



Trinity Topics

www.sancarloshtlc.org

November 2016

Interim Pastor's Message

"We are prophets of a future not our own."



Pr. Lori Eickmann

That is a line from "A Future Not Our Own" by Archbishop Oscar Romero, martyr of El Salvador, which I read in worship recently. It comes to mind again as you most likely will be receiving the November *Trinity Topics* on the very day you vote on calling your new pastor. May God inspire your gathering after worship on

Reformation Day, as you participate in moving into the future in which God is re-forming Holy Trinity!

So our time together is coming to its inevitable close. If the call is approved, my last Sunday with you will be Nov. 20. I have just begun talking with another congregation that will need an interim pastor early next year. I have SO enjoyed serving with you here! Here is what I am grateful for as I look back on our 13 months together:

*That God has called Holy Trinity as a servant church, particularly using your gifts to serve the needs of homeless families on the Peninsula; and that members and friends of this community of faith are committed to using their talents for worship and music, education of children, youth and adults, widening your welcome, partnerships with the local synod and the global church in relief efforts, and good stewardship of your property and buildings.

*That this congregation is open to new ideas and programs; that those who take initiative in starting ministries research how to make them fruitful in your context; that rather than resting on your laurels, you are always listening for what the Holy Spirit is calling you to next.

*That you have been supportive of me and welcoming to Steve; that you gave me a generous contract, participated in the work of the interim time, let me know that my efforts were appreciated, and inspired me with your sense of joy

in God's goodness and your ability to see Christ in one another and in the stranger.

Here is my hope for the future of Holy Trinity:

*That you will be just as caring and supportive, positive and involved, faithful and hope-filled as always! I'm confident that you don't expect the pastor to magically fill the pews or singlehandedly connect with the neighborhood. I'm just as confident that you will be as much an inspiration to your new pastor as you have been to me.

*That you will humbly continue to do God's creative work with your hands.

Which brings me back to Archbishop Romero's meditation. He writes that *"the kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision,"* which means the coming reign will be accomplished by God, not by congregations having the "right" programs or the "best" volunteers or the "perfect" pastor. So, he writes,

"This is what we are about:

We plant seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest."

After all, it's all about grace! May these words be a blessing as we find ourselves, each and every day, on the threshold of the future. Even as we separate, we remain connected, for we are members of the body of Christ. Together with the whole church on earth, we are indeed prophets of a future not our own – a hope-filled future that is held in God's ever-gracious hands. Thanks be to God!





Worship Opportunities

November 6
All Saints Sunday

Holy Communion with Remembrance of All Saints

November 13
Youth-led Communion Service

November 20
Reign of Christ | Celebration Sunday

Last Communion Service of the Church Year
Pr. Lori's last Sunday

November 27
First Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion Service and
Lighting of the Advent Wreath

REMINDER

November 17 | 7:00 pm
Confirmation Class and Mentors

SAVE THE DATE!

Children's Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 18 at 5:30pm
with potluck following the pageant

Rehearsals
Sunday, Nov 27, Dec 4 & Dec 11 at 9am

Dress Rehearsal
Saturday, December 17 at noon
in the Sanctuary

All are welcome!

Call Committee News

The Call Committee is excited to select Pastor Josh Serrano as the best fit to be Holy Trinity's next pastor. On October 5, the Council heard an overview of Pastor Josh and approved a motion to bring him forward to the congregation as the candidate for pastor. Then on October 23, Pastor Josh and his two sons visited Holy Trinity to meet and greet the congregation. A congregational meeting to vote is being held on Sunday, October 30 after church. As stated in our constitution's bylaws, the first vote will be a written ballot of members present (no absentee ballots), on whether to call Pr. Joshua Serrano. This vote requires a 2/3 majority to pass. The second vote will be on the financial package we are offering to Pr. Josh, and requires a simple majority to pass.



Overview of Pastor Josh

Throughout the process, the Call Committee found Pr. Josh to be an exceptional young candidate who is excited about the possibility of being the next pastor at Holy Trinity. As a pastor with hospitality and gratitude as core to his sense of calling and serving Christ's church, Pr. Josh will play an active role in helping us with outreach and serving our community. Pastor Josh is looking forward to moving into the parsonage with his two young sons in November.

