruz Mountains, July 8-13. Please pray for a faith deepening week for our youth! Also, I will be working with each of our EBLYP congregations' Vacation Bible Schools, and I encourage all our G.E.T. youth to participate with me!!! **G.E.T. together, G.E.T. excited, and G.E.T. connected with God!!!**

**MYLK MINISTRY UPDATE** - Our middle school youth will be attending Adventures on the Coast camp at Mount Cross the week of July 8-13. We will have daily faith discussions, sing camp songs around the campfire, take part in adventures like ocean kayaking, surfing lessons, and the High Ropes Course; and we will serve in two service projects. It's a full week with lots of bonding and new friendships! Please pray for a faith-deepening week for our youth. Also, many of our Middle School youth will be helping out at the various Vacation Bible Schools taking place later this summer. If you have not signed up and would like to be a helper, please contact Pastor Craig ASAP!

**SNL MINISTRY UPDATES!!!** - NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING is happening! I'm writing this newsletter article while on the plane to Houston (Sunday, June 24)! I am leading our senior high delegation (Kiki, Ivonna, Joanna) attending the Multi-Cultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) along with 600 other multicultural youth. On July 27, the rest of our delegation (Jenna, Naomi, Gary, Kylie, Jonathan, Chase, and Olivia) will join us and over 35,000 youth and adults. Please continue to support us with prayers to help our experience in Houston be a transformative experience for our youth and adults!!! At the MYLE event, as well as at the National Youth Gathering, our youth will have opportunities to learn about their faith and glean opportunities to work for God's justice in the world, to do hands-on service work and learn the accompaniment model of hearing other people's stories and sharing our own, to meet fellow Lutheran youth from across our country, and to worship and play together. In addition to service learning in the accompaniment model and immersion in the Interactive Learning Center, we will also gather as a synod under the leadership of our Bishop, Mark Holmerud, as well as gather with the whole group each night in NRG Stadium to sing and hear renowned speakers and to worship together.

**SPSYC YOUTH LEADERS update** - Four of our eight Synod youth committee leaders attended the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly in Sacramento, June 1-3: Nick Hayes, Chase Beardsley, Sophia Hofmann, and Kiki Valenzuela. Sophia and Nick were elected to youth and young adult positions on the synod council. They both gave 2-minute speeches in front of over 400 people! I'm so proud of them both! Also, Chase gave a faith talk in front of the whole assembly - he did well in showing strength in vulnerability. These young leaders are representing our youth ministry in the greater synod!

**CON 'GRAD' ULATIONS** to our EBLYP graduates! It's always a tough time year for me as we celebrate their high school graduations and bless them as they move onto new chairs in their (new) adult lives. Here's to our graduates: Brendan Mills, Rosalyn Luque, Nick Hayes, Forrest Sinnott, Amelia Devany, Cai Freeman, Faye Ferris, Alec Simas, and Tommy Gray. May you know the calming balm of God's enduring Grace in all that you do!

**RELAY FOR LIFE UPDATE**

What a lovely time I had at the Relay for Life on June 9 on the track at Encinal High School! It was a really beautiful day, and I met up with so many wonderful people including our own Joanne Robinson, Carol Blomberg and Helen Pedersen. This was an event that brought together quite a number of caring and thoughtful people. I was impressed with the tent/event that Immanuel Lutheran had, giving people the opportunity to dress up and have their picture taken. And First Congregational Church had a tent with many of their youth there.

As I enjoyed the day and the excellent company, I started to wonder if we at Trinity might want to have a more active presence at the 2019 Relay for Life next June to support that effort. If we did, it would be a combo event with flavors of Evangelism, Mission and Service as well as Fellowship. Could be a really wonderful time to hang out together as well as reach out to some amazing people there. If this is something that you think you might be interested in, given enough advance information of the date etc., please let me or Joanne Robinson know, and we will pursue this further.

Hugs and Blessings,  
Mary James

PS. If you had hoped to contribute this year and missed, donations to the America Cancer Society can still be made until the end of August. Just give your check to Joanne or Jessica.



**WE CAN USE YOUR UNUSED HOTEL TOILETRIES**

Have you been traveling? Do you still have a trip planned? Please bring in your unused hotel toiletries to help us fill homeless help bags for “God’s Work. Our Hands” Sunday.

Our goal is to provide basic necessities to the homeless we encounter everyday as we drive or walk through town. Bags will include basic toiletry items (shampoo, soap, lotion, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc), two protein/granola bars, two bottles of water, and a pair of socks.

More information will be forthcoming as September approaches, but please remember to grab your toiletries when you stay in a hotel or go on a cruise so you can donate them to this important project.



**NOTES FROM JUNE COUNCIL MEETING**

Summer recess – no June church council meeting

### FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Remember Food Bank Sunday on **July 8**. 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.



*What so ever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.*

### SECOND MILE GIVING FOR JULY

#### San Francisco Night Ministry

San Francisco Night Ministry, is often referred to as the Church's "Night Shift." We are engaged in over 30,000 significant conversations and serve over 10,500 meals each year, becoming an important bridge and steady support for many people as they face the darkness of the night, but not alone. We provide compassionate, non-judgmental pastoral care, care of the soul, counseling, referrals, and crisis intervention to anyone in any kind of distress, every night of the year between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m.

Please keep the Night Ministry 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.



### JULY BIRTHDAYS

- July 4 Diane Alexander
- July 13 Rebecca Chrisman
- July 15 Raymond Collins
- July 18 Harvey Blomberg



- July 24 Todd Beardsley
- July 24 Bob Kenyon
- July 24 Pastor Ned O'Donnell
- July 24 Don Sherratt



<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 &amp; Music) Vice President: John Kofranek-19 (Property) Secretary: Mike Luque-19 (EBLP) Recording Secretary: Jessica Fleischman Treasurer: Ann Kenyon Pastor: Rev. Stephanie Johnson Chase Beardsley-19 Nick Hayes-20 (Mission &amp; Service) Karol Luque-20 (EBLYP, Worship &amp; Music) Elizabeth Madaras-20 (EBLP, Fellowship, Finance) Henry Mills-19 Mark Schoenrock-20 (Green Team) Margie Sherratt-20 Mary Kay Wentz-19 (Trinity Seniors, Visual Enrichment)</p>
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