



# TRINITY BUILDER

April 2019

Trinity Lutheran Church, Alameda, CA



## A Word from the PASTOR



Easter baskets, Easter bonnets, Easter candy, Easter dresses, Easter eggs, Easter lilies, the Easter Bunny...Easter! Easter! Easter! For all the attention that Easter receives, I sometimes wonder whether we really do it justice.

Easter is a big part, but only part, of a bigger story. In order to conquer death, Jesus first had to die. Before he died, Jesus taught and led his disciples and left them with his legacy.

Holy Week is the week before Easter where we are offered the opportunity to retell and relive the final week of Jesus' life. It begins with the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem with his disciples to a hero's welcome—a ticker tape parade, if you will—on Palm Sunday. How could anyone along that parade route have known that the events of the week would take such a horrible turn. On Maundy Thursday we enter into the Upper Room where Jesus and his disciples ate the Passover Seder meal. We don't only remember Jesus instituting the sacrament of Communion, we also are reminded of Jesus' servant heart and his commandment that we serve others with the same love and humility he has shown us. His disciples did not know that evening just to what lengths Jesus would go in his love and service.

Jesus' ultimate act of love occurs in his willingness to be handed over to be mocked, tortured, and executed for the crimes or sins committed by all of humanity. We remember on Good Friday that like those who were in Jerusalem, Jesus hangs on the Cross for our sins—not for his own.

So you see, there is a lot more to Easter than the empty tomb—more than the candy and the little girls in dresses. Please be sure to experience the story this year at our special Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Prepare your hearts for the ultimate joy of Jesus' Resurrection this Easter!

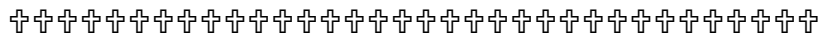
Blessings,  
Pastor Stephanie



### MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Mid-week Lenten services continue at Trinity and Immanuel Lutheran Churches. Pastor Dot Lundgren and Pastor Stephanie Johnson encourage you to come and be fed with this series: *Spirited Women- Encountering the First Women Believers.*

April 3	Joanna	5:30 p.m.	Supper at Immanuel
		6:30 p.m.	Worship at Immanuel
April 10	The Samaritan Woman	5:30 p.m.	Supper at Trinity
		6:30 p.m.	Worship at Trinity



### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Sunday, April 14 Palm Sunday 8:00 a.m. Worship service  
 9:00 a.m. Adult Faith Formation class  
 9:30 a.m. Children’s Sunday Funday  
 10:30 a.m. Worship service



Thursday, April 18 Maundy Thursday Hosted by Immanuel Lutheran Church  
 6:00 p.m. Dinner  
 7:00 p.m. Worship service

Friday, April 19 Good Friday Noon worship at Immanuel Lutheran  
 7:00 p.m. worship at Trinity Lutheran



Sunday, April 21 Easter Sunday 8:00 a.m. Worship service  
 9:00 a.m. Easter breakfast  
 10:30 a.m. Worship service  
 (NOTE: NO coffee hour following 10:30 service)



### ALL ABOUT EASTER FAMILY FUN DAY!

On **Saturday, April 13** (the day before Palm Sunday) from 10:00-11:00 a.m., we will have an "All About Easter" Family Funday Event! We'll share the Holy Week and Easter story in fun, experiential ways. Join us for crafts, singing, a walk through Holy Week, and an Easter celebration complete with an egg hunt. Be sure to share this event with your family and friends! Anyone with children (primarily toddlers through elementary school) will want to join us for this special event.

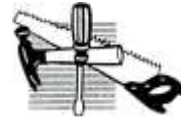
This event can't happen without your help! Please sign up in the narthex to donate Easter hunt prizes and candy or to volunteer a couple hours of your time to help make our Fun Day a success! Mary James can help answer questions on this: (510) 522-6033.



Many thanks for your help and support.

