



The Trinitarian

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

June 2018

Seeds of Forgiveness and Healing

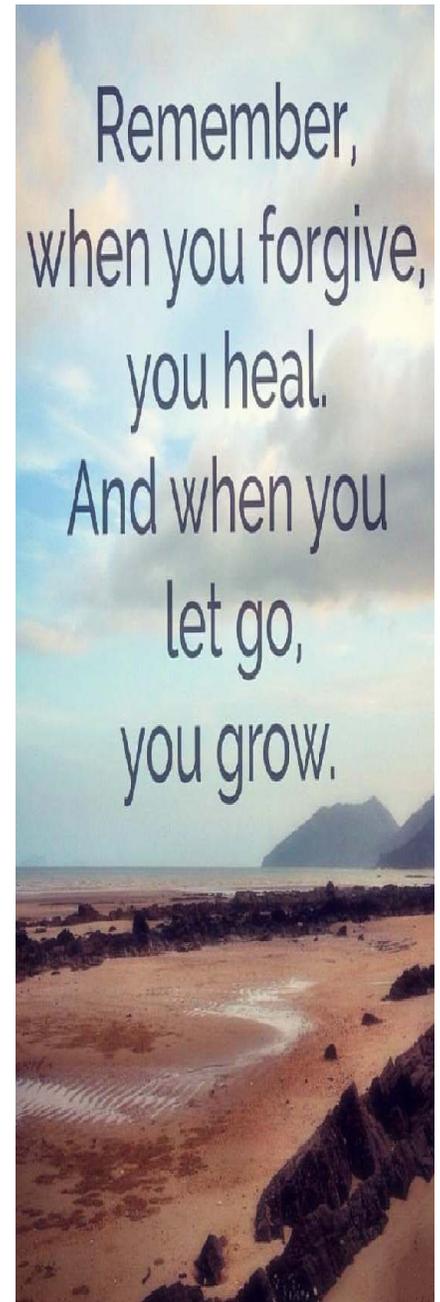
Forgiven to Forgive & Healed to Bring Healing

Forgiveness brings healing – for the one forgiven and for the one forgiving. Yet, it is the toughest thing to do. Forgiveness begins by naming the wrong, the hurt, the betrayal, . . . the sin. This is the first seed that needs to be planted for healing. Without naming the wrong to the perpetrator, the pain and sickness will only fester – consuming the one wronged. The perpetrator may not realize the hurt they have caused, and apologize quickly. In that case, forgiveness can be offered quickly and the healing will begin. However, the perpetrator may announce that they intended the pain and suffering their words or actions have caused (this is rare). More likely, the one did the evil will offer a weak or false explanation as an apology or deny that they did the act. One perpetrator may even play the victim to divert attention from the wrong they did.

Would you forgive a person who walked into your back door and stole \$200? Maybe you wouldn't even think about forgiveness, but just call the police. Let's say the one who stole the money from your house was caught by the police, arrested, and released awaiting a trial date. What if the thief came to you before the trial, pleading for your forgiveness? Would you forgive them? And if you did forgive them, what would you think if, upon hearing your declaration of forgiveness, the thief jumped up and said, "Great, now we don't have to go to court"? Now the hurt is compounded because the thief not only stole your money, but has lied and manipulated you to get out of the punishment the court may require. Are we still expected to forgive?

Every Sunday we hear God declaring "the entire forgiveness of all your sin," sometimes after a heartfelt confession and sometimes after reading the words without any conviction of needing God's forgiveness. We hear Jesus forgiving tax collectors, prostitutes, liars, thieves, and those who do not even ask for their forgiveness. From the cross, the first words of Jesus are "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Can we forgive as Jesus forgave?

continued on page 6



Trinity Lutheran Church 11200 Old Georgetown Road North Bethesda, MD 20852-3202
A Reconciling in Christ and a Stephen Ministry congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
301.881.7275 office@TrinityELCA.org TrinityELCA.org facebook.com/trinityelca

Pledging for Mission as of 30. April

Trinity Lutheran Church

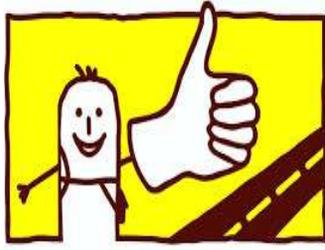


BIGGER than a Building!

BIGGER Than A Building! 66 families have pledged \$479,040 to our 3-year mission appeal. Total amount received for BTAB! is **\$417,185.07** as of 30. April. Thank you for your generous support.

Rides to Church

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



Need a Ride to Church?

- 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 volunteer to drive, call Dick J.



