



Trinity Topics

www.sancarloshtlc.org

October 2015

From Pastor Erica

It's October. In the Schemper-Vorhes house, that means we're finally back into the school-year swing of things. Kids are back in school, Erik and I have attended all of the back to school meetings and orientations, filled out the forms, and re-started the after school activities. It's been a busy season. It would be lovely if life slowed down a bit, but my kids are already putting in requests for Halloween costumes. And after that? We probably have to start planning for Christmas. It just keeps coming! Summer vacation can't return soon enough!



Pr. Erica Schemper

When I was a few years out of seminary, I was part of a program for young pastors that included the incredible gift of a weekly meeting with a seasoned minister and church consultant. The four of us in my cohort so admired Hugh for his amazing life, and incredible wisdom. He talked with us about our ministry, helped us understand how to be better pastors, and prayed with us. He let us ask questions. He gave good advice.

One night, we asked him, "What's the one thing you would have done differently in your early years of ministry?" His answer? "I would have taken a lawn chair out behind the church so I could sit and watch the grass grow more often."

We were shocked. We assumed the answer would have been to do more, or perhaps to do something more efficiently. Maybe even something more spiritual, like praying or reading the Bible more. But, no. Hugh just wanted to watch the grass grow.

But I think what he was trying to tell us was this: life is very busy, and sometimes we get sucked into the trap of thinking that the more we do, the more the busy-ness will abate. The fact of the matter is that world will keep turning without all of our effort, and God will continue to nurture all of creation, us humans included.

As we watch the busy-ness of the seasons churning by, I'm going to suggest that you get out a chair and watch your browning lawn start to grow. But if, for example, we get the rain we need in California this coming season; if you notice that life is just overwhelming; or if you realize that you've become a little too reliant on doing stuff instead of being the person God intended you to be, maybe it's time to create a little space to slow down. Pull up a chair: let God worry about the growing.



**HTLC is celebrating
all of God's creatures!**

Let us honor St. Francis of Assisi and our wonderful animal companions that bring so much fun & joy to our lives.

Sunday, October 4 | 10:15 am

**Special Worship Service with
the Blessing of the Animals**

All pets and their humans welcome!



Fall Pumpkin Celebration

Saturday, October 17

4:00 – 6:00 pm in Beilstein Hall



Children and their parents are invited to join us for the Fall Pumpkin Celebration where we will carve pumpkins, play pumpkin games, sing pumpkin songs, and light our pumpkins with the Pumpkin Blessing. Dinner of Sloppy Joes and pumpkin included. Please sign-up in the Breezeway. Parents – please bring “safe” pumpkin carving tools and an \$8 donation for each pumpkin.

Pumpkin Seed Guessing Contest!

Look for the Pumpkin Seed Contest in the Narthex on October 4th and 11th. Can you guess the number of pumpkin seeds in the mason jar?

Winner announced at the Fall Pumpkin Celebration on October 17th. Pumpkin questions? Contact Lisa Kersten at kerstenbl@comcast.net or cell phone 650-759-1034.

HTLC Prayer Chain Update

Thanks to Francie Kuehner for her many years of hosting the HTLC prayer chain on email! Anita Reimann will be taking over the email prayer chain, along with Ruby Phillips in charge of the telephone prayer chain. To be added to the HTLC prayer chain please email Anita at reimann.anita@gmail.com or call Ruby at 650-593-0228.



Confirmation Students & Families

Look out for news from Pastor Erica and Pastor Derek (from Messiah, RWC) about a late October kick-off dinner with Confirmation information for the coming year.

September Council Meeting:

- Lori Friedman reported that Pastor Lori Eickmann will begin at Holy Trinity on 9/22 and her first Sunday will be 9/27. As she is called 75% time, she will typically be in the office Tuesday – Thursday 10:00-2:00.
- Treasurer's report indicated that giving is still lower than expenditures by approximately \$5,900.
- Buildings & Grounds; work with the city regarding approval of the parking lot sign continues; Beilstein Hall carpets will be cleaned on 9/23.
- Thanks to everyone for a productive God's Work, Our Hands Sunday on 9/13
- Audit findings for 2012, 2013 & 2014 were reviewed noting the steps taken by the Treasurer to implement most findings already. Auditor has agreed to conduct the 2015 audit after the close of books December 31.
- A special recognition is being planned for Shirley Zimmerman later in the year.
- Stewardship Committee is seeking additional members and a chair – see Barbara Richards if interested.
- Parsonage use by Home & Hope during interim was deferred until next month.
- Received an update on status of finding a new copier to replace the one going out of contract.
- Job Descriptions for Council members and officers were approved.