## ANNUAL SPRING CHURCH WORK DAY

Trinity's annual pre-Easter clean-up and fix-up day will be on **Saturday, April 6**, from 9:00 a.m. to about 2:00 p.m. There are a variety of cleaning, fixing, and yard work jobs to be done – there is a job for you. Lunch will be provided. Please help make the church property look its best for Easter.



## GROW DEEPER BIBLICAL ROOTS!

Deepen your faith journey by adding a Bible study or faith formation group to your week. There are four to choose from and more are the works!

### SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FAITH FORMATION CLASS



You're invited into conversation about the Small Catechism as we continue to explore *By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism*, a multi-session course designed to explore the biblical and historical context of the Small Catechism, its link to the church's faith, and its connection to Luther's life and your life today. Our conversation resumes April 14 with The Lord's Prayer. Purchase your participant's guide, *By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism*, for \$15 from Amazon or Pastor Stephanie.

The Adult Faith Formation Class meets in the meeting room next to the Pastor's office **each Sunday from 9:00 –10:00 a.m.**, except the first Sunday of the month when we encourage you to join us for the Early Coffee Hour. \*\*\*Please note we will NOT meet April 21, Easter Sunday.\*\*\*

### TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

A group of early risers meets on **Tuesday mornings** at 7:15 a.m. in the meeting room throughout the year. This group studies the Bible readings for the coming Sunday. All are welcome.

### DEEP THOUGHTS WITH PASTOR STEPHANIE

We're taking April off, but we hope you'll join us May 20. This discussion group meets the third and fourth Mondays of each month in the meeting room. We're enjoying the series *Animate: Faith*. Each session has a video component, a conversation time, and something to chew on when you leave. We'll hear from dynamic presenters about the following topics: God, Religion, Jesus, Salvation, Cross, Bible, and Church. You can get your participant guide from Pastor Stephanie. \$15 suggested donation.



### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We welcome women to join the Women's Bible Study at **10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays** in the meeting room. This month we will continue our study of the Gospel of Mark. \*\*\*Please note, we will NOT meet April 17.\*\*\*

## MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

Julie Haydon

Our Joyful Noise! Community Children's Choir is busy preparing for their upcoming Spring Concert on **Sunday, May 5**. To welcome families when they bring their children, we have started a coffee hour in the fellowship hall during Joyful Noise rehearsals. While children are rehearsing in the sanctuary, parents can socialize in the fellowship hall. We encourage church members to stop by and get to know the parents: Wednesdays 3:00 -4:45 p.m. (no rehearsal April 3). See below for more information.



### DO YOU HAVE TIME FOR A CUP OF COFFEE?

Stop by Wednesday afternoons from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and enjoy a cup of coffee with Pastor Stephanie and the families of our Joyful Noise kids! This is a great time to make some new friends and build relationships with parents of young children in our community. Contact Pastor Stephanie or Pamela Wong for more information.



### TRINITY BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Trinity Book Club will be **May 14** at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room. The book chosen for reading and discussion is *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Everyone is welcome to join us for discussion of this book.

From Amazon's web site:

The renowned and beloved *New York Times* bestselling author of *An Altar in the World* and *Learning to Walk in the Dark* recounts her moving discoveries of finding the sacred in unexpected places while teaching the world's religions to undergraduates in rural Georgia, revealing how God delights in confounding our expectations.

Barbara Brown Taylor continues her spiritual journey begun in *Leaving Church* of finding out what the world looks like after taking off her clergy collar. In *Holy Envy*, she contemplates the myriad ways other people and traditions encounter the Transcendent, both by digging deeper into those traditions herself and by seeing them through her students' eyes as she sets off with them on field trips to monasteries, temples, and mosques.

Throughout *Holy Envy*, Taylor weaves together stories from the classroom with reflections on how her own spiritual journey has been complicated and renewed by connecting with people of other traditions—even those whose truths are quite different from hers. The one constant in her odyssey is the sense that God is the one calling her to disown her version of God—a change that ultimately enriches her faith in other human beings and in God.



