



TRINITY TRUMPETER

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
July/August 2018
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**Many Members —
One Body in Christ**



Trinity Trumpeter

is a bimonthly publication of
Trinity Lutheran Church
759 Linden Avenue
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Editor

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Contributions Are Welcome

Article submissions should be
submitted to
trevor.wolter@trinitylclb.org by the
15th of even-numbered months.

Worship at Trinity

Sundays at 10:30 am
followed by Fellowship at 11:45 am

Bible Study

For children, Sundays at 9:00 am
For adults, Sundays at 9:00 am and
Thursdays at 10:00 am

Choir

Resumes in September

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CALENDAR

JULY						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

AUGUST						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

July

- 1 Property Committee 12:00 pm
- 4 Independence Day / Office Closed
- 8 Executive Committee 12:00 pm
- 15 Outreaching Committee 12:00 pm
- 17 Council 7:00 pm
- 21 Discipling Committee 10:00 am
Community Meal 12:00 pm
- 22 Fellowship Committee 12:00pm

August

- 5 Property Committee 12:00 pm
- 12 Executive Committee 12:00 pm
- 19 Discipling Committee 10:00 am
Community Meal 12:00 pm
- 19 Outreaching Committee 12:00 pm
- 21 Council 7:00 pm
- 26 Fellowship Committee 12:00 pm

Support Groups

- Sun Alanza Club 7:00 pm
- Mon Serenity Circle 7:00 pm
- Tue 2 Be Free 7:00 pm
Round Robin 7:30 pm
- Fri Men to Men in Recovery 6:00 pm
- Sat SIA 9:00 am
- M-Sa Eastside Early Birds 6:30 am

Cover Feature Together One Body

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

I Corinthians 12:12-13 (NRSV)

Editor's note: On Sunday, June 17, 2017, Trinity's President, Robert Pedder, announced that Pastor Scott would be taking a six week medical leave. The following week letters from both Pastor Scott and President Pedder were mailed to the congregation. Their letters are re-printed here.



Dear Members and Friends of Trinity Lutheran Church,

After prayerful consideration and in consultation with medical professionals providing care for me, I have requested and been granted at least 6 weeks of medical leave by the Executive Committee of Trinity Lutheran Church. I have requested and received a letter from my health care provider confirming my need for such a leave. I hope and pray that this time of rest, prayer, and reflection will result in healing and a renewed sense of purpose and vitality.

On behalf of my family and myself, I want to thank the members of Trinity for your thoughts and prayers. I am grateful to the leadership of Trinity Lutheran Church for their prayers, concern for my well-being and the well-being of my family, and for putting those concerns into action. Following this medical leave, I look forward to continuing to serve God, the Church, and the community that' have been called to serve.

In Christ's Service,
Rev. Scott Fritz

Fellow Members of the Congregation:

It is with regret that I inform you that The Reverend Scott Fritz will not be performing pastoral duties at Trinity Lutheran Church during the period from June 18-1:0 August 1, 2018.

Pastor Scott has requested a medical leave of absence during the aforementioned period. Information and recommendations from medical professionals and conversations among the Pastor, the assistant to the Bishop, and the Executive Committee (Larry Rice, Marilyn Bohl, Trevor Wolter, Bob Jackson, and myself) have brought the latter group to conclude that it is in the best interests of the Pastor's health that he be granted a six-week medical leave. After the initial four weeks of the leave, the Pastor, the assistant to the Bishop, and a member (or members) of the Executive Committee will meet to re-assess options regarding Pastor Scott's return to service.

During our pastor's absence, we are planning to call upon supply pastors to perform Sunday worship services. Bible study sessions, committee meetings, and Council meetings will be held as scheduled. Those congregants who have matters of serious concern and those who need to deal with emergencies may consult with me at (562) 244-4803, and I will try to direct you to appropriate resources. Please do not contact Pastor Scott during the time of leave.

I am hoping that all will join with me in prayer and in spirit to support Pastor Scott and his family as they confront this medical situation.

Yours in Christ,
Robert Pedder
Council President

A stylized illustration featuring a cityscape on the left with a brown building and a red and yellow striped background. A green tree with a brown trunk stands in the center. On the right, several people in various shades of brown and yellow are shown in a group hug. The background is a light blue gradient.

Love & Serve

God
Neighbor
Creation

SWCA 2018 Assembly

The 31st annual South-west California Synod Assembly was held Friday and Saturday, June 1st and 2nd, 2018, on the campus of California Lutheran University (CLU), Thousand

Oaks. Marilyn Bohl and Bob Jackson attended as Trinity's female and male voting delegates. Pastor Scott Fritz attended as our pastor, with voting responsibilities as well. Though the number of attendees varied slightly

throughout the days, an official count at one point was 338 voting attendees (187 male, 151 female) and 70 visitors. Of the attendees, only 8 were identified as being under 30 years of age.

