



Trinity Topics

www.sancarloshtlc.org

December 2016

Message from Pastor Josh



I am writing this on my first day in the office with boxes of packed books all around me. Gratitude has filled my heart from the moment I arrived this morning. Meister Eickart, a 13th century theologian, once said, "If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, thank you, that would suffice." I have found myself thanking God for all of you here at Holy Trinity.

The warmth and welcome that my children and I have received has been nothing short of amazing. Thank you for preparing the parsonage for our arrival! Thank you for the basket of cards, gifts cards, and treats! Thank you for offering your help and meals. It has been a gift to watch your eagerness to serve. There is so much I have to learn about the way things are done here. There are so many things to do and people to see. But, before all that gets done, I think I'll just sit here a couple minutes longer, in the chaos of boxes, drinking my coffee, thanking God for all of you.

Peace,
Pastor Josh



Interim Pastor's Thank You

Dear People of Holy Trinity,

How can I adequately thank you for such a special last day with all of you? From my whole heart I thank you for the beautiful music from the choir that day; the wonderful soups, salads and cupcakes (that "tree" was a work of art!); the cards from the children and youth and other members; and the incredibly generous gift from all of you. Steve and I will use that money to stay a couple of nights in Half Moon Bay in December. We have a tradition of staying overnight there on the third Sunday of Advent to intentionally pause and enjoy the awesome beauty of creation as we anticipate Christ coming to us in surprising ways.

Steve and I so appreciate the genuine warmth of Holy Trinity. We are blessed to have served with you, we will not forget you, and we certainly hope to come visit some day when I am in between congregations.

May God bless you and Pr. Josh this Advent season and always!

With grateful hearts, Lori & Steve Eickmann

From HTLC Council

We are so excited to welcome Pastor Joshua Serrano and his sons Sebastian and Isaac to HTLC this month. As we begin this new phase of our church life, I want to highlight one of the items from the Letter of Call to Pr. Josh. We were asked to "list five ways that this congregation will support and encourage the rostered leader during the first year to help accomplish [the responsibilities we are asking Pr. Josh to especially attend to this year]." Our answer came directly from our Ministry Site Profile, which was developed with the input of the whole congregation and reads:

1. Invite the Pastor to at least nine informal, small group gatherings in the first three months, such as meals at members' homes, to facilitate getting to know members.
2. Give pastor own space and down time, establish good boundaries. For example, we will honor the declared day off each week. This also includes respect for the privacy of the parsonage space.
3. Open communication and sharing in the joy of God's mission here. We will establish a mutual ministry support team with members selected by the pastor within the first six months.
4. The congregation is committed to participating in the ELCA Healthy Start program (or alternative mentoring program).
5. Be open-minded to changes the pastor may propose or suggest."

We look forward to the days ahead and to getting to know Pr Josh better and to seeing what God has in store for HTLC.

Celebrate Advent and Christmas at Holy Trinity

The Sundays of Advent

November 27, December 4, 11 & 18

10:15 am Holy Communion Service with Children's Time & the Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Sunday, December 18

5:30 pm Children's Christmas Pageant

The Nativity Our Lord

Christmas Eve, December 24

7:00 pm Candlelight Eucharist

Christmas Morning, December 25

10:15 am Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 4

Deck the Halls Tree Trimming Party

Immediately following service this Sunday. Come enjoy seasonal treats, Christmas Carols and help decorate the hall for Christmas.

Saturday, December 10

Christmas Caroling | 12 noon - 2 pm

Everyone is invited to join for Christmas caroling on Laurel Street. This is a great way to share the Christmas spirit and have fun with others from Holy Trinity. The more the merrier. Signup in the Breezeway. Questions: see Pamela Bohlmann



Annual Messiah Sing/Play Along

**Friday, December 16 | 7:30 pm
Stanford Memorial Church**

This annual "sing and play it yourself" is celebration of Handel's masterwork. Orchestral parts will be provided, and singers may purchase scores at the door or bring their own.



Admission: general \$15 | student \$10 | senior \$10

Purchase tickets online at <http://sto.stanfordtickets.org/> or call 650.725.2787. For info, see Pamela Bohlmann.

**Children's Christmas Pageant
"A Christmas to Believe In"**

Sunday, December 18 at 5:30 pm
with potluck following the pageant

Rehearsals

Sunday, December 4 & 11 at 9 am
In Beilstein Hall

Dress Rehearsal

Saturday, December 17 at noon
in the Sanctuary

All are welcome!