### THEOLOGY WORD OF THE MONTH

Don Groskreutz

Syneidēsis: the capacity to apply general principles of moral judgment to particular cases. From the Greek *syneidēsis*: conscience; literally, consciousness, awareness. "I am speaking the truth in Christ...my conscience [*syneidēsis*] confirms it by the Holy Spirit." Romans 9:1 NRSV

### STRETCH YOUR BODY, MIND, AND SPIRIT AT TRINITY

Join other Trinity members for some fellowship, stretching, and rejuvenation Fridays at 9:00 a.m. in our Fellowship Hall. The movement is gentle. The atmosphere is calming. The friendships are lasting. Please reach out to Susan Bell, Pamela Wong, or Pastor Stephanie for more information.



*Our Mission:  
Together in Christ  
Sharing, Supporting and  
Encouraging One Another  
In Health, Wellness and  
Capacity to Prosper in Our Spiritual Blessings.  
Journeying on the Path God has Prepared for Us.*



### WHAT GOES INTO READING THE PRAYERS ON SUNDAY IN WORSHIP AND AM I CUT OUT FOR IT?

Each Sunday in worship a lay leader leads us in praying the “Prayers of the People,” which are provided in written form to the volunteer who has agreed to serve in this role. Some of our volunteers find it a joy and a spiritual exercise to write these prayers in their own words; others read what has been provided word-for-word.

The Prayers of the People are just that: Prayers that are raised within the congregation. For this reason, it is important that we have the prayers read by members of the assembly and not simply by the Pastor. For some, praying out loud can be intimidating. However, you are encouraged to consider volunteering for this worship leadership role. Please let Pastor Stephanie or Jessica know if you are willing to serve in this way.



### ELCA WORLD HUNGER APPEAL PROGRAM

Mary James

On March 17, sixteen of us were fortunate to be able to enjoy learning more about our ELCA World Hunger Appeal program. Sharon Magnuson from the ELCA Hunger Program was here at the adult faith formation class, where she shared information on what we are able to do through this program, like supporting the Welders Co-op in Rwanda. The welding school there provides very valuable instruction in a manufacturing program that has a lot of demand.

We also learned about how we can support global farms and that 80% of the world’s food comes from the farms of small landowners.

There is also a new data base that we have supported here in the U.S. called MEANS : Matching Excess And Needs. This database has the potential to help people dealing with an excess of leftovers to get that food to people who can use it.

With regard to our World Hunger Appeal giving here at Trinity, we have come close to matching the \$500, but not quite. I’m hopeful that in the next couple of weeks we might meet that goal. I look forward to reporting that in next month’s *Builder*.



Pastor Craig Minich

**The EBLYP Annual Mardi Gras Fundraiser**, on Saturday, March 2, at Trinity Lutheran-Alameda was a smashing success! The food was delicious, with one of our best menus in recent years! The silent auction was buzzing with excitement! The Kid's Mardi Gras Party was filled with energy! And our entertainers were wonderful. Special thanks to both Trinity-Alameda's Joyful Noise! and St. Paul's choirs who sang (led by Julie Hayden and Christian and Elenka Refsell, respectively), to Ayla Swihart and her dad Eric who played ukelele and sang, and to the Black Pine Circle Middle School band who performed Mardi Gras-themed music.

THANKS to you all who attended the event, supported us financially, or supported us in prayer!

THANKS to all the volunteers who helped make this event possible! Special "shout outs" to my team leaders: Kitchen coordinator - Mark Halmi; Silent auction coordinator - Christine Sinnott; Reservations, door list, and silent auction checkout - Jessica Fleischman; Decorations and silent auction - Ima Ekong-Banjo; Youth band coordinator - Matt Werner; Youth Mardi Gras leaders- Kylie Halmi, Elenka Refsell, and Kiki Valenzuela; Balloon artist - Michelle Ando; Cooks - Nick Hayes, Tim Carlon, Gayle Miller, Gretchen LeBold, and Mark Halmi; Bartenders - John Kofranek and Gunther Hofmann; Pianist - Roger Allsbrook; Florist - Susan Bell, and countless others!