Pr. Josh is in the early stage of his pastoral career. He received his Masters in Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary in 2009 followed by seminary studies at PLTS. He has served as Associate Pastor at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Orinda since 2012. He has also served on the Campus Pastoral Care Team at PLTS since 2014.

Some of Pr. Josh's key strengths that stood out during the interview process are:

- ✦ Excellent preacher who loves to tell the story of Jesus
- ✦ Experienced in Youth and Family ministry at Holy Shepherd in Orinda
- ✦ Passion for evangelism and outreach
- ✦ Pastoral care and visitation
- ✦ Good communication skills; fluent English and Spanish, and social media savvy
- ✦ Great fit with WOW (Widening Our Welcome) – he tells his own story about how God called him to be a pastor and encourages others to tell their stories
- ✦ Good sense of humor.

The Call Committee unanimously agrees that Pr Josh will be a blessing to HTLC. We think he will sustain our key programs including Youth and Family Ministry and WOW, maintain and build our momentum, and help us discern the next steps in HTLC's journey. We think Pr. Josh's leadership and engagement will benefit Holy Trinity for years to come.

This message from Rev. Katy Grindberg, assistant to the bishop, Sierra Pacific Synod, speaks to Holy Trinity's focus on Widening Our Welcome. It ran in the synod's weekly e-newsletter in October:



One of my least favorite things is coming up with a topic for newsletter articles. It can be tricky to figure out what people care about, and then balance that with what is going on in the church and the world, as many of you know.

I had the usual struggle this week. Clearly, there's a lot going on in the world that I could address, but as I was thinking about all of that, I had the thought - "I don't know if I have the bandwidth or energy to step into the space of talking about racism and misogyny and all that's in the air right now"...and then I realized what I thought and was smacked upside the head with my own privilege - because it is a choice for me to speak about many of these things. I can choose to, or not to, speak out against racism, homophobia, and the many other ways that people are diminished and are 'other-ized'. Misogyny is another matter - that I do deal with on a regular basis, but being a white, middle-class woman also means that my experiences are different from my sisters of color and those who live in poverty. And I get a choice about whether to 'go there' in what I say, write and post about - and even what I choose to actually see.

As I was having this moment of self-awareness and self-incrimination and self-confession, the #decolonizelutheranism movement came to mind. This is a movement seeking to claim Lutheranism as a faith for all people, and de-link it from ethnic identity, specific foods (lefse or lutefisk, anyone?), and the largely Northern European heritage that North American Lutheranism was birthed from. It's a movement to talk about theology and practice in ways that include all people - not just Germans and Scandinavians, but all beloved children of God. It's a movement that says a Lutheran doesn't look a certain way, or talk a certain way, or appreciate specific foods, or get certain jokes.

I grew up with these things, and they are not unimportant to my life...they are just not what defines my faith - a faith that Martin Luther called "a living daring confidence in God's grace." I was born into this faith, and I grew up with this theology and the knowledge of God's deep and abiding love for me and for all of God's people and creation. Having lived this this gift for my whole life, I want to make sure that all people are welcome in this church. That means listening to the experiences of others, and sometimes being smacked upside the head with my own privilege and my own assumptions.

If you'd like to learn more about #decolonizelutheranism here are some suggestions:
<https://www.elm.org/2016/09/22/guest-blog-decolonizing-lutheranism-a-gift-or-a-task/>
<http://formerlyunchurched.com/radicalhospitality/>

God's peace on the journey,
 Pr. Katy Grindberg

PS: My deep thanks to Pr. Tuhina Rasche (Grace, Palo Alto) and Pr. Tita Valeriano (Interim, St. Mark's, San Francisco) for their leadership in the #decolonizelutheranism movement, and their wisdom and encouragement to me. God bless you both!

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MULTIFAITH DAY OF SERVICE

On **Monday, January 16, 2017**, HTLC will participate in the annual Peninsula Multifaith Coalition Martin Luther King, Jr. Multifaith Day of Service. The day will begin with breakfast for the volunteers and a welcome from community faith leaders. Following breakfast, groups of volunteers will 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 veterans and families in shelters, and sorting book and clothing donations. The service projects are family friendly, and children ages 5 to 11 accompanied by an adult are welcome. There will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers on the bulletin board in the breezeway.

Please see Dick Rescho if you have any questions.



Treasurer's General Fund Report – September 2016



Fall Back!

**Daylight savings time ends
Sunday, November 6**

Change clocks back 1 hour
See you at service!