Intentional Interim Ministry: What It Is & How We'll Do It

from Interim Pastor Lori Eickmann

Why engage in intentional interim ministry? Why not just call a new pastor as quickly as possible?

In this transitional time at Holy Trinity, keep in mind two things:

1. The ministries of HTLC continue and evolve even when pastors, staff, or members leave, just as they continue and evolve when new pastors, staff or members join. Ministry (as this congregation already knows!) isn't just about the pastor, it's about the call of this blessed body of Christ.
2. At the same time, in any human group – a church, family, classroom, office, etc. – everyone in the group plays a role in the group. So whenever anyone enters or leaves the group, the dynamics change. For example, when a baby is adopted or a grown child moves away from home to go to college, everyone adjusts to this new reality as relationships shift in ways both obvious and subtle.

So the first focus of this transitional time is to engage in a congregational self-study. How is everyone adjusting to Pr. Christian's absence? Who is HTLC now? What are you called to at this point in your life together? After a time of reflection – during which you'll continue with existing ministries and start new ones – the focus will turn to calling your next pastor, who will be blessed to be your partner in ministry!

The 3 phases of the transitional time:

- * Identify what needs attention at HTLC now and address those issues.
- * Engage in short-term visioning and gather the information needed for the call committee to prepare the Ministry Site Profile.
- * Interview candidates and call the new pastor.

The 5 “focus areas” of intentional interim ministry:

Heritage (how the congregation has been shaped); **leadership** (reviewing how leadership is developed in order to address congregational needs); **mission** (defining or refining purpose and direction); **connections** (how the congregation builds relationships outside of itself); **and future** (developing congregational and pastoral profiles). More info will follow, but most of these are addressed during the first two phases.

How we will proceed:

When your church council meets on Oct. 13, we will discuss how to begin conversations to determine what needs attention now at HTLC. Because Reformation, All Saints, Reign of Christ and Advent are quickly approaching, visioning will most likely begin early next year. Meanwhile, we'll give worship, the WOW focus, Sunday school, the Christmas pageant and other ministries all the love and energy we can!

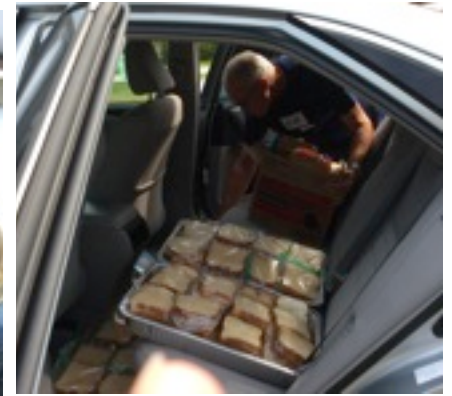
Keep praying as we discern God's desires for the welcoming community of HTLC!

" G O D S W O R K , O U R H A N D S " S U N D A Y

A fun day of service for "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday, September 13! Together with Messiah Lutheran Church in Redwood City we prepped over 300 sandwiches for a soup kitchen, created 100 LWR School Kits for refugees, sang at an elder home, wrote letters to soldiers, and gave cookies to local fire-fighters!"



Soup kitchen at St. Vincent de Paul , SSF.

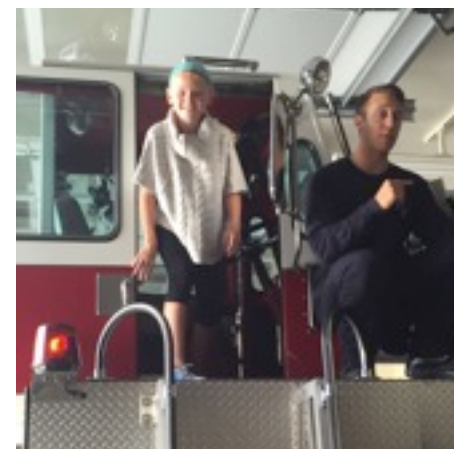


Making of sandwiches and loading for delivery.