**Recently Moved?
Changed Phone Number?**
Please let the Church Office know.
301.881.7275
office @ trinityelca.org

The Trinitarian deadline is always the 15th of the month.
The deadline for every **Sunday bulletin** is 9:00 am on the preceding Tuesday.

Officers of the Congregation and Congregation Council 2017-2018

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| President | John B |
| Vice President | Hagen S |
| Secretary | Frederic S |
| Treasurer | Keith C |
| Assistant Treasurer | Jeanine B |
| Financial Secretary | Annie A |

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Terms ending in 31. May 2021

- Ross A
- Annie A
- John B
- Nancy N

Term ending in May 31, 2019

- Sarah G

MISSION ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Terms ending in 31. May 2021

- Dick J (second term)
- Kirsten G

SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

16. June 2017 at Lord of Life, Fairfax, VA

- Bill B
- Diana B
- Tom M

2017-18 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Terms ending 31. May 2019

- Miriam M
- Diana M
- Thor N
- Sabrina R
- Pr. Roger Berner

Trinity's Annual Picnic

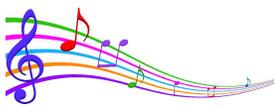
**Sunday, 10. June
12 noon - Rain or Shine!**



We need your help to bring food items to the fun picnic. Those with surnames:

- A – K bring dessert
 - L – Z bring a salad or side dish
- Chicken and beverages will be provided.

Join us for great food, a moon-bounce, games and fellowship following the 10:45 service on Sunday 10. June!



Reflections on the Choir Season 2017-2018

- ¹ Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- ² Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
is marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Psalms 96

We're reaching the end of the choir season on June 10 and summer is soon upon us. It's a time of gratitude and reflection on what we've accomplished and what is perhaps to come.

The Trinity Singers performs each Sunday at the 10:45 service from September after Labor Day through the second Sunday in June, which coincides with the Parish Picnic.

From then through July and August when we return to a single Sunday service at 10:00 am the choir is on hiatus and we turn to 'Special Music' — volunteers who give of their time and talent to perform one or more pieces for each Sunday service at the Offertory and/or Communion.

During this past year we returned to singing the Psalms from the *Ionian Psalter* by Peter Hallock (1924-2014), former Music Director and Organist at St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle, WA from 1951-1991.

Published in 1986 in collaboration with Katherine Crozier, Organist at the Lutheran Church of Honolulu, it is a collection of 212 psalm settings for choir, organ and congregation which the Lutheran Church of Honolulu has used nearly every Sunday ever since. It is one of the most widely choral psalters used today in the United States and Canada. It existed only in paper form until 2009 when it was converted it to a CD-ROM and licensed for churches and other institutions to print out the copies they needed.

The Psalter provides dramatic settings of the Psalm for each Sunday, and the choir performs these challenging settings with expertise and high enthusiasm.

St. Augustine is often quoted as having said "He who sings, prays twice." Actually, a better translation of the Latin is "He who sings well prays twice."

I encourage you to consider joining us in the fall. In the meantime please let me know if you or someone you know would like to perform 'Special Music' for any of the Sunday worship services this summer.

Come and Pray Twice with a New Song!

- Glen F

Council Highlights 8. May 2018

1. James T reported that the BTAB/ Connections Coordinator/ One Major Mission Meeting mentioned in previous Minutes will be held June 16 at 10:00 am under the Chair of new Council President, John B.
2. Parking Lot repairs to commence in Lower Lot (larger lot) June 7, 2018. Minimal repairs planned in Upper Lot but striping will be done. Notification will be given to church space users regarding some disruption (Oasis).
3. With regard to Flood Damage repair, the Cleaning has been done and paid for at a price agreed to by the Insurance Carrier and the Contractor.



SEMI-ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Sunday 6. May 2018

The Nominating Committee presented slates of nominees for Congregation Council, Mission Endowment Committee, 2018-19 Nominating Committee, and Synod Assembly Voting Members.

As there were no nominations from the floor, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to elect the entire slate by acclamation.

Summer Music 2018

We would love to hear you during worship – during the offering or during the Communion – during Sundays in late June, plus all of July and August. Please sign up on the sheet located on the Bulletin Board near the Social Hall Kitchen.



Summer Worship – One Service! July - August and Labor Day Weekend

Starting 1. July and running through Labor Day weekend, 2. September, Trinity will be holding **one Sunday service at 10:00 am**, followed by Coffee Hour at 11:15 am. This is a great opportunity to meet Trinity members who normally attend "that other" service. You'll also leave church in plenty of time to enjoy the summer sunshine!



Worship
Schedule
for the
Summer



As I enter retirement, I've had the chance to reflect on my career and the work that has shaped my life. My career path came about rather unexpectedly and through my work I have had the opportunity to live my Christian faith by serving others in need.