Order Christmas Poinsettias



Continuing a tradition at Holy Trinity, we will beautify our sanctuary at Christmas time with poinsettias in celebration of Christ's birth. The cost is \$20.00 each. Simply fill out the form on the table in the Narthex, place with your payment in the offering plate or turn in to the church office. Make your check payable to Holy Trinity and note "poinsettias" on the memo line. *Please have orders in by December 18th.* Your gracious donation for a loved ones will enhance our worship throughout the Christmas season. Thank you.

Home & Hope Fundraiser — The Journey Home

Thank you to all who participated in and donated to the Home & Hope “The Journey Home” fundraiser. The weather was great and the walk invigorating. Well, maybe not for Greg who ran the 10k and was very hot from the sun and exercise. All nine Holy Trinity participants had a good time supporting this worthwhile organization.

Walk/run participants included: **Leah Bauer** and her dog, **Olivia**; **Bob Beuthel**; **Diane Beuthel**; **Mary Webb**; **Brita Segerhammar**; **Barbara Padilla**; **Pamela Bohlmann**; **Greg Bohlmann** and **Leroy Padilla**

Additional donors included: **Anita Reimann**; **Lori Eickmann & Steve Wright**; **John McDowell**; **Pat Holle**; **Annamarie Mantese**; **Lillian Pogreba**; **Lori Friedman**; **Gary & Hillary Wiessinger**



Meg Clark, Home & Hope Executive Director, kicking off the event at Seal Point Park in San Mateo. Six of the eleven teams were church sponsored.

Holy Trinity group enjoyed an after event lunch at Pieology in Foster City.



Brita and **Greg** with their trophies. **Brita** with the best time for the 5k (she jogged) and **Greg** for the 10k run.



Holy Trinity was awarded another Thrivent Action Team grant to support the Home & Hope fundraiser. Money from the grant purchased the walk/run water and snacks along with additional supplies for the day center revitalization. In addition, it provided lunch for the Holy Trinity participants.

What does it mean to live generously?

Adult Forum

Based on the current stewardship theme “Live Generously” Adult Forum will focus on what this means November 27 - mid-January, and we especially invite all parents whose children are participating in the Christmas pageant to attend. This series of studies is based on the generosity of the Macedonian people (2 Corinthians 8) and what it means to live generously. December 4 & 11 Adult Forum will meet down in the Conference Room with this schedule:

9:00 – 9:15 Coffee and Fellowship
9:15 – 10:00 Adult Forum

Beginning December 18 Adult Forum will begin at 9:15.

NEWS FLASH – GENEROSITY PERSONIFIED!

The generous spirit at Holy Trinity is evidenced by several member’s anonymous gifts with a two-pronged purpose:

1] Maximizing Pledges

While pledging is a very personal commitment between the pledger and God it is the only way church leadership can determine its budget for the coming year. To maximize the number of pledging units, these members will contribute an extra \$250 for every additional pledge received during December 2016.

2] Reduce the general fund deficit

With giving down in 2016, these members will donate \$200 for each additional one-time gift received through Sunday, December 25. Mark checks “Deficit Reduction” and place in offering plate.

If questions, please contact any member of the stewardship committee.

<p>ABUNDANT JOY</p> <p>... their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity ...</p> <p>2 CORINTHIANS 8:2</p>	
<p>COMMITMENT</p> <p>[A]nd this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God to us.</p> <p>2 CORINTHIANS 8:5</p>	
<p>GENEROSITY</p> <p>[F]or during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.</p> <p>2 CORINTHIANS 8:2</p>	
<p>GIVE FREELY</p> <p>For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, ...</p> <p>2 CORINTHIANS 8:3a</p>	
<p>GRATITUDE</p> <p>We want you to know brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia.</p> <p>2 CORINTHIANS 8:1</p>	
<p>SACRIFICE</p> <p>... according to their means, and even beyond their means, ...</p> <p>2 CORINTHIANS 8:3b</p>	
<p>SHARE</p> <p>[B]egging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints –</p> <p>2 CORINTHIANS 8:4</p>	



Reformation Sunday giving Bibles to the third graders - **Sydney, Logan and Ethan.**



Treasurer's General Fund Report – October 2016

INCOME

<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Budget to Date</u>	<u>Actual to Date</u>
\$15,462	\$182,324	\$137,663

EXPENSES

<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Budget to Date</u>	<u>Actual to Date</u>
\$14,867	\$182,324	\$164,762

NET INCOME OR LOSSES

<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Actual to Date</u>
\$595	(\$27,099)

This month we received \$0 in Thrivent Choice Dollars.
 We have spent \$17,562 under our annual budget.
 Please keep current with your regular giving. Thank you.

