



# The Trinitarian

*Trinity welcomes all to a community in Christ;  
serving others, growing in faith,  
living in hope, and reaching out in love.*

September 2016

## Playing Nice is Not the Answer

*"Is not my word like fire, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?" - Jeremiah 23*

God, of course, is not really interested in breaking rock into pieces. He is really speaking of the pounding of the proud, stubborn hearts and stoney foreheads of His own people, who while maintaining the outward pomp of worship and righteousness, refused to treat their poor sisters and brothers with compassionate justice. So much for compassionate conservatism. They were very conservative, just not very compassionate.

As a history lesson, way back in ancient times between prophet and people, we can manage to hear another story of how those people did not live up to God's standards of caring for each other. Shame on them, right!

But what about today? How do we take these words if directed to us, these words that once leveled pride, destroyed selfishness and smashed guilt? Well, to be perfectly honest – we don't do any better than they did. But watch out. You can almost hear the next appeal coming. That appeal that sounds right, sounds nice, but will take us down the wrong road. And it will put us on the wrong game board. OK, here it is: Why don't we just play nice – and be more like the Good Samaritan?

It's the wrong game board because it puts us in the position of trying to earn points with God by being nice. And I never have been very good at being "a good Samaritan. And I don't really think I'm going to get a lot better at it in the future. I've been trying a long time, and I don't seem to get any better. What I really need is – HELP. And lots of it. And forgiveness.

So when I'm faced with really bad situations, I will try to do love, try to do justice, and try to be like my Lord Jesus – but not to earn points. But because I am his child, and I would dearly love to be more like him.

So when I am confronted with the hungry children in Montgomery County, this land of richness and plenty, and when I hear that there are thousands of children right here in Montgomery who go to bed hungry, and when I hear stories about children here in Montgomery - skipping meals because it isn't their turn to eat, I will try again to help those in need. I will try to stretch further, and I will try to do more. And after that I will pray: Dear Lord, forgive me, all of me – my heart, my head and my hands. It breaks my heart and it probably breaks your heart too. Help me to do better tomorrow. And thank you for walking with me, staying with me even when I fall.

David P, Pastor



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A Reconciling in Christ and a Stephen Ministry congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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begins on  
Sunday 11. September

8:15 am and 10:45 am

## Rally Day!



Sunday  
18. September

Rally Day is our opening day of Sunday School for all ages! We will begin the year with prayer and song. We will have an intergenerational Sunday School opening, and then we will dismiss to our classes for the day.

\*Note: Pr. B will return to the pulpit on Sunday 11. September. During his sabbatical leave, he walked the Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James). You can read about his pilgrimage at:

[www.ontheway2santiago.wordpress.com](http://www.ontheway2santiago.wordpress.com)

## General Funds as of 28. August 2016

	2015	2016
Income	\$222,504.90	\$217,923.52
Expenses	\$223,213.17	\$227,586.88
Over (Under)	\$ (708.27)	(\$ 9,663.36)

## Pledging for Mission as of 21. Aug.



**Trust in the Promise** – 65 families have pledged \$290,443 to our annual stewardship campaign.

**BIGGER than a Building!** – 63 families have pledged \$481,000 to our 3 year mission appeal. Total amount received to date for BTAB! is \$182,128.

Thank you for your generous support.

## Directory Update:

Please call the church office for details.

Sarah B & Brandon T

Robyn K-V & James V

Jim L & Carolyn L

Esther M

Amanda S

Mary Nora R

## Is Altar Guild for You?



On 17. September at 11:00 am, there will be a no-obligation workshop and luncheon to learn more the altar guild and to meet other altar guild members. Men, women and families are welcome! Call Carol B with inquiries.

*The Trinitarian* deadline is always the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

The deadline for every Sunday bulletin is 9:00 a.m. on the preceding Tuesday.



The Trinity Men's Group September meeting will be held Wednesday 7. September at Steve S's house starting at 1:00 pm.

Parking is restricted. Please let Steve know if you are planning to attend.



## Need a Ride to Church?

Have you missed Trinity events because you lacked transportation? Trinity has missed you too and the following members would like to provide you with a ride to Trinity events:

20886 Carol B  
20850 Marilyn C  
20850 Margaret F  
20854 Peggy & Dick J  
20854 Miriam M  
20853 Nancy N  
20866 Len S

Zip codes are provided to aid in finding a driver close to you. Do not hesitate to call. If you would like to volunteer to drive, call Dick J.



