



TRINITY TRUMPETER

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
March/April 2018
Volume 17, Issue 2



**Set me as a seal
upon thine heart**



Trinity Trumpeter

is a bimonthly publication of
Trinity Lutheran Church
759 Linden Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803
www.trinitylclb.org

Editor

Trevor Wolter

Cover Photo

The Perfect Fifth concert,
February 10, 2017

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

Wednesdays at 5:00 pm

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CALENDAR

MARCH						
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

APRIL						
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					

March

- 4 Property Committee 12:00 pm
- 10 **TRINITY CONCERT SERIES**
Octavius Womack 5:00 PM
- 11 Executive Committee 12:00 pm
- 17 Discipling Committee 10:00 am
Community Meal 12:00 pm
- 18 Outreaching Committee 12:00 pm
- 20 Council 7:00 pm
- 25 Fellowship Committee 12:00pm

April

- 1 Property Committee 12:00 pm
- 8 Executive Committee 12:00 pm
- 14 **TRINITY CONCERT SERIES**
Tom Mueller 5:00 PM
- 15 Potluck Meal 11:45 am
Outreaching Committee 12:00 pm
- 17 Council 7:00 pm
- 21 Discipling Committee 10:00 am
Community Meal 12:00 pm
- 25 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

Try Not to Miss the Mark this Lenten Season

The Greek word for “sin” is *amrita / harmatia*, which translated means something like, “missing the mark, being in error, or failure.” During the season of Lent, we are often reminded that we miss the mark when it comes to our relationship with God and our relationships with one another. We do not live out our faith in terms of a life lived in love and service towards God and our neighbor.

As the Church, we do not always “hit the mark” when it comes to living out the faith that God has called us to be as the people of God in and for the sake of the world. Lent reminds us that we “sin.” We fall short of God’s glory and intentions for us. We are reminded on Ash Wednesday of our own mortality and our shortcomings as we hear the words that “we are dust and to dust we shall return.” We are called into a discipline of repentance, fast-

ing, and prayer not that we might win or earn God’s love and acceptance.

Our hope is that we might get close to the mark of following the way of Christ by being mindful of loving our neighbor as ourselves. The good news of God’s grace continues to invite us back into a right relationship with God and with one another.

During our Lenten Midweek Soup Supper and Devotions, we will be exploring what Martin Luther meant by the Seven Marks of the Church. These are the seven marks or sign posts that make Christ’s Church visible in the world. Each week we will explore one of these signs as we journey with Christ from the waters of the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee to Jerusalem and the Temple. We will venture from the baptismal waters to the Cross and the empty tomb.

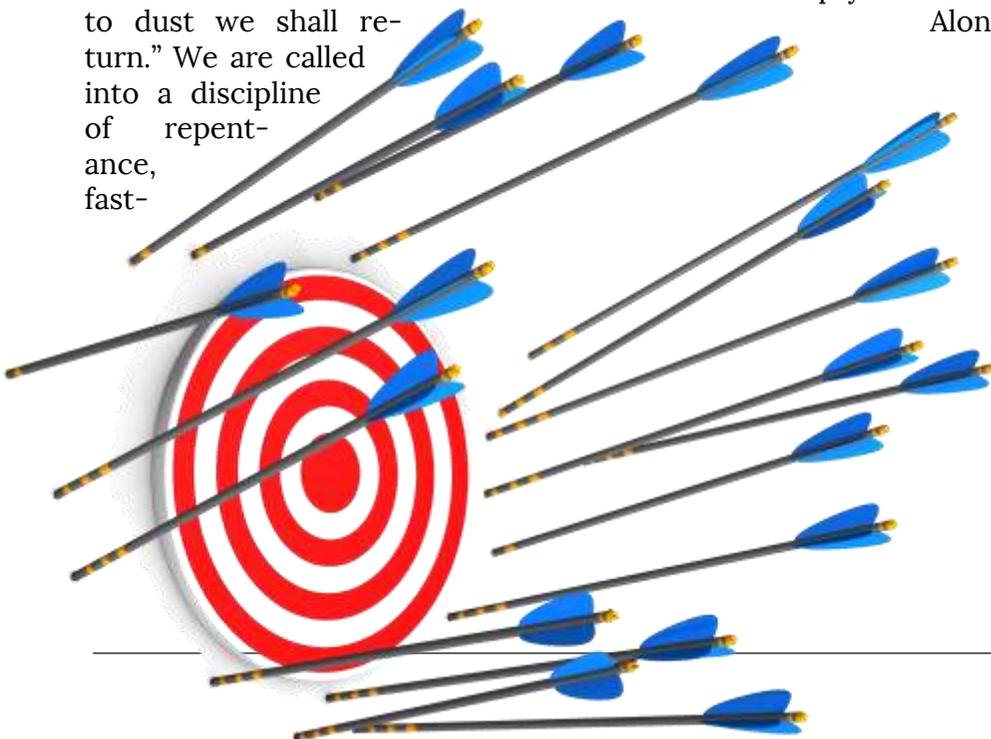
Along



the way we will examine what it means to witness God’s Word proclaimed and taught, the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord’s Supper share, confession heard and forgiveness granted, ordination and the calling of pastors and leaders in the church, worship as the work of the people, and lastly, the Cross itself.

