



Trinity Topics

www.sancarloshtlc.org

January 2017

Message from Pastor Josh

Robert Burn wrote a poem in the 1700s that is now a staple of music played when the clock strikes midnight on December 31st. He didn't intend on it being associated with New Year's Eve, but "Auld Lang Syne" has been since 1929.

I recently learned there are a few ways we could possibly translate this incomprehensible phrase. Here are a couple of options...

1. times gone by
2. old long since
3. long long ago
4. for (the sake of) old times



New Year's is a good time to reflect on the light and darkness of times gone by. Whereas many of us would maybe like to forget 2016 I think it actually takes a certain kind of remembering to reflect on the last year.

Remember that God is not done with us yet. Remember that what was is not what shall be. Remember that Jesus has the final word on humanity.

Martin Luther once wrote, "This life, therefore, is not godliness but the process of becoming godly, not health but getting well, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not now what we shall be, but we are on the way. The process is not yet finished, but it is actively going on. This is not the goal but it is the right road. At present, everything does not gleam and sparkle, but everything is being cleansed."

Amen.



Saturday, January 7 at 4 pm

Installation Service for Pr. Joshua Serrano

Celebration and reception to follow at HTLC.

Save the Dates

Sunday, January 22 | 11:30 am
Congregation Budget Meeting

Sunday, January 29 | 11:30 am
Annual Congregational Meeting

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

All ministry team leaders: submit reports to the office no later than Wednesday, January 11.

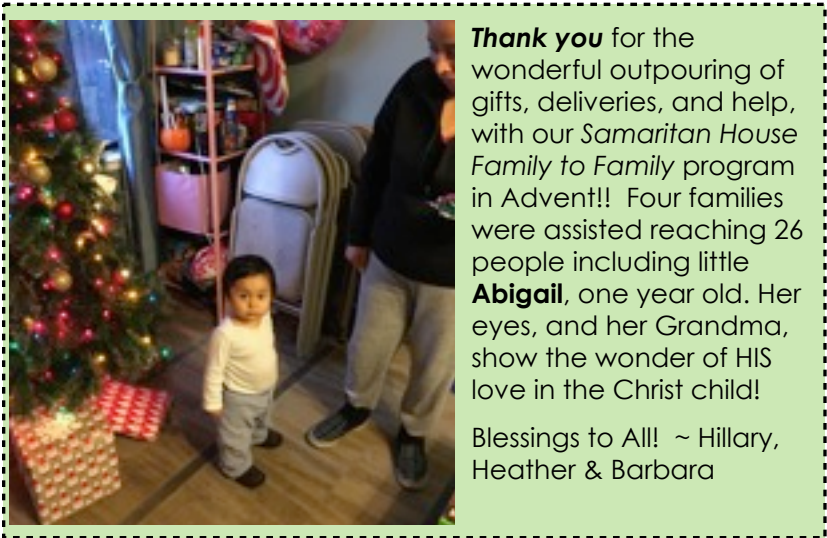
MLK Jr. Multi-faith Day of Service

Monday, January 16 | 8:30 am - noon



Join HTLC for the Peninsula Multifaith Coalition MLK Multifaith Day of Service. We start with a volunteer breakfast and welcome from community faith leaders. Then work on over 25 service projects; including facility & 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, kids ages 5 -11 welcome. Volunteer sign-up sheet in the breezeway. Please see Dick Rescho for questions.

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Thank you for the wonderful outpouring of gifts, deliveries, and help, with our Samaritan House Family to Family program in Advent!! Four families were assisted reaching 26 people including little **Abigail**, one year old. Her eyes, and her Grandma, show the wonder of HIS love in the Christ child!

Blessings to All! ~ Hillary, Heather & Barbara



As we move forward in our 2016 – 2017 stewardship campaign, as a congregation we become an action team to **Live Generously**. As such, we

pledge to give freely of our time, talents, resources and compassion for others. If you haven't received your "Live Generously" t-shirt, sign up on the bulletin board for the size(s) you needed. If we're out of your size, it/they will be ordered with the next Action Team grant.