**God's work.
Our hands.**

A joyful thank you for all the volunteer work and leadership to make "God's work. Our hands" such a great day!



All of the volunteers decorated over 30 plates of cookies. It was great fun and a huge success!



As the school year kicks into gear, so is the WOW Team. This fall there will be a variety of opportunities for all to discern where we are as a congregation in terms of our welcome and to further increase our understanding of society issues while we face our own biases and prejudices. The Team has four areas of focus:

WOW Stories

As Christians, we follow the life and ministry of Jesus as an example of a faithful life. Jesus was a storyteller; most of his preaching is encapsulated in stories and parables throughout the Gospels. We know that connecting the stories from our congregation with the Gospel stories of inclusion is how hearts are opened and new information is received. Thank you, Anne Carey and Anna Friedman for sharing your Widening Our Welcome (WOW) stories. Look for more to come in October. Do you have a story you would like to share? If so, speak to a member of the WOW Team.



Welcoming Statement

A welcoming statement is a tool for a congregation to explicitly invite people of all backgrounds to our worship community. As Anne mentioned in her recent Temple Talk, it can be hard to know whether you and your loved ones will be welcome in a church: sometimes it is easier to keep looking for a faith community that you know will embrace you than to take a chance at a church where you might not feel welcome.



There are many kinds of welcome statements of different lengths, formality, and theological message. A welcome statement provides an opportunity for us to communicate the mission of our church and the warm and welcoming community that we know so well. In order to create a statement that is right for us, during October we will display a variety of welcoming statements in the breezeway and provide opportunities for you to comment and provide your ideas.

Adult Forums | 9:15 am | Conference Room

- October 4, 11 & 18
“Confronting the Bias of Racism” – In August, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton hosted a webcast “Confronting Racism”. Viewing and discussing the webcast will be the centerpiece of this Adult Forum series while we explore racism and our response to racism.
- October 25, November 1 & 8
“Confronting the Bias of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity” – What are the different degrees of sexual orientation? What is gender identity? What does the Bible say about these topics? Increasing our understanding of these topics helps equip us in our welcoming process.



Movies

Watch for more information or see Pamela Bohlmann.



& Book Study

Saturday, October 10 | 8:00 am
Beilstein Hall



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

Lydia Circle (of WELCA)

Tuesday, October 20 | 12:15 pm
at the Elms in San Carlos



We had such a heartfelt Bible Study, social time, at Harriet Platt's apartment in September that we are again meeting at the Elms in her suite. Our October Bible study, "Make Haste, O Lord", is found on pg. 26 of the October "Gather" magazine. Please bring it, your Bible, and a light lunch.

All Holy Trinity women are welcome!

October Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 13th | 7:00 pm



The 33rd Edition of
CHOCOLATE FEST
is coming Oct. 16 and 17!
Three sessions:
 7:30-10 p.m. Friday
 1:30-4 p.m. and 7:30-10 p.m. Saturday
SAVE the DATE!
Tickets available now!

BIRTHDAYS

- 10/2 John Schornstein
- 10/3 Zoë Schrof
- 10/4 Ilana Henne
- 10/6 Len Fischer
- 10/7 Anna Friedman
- 10/8 Joshua Frojelin
- 10/11 Erin Fischer
- 10/15 Caitlin Gilmore
- 10/24 Allison Rodgers
Vivian Southard
- 10/25 Luke Davis
- 10/26 Larry Pogreba
- 10/27 Brian Kersten
- 10/31 Ann Mitchell

ANNIVERSARY WISHES!

- Chris & Linda Ledwith
10/8/1994 (21 years)
- Peter & Eloiza Meier
10/9/2004 (11 years)
- Jeff & Christine Paulson
10/12/2008 (7 years)
- Larry & Barbara Richards
10/25/1997 (18 years)

Sierra Pacific Synod High School Retreat



October 16-18

Contact Pastor Erica if you're interested in attending!

Join HTLC on

Reformation Sunday, October 25th

for festive Lutheran Liturgy,
 the presentation of Bibles to 3rd graders
 & the HTLC choir music!

Don't forget to wear red!