INCOME

<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Budget to Date</u>	<u>Actual to Date</u>
\$11,221	\$164,092	\$122,201

EXPENSES

<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Budget to Date</u>	<u>Actual to Date</u>
\$15,615	\$164,092	\$149,895

NET INCOME OR LOSSES

<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Actual to Date</u>
(\$4,394)	(\$26,770)

This month we received \$253 in Thrivent Choice Dollars.

We have spent \$14,197 under our annual budget.

Please keep current with your regular giving. Thank you.

Petra Gilmore, Treasurer

October 5 Special Council meeting:

- Greg Bohlmann and several members of the Call Committee provided an overview of the candidate selected by the committee.
- Anita Reimann and Greg reviewed the proposed compensation package.
- The Council voted to support the Call Committee's recommendation to present Pastor Joshua Serrano to the congregation along with the compensation package at a congregation meeting on October 30.



October 18 Regular Council meeting

- Pastor Lori's report highlighted:
 - The great work of the Call Committee and their process
 - Confirmation beginning; Blessing of Animals service; commissioning of new Lay Eucharist/Visitation Ministry Team; 3rd graders to receive Bibles on Reformation Sunday
 - Thanked Monica for updating the Holy Trinity directory and Anita for taking member photos
- Treasurer's Report:
 - Through September, **receipts are \$27,694 below expenditures** to date.
 - Monthly loan payment is \$3,164 paid from Spring Forth donations. Loan balance as of September 30 is \$153,740 and Spring Forth balance is \$56,601.
 - There is a difference of \$97,139 between Spring Forth and the loan balances with \$66,245 in outstanding pledges; however, several people no longer belong/attend. Anticipated receipts are between \$45-\$48K.
- Call committee and Anita reported that, as per constitution, letter has been mailed to congregation members. In addition, it has been sent electronically and posted on Holy Trinity's Facebook site.
- Pastor Lori's last Sunday at Holy Trinity will be November 20 with a soup/salad celebration and Pastor Josh's first Sunday will be December 4.
- Approvals:
 - Synod-recommended constitution changes were reviewed and the Council voted to bring the changes to the congregation at the January Annual Meeting.
 - Approved the Endowment Committee's recommendation to use 2014 unused endowment funds and a new \$4,000 distribution for one-time expenses for the call process (moving, laptop and Healthy Start).

College care package donation with **Barbara Richards** and **Miriam Sarzotti** signing cards for Zoe Reimann and Theda Knauth.



Leroy & Barbara Padilla delivering the LWR Personal Care Kits to the Ingathering in Morgan Hill on Oct 15th. The truck was then going to Vallejo for shipping to Minnesota. The kits were planned for overseas for relief to Haiti! Thanks to all for this donation.

Home & Hope Fundraiser — The Journey Home

Holy Trinity's unique "trinity project" involving **Social Concerns, Evangelism/Outreach and Congregation Life** supports our commitment to:

- Continue efforts in social outreach by helping serve the homeless through our Home & Hope partnership;
- Encourage members to invite neighbors, friends or co-workers to join the Holy Trinity team for this event;
- Gather as a community of believers and support each other through activities which serve others.

As of October 24 the Holy Trinity Trotter team has raised just over half of its \$1,000 goal. Help reach or exceed that goal by registering/donating (online or see **Bob Beuthel**). This is a kid-friendly (walk only as far as you can) and dog friendly event.

How can **YOU** participate?

- Register on the Home & Hope website (<http://journeyhome.homeandhope.net/>); pre-registration deadline is October 25 (\$35); on site \$40
- Participants will gather in Beilstein Hall after worship on the 13th for a light "kick-off" lunch (wear your Holy Trinity t-shirts)
- Meet at Seal Point Park, San Mateo, on Nov. 13 @ 1:00 PM with running or walking shoes ready to have fun
- Encourage a "living generously" spirit by inviting others to join with us in this fundraiser
- If you can't participate in the walk/run, you can donate to support the Holy Trinity team

If the financial commitment for registration is preventing participation, contact **Barbara Padilla** or **Bob Beuthel** as scholarships are available. Also, if you are uncomfortable with registering/donating on the Home & Hope website, put your check/money in an envelope marked "**Home & Hope - The Journey Home**" and put it in the offering plate on November 6.