## The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father who art in heaven.*

Lesson Luke 17:20-21

Prayer Almighty God, we are surrounded by symbols of human might on every side that stir up fear in our hearts. Reassure us with the knowledge that your love casts out fear. Give us confidence that your kingdom will prevail through the power of your Holy Spirit who empowers us to do deeds of love and mercy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## From the Congregation's President

Greetings Trinity Friends!

Let us give thanks to God for the ministry of Pastor P! Pastor P, we are grateful for the love, wisdom, challenge, and faith that you brought to our congregation this summer! You engaged us with your sermon props and compelled us to forever reconsider our role in the Good Samaritan parable.

Let us also give thanks to God for the return of Pastor B from sabbatical! Pastor B, we eagerly followed your Camino de Santiago blog and prayed for your safe travels. We pray that your walk with God was nourishing and strengthening for your soul and spirit and we look forward to witness of your experience in the weeks and months ahead.

*Lord, we thank you for the work of our Pastors. Let us always be grateful for their spiritual leadership and their loving and consistent presence in our times of struggle, illness, and hardship. Help us to appreciate their gifts, support their ministries, and work to extend their witness of Christ's love to the world around us. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.*

**Nathan L,** President



Trinity Singers

Choir Rehearsals begin  
Thursday 8. September

Do you love to sing? Think about joining the Trinity Singers! We sing at the 10:45 Sunday service and rehearse 7:30-9:00 on Thursday evenings. Adults and high school students are welcome.

## Heavenly Handbells

Mark your calendars! *Monday 12. September* is the "bell polishing and pot luck supper". For more information, contact Marilyn C. Regular bell rehearsals start *Monday 19. September*.



12. July 2016

- A motion was made, seconded and passed that Carol B be paid as an employee from July 24 to July 30 while Cathy L is on leave.
- A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept a bid from the Scates Corporation for \$2,395.00 with a down payment of \$798.33 to caulk and reseal areas of the roof, inspect and repair defective shingles. If additional repairs are needed, an overage of \$4,000 to \$5,000 may be spent, not to exceed \$5,000 in consultation with an officer of the Council.
- Receipts for June were \$36,609.62 and high general fund expenses were \$50,708.20. Significant June expenses included a large insurance bill that was paid. Receipts tend to drop in the summer and they are made up in the fall. As of the end of June, year-to-date General Fund expenses exceeded receipts by \$9,863.36".

**Susan S,** Secretary

The Adult Forum  
begins at 9:30 am  
Sunday  
25. September



SUNDAY SCHOOL  
Make the Connection

The Adult Forum is a time where we talk about issues of the day, speakers talk about different ministries in our area and around the world, or a Bible Study on an important topic. Starting Sunday 25. September and running for 6 sessions, the study will be the book of Exodus. This group meets every Sunday in Conference Rm 10.



## Children's Church

*every Sunday at 8:30 & 11 am*

Trinity offers a Children's Church each Sunday following the announcements at both services. Volunteers lead a special worship time and activity for children ages 4-8. Lessons are based on the Bible readings for that Sunday. They sing, say prayers for the concerns on their minds and return to worship in time to commune with their families. If you are interested in helping out with our children once a month or so, please speak with Anita S.



When I was asked to say a few words about my experiences as a Sunday school teacher, I tried to remember how I even began teaching Sunday school. My background as an educator is limited to being a step aerobics instructor and Six

Sigma Process Quality trainer for GE---not exactly screaming Sunday school teacher. I also did not grow up in a family that attended church or Sunday school on a regular basis; let's just say I don't do well in any of the Bible categories on Jeopardy. Needless to say, I was readily recruited and "hired" to be a Sunday school teacher.

I have been teaching off and on for over 14 years now and I have taught children from pre-school to 5th grade. I have crafted everything you can imagine out of paper including but not limited to crowns, hats, wind socks, pinwheels, boats, wreaths, fish, angels, Moses and even baby Jesus. I am a professional with stickers and glitter glue. I have danced silly dances, blown bubbles, sung songs, played games, helped make chicken wings, subs and p-nut butter sandwiches, and watched countless hours of bible story cartoons. Sometimes we just sit and talk about what's going on at school, at home, or in the world. Through all of this I have expanded my knowledge of the Bible, developed a great deal of patience and hopefully helped the kids learn a few things.

To me, Sunday school gives children a special connection to Trinity where they can be a part of this community. They know that there are people here who care about them, want to spend time with them, listen to them and teach them about God's love. My eldest son Nicholas said it best, "Trinity is like my second home." We really are much bigger than a building.

Leslie C

Thank you for supporting  
Lutheran Social Service (LSS)  
Youth Haven Camps!