After graduating from college, my plan was to pursue a high school teaching career, but it was the summer of 1975 and South Vietnam had just fallen to the North. Out of the blue, I received a call from my college physics professor asking if I would be interested in joining a group of volunteers from St. Olaf College to help with the resettlement of Vietnamese refugees through the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). This opportunity brought me to a refugee camp at Camp Pendleton in California, and it was this opportunity that opened the door to my work with refugees for the rest of my career.

During my career I had the opportunity to visit refugee camps throughout the world and to meet the men, women, and children who have lost or left their homes in search of living free. In each of these camps, I was also able to meet the many workers and volunteers – including medical professionals, teachers, humanitarians, and others – all working together to assist our fellow brothers and sisters in need. In my most recent position with the US Department of Homeland Security, I have had the opportunity to work directly with the group of dedicated officers committed to the resettlement of eligible refugees into our country. Most recently I have seen the small army of dedicated volunteers from Trinity working to resettle our family from Afghanistan and welcoming them to this country.

Matthew 25 says, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to live out my faith in this way, and to be part of the local and international efforts for refugee protection.

Ross A



**Evie H
and
Maggie H**

Sunday 27. May 2018

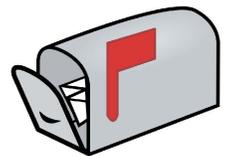
Trinity's Family & Youth Ministry Needs Your Input

As the Family & Youth Committee (F&Y) prepare for next year we would like to hear from parents about their children's and family's ideas, and preferences for family and youth ministry at Trinity in order to best meet your family's needs.

The F&Y Committee is hosting a one-hour discussion (child care will be available for our youngest) on Sunday 17. June between services from 9:30-10:30AM. While this discussion will help with planning for next year, we'd like to brainstorm what possible changes and new elements can be incorporated into Trinity's ministry both short-and long-term to ensure our ministry remains alive, engaging and serving the needs of all ages. The first portion of the meeting will provide a brief overview of current activities and how F&Y's ministry interfaces with Worship activities and Christian Education. Ideas, recommendations, and general feedback are always welcome.

Can't make it? F&Y will be preparing a survey based on input gathered at meeting... So stay tuned!

In the Mail



Thank you for your recent donation to Bethesda Help of 30 large bags of food. Your gift makes a tangible difference – it enables us to feed our hungry Montgomery County. In order to continue to provide emergency relief services in our community, we rely on the generosity and compassion of congregations such as yours for support.

Please extend a special thank you to Anita and Margaret for spearheading the project to collect, organize, and deliver the food to our pantry. We are deeply grateful for the time and efforts.

From everyone here at Bethesda Help, and on behalf of those who will benefit directly from your recent donation of food, thank you!

Sincerely,
Marcia
Bethesda Help

Thank you for Trinity Lutheran's generous gift in December. You all are making a real difference here for the 2,000 women we serve each year.

Gratefully,
Megan
N Street Village

**Stephen Ministry
Leadership Training
St. Louis, Missouri**

8. - 14. April 2018

I felt like God was surrounding us all with love over the course of this training because each day started with a hymn or song and then a prayer. In a large conference room, with about 280 Stephen leaders, from many states, provinces in Canada, different denominations and from other countries, we worked together, prayed and learned from each other as we became Stephen leaders for our congregations.

At first I felt a little intimidated, considering that there were pastors, lay leaders and members of so many different congregations, all gathered to learn how to help people in their congregations and others in their community who wanted to change through Christ's intervention as they had conversations with a Stephen Minister over a series of weeks.



Each day we prayed with a prayer partner, and I felt renewed by this experience, because I do not normally start my day with a prayer. Now I not only start my day with a prayer, but I also end my day praying, for those in my life that I hold dear, whether friends, relatives or complete strangers.

We learned that all of us are broken in one way or another, perhaps by the death of a loved one or a child, by divorce, the loss of a job, an illness, drinking, or loneliness. No one is exempt from living in the shadows because of something they have experienced. Stephen Ministry offers a person the chance to be in Christ's light, to meet with a Stephen Minister once a week for as long as they are needed.

More than anything, I felt humbled by all those around me who know much more than I will ever know. As a previous Stephen Minister with two care receivers, I know that this ministry can change lives, with God's help. If you know of a person who might consider needing a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Berner, Miriam M or Susan S. If you would like to be a Stephen Minister now or in the future, please let us know. I know that this ministry has the power to transform both the care giver and the care receiver.

Susan S

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We need to forgive ourselves, our family members and friends, our neighbors, and our leaders. Forgiveness comes only from the strong – and it is only requested by the strong. Weak people neither seek forgiveness, nor do they offer it. For