A special *thank you* to the 23 families who contributed to the deficit reduction (over \$12,000 total). This was increased

by a one-time \$5,000 anonymous contribution. Holy Trinity's "Live Generously" spirit was in evidenced when December giving reached one of its highest for one month at over \$43,000.

December Council Meeting



- The Council enjoyed getting to know Pr. Josh better at it's annual Christmas gathering.
- Treasurer's Report:
 - Through November, **receipts are \$36,353 below expenditures.**
 - Monthly loan payment is \$3,164 paid from Spring Forth donations. Loan balance as of September 30 is \$148,653.
- Discussed ways to cut printing costs by reducing the amount of color printing. (Could be as much as \$2,000 per year.)
- Approvals:
 - Constitution modifications of the Nominating and Audit Committee descriptions to be added to the constitution update going to the congregation in January.
 - Contracting with Lynn Young again to conduct 2015 and 2016 audits.
 - Approved a resolution allocating \$3,000 of Pastor Josh's salary as housing allowance.
 - Approved benevolence distribution to eleven social agencies.

Treasurer's General Fund Report – November 2016

INCOME

| <u>Current Month</u> | <u>Budget to Date</u> | <u>Actual to Date</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$14,017 | \$200,557 | \$151,680 |

EXPENSES

| <u>Current Month</u> | <u>Budget to Date</u> | <u>Actual to Date</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$23,336 | \$200,557 | \$188,033 |

NET INCOME OR LOSSES

| <u>Current Month</u> | <u>Actual to Date</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$9,319 | (\$36,353) |

This month we received \$75 in Thrivent Choice Dollars.
 We have spent \$12,524 under our annual budget.
 Please keep current with your regular giving. Thank you.
 Petra Gilmore, Treasurer



Saturday morning **Men's Breakfast & Book Study** this December. All men welcome!



Christmas tree decorating and holiday fun after service at Holy Trinity.



Children's Christmas Pageant
"A Christmas to Believe in"



Thank you to the many helpers at the the Pageant Potluck!! From setup to takedown it was wonderful to see so many people providing good food and delightful company! Gratefully,
Barbara Padilla



The following article was published in the December issue of the Sierra Pacific Synod's newsletter highlighting Holy Trinity's creative use of the parsonage to house transitional families during the interim period.



WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH AN EMPTY PARSONAGE?

What can you do with a parsonage that will be unoccupied for several months, probably a full year? Paint it? Do minor repairs? Rent it out? Let it rest? Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in San Carlos, not a large congregation but abundantly blessed with imagination and open hearts, had a better idea: transitional housing for some homeless families.

For 10 years Holy Trinity has been a partner with HOME & HOPE, a nonprofit interfaith collaborative that effectively supports homeless families in San Mateo County. By partnering with 34 congregations and over 1,400 volunteers, H&H is able to offer lots of love and support: shelter, meals, and a full-service Day Center where the families have access at no cost to laundry, showers, a living room area, computers, kitchenette, and case management from experienced, caring staff. Once each year Holy Trinity provides one week of overnight shelter and food for 4-6 homeless families. Families arrive about 6 p.m. and eat a dinner prepared and served

by a church member/family. Large tents are set up in the parish hall, one per family, for sleeping; one church member spends the night with the guests to provide help in case of illness or other emergency. After a (usually) light breakfast provided by the congregation, families leave for work or school or the Day Center about 7 a.m.; some have cars, while others are transported by the H&H van.

In the summer of 2015 when Pastor Christian Jennert announced he would be leaving, the Holy Spirit moved amongst this congregation to open their imaginations and hearts. The idea to house transitional families (those who had been successful in the H&H program and were nearly ready to leave and live independently) was presented to the Holy Trinity Church Council and the H&H Board. The Board was "excited and honored for the opportunity for our families."

