

# TRINITY BUILDER

May 2019  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Alameda, CA



## 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. We're coming to the end of this course, so you'll want to join us for these last few sessions!

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.

### 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.

### DEEP THOUGHTS WITH PASTOR STEPHANIE

**Join us again May 20.** This discussion group meets the third and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. 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.



### 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.



### 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* by Barbara Bradford Taylor. Everyone is welcome to join us for discussion of this book.



### MAY CONGREGATION MEETING

The regular May congregation meeting will be on **May 19** after the 10:30 worship service. The main purpose of the meeting is to elect new council members. Three seats are open.



### MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE

Julie Haydon

Thank you to all of our singers and ringers who helped make Easter such a glorious morning of worship! It was a really meaningful day, and I appreciate the extra time and energy everyone devoted to our musical offerings. This month we are preparing to culminate the musical year on **Sunday, May 19**, with Music Ministry Sunday at the 10:30 worship service. The Choir and Bells will have special musical offerings, enhanced by additional musicians. This is a great time to invite friends and family to worship with us. It will be an uplifting morning of singing and ringing praises.



Join us **Sunday, May 5**, at 3:00 p.m. for the Joyful Noise! Community Children's Choir concert. This is a great chance to meet the families of our young singers and welcome them. We have had a wonderful year of singing and playing together. Our young singers are progressing nicely, and they are excited about the opportunity to share their gifts. Special thanks to everyone who has

helped launch our new coffee hour, which provides a welcome for parents while they are waiting for their children. It has been great to hear the stories about connecting with families and building community.

We had a wonderful time at our first Parents Night Out. Pastor Craig and I collaborated to organize an opportunity for parents to drop off their children so they could have a night out together. Sixteen children attended, we had a great time playing together, and parents were really appreciative of the opportunity. Special thanks to Pamela Wong and Marvera Kline for their hard work providing a fun and safe evening for the children.

### KAGITUMBA UPDATE

Kathy Booker

During this Lenten season, Rwandans also commemorated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tutsi genocide of 1994. A quarter of a century on, the east African nation has recovered economically, but the trauma still casts a long, dark shadow. On April 7, as is the tradition every April 7 – the day the genocide began – President Paul Kagame lit a remembrance flame at the Kigali Genocide Memorial, where more than 250,000 victims are thought to be buried. It marked the beginning of a week of commemoration activities and the start of 100 days of national mourning.

In Kagitumba, Pastor Robert writes “As we approach Easter Sunday, we are preparing a confirmation class of 11 girls and boys. We are still ask ourselves how and what we shall do and where because it is difficult for their parents to go to Matimba Lutheran Church (5.7 miles south of Kagitumba). We had a blessed Lenten season, meeting in people’s homes on Wednesday evenings, and now we are approaching Holy Week and Easter. We hope that God will provide everything we need in our preparation to worship in Kagitumba. It may be under a tree or tent. Our government authorities have already allowed us if it is an event of one day and under a tent, not under the tree. The Confirmation class is good and they are waiting their blessed day. We are waiting for our Bishop Mugabo to be with us on Easter. I hope it will be a good day and blessed. Please keep praying for us.”

After some difficulty wiring funds to Rwanda, funds will be sent this week by the Sierra Pacific Synod. Trinity Lutheran Church has sent \$2500 towards the building of the church in Kagitumba which has been delayed due to lack of funds. Please pray that building of the church will now begin in earnest.

This October will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda. Bishop Mark Holmerud and many others are planning to attend the celebration in Kigali. If anyone from our congregation would like to join the delegation to Rwanda in October and visit Kagitumba, you may contact Cindy Tuisku at [cindytuisku@yahoo.com](mailto:cindytuisku@yahoo.com).



### MAY ALL BE FED!

Kathy Booker

*They will hunger no more and thirst no more.... Revelation 7:16*

The Bible is full of stories about people being fed. God’s desire is that people live lives of abundance. Yet millions of people still live without enough to eat. God’s Grace in Jesus Christ moves us to help our neighbors, whether they live in the next house, the next state, or the next continent.

Many Christians fight hunger by volunteering at a soup kitchen or food pantry. Serving this way is important and addresses people’s immediate needs. Advocacy on hunger issues addresses hunger in the long term and focuses on the systems that allow hunger and poverty to persist. With Bread for the World, you can put your faith into action.

**You ask, “What is Bread for the World?”** Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation’s decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Ending hunger is within reach, but our nation’s elected officials must make ending hunger a prominent policy concern. Bread for the World engages people in advocacy through letter writing, emails, phone calls, visits to legislators, and other activities. Far-reaching changes have been won for hungry and poor people by Bread for the World.