Bishop Guy Irwin emphasized the importance of the Assembly by serving as Master of Ceremonies. He views his current “job” as the toughest and most rewarding he’s had. He accumulates 1500 miles per year visiting the 115 congregations, comprising 30,000 members, of our Synod. The Long Beach churches are the southernmost geographic area. Bishop Irwin introduced the theme of the gathering: “Love & Serve: God, Neighbor, Creation.”

CLU President Chris Kimball welcomed us warmly. CLU values the visibility of having more than 400 Lutherans visiting its campus. President Kimball rejoiced at the new 20,000 square foot Arts and Media Center opened during the past year and at the record number of student registrations for fall 2019. He reminded attendees that children of rostered leaders get a 50% break on tuition and full and partial scholarships may be available to students who apply.

Prairie Rose Seminole, a Native American from western North Dakota, who serves as the ELCA Program Director of American Indian, Alaska Native Ministries, was a vibrant, sincere speaker. She cautioned against perceiving service to God, neighbor, and creation as missionary work. No, she said, effective service is all about building relationships, building trust. **She emphasized we must minister with, not minister to. The neighbors we**

seek to help must participate in determining that help, not simply be willing to accept assistance as defined by us, however well meaning that assistance may be. Within our church, we must change hearts, minds, and practices. She asked: What makes sense about preserving wealth while at the same time preserving poverty next door?

The ELCA today comprises 65 synods, 9600 congregations, and more than 4 million members. Too often we hear about churches dying, but in reality 228 worshipping groups/congregations have been started in the past four years, including 59 in 2017. Three congregations within our Synod are carrying out a RE-NEWAL process at this time. We are big enough to make a difference when we choose to do so!

Bill Jennings, CEO of California Lutheran Homes and Community Services, and Jim Kroenke, Executive Director of Solheim Senior Community, summarized the services available through their facilities, **Rev. Mark Funk**, leader of a volunteer task force called Congregation Reality, working toward social justice, cautioned: Your words matter! Be careful how you refer to people and how you talk about your congregation.

Both CLU and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) at its new location in downtown

Berkeley, are benefitting from their relatively recent joining to become one entity. Brian Stein-Webber, Director of Seminary Relations at PLTS, stated that the traditional 4-year Master of Divinity program has been redefined as a 3-year program (2 of study, 1 of internship). This change reduces both the cost and time required to enter the ministry.

Bob and I were pleased to note the candidacies of **Kathy Glendening and Cheyenne Williams** of Trinity for the positions of 2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Representative (Lay or Deacon, Female) and 2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Representative (Young Adult, 18-25). Because of prior schedule commitments, Bob and I were not able to attend the business sessions Saturday.

The travel to/from Long Beach/Thousand Oaks via Highways 405 and 101 can seem to be a long, tedious journey, but Bob and I agree this trip was worth it! Thank you for the opportunity. Marilyn Bohl

2018 SWCA Assembly Logo was designed by Leah Chang and Suntreeriver Design

Council Meeting Notes May 22, 2018

Note: The Council did not meet in April, 2018.

Officer Report Highlights

- PASTOR'S REPORT:
 - Pastor Scott elaborated on his personal health concerns and treatment thereof. He discussed plans to meet with Bishop Guy Erwin and Rev. Reginal Schultz-Akerson as well as ongoing meetings with physicians and the Executive Committee.
 - Pastor drew special attention to his concern about creating more positive and encouraging relationships among staff, volunteers, and members of the congregation.
- PRESIDENT'S REPORT:
 - President Pedder reported receipt the previous day of an email in which Erica Smith submitted her resignation from the Council and the office of Vice President.
- FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:
 - Budgeted expenses and income were roughly in balance through the first four months of the year.
 - Member receipts were notably higher during April due to one large contribution and the Easter holiday.

Committee Report Highlights

- DISCIPLING COMMITTEE: It is often difficult for the Parish Administrator to get in contact with volunteers for worship to confirm their intended participation. It was agreed to update volunteers' contact information and their communication preferences.
- OUTREACHING COMMITTEE: The committee is reviewing options for updating the landscaping as well as the exterior chimes.
- PROPERTY COMMITTEE:
 - All necessary sewer line repairs have been completed.
 - The church received \$6,500 from a recent film shoot.
 - Preliminary estimates have been gathered for installation of earthquake valves on gas lines into the 719 Linden Avenue apartments.
 - An estimate was received for below-surface wall repairs to prevent water intrusion into the building.
 - Reminders regarding Sunday restrictions will be giving to those who rent parking spaces from the church.
- FINANCE COMMITTEE: A motion was made, seconded and approved to invest two CDs at First Foundation Bank for 16 months at 2.5% APY as well as to open a bank-required checking account in order to open the CDs.

Continuing Business

- Cheyenne Williams was elected to the 2018 Audit Committee
- Marilyn Bohl and Bob Jackson agreed to serve as the congregation's lay voting members at the Annual Assembly of the Southwest California Synod.

Business

- A motion was made, seconded, and approved to elect Larry Rice to fill the vacant position of Vice President

Take Note

Thank You!

Fenton and Kathy Glendenning would like to thank EVERYONE for their thoughts, prayers, and best wishes during their recent surgeries and recoveries.