The Church Council was also pleased, but asked good questions. Who will supervise the families? (H&H case manager and a representative from Council.) How many people? (2 families at a time, maximum of 9 persons.) Is our insurance adequate? (A slight modification to our policy will be needed.) Will this affect our tax status? (No.) What will happen when we call a new pastor? (Once the Call Committee begins to interview, the program will phase out and the families will leave, allowing time to ready the parsonage for the new pastor.) Church members coordinated with the San Carlos Planning Division and Building Department, the Council gave its approval, and on Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015 two families moved into the parsonage supported by a Holy Trinity welcome team and gifts, staff from HOME & HOPE, and assistance from the San Francisco Basket Brigade which stocked the pantry and refrigerator with food. When one family moved on, the vacancy was quickly filled by another family.

There were two more imaginative and open-hearted details. Part of the case management was counseling the families to live together under agreed house rules and chores. Secondly, the congregation charged the families a small security deposit and a nominal rent. Each month, under a signed lease **agreement**, they paid rent, mostly to help them practice for their transition into their own apartment or house. When each family left, Holy Trinity surprised them by returning all the security deposit and rent they had paid, providing them with a start-up fund and cushion for their move to independent living.

What can you do with a parsonage that will be unoccupied for several months? Holy Trinity Lutheran Church asked, "What would Jesus have US do? How can we have this parsonage as truly GOD's HOUSE?" You have just read the story of their imaginative and open-hearted answer. As they introduced this ministry to the congregation in a newsletter article, the ministry leaders said, "God has provided this opportunity for us to widen our welcome, share God's gifts, care for each other, and live our faith. 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 or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:26-28)"

When Holy Trinity's new pastor, Joshua Serrano, moved into the parsonage at the end of November 2016, he took up residence in a most blessed house, and he took up pastoral ministry with a most imaginative and open-hearted community of Christ-followers.



Adult Forum resumes on January 8!

Sundays @ 9:15 am | Beilstein Hall

What does it mean to Live Generously?

Based on our stewardship theme "Live Generously", Adult Forum studies the generosity of the Macedonian people (2 Corinthians 8) and what it means to live generously.



& Book Study

Saturday, January 14

8:00 am | Beilstein Hall

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

Happy Birthday!

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

- 1 Eli Haas
- 2 Ian Schornstein
- 3 Richard Wunderlich
- 9 Heather Rodgers
- 14 Leah Meier
- 15 Bianca Balboni
- 16 Cameron Martin
Anni Wunderlich
- 19 Sydney Martin
Kemp Segerhammar
- 21 Lisa Kersten
- 25 Jo Mitchell

Lydia Circle (WELCA)

Tuesday, January 17 | 12:30 pm

Harriet Platt's Suite, San Carlos Elms



At the start of this new year our study begins in the book of Galatians. It can be found in your Jan./Feb. issue of *Gather* on page 30. Please bring your *Gather*, your Bible and your lunch.

In December we welcomed Pastor Josh to our meeting for a "getting to know you". It was a joy to have him with us.

All HTLC women welcome!

Anniversary Wishes

God bless you as you celebrate your years together!

Dave & Marion Collins
1/1/1971 (46 years)



Ice Skating at Winter Lodge

Sunday, January 22nd

3 - 5 pm

Bring a snack, dessert or drink to share!