**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**

& Book Study
Saturday, November 12
8:00 am | Beilstein Hall

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

BIRTHDAYS

- 11/1 Michelle Rohrer
- 11/2 Max Reimann
Eric Webb
- 11/5 Hazel Vorhes
- 11/6 Harriet Platt
- 11/12 Erica Schemper
- 11/14 Nathan Frojelin
- 11/16 Helen Barg
- 11/18 Lillian Pogreba
Hubert Rodenberg
- 11/19 Emily Schmuckal
Eva Schmuckal
- 11/20 Gary Wiessinger
- 11/23 Anke Knauth

Lydia Circle (WELCA)

Tuesday, November 15 | 12:30 pm
San Carlos Elms



Lydia Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 15th at 12:30 in Harriet Platt's suite at the Elms. Our Bible Study for the month can be found on page 26 in November's edition of Gather magazine. We're on Session 3 of "When God Chooses the Unlikely". How appropriate that we end this 3 month study with a look at "Paul and the Power of Failure". Please bring your Bible, a light lunch and your November Gather. All Women welcome!

All women of Holy Trinity are welcome!

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



*In observation of Thanksgiving, the office will be **closed** November 24th & 25th*



Reformation 500 is coming - October 2017!

Watch for more information on the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and how Christ's church continues to be re-formed today.

Save the Date
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 29th, 2017

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 REFORMATION SUNDAY 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:15 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 11:15 AM Special Congregational Mtg 11:30 AM Choir Practice 5:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	31	1	2 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	3 6:30 PM W&M Team Meeting	4 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room 7:30 PM Russian Gospel Temple--Beilstein Hall	5 5:00 PM AA Mtg (women's group)--Conf Room
6 ALL SAINTS DAY 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	7	8 6:00 AM POLLING DAY ELECTIONS	9 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	10	11 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room 7:30 PM Russian Gospel Temple--Beilstein Hall	12 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast - Beilstein Hall 5:00 PM AA Mtg (women's group)--Conf Room
13 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:15 AM Youth-led Worship Service 11:15 AM Coffee and Fellowship 11:30 AM Choir Practice 1:00 PM Home & Hope 5/10k 5:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	14	15 12:30 PM Lydia Circle 7:00 PM Council Meeting	16 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	17 7:00 PM Confirmation Class-Beilstein Hall	18 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room 7:30 PM Russian Gospel Temple--Beilstein Hall	19 5:00 PM AA Mtg (women's group)--Conf Room
20 CELEBRATION SUNDAY Pr. Lori's Last Sunday 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	21	22	23 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	24 THANKSGIVING - OFFICE CLOSED	25 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room 7:30 PM Russian Gospel Temple--Beilstein Hall	26 5:00 PM AA Mtg (women's group)--Conf Room
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 6:30 PM W&M Team Meeting	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



	11/6	11/13 (Youth)	11/20	11/27 Advent 1
Organist	Edward C	Edward C	Edward C	Edward C
Assisting Minister	Pamela Bohlmann	Lori Friedman	James Reimann	Cathy Bready
Lector	Peter Meier	Youth	Doug Southard	Erik Vorhes
Acolyte	Cameron M	Anna F	Zora V	Eva S
Sound System Operator	Bob Beuthel	Greg Bohlmann	John McDowell	Leroy Padilla
Altar Guild	Karen Schomstein	Pamela Bohlmann	Vivian Southard	Barbara Richards
Greeter(s)	Barbara Richards	Hilary Wiessinger	Andrea Reiser	Julianne Fredericks
Ushers	Dave Pitts Richard Wunderlich	Leroy Padilla	Greg Bohlmann	Dick Rescho John McDowell
Nursery Assistant	Parent to Stay	Parent to Stay	Parent to Stay	Parent to Stay
Coffee Host	Cathy Bready	Gaby Knauth	Lisa Kersten	Anita Reimann
Counters	Lisa Telfer John McDowell	Barbara Padilla Mary Webb	Greg Bohlmann Andrea Reiser	Lisa Kersten Chris Kidwell

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

Interim Pastor The Rev. Lori Eickmann
 Office AdministratorMonica Cryan
 Nursery Care.....Jo O'Brien

President Anita Reimann
 Worship & MusicErik Vorhes
 Evangelism & Outreach.....Gary Wiessinger
 Vice PresidentLori Friedman
 StewardshipPeter Meier, Barbara Padilla
 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.