Petra Gilmore, Treasurer



"Women Walking with Jesus" Friday mornings.

November Council Meeting



- Pastor Lori's report:
 - Pr. Lori presented a complete report highlighting her activities as an intentional interim over the last year.
 - She expressed a deep appreciation for the congregations support, encouragement and welcoming of both she and Steve.
 - The Council commended Pr. Lori on her ministry and wished her well in her next call.
- Treasurer's Report:
 - Through October, **receipts are \$27,694 below expenditures** to date not including \$6,725 for special benevolence.
 - Monthly loan payment is \$3,164 paid from Spring Forth donations. Loan balance as of September 30 is \$151,192 and Spring Forth balance is \$60,655
- Discussed Director of Youth and Families Ministry and, due to budget constraints, decided to recommend not filling until last quarter 2017. This will give Pr. Josh time to work with the Youth Ministry Team, review budget status and advertise/interview for position.
- Approvals:
 - Reviewed draft 2017 Budget presented by Budget Committee; made several adjustments and approved sending 2017 Budget to congregation for adoption at Annual Meeting on January 29.
 - Appointed current members of Endowment Committee to continue until Annual Meeting and have Nominating Committee fill vacant positions.
 - Approved transferring \$4,000 from Spring Forth Benevolence to General Fund to offset utility, insurance and other costs for the use of parsonage for transitional housing.



& Book Study
Saturday, December 10
8:00 am | Beilstein Hall



Join us for some food, fellowship, and good conversation!

Lydia Circle (WELCA)

Tuesday, December 13 | 12:30 pm
Harriet Platt's Suite, San Carlos Elms



Our study for December is a devotional titled "Advent Waiting" - "What wants to be born in you?" It is written by a woman who had lived in Papua New Guinea for five years when she was a young mother. It can be found on Pg 26 in December's "Gather". We will lunch together and share some cookies (our cookie exchange tradition). Either bake or bring store bought cookies to pass around so each of us can go home with an assortment. *All women welcome!*

Special invitation from the Women of Hope Lutheran, San Mateo.
"Women's Christmas Potluck Dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 6th at 6:00 pm.
 Special entertainment Karen Hutchinson - pianist."
 See flyer in breezeway for more details.

Happy Birthday

A birthday is God's reminder to enjoy life. May your birthday be a day of celebration!

- 2 Sandy Frojelin
- 5 Diane Beuthel
- 10 Stefan Reimann
- 14 John McDowell
- 20 Arik Schoessow
- 22 Annika Fox
- Maya Rohrer
- 26 Tamara Bready
- 31 Karen Schornstein



SAVE THE DATE!
Ice Skating at Winter Lodge
Sunday, January 22nd
3 - 5 pm



Save the Dates

January 22, 2017
Budget Preview Meeting

Sunday, January 29, 2017
Annual Congregational Meeting

Topics include voting on annual budget, voting on nominees for committees, and voting on HTLC constitution amendments and updates.

Prayer Ministry

The prayer chain is an important part of HTLC's ministry. If you would like to be part of this ministry praying for those in need, please contact either:
 Ruby Phillips at (650)593-0228 or
 Anita Reimann at reimann.anita@gmail.com

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Multi-faith Day of Service
Monday, January 16, 2017

HTLC will participate in the annual Peninsula Multifaith Coalition MLK Multifaith Day of Service. The day starts with breakfast for volunteers and a welcome from community faith leaders. Then groups of volunteers work together on over 25 service projects, including facility and gardening improvements at local schools, reading to children, singing at senior centers, crafts for children, preparing meals for vets and families in shelters, and sorting book and clothing donations. All service projects are family friendly, children ages 5-11 accompanied by an adult are welcome. Look for a volunteer sign-up sheet in the breezeway. Please see Dick Rescho if you have any questions.