RSVP to eloizab@hotmail.com



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

J A N U A R Y C A L E N D A R S

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| 1 10:15 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 11:30 AM Choir Practice 5:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room | 2 OFFICE CLOSED | 3 | 4 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room | 5 | 6 9:00 AM Women Walking w/ Jesus 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room 7:30 PM Russian Gospel Temple--Beilstein Hall | 7 4:00 PM Pr. Josh's Installation 5:00 PM AA Mtg (women's group)--Conf Room |
| 8 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 | 9 6:00 PM Fitness Class--Beilstein Hall | 10 | 11 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room | 12 11:00 AM Memorial Service -Savay Family 6:30 PM W&M Team Meeting | 13 9:00 AM Women Walking w/ Jesus 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room 7:30 PM Russian Gospel Temple--Beilstein Hall | 14 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast - Beilstein Hall 5:00 PM AA Mtg (women's group)--Conf Room |
| 15 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 | 16 MLK DAY - OBSERVED 8:00 AM MLK Jr. Multifaith Day of Service 6:00 PM Fitness Class--Beilstein Hall | 17 12:30 PM Lydia Circle 7:00 PM Council Meeting | 18 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room | 19 | 20 9:00 AM Women Walking w/ Jesus 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room 7:30 PM Russian Gospel Temple--Beilstein Hall | 21 5:00 PM AA Mtg (women's group)--Conf Room |
| 22 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:15 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Budget Preview Meeting 11:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 11:30 AM Choir Practice 3:00 PM HTLC Ice Skating 5:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room | 23 6:00 PM Fitness Class--Beilstein Hall | 24 | 25 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room | 26 | 27 9:00 AM Women Walking w/ Jesus 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room 7:30 PM Russian Gospel Temple--Beilstein Hall | 28 9:00 AM Healthy Start @ Messiah 5:00 PM AA Mtg (women's group)--Conf Room |
| 29 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:15 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 11:30 AM Annual Congregational Meeting 11:30 AM Choir Practice 5:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room | 30 6:00 PM Fitness Class--Beilstein Hall | 31 | 1 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room | 2 6:30 PM W&M Team Meeting | 3 9:00 AM Women Walking w/ Jesus 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room 7:30 PM Russian Gospel Temple--Beilstein Hall | 4 5:00 PM AA Mtg (women's group)--Conf Room |

| | 1/1 (Youth) | 1/8 | 1/15 | 1/22 | 1/29/17 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Organist | Rachel P | Josh Stromberg | Tom L | Stacy C | Edward C |
| Assisting Minister | Randy Friedman | Gary Wiessinger | Anita Reimann | Randy Friedman | Cathy Bready |
| Lector | Lori Friedman | Erik Vorhes | Barbara Padilla | Lynn Garbe-Rechnagel | Doug Southard |
| Acolyte | Mackenzie Friedman | Eva Schmuckal | Max Reimann | Cameron Martin | Zora Vorhes |
| Sound System Operator | John McDowell | Leroy Padilla | Dave Pitts | Bob Beuthel | Gary Wiessinger |
| Altar Guild | Pamela Bohmann | Karen Schornstein | Barbara Richards | Pamela Bohmann | Vivian Southard |
| Greeter(s) | Mackenzie Friedman | Andrea Reiser | Peter Meier | Barbara Richards | Lynn Garbe-Rechnagel |
| Ushers | Richard Wunderlich | Dick Rescho | Greg Bohmann | Dick Rescho John McDowell | TBD |
| Nursery Assistant | Parent to Stay | Parent to Stay | Parent to Stay | Parent to Stay | Parent to Stay |
| Coffee Host | Lori Friedman | Julianne Fredericks | Lisa Kersten | Len Fischer | Hillary Wiessinger |
| Counters | Lisa Telfer Mary Webb | Barbara Padilla John McDowell | Greg Bohmann Andrea Reiser | Lisa Kersten Chris Kidwell | Mary Webb Lisa Telfer |

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 COUNCIL OFFICERS/MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRS | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Pastor | The Rev. Joshua Serrano |
| Office Administrator | Monica Cryan |
| Nursery Care..... | Jo O'Brien |
| President | Anita Reimann |
| Worship & Music | Erik Vorhes |
| Evangelism & Outreach..... | Gary Wiessinger |
| Vice President | Lori Friedman |
| Stewardship | Barbara Richards |
| Secretary | Bob Beuthel |
| Social Concerns | Barbara Padilla, Hillary Wiessinger |
| Buildings & Grounds | Bob Beuthel, Leroy Padilla |
| Youth | Lori Friedman |
| Congregation Life | Pamela Bohlmann |
| Financial Secretary | Mary Webb |
| Endowment | Cathy Bready, John McDowell |
| Treasurer | Petra Gilmore |
| Education/Sunday School | Erica 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.