Come join us on a pilgrim journey of faith that reminds us that we, the people, who make up the church, often miss the mark, but Christ doesn’t miss. Christ continues to call us back to himself. As baptized believers we have been marked with the Cross of Christ forever. Christ gathers us and call us back into his body, the Church, for the sake of the world.

The Church is wherever the Word is proclaimed, the sacraments administered, repentance is called for, forgiveness granted, praise and prayers are offered and accepted, and we take up our cross to follow Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Come and join us on this journey of faith.





What's
happening at

TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH
YOUR DOWNTOWN SPIRITUAL HOME



The Perfect Fifth Concert (February 10)

Painting (January 29-February 2)

Flooring Refinishing (February 15 & following)





And also too

Maundy Thursday Worship

March 29, 7:00 pm

Good Friday Worship

March 30, 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday Worship

April 1, 10:30 am

Fellowship will be BEFORE the service at 9:30 am following the organ concert at 9:00

*But
don't
forget:*

Trinity Concert Series

Octavius Womack Gospel Singer
Saturday, March 10, 5:00 pm

Community Meal

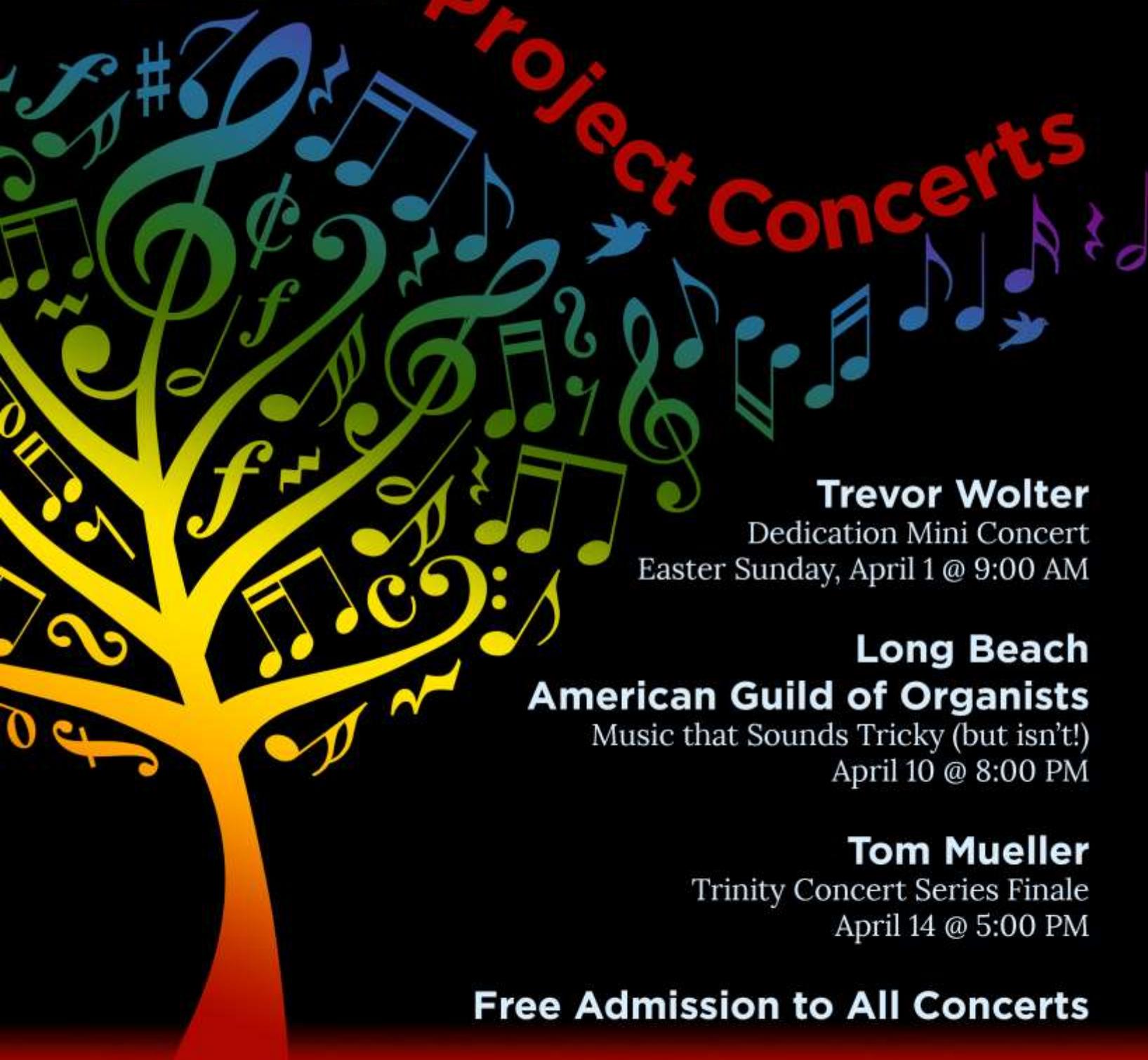
March 17 and April 21, Noon

Congregational Pot Luck

April 15 after worship



Organ Project Concerts



Trevor Wolter

Dedication Mini Concert
Easter Sunday, April 1 @ 9:00 AM

Long Beach

American Guild of Organists

Music that Sounds Tricky (but isn't!)
April 10 @ 8:00 PM

Tom Mueller

Trinity Concert Series Finale
April 14 @ 5:00 PM

Free Admission to All Concerts



Trinity Lutheran Church
759 Linden Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90813
trinitylcb.org