Our collection for LSS Youth Haven Camps last May was a great success! We donated close to \$300 in gift cards, boxes of snacks, flashlights and flip-flops. Camp director, Dara Y was delighted with our contributions. Check the recent article in the July edition of *Living Lutheran* to learn more about the important work of Youth Haven camps:  
<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/07/treating-soul-epidemic/>



This summer has flown by!

- We began the summer with the End of the School Year Picnic.
- We tried a different way of doing VBS.
- Four of us went to York, PA to serve in the community.
- Three of us started the God and Church Badge and two of us started the God and Family for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

It has been such a busy summer.

I had the great honor of accompanying our youth to York for their Service trip. I got to watch our kids dance and sing in worship. I watched as our youth took care of one another, and made friends with other youth at the Week of Hope. I watched one of our youth bring a new resident out of his shell at the retirement home that we served at. I watched one of our youth become a leader at his site.

As of this writing, we are still working out where we will go next summer. If you would like to see what all of this excitement is about, let me know!

See you on Sunday!

Anita S



God's Work,  
Our Hands Sunday

11. September

We as Trinity will be joining in with God's Work, Our Hands, a celebration of 10,000 congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. During God's Work Our Hands Sunday, we will be celebrating this freedom to serve our neighbors. As a joint project between the Social Ministry Committee and the Christian Education committee, we will be preparing 120 School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We will have all the supplies ready to go. Just bring yourselves! We will begin at 9:30 am. Come sing and play with us and join in on the fun and service!

## 2016 Metro D.C. Synod Assembly

This year's Metropolitan Washington DC Synod ELCA Assembly was held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD, on Saturday 18 June. John B, Dick J, and Miriam M attended from Trinity. The theme was "For the Healing of the Nations," which included a commitment to racial justice both in our synod and in the community at large. Bishop G's sermon during the opening worship service set the tone for how we approach our differences, stating that God does not call us to tolerate diversity but rather to give thanks for the diversity of his creation.

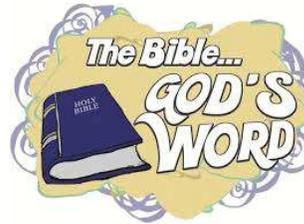
The synod introduced two major new initiatives to the assembly. The first, launched by the Racial Equity Team, continues the theme of racial justice by looking for ways to spark discussions and ministries that could bring awareness and understanding about racial divisions and racism, both overt and systemic. The Team presented a video depicting two churches located in Lexington Park MD, Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, predominantly Caucasian, and Dominion Apostolic Church, predominately of African descent. These two churches share their worship and space to better understand and celebrate their differences. The video can be found on the Metropolitan DC Synod's youtube channel.

The second initiative, the Synod-wide campaign called New Connections, aims to connect 3,000 new people to Christian life and community over the course of the next three years, increasing the participants in our synod congregations by ten percent. The synod will make available leadership training and funding for new congregational initiatives in addition to founding new congregations.

The assembly also approved new synod council members, a new budget for the coming year, and voted on and approved eight resolutions. These were Greetings to Other ELCA Synods Meeting in Assembly; United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; Gratitude and Support for Military Service Members and Veterans; African Descent Lutheran Lives Matter; Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery; Current American Political Discourse; Expression of Thanks and Appreciation; and Special Expression of Thanks and Gratitude — the Reverend Amy Thompson Sevimli. For details on these resolutions, as well as other information and reports, please see the synod website at: <http://metrodcelca.org/events/synod-assembly/>.



## September Bible Presentations



On 25. September, Trinity will present Bibles to our Kindergartners, Second Graders and all who are starting Confirmation this fall. Kindergartners will receive a Story Bible. Our Second Graders will receive a Good News Bible, and our Confirmands will receive a New Revised Standard Version for their study in Confirmation. On 4. October, our Second Graders will have a special scavenger hunt class where they will use their Bibles to find the answers.

## Chrysalis!

It's time to start thinking about it Chrysalis is the Metro DC Synod's annual weekend retreat for 9-12th graders. It's amazing and you don't want to miss it! The event will be held at the 4-H Center in Front Royal, VA, 2-4. December. Put it on your calendar now!



## Flat Jesus Adventures



Flat Jesus made some serious travels this summer. Flat Jesus made his way to Savannah, GA, Wisconsin, Texas, San Francisco, CA, Yellowstone National Park, The Precious Moments Chapel in Missouri, AND Sweden! If you have more pictures, please send them to Anita. Watch for the pictures to make an appearance at Trinity.