O C T O B E R C A L E N D A R S

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 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 6:00 PM Jazzercise--Beilstein Hall	29 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Beilstein Hall	30 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	1 9:15 AM Sr. Zumba--Beilstein Hall 6:00 PM Jazzercise--Beilstein Hall	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 <i>Blessing of the Animals</i> 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 6:00 PM Jazzercise--Beilstein Hall	6 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Beilstein Hall 7:30 PM Children, Youth, Family Ministry Team Mtg	7 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	8 9:15 AM Sr. Zumba--Beilstein Hall 6:00 PM Jazzercise--Beilstein Hall	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 5:00 PM AA Mtg (women's group)--Conf Room
11 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	12 6:00 PM Jazzercise--Beilstein Hall	13 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Beilstein Hall 7:00 PM Council Meeting	14 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	15 9:15 AM Sr. Zumba--Beilstein Hall 6:00 PM Jazzercise--Beilstein Hall	16 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room 7:30 PM Russian Gospel Temple--Beilstein Hall	17 4:00 PM Fall Pumpkin Celebration 5:00 PM AA Mtg (women's group)--Conf Room
18 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	19 6:00 PM Jazzercise--Beilstein Hall	20 12:00 PM Lydia Circle 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Beilstein Hall	21 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	22 9:15 AM Sr. Zumba--Beilstein Hall 6:00 PM Jazzercise--Beilstein Hall	23 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
25 <i>REFORMATION SUNDAY</i> 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	26 6:00 PM Jazzercise--Beilstein Hall	27 5:00 PM Sierra Club--Beilstein Hall 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conference Rm	28 7:00 PM AA Meeting--Conf Room	29 9:15 AM Sr. Zumba--Beilstein Hall 6:00 PM Jazzercise--Beilstein Hall	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



	10/4	10/11 (Youth)	10/18	10/25
Organ/ Piano	Stacy Cullison	Stacy Cullison	Jeff Kabel	*
Assisting Minister	Pamela Bohlmann	Randy Friedman	Erik Vorhes	Gary Wiessinger
Lector	Doug Southard	Youth	Christine Paulson	Barbara Padilla
Acolyte	Eva Schmuckal	Mackenzie Friedman	Zora Vorhes	Cameron Martin
Sound System Operator	Leroy Padilla	Greg Bohlmann	Bob Young	John Schornstein
Altar Guild	Vivian Southard	Barbara Richards	Pamela Bohlmann	Karen Schornstein
Greeter (s)	Anni Wunderlich	Lynn Garbe-Recknagel	The Wiessingers	Peter Meier
Ushers	Dave Pitts Richard Wunderlich	Leroy Padilla	Greg Bohlmann John Schornstein	Dick Rescho John McDowell
Nursery Assistant	Parent to Stay	Parent to Stay	Parent to Stay	Parent to Stay
Coffee Host	Fischer	Wiessinger	Julianne Fredericks	Friedman
Counters	Mary Webb Chris Kidwell	Leroy Padilla Mary Webb	Greg Bohlmann Andrea Reiser	Lisa Telfer Lisa Kersten

Worship Leaders

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



Want to go green? Please contact Holy Trinity (office@sancarlostlc.org) to replace your printed copy with an electronic copy of our newsletter.

STAFF

Interim Pastor The Rev. Lori Eickmann
eickmann@sancarlostlc.org
 Dir, Child & Family Ministries.....The Rev. Erica Schemper
schemper@sancarlostlc.org
 Organist/Pianist Guest Organist

Office AdministratorMonica Cryan
cryan@sancarlostlc.org
 Nursery Care.....Jo O'Brien
obrien@sancarlostlc.org

2015 COUNCIL OFFICERS & MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRS

President Dr. Lori Friedman
friedman@sancarlostlc.org
 Vice PresidentDr. Anita Reimann
 SecretaryBob Beuthel
 Buildings & GroundsBob Beuthel & Leroy Padilla
 Congregation Life
 Endowment.....Cathy Bready & John McDowell
 Education/Sunday School.....Anita Reimann

Worship & Music.....Erik Vorhes
 Evangelism & OutreachGary Wiessinger
 StewardshipRick Gilmore
 Social ConcernsBarbara Padilla & Hillary Wiessinger
 YouthLori Friedman
 Financial SecretaryMary Webb
 TreasurerPetra Gilmore
treasurer@sancarlostlc.org

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
 149 Manzanita Avenue
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 Phone: 650.593.0325
 Sunday Worship 10:15 am



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