**“How can I help end hunger?”** The Mission and Service Committee has designated the month of May as an opportunity to participate in the annual Bread for the World Offering of Letters. Each Sunday in May, a table will be set up in the Fellowship Hall with information about Bread for the World, and you will be given the opportunity to write letters to your members of congress. The theme this year is “Better Nutrition, Better Tomorrow.” There has been movement to bring a global nutrition bill before Congress sometime this year. Your letter to Congress will accelerate progress by urging our government to increase funding for global nutrition programs.

Prayer is also essential ending hunger by 2030. God’s grace in Jesus Christ moves us, and prayer equips us to take faith-grounded advocacy actions. We invite you to make prayers to end hunger part of your regular prayer life.

Please join us in this worthwhile cause. You may read more about Bread for the World at [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

MAY All Be Fed!

### NURSERY REGISTRY

We're refreshing some of the furnishings and playthings in our nursery. This month you will be invited to help us by contributing cash gifts or items listed on our registry. Beginning Sunday, May 12 (Mother's Day), you will find a "wishing well" in the Narthex with tags that include the name, picture, and amount of each item on the registry. If you choose to contribute, please take a tag and include the tag with your check/cash donation in the offering plate or bring it back with the item to the church office. Questions? Please see Pastor Stephanie or Jessica Fleischman.



### MANY THANKS!

#### All About Easter Family Fun Day

A very special thank you to Carol Blomberg, Kaye Fitzsimons, Jessica Fleischman, Candace Gutleben, Mary James, Marvera Kline, Saemi Ladue, Judy Lamb, Elizabeth Madaras, and Pamela Wong for all of your hard work to make our Easter Family Fun Day on April 13 a success!



#### Property Clean-Up Day

What a great turn-out we had for our Spring Clean-Up Day on April 6! Thank you to everyone who gave your time and energy to make our church look its best for this season of celebration!



### BLESSED BY FISHER HOUSE

Mary James

As you may (or may not) know our dear Bob Abbe has recently received an extensive series of treatments at the David Grant Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base near Fairfield. I was delighted to learn that a Fisher House provided him with a welcoming place to stay so that he wasn't trying to commute over one hundred miles round trip every day.

The first 2 Fisher Houses opened in 1991 and there are now 82, including in the UK and Germany.

While I have long admired the ministry provided by Fisher Houses, which give veterans and military personnel and their families a place to stay during treatment periods, I had never known a friend or family member who had benefited from a stay there. During Bob's treatment there, he and Jean met a military spouse who had been sent all the way from Okinawa to receive breast-cancer treatment at David Grant, including two operations and weeks of radiation. It seems to me that our faith family at Trinity was blessed by this Fisher House, too. With that ministry, one of ours was well provided for during his treatment time.

If you would like more information about Fisher Houses, check out [www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org).



Pastor Craig Minich

Easter Blessings to you all as we live boldly into God's promises of Grace fulfilled in Jesus' Resurrection. May we live into those promises fully!

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

Parents' Night Out (PNO) Babysitting Fun Night at St Paul Lutheran Church on Friday, March 29 was a great night. We had a small but mighty crew, and the event was filled with games, songs, crafts, and, laughter. This was a fund-raiser for our SNL Summer Trip to NYC.

Our 19th Annual EBLYP Easter 'Egg'stravaganza on Saturday, April 20 at United Lutheran was a beautiful morning of learning about Jesus' Resurrection with crafts, games, sidewalk chalk art, laughter, and 3 festive egg hunts for our youth! All five of our EBLYP parishes were represented, and we all enjoyed one of the best views of the East Bay around! Jesus is Risen! Alleluia!

Parents' Night Out (PNO) Babysitting Fun Night at Trinity Lutheran Church in Alameda on Friday, April 5, in partnership with Trinity Alameda's Joyful Noise youth choir families was a smashing success. Music Director Julie Hayden, a team of volunteers, and I welcomed 18 children for this first event. From pizza dinner with Pamela, crafts led by Marvera, songs and games led by Julie and me, and a closing nature documentary movie, we had an energetic and laughter-filled evening! We'll announce our next PNO soon!

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

Our April 7 G.E.T. meeting at St. Paul was a fun time where we talked about Spring Break adventures, and we learned about Jesus' ministry in the time we commemorate toward the end of Lent, before holy week!

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

Our annual Snow Retreat this April, rescheduled from February, was cancelled again due to last minute cancellations by most of the group. I was disappointed, but we will look forward to next year's retreat.

Summer Camp: We have six youth signed up, and we are all looking forward to "Adventures on the Coast" middle school confirmation camp June 23-28. Please pray for all our youth to have a transformative experience!