D E C E M B E R C A L E N D A R S

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 AM Pageant Rehearsal 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:15 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 11:30 AM Choir Practice 5:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	28	29	30 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	1	2 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room 7:30 PM Russian Gospel Temple--Beilstein Hall	3 5:00 PM AA Mtg (women's group)--Conf Room
4 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 AM Adult Forum 9:00 AM Pageant Rehearsal 10:15 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 11:15 AM Tree Trimming Party 11:30 AM Choir Practice 5:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	5	6	7 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	8 6:30 PM W&M Team Meeting	9 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room 7:30 PM Russian Gospel Temple--Beilstein Hall	10 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast - Beilstein Hall 12:00 PM Christmas Caroling 5:00 PM AA Mtg (women's group)--Conf Room
11 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 AM Adult Forum 9:00 AM Pageant Rehearsal 10:15 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 11:30 AM Choir Practice 5:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	12	13 12:30 PM Lydia Circle	14 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	15	16 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room 7:00 PM Messiah Sing Along/Play Along 7:30 PM Russian Gospel Temple--Beilstein Hall	17 10:00 AM Pageant Dress Rehearsal - Sanctuary 5:00 PM AA Mtg (women's group)--Conf Room
18 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:15 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 11:30 AM Choir Practice 5:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room 5:30 PM Children's Christmas Pageant	19	20 7:00 PM Council Meeting	21 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	22	23 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room 7:30 PM Russian Gospel Temple--Beilstein Hall	24 5:00 PM AA Mtg (women's group)--Conf Room 7:00 PM Candlelight Eucharist Service
25 CHRISTMAS 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:15 AM Service of Lessons & Carols 11:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 5:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27	28 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	29	30 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room 7:30 PM Russian Gospel Temple--Beilstein Hall	31 5:00 PM AA Mtg (women's group)--Conf Room



	12/4 Advent 2	12/11 Advent 3	12/18 Advent 4	12/24 Christmas Eve	12/25	1/1/2017 (Youth)
Organist	Stacy C	Edward C	Edward C	Georgianna Askoff	Georgianna Askoff	
Assisting Minister	Gary Wiessinger	Randy Friedman	Erik Vorhes	Pamela Bohlmann	James Reimann	Brian Kersten
Lector	John McDowell	Pamela Bohlmann	Dave Pitts	Sign Up in breezeway	Lori Friedman	Youth
Acolyte	Anna F	Mackenzie F	Max R		Zora V	Hannah M
Sound System Operator	Greg Bohlmann	Bob Beuthel	John Schornstein		John McDowell	Greg Bohlmann
Altar Guild	Pamela Bohlmann	Karen Schornstein	Vivian Southard		Barbara Richards	Pamela Bohlmann
Greeter(s)	Anni Wunderlich	Chris Kidwell	Lynn Garbe-Recknagel		Cathy Bready	Peter Meier
Ushers	Dave Pitts Richard Wunderlich	Greg Bohlmann	Leroy Padilla John Schornstein		Dick Rescho John McDowell	Dave Pitts Richard Wunderlich
Nursery Assistant	Parent to Stay	Parent to Stay	Parent to Stay		Parent to Stay	Parent to Stay
Coffee Host	Len Fischer	Gaby Knauth	Hillary Wiessinger	Julianne Fredericks	Lori Friedman	
Counters	Lisa Telfer John McDowell	Barbara Padilla Mary Webb	Greg Bohlmann Andrea Reiser	Lisa Kersten Chris Kidwell	Lisa Telfer John McDowell	

Worship Leaders

If a conflict prevents you from serving, please arrange a trade or substitute and notify the office at 650.593.0325 or office@sancarloshtlc.org

Want to Go Green? Contact Holy Trinity (office@sancarloshtlc.org) to replace your printed copy with an electronic copy of our newsletter.



STAFF and 2016 COUNCIL OFFICERS/MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRS

Pastor The Rev. Joshua Serrano
 Office AdministratorMonica Cryan
 Nursery Care.....Jo O'Brien

President Anita Reimann
 Worship & MusicErik Vorhes
 Evangelism & Outreach.....Gary Wiessinger
 Vice PresidentLori Friedman
 StewardshipBarbara Richards
 SecretaryBob Beuthel
 Social ConcernsBarbara Padilla, Hillary Wiessinger
 Buildings & GroundsBob Beuthel, Leroy Padilla
 YouthLori Friedman
 Congregation LifePamela Bohlmann
 Financial SecretaryMary Webb
 EndowmentCathy Bready, John McDowell
 TreasurerPetra Gilmore
 Education/Sunday SchoolErica Schemper

All are Welcome!

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in San Carlos celebrates and shares God's gifts by worshipping together, caring for each other, and doing God's work in the community and beyond.

We believe that Christ has made us one body with many members, sharing in God's grace and unconditional love.

We joyfully welcome ALL people, without exception — of every age, sex, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, or anything else that divides us — to join with us in worship, learning, fellowship, prayer and service.

"For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ... there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:26, 28

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

149 Manzanita Avenue
 San Carlos, CA 94070
 Phone: 650.593.0325
 Sunday Worship 10:15 am



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.