You Can Help!

It's not too soon to start thinking about serving the church as a member of the Church Council. The Nominating Committee, consisting of Trevor Wolter, Arline Walter, and Kathy Glendenning, will be asking for volunteers sooner than you think. Our congregation cannot operate without members willing to fill these positions. The commitment begins with just one 90-minute meeting each month for the duration of the term. If you're reading this, this message is for you. Please consider volunteering!

Share Your Voice

While the Trinity Choir is on summer break, please consider sharing your personal gift of music by sharing a solo during worship. See Trevor Wolter or Arline Walter. They can help you find a selection that's just right for you.

Community Meal

Don't forget, Trinity's Community Meal is coming up on July 21 and then on August 18. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet our neighbors.



From the Treasurer Trevor Wolter

We have so much to be thankful for here at Trinity! One of those blessings that we want to acknowledge is our strong financial standing. While not quite half way through the year at the time of this article, now is the perfect time to check in on how things are standing.

Income vs. Expenses

The top chart on the right shows our income in blues and our expenses in oranges. As you can see, our income is leading our expenses. So far we have receipts of \$96,386.13 verses expenses of \$81,006.83. It's important to note though that each month, \$1,000 from Oil Revenue is counted as income for 2018.

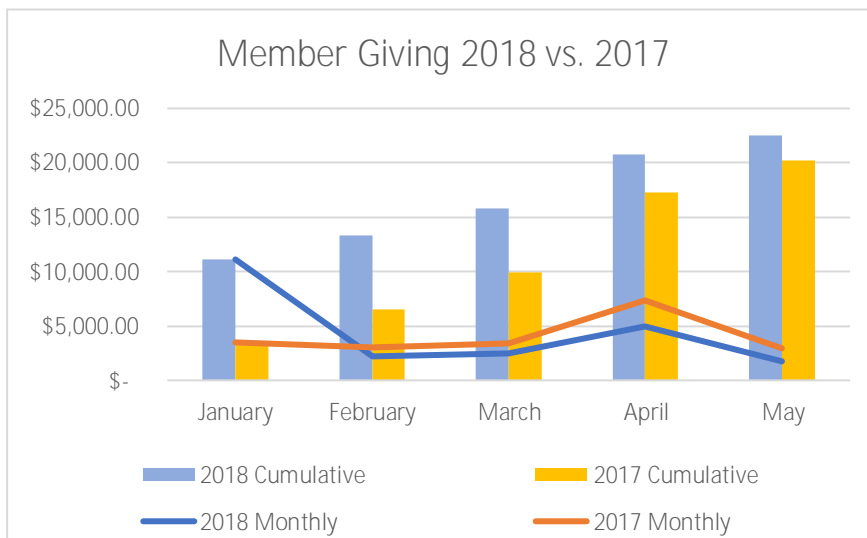
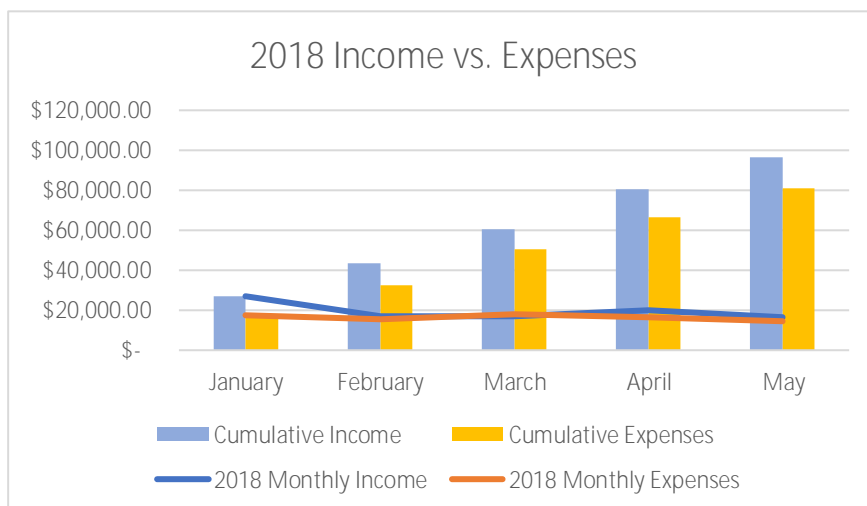
Member Giving

The bottom chart on the right shows just member giving (not counting real estate, church use, interest, and oil revenue). The blues show 2018 and the oranges show 2017. After an initial boost at the beginning of 2018, member giving is trailing behind 2017 year over year. Sometime in June or July, cumulative giving for 2018 will fall behind that of 2017.

The Big Picture

While we've been staying ahead of our expenses so far this year, if member giving doesn't increase, we will fall behind before the end of the year when in-

surance on other expenses come due. Please prayerfully and earnestly consider how you might be able to help our ministry maintain its strong position by increasing your monthly giving. We're all members of one family working together for the common goal of sharing the love of Christ.



Contact Trinity Staff

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