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

We continue planning for our Summer Trip 2019 to NYC. Please pray for us as we fine-tune details for this trip.

To raise funds for our NYC Adventure, our SNL youth were servers at the Trinity-Alameda Crab Feed on Saturday, March 30. Our team worked diligently and with good cheer. The participants showered our team with praises (and generous tips)! I'm so proud of our SNL youth!

Also, I am also proud of our SNLers who were essential leaders at EBLYP Easter 'Egg'stravaganza on April 20. They led songs, the sidewalk chalk area, the craft station, the Lego station, each of the three separate egg hunts, and games after. It was an energetic, joy-filled, intergenerational celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord!

Summer Camp: We have 2 SNL Youth and 1 alumnus signed up to serve at Special Friends Camp working with adults with mild to moderate developmental delays at Mt. Cross June 23-28. Please pray for our young people giving of themselves in service.

Please 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.** Details to be announced later.

Lastly, we are looking for family acts for our Family Variety Show. Please contact me to get on our docket.

May you be inspired during this whole season of Easter. (Remember, it's more than just one day)!

## APRIL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

### Pastor's Stephanie's Report:

**Adult Faith Formation Discussion:** We've outgrown the meeting room for this gathering. Moving to a larger space has the advantage of encouraging more participation, but our larger spaces, especially the fellowship hall, have challenges for those who have difficulty hearing. I will complete our current series in the meeting room, because it also has the projector available for the video component of the curriculum, but we need to begin addressing acoustics in our other spaces.

**Website:** The website did not go live April 1. Several technical issues arose unexpectedly that Patrick Fleischmann is working to fix.

**Online Marketing Strategy:** Last week I had a conversation with Bindu Fernandes of Robin Media. Bindu is a consultant and former Google marketing employee. Her services are valuable, but they also come with a large price tag. We are at a point where investing in this kind of service is not only important, it is essential. It is time to discuss how we as a council and as a congregation may be able to make this type of marketing and professional assistance a financial priority.

**Staff Meetings:** The staff has begun meeting twice a month.

**Lenten Mid-Week Services with Immanuel:** This year's mid-week suppers and services with Immanuel went well. We have maintained a strong attendance of 20+ throughout. However, as for the suppers, although many people like having them, it was very difficult to get people to sign up to support them. Next year it will be important to actively recruit people to sign up for set up and clean up.

Ted Langley has found another church home. The council approved Ted's request to be removed from Trinity's membership.

### Committee Reports:

**EBLP:** (From the March 31 EBLP board meeting minutes):

A draft budget was reviewed. It appears that EBLP will be running a deficit budget again.

By- Law revisions were discussed.

The youth minister's job description was discussed. The job description should be distributed to all EBLP member church's councils for review.

Pastor Ned has noticed a drop off in participation in the nursing homes.

### Old/New Business

We are looking for a better way to use our resources, and a subcommittee is investigating ways to restructure our committees. The subcommittee has held one meeting and will meet again to fine tune a proposal to be presented to the council.

One of the ways in which a restructure is needed involves an Online Marketing Strategy. (Refer to Pastor's Report for more detail). Council members discussed the benefits and drawbacks of what this looks like. A big concern for several council members is the cost. More discussion is needed.

We have received nominations of three people to fill upcoming vacant council seats. Ray Wentz may be willing to serve the one year left of Mark Schoenrock's term. We are continuing to accept nominations. Henry Mills may not remain as a youth rep for the coming year. Chase Beardsley would like to remain as a youth rep.

In past years, the council has not held meetings in July and August. Without these meetings, the council must plan ahead to be prepared for the things that happen during this time that need the council's attention. Pastor Stephanie recommended that we continue to meet during the summer. After a discussion, the council passed a motion to continue meeting during the summer.

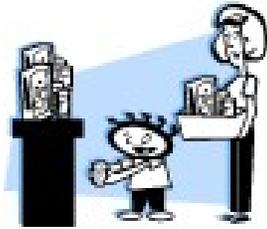
As of March 31, we have received donations totaling \$18,040 of the total cost (\$24,041.33) of the 2018 roof project.

Pastor Stephanie and Jessica Fleischman are working on choosing a date and finalizing plans for Trinity's 75th anniversary coffee hour luncheon.

The next council meeting is scheduled for May 16.

### FOOD BANK SUNDAY

Remember Food Bank Sunday on **May 12**. 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 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



<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: Mark Schoenrock 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 Margie Sherratt-20 Mary Kay Wentz-19 (Trinity Seniors, Visual Enrichment)</p>
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