THANKS to Trinity-Alameda for hosting us and to Trinity-Oakland for loaning us tables for the silent auction!

THANKS to our MYLK and SNL youth volunteers who served and worked in the kitchen!

It was a GREAT event that helped bring our five congregations together to support our youth.

**EBLYP Family Ministry** - for EBLYP families and friends

**The Kid's Mardi Gras (KMG)** party at Trinity- Alameda on March 2 was a great success! Thanks to EBLYP SNLers Kiki and Kylie who worked with St. Paul parent Elenka Refsell to coordinate the KMG.

**Parents' Night Out (PNO)** Babysitting Fun Night at St Paul Lutheran Church on Friday, March 29 occurred after the writing of this article. Please read about it in next month's article.

Next Family Ministry Event: **19th Annual EBLYP Easter 'Egg'stravaganza** on Saturday, April 20, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at United Lutheran (8800 Fontaine Ave., Oakland). Designed for families with children 10 y/o and under. This is a GREAT location, with lots of greenspace and one of the best views of the East Bay! Bring your own Easter basket to our 'Egg'stravaganza. Hear the story of Jesus' resurrection and participate in crafts, songs, snacks, and three age-divided egg hunts (pre-K, K-2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades). This is a free event! Please feel free to invite friends and neighbors.

RSVP for this event with Pr. Craig at [craigminich@gmail.com](mailto:craigminich@gmail.com) or 510.390.4045 by April 18.

**G.E.T. (God's Elementary-people Together)** - our upper elementary youth group

Our Sunday, March 3, G.E.T. meeting at St. Paul was a fun time where we learned about Mardi Gras and Lent and the importance of Jesus as the foundation of our faith.

Next G.E.T. meeting: Sunday, April 7, from 12:30- 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran (1658 Excelsior Ave, Oakland). Each family is asked to bring a drink and snack to share.

(EBLYP news continued)

**MYLK (Middle Youth, Lutheran Kids)** - our 6th-8th grade youth ministry

Several of our MYLK youth were part of our set-up team, performers, and/or servers at annual Mardi Gras Fundraiser on March 2. Thanks to Ayla, Nick, Cecil, Joe, and Charlie for your service leadership.

At our MYLK meeting on Sunday, March 24, we had a great conversation about Jesus, faith, and baseball. We discussed how God is both like and unlike an umpire, and we wondered if Jesus is both sometimes like a stern coach and sometimes a laid-back coach. I love using our holy imaginations in these faith-based conversations!

Next MYLK events: Our **Annual Snow Retreat**, is **April 5-7** near Northstar Resort. Nate Pearson and I will be chaperones! We are VERY excited to experience God's grace in all that new snow!!! Please note this new date and RSVP for this event with Pr. Craig at [craigminich@gmail.com](mailto:craigminich@gmail.com) or 510.390.4045.

Next regular MYLK meeting is Sunday, April 14, from 12:30- 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran (1658 Excelsior Ave, Oakland).

**SNL (Sunday Night Live)** - our 9th -12th grade youth ministry

At our March 24 SNL youth meeting, we planned more for our Summer Trip 2019 to New York City to participate in original youth group-written prayer services at 4-5 iconic and meaningful sites, do some service work in the city, and take in other cultural and festive activities. Please pray for us as we fine-tune the details of this trip.

Also, a huge "Thank You" to all our SNL youth servers at the Mardi Gras dinner: Chase, Charlie, Sophia, Jeremy, and Ivonna! We couldn't have done it without you!

Next SNL events: Our **Annual Snow Retreat**, is **April 5-7**. See MYLK events above.

Leaders at EBLYP Easter 'Egg'stravaganza on Saturday, April 20, please arrive at 9:00 a.m. for setup. Event ends at 11:30 a.m. See details in Family Ministry above.

Next SNL regular meeting: April 7 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church (1658 Excelsior Ave, Oakland). Please bring a drink and snack to share.