## Bigger Than A Building Project- September 2016

Mix a little evangelism, a little social ministry, a little youth ministry with a lot of congregational support and we have a Bigger than a Building project assisting Bethesda Helps meet the emergency needs of our community. On

the afternoon of Friday 30. September, Trinity will be continuing our outreach to the youth of Tilden Middle School by providing an opportunity to earn their required community service hours. The project will expose the youth to Trinity, the works of Bethesda Helps and most importantly the needs of families in our community. Our goal is to fill the food bags Bethesda Helps distributes in one week; this is approximately 55 bags... if we exceed our goal, we will fill more bags for the following week.

How can you help? Below is a list of what goes in every bag. Throughout September, we will be collecting food items and contributions to help fill the bags. *(Please note, items contributed cannot be in glass and cannot be expired.):*

- 1 can of meat (chili or chicken)
- 3 cans vegetables
- 1 can beans
- 2 cans fish (tuna or salmon)
- 1 can fruit
- 2 packages of macaroni and cheese
- 1 can soup
- 1 canister oatmeal or 1 box cereal
- 1 jar peanut butter
- 1 box/bag dry pasta
- 2 cans chopped tomatoes or 1 jar pasta sauce
- 1 can soup
- 1 bag rice
- 1 bag beans

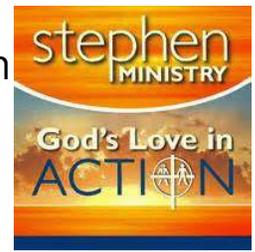
We also need bags. If you have brown paper bags, plastic food store bags or the heavy disposable plastic bags that can be purchased at Giant, please bring them in to recycle.

If you would rather contribute than shop, please note "Bethesda Helps Project" as a designation and Trinity's youth will use the funds to purchase items not collected or make an extra donation to Bethesda Helps.

We appreciate the endless support of the Trinity Congregation.

Gods Work, Our Hands  
Margaret F

## Highlighting Trinity's Stephen Ministry Program



What is a Stephen Minister?  
A Stephen Minister is...

- A lay person
- Trained for 50 hours
- Commissioned
- Supervised
- Committed to serve for 2 years

What does a Stephen Minister do?

- Meets one-on-one with a care receiver
- Gives one hour per week to care receiver
- Listens
- Cares
- Prays
- Shares the gospel
- Affirms and encourages
- Honors confidentiality
- Attends 2 Supervision meetings each month with the SM Team

What does a Stephen Minister not do?

- Judge
- Give advice
- Solve problems
- Counsel

Who might want to have a Stephen Minister?

A person experiencing life changes or loss, such as:

- Grief
- Unemployment
- Illness
- Accident
- Family problems
- Divorce
- Aging

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, if you would like to be served by a Stephen Minister, or if you would like to refer someone for care, please contact one of the Stephen Leaders listed here: Pastor Roger B, Angela B and Miriam M.



## October Coat Drive

Trinity will be collecting new and gently used coats, fleeces, gloves, mittens, hats scarves and other winter gear for Lutheran Social Service's (LSS) Refugee Resettlement Program during the month of October. More details in next month's Trinitarian. . . .



## Birthdays

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Annie A<br>Diana B<br>Craig O<br>Vimala P<br>Patricia S | 12 Tamara R C<br>Sophia D         |
| 2 Marissa P<br>James M                                    | 13 Jon M                          |
| 5 Anders S<br>Kathy T                                     | 15 Neema S<br>Shannon M           |
| 6 Jeanine B<br>Christine H                                | 21 Alexander L                    |
| 9 Andy B<br>Rebecca G                                     | 22 Nicholas C                     |
|   | 27 John B                         |
|   | 28 Mary B<br>Michelle P<br>John W |
|   | 29 Nicole S                       |
|   | 30 Wayne D                        |

## Baptismal Birthdays

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Jeff B                   | 15 Sean M                 |
| 4 Jan P                    | 16 Allison F              |
| 5 Alexander L<br>Gregory L | 19 Patricia S             |
| 10 Jill H<br>Katie L-L     | 20 Madeline B<br>Elaine S |
| 12 Charles M               | 26 Jane C                 |

## Wedding Anniversaries

- 2 Leslie S & James M
- 10 Amanda & Jon M
- 11 Ani S G & Len S
- 16 Gail R & Steve L  
Michelle & Greg P
- 20 Emily & Craig W
- 23 Mary M & John D
- 25 Susan & Alonzo S
- 28 Petra T & Jon S
- 29 Meredith & Terry D