Council Meeting Notes January 16, 2018

Note: The Council did not meet in December, 2017

Election of Officers

- PRESIDENT: Bob Pedder
- VICE PRESIDENT: Erica Park
- SECRETARY: Bob Jackson
- FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Marilyn Bohl
- TREASURER: Trevor Wolter

Officer Report Highlights

- PASTOR'S REPORT: Anticipates having a new Parish Administrator hired by February 14 at the latest
- FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:
 - Three Certificates of Deposit matured during the month of December. The Council authorized re-investing the funds into new CD's at a rate not less than 0.5% and for a period not longer than 2 years
 - The Council authorized miscellaneous 2017 receipts in the total of \$1,175 to be transferred to the general fund
 - The Council authorized the undesignated estate gift from Bernice Michelson in the amount of \$7,655.38 to be transferred to the Special Gifts fund

Committee Report Highlights

- DISCIPLING COMMITTEE:
 - The Concert Series kicks off February 10 and subsequent concerts are March 10 and April 14
 - Ash Wednesday is on February 14
- PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Is actively working to ensure unauthorized vehicles are not parked in the white zone in front of the church

Continuing Business

- The ACCU credit card account has been closed and a refund of \$100.45 has been received

New Business

- All Council members present made commitments to each participate in specific church committees
- The Council approved the authorized signers on the church checking account to be President Robert Pedder, Financial Secretary Marilyn Bohl, and Treasurer Trevor Wolter

Congregational Meeting Notes January 28, 2018

Finance Summary for 2017

- Budgeted expenses were \$220,270.96 but actual expenses were only \$213,871.56
- Estimated income was \$203,811 but only \$202,057.41 was received
- The deficit was covered using existing undesignated reserves

Annual Report 2017

- The *Annual Report 2017* was approved unanimously

Church Sanctuary Updates

- The sanctuary interior painted was reported to begin January 29 and was to take 4-5 days at a cost of \$8,689 using existing funds from the Church Use Reserve fund
- The assembly voted to remove the existing carpeting in the sanctuary and refinish the existing hardwood floor at a cost not to exceed \$18,000

The Last Page Trevor Wolter

I recently had a conversation with a close friend that was going through a tough time. In fact, my friend had gotten into some legal trouble but it had happened several years ago. But now the consequences of that long-past situation were presenting themselves. My friend was terribly embarrassed about what had happened and was sinking into a debilitating depression. My advice was simple, "You need to forgive yourself!"

God forgives us freely and without question. James 5:15 tells us, "The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven." Notice how James says "will be" and not "might be" or "possibly after God thinks about it." It's right there, immediate. But not only that, when God forgives, he forgets. "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins." Isaiah 43:5 "As far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us." Psalm 103:12

When it comes to forgiving yourself though, it's not so simple. Our memories aren't

quite as short as God's sometimes - or ever. How often haven't you been in the middle of something, or in the middle of nothing at all when a random thought pops into your head about something that happened years and years ago and yet you still feel a flush of mortification? David describes his sin as a burden too heavy to bear (Psalm 38:4) and Paul warns that sin can cause one to be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow (II Corinthians 2:7).

What is there to do? We're also our own worst critic and when you think about it, if you put in order a list of all the people that sin against you, you would have to put your own name at the top. We disappoint ourselves more than anyone else, over and over. Peter asked Jesus a question, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." (Matthew 18:21-22). I tend to think that Jesus had in mind just how this plays out too. A member of the church may sin against you a few times but not 77 times and certainly not 490 times.

When we sin against God or our neighbor, we have God and our neighbor calling us to repentance. It may be tough to swallow our pride and go to them for absolution but at least we have someone else urging us on. Those pesky or painful thoughts and memories are calls to repentance. Acknowledge them. Recognize that you have been made new through the cleansing waters of baptism. Forgive yourself.

Jesus' death on the cross paid for your sins as much as they did for your neighbor's. Jesus urges us to come to him with our burdens. That's not just problems like being able to pay rent but it's also those problems where we've missed the mark.

Because we have long memories, sometimes you need to do this again and again. And sometimes it's just overwhelmingly hard. If that's the case, remember that we have an amazing community here. Talk with a friend. Talk with the Pastor. Ultimately that was all that my friend needed to get out of the funk, someone to speak forgiveness to him. Remember, Jesus won't run out of forgiveness so you don't need to either.

Contact Trinity Staff

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