PLEASE , y'all, mark your calendars for the following two EBLYP FUND-RAISERS for the SNL NYC trip:

**EBLYP Youth and Family Variety Show and Dinner Fundraiser** on Saturday, May 18, at St. Paul Lutheran (1658 Excelsior Ave., Oakland). Spaghetti dinner from 6:00-7:00 p.m., and show from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

**EBLYP Artisanal Cupcake Sale** the weekend of May 17-19. More details to come.



**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 2019 (beginning the first Sunday in April). Make sure that you have permission from the named person to include him/her on the list.

## MARCH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

**Pastor's Stephanie's Report:** With the help of Pamela Wong, I have begun hosting coffee and snacks in the fellowship hall on Weds. afternoons for parents/families of the Joyful Noise singers. This has provided a lovely time of conversation for me to get to know the families better, and a good space for the siblings of singers to spend some of their energy in a non-distracting way. Our Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation conversations, using *By Heart*, continue successfully and will probably last until the end of the academic year. This month we have discussed the Lord's Prayer and have hosted Sharon Magnuson from the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. For the future, I am looking for other materials that are equally as interesting to attendees.

The new website will go live April 1.

After there were issues with the sound system in the fellowship hall at the congregation meeting and the Mardi Gras fundraiser, I spent time working to make the single microphone and an auxiliary cable for sound from a computer/phone/ other outside source work together, as long as no one touches anything. The amplifier system is very old and finicky. I believe investing \$500 in a new mixer and amplifier may be a good idea this year, but is not urgent.

Additionally, Steve Garner has been researching the purchase and installation of a hearing loop system for the sanctuary. This system allows those with hearing aids to have sound from the sound system directly delivered to their hearing aids rather than people having to adjust their hearing aids to the ambient noise of the room.

27 people attended the Ash Wednesday service on March 6 at noon at Trinity. The Lenten worship and suppers with Immanuel continue to go well. Pastor Dot and I are basing our meditations on a book called *Spiritual Women: Encountering the First Women Disciples* by Mary Ellen Ashcraft. There is expression of interest in the topic from congregation and community members alike.

### Committee Reports:

**Christian education:** Steve Garner is stepping down as chair of the Education Committee.

**Mission and Service:** Doug Biggs from Alameda Point Collaborative presented information on Measure A at a forum at Trinity on March 16.

**Property:** The annual spring clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The amount needed to finishing paying off the roof project is \$6,446.33.

**WELCA:** Pastor Stephanie is interested in having a women's retreat. Elizabeth Madaras is looking into it.

**Worship and Music:** The most exciting development has been the creation of "Coffee Hour" for families when they come to Joyful Noise. Pastor Stephanie started this a few weeks ago, and Pamela Wong has taken it on as a special project. Through this initiative, she and Pastor Stephanie are helping to connect families to us and to each other. Pamela has also offered to help provide this kind of support at events like our spring concert and Parents Night Out on April 12. It is time to send another family update via Mail Chimp to the families that signed up to receive announcements related to youth events. Julie Haydon has created these but wishes for someone else to do this job in the future.

### Old/New Business

Anita Burnaford and Elizabeth Madaras will attend the Synod Convention on May 11 in Lodi as our voting members.

We will celebrate Trinity's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a luncheon after the 10:30 worship service on either May 19 or June 2.

The heaters in the fellowship hall along the Morton Street side are not working. Anita has asked Ken Gutleben and Geoff Burnaford to investigate.

The stage curtain in the fellowship hall is deteriorating. Mary Kay Wentz has suggested a fix, which will buy us some time before we need to replace the curtain entirely.

Anita Burnaford has created a document of items that the council needs to address at certain times of the year. She feels this would be very helpful for incoming council members, and it can be adjusted as needed.

Nursery attendant Meng Li will be leaving at the end of May as she graduates from school. We are looking for a new nursery attendant.

The next council meeting will be April 11.



### FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Our next Food Bank Sunday is **April 14**. 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.

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



Trinity Builder is a monthly publication of  
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Mary Kay Wentz-19 (Trinity Seniors, Visual Enrichment)