## Births

Claire Abigail S  
30. June 2016  
*daughter of  
Jane R & Eric S*

Giovanni Charles S  
5. August 2016  
*son of  
Lineth M & David S*

## Deaths



Phillip R  
+ 18. May 2016  
*father of Petra T*

Antoinette G  
+ 25. May 2016  
*mother of Judy G*

Walter Y  
+ 30. May 2016  
*husband of former member, Elsie Y*

Christopher Lawrence C  
+ 16. July 2016  
*cousin of Steve S*

Richard B  
+ 24. July 2016  
*brother-in-law of Len S*

Catherine J  
+ 4. August 2016  
*aunt of Nancy N*

Anne S  
+ 8. August 2016  
*daughter of Riki & Harrison H*

Bethel S  
+ 26. August 2016  
*mother of Kristina S S*

# Opportunities to Serve in September 2016

Serving As	4 16 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost	11 17 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost	18 18 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost	25 19 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost
8:15 Acolyte 10:45	10 AM Anders Sp	Anusha A	Anjali A	Joshua B Linnea Sp
8:15 Assist. Min 10:45	Joshua B 10 AM Nalini A	John B Sarah G	Nancy N Carol B	Jerry B Anya N
8:15 Children's Ch. 10:45	Donna S 10 AM Jessie Moon	Anita S Anita S	Margaret F David C	Margaret F Anita S
8:15 Greeters 10:45	Tom M 10 AM Tina & Hagen S	Donna & Steve S Margo W	Tamara R Margo W	Joan E Diana M
8:15 Lector 10:45	John B 10 AM Leslie C	Matthew B Nicholas C	Jerry B Sarah G	Nancy J Greg F
8:15 Ushers 10:45	Donna & Steve S 10 AM Angela B & Robert P	Nancy & Thor N Patricia S & David C	Nancy & Tom M Julie N & Rich G	Nancy & Thor N David C & Henry C
8:15 Coffee Hour 10:45	10 AM		Dan & Rob S	
Altar Custodians	Carol B & Kathy H			
Bulletin Assembly <i>Prior Thurs</i>	1. Sept. Dick J	8. Sept. Dick J	15. Sept. Trinity Singers	22. Sept. Nancy M
Tellers	Margaret & Greg F	Julie N & Thor N	Lynn & Bud B	Annie A & Mina

16<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost  
Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalm 1  
Philemon 1-21  
Luke 14:25-33

4. Sept.

18<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost  
Amos 8:4-7  
Psalm 113  
1 Timothy 2:1-7  
Luke 16:1-13

18. Sept.

17<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost  
Exodus 32:7-14  
Psalm 51:1-10  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10

11. Sept.



19<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost  
Amos 6:1a, 4-7  
Psalm 146  
1 Timothy 6:6-19  
Luke 16:19-31

25. Sept.

# Remember in Your Prayers

... the church  
our synod & bishops  
Bishops Elizabeth Eaton & Richard Graham

our missionaries  
Stephen Deal & Marta Giron, Cent. America

our congregation  
Trinity Church

... the nations  
Afghanistan, Belgium, Ctr. African Rep., Congo, Egypt,  
Haiti, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Liberia, Libya,  
Myanmar, Namibia, Palestine, the Philippines,  
Somalia, Sudan(Darfur), Syria, Ukraine, the United  
States, and Zimbabwe

... the sick and suffering  
nursing/rehabilitation center  
Margaret B, *Aarondale Living*  
Dottie B, *Villas at Suffield, Warrenton, VA*  
Elaine D, *Potomac Valley*  
home

Paul G                      Fred K  
June L                      Don T  
Rob W

family and friends\*  
Georgette B, *friend of Marilyn C*  
Howard M, *friend of Margaret & Greg F*  
Sue Ps, *friend of Joan E*  
Jack R, *friend of Marilyn G*  
Mario S, *great nephew of Len S*  
Noble S, *cousin of Miriam M*

... in the Middle East  
Alexander L, *son of Ione & Brian L*

\*For family and friends, prayer requests will be kept on the list for 4 weeks. After 4 weeks, please complete another card. Thank you.

## September Highlights

- 5. Sept. Labor Day Holiday  
*Church Office Closed*
- 8. Sept. Trinity Singers, 7:30 pm
- 11. Sept. Fall Worship Schedule  
begins 8:15 am & 10:45 am  
&  
God's Work, Our Hands Sunday &  
Intergenerational Sunday School
- 12. Sept. Heavenly Handbells - PotLuck &  
Polishing, 7:00 pm
- 13. Sept. Congregation Council, 7:30 pm
- 17. Sept. Altar Guild Workshop & Luncheon,  
11:00 am
- 18. Sept. Rally Sunday
- 25. Sept. Bible Distribution to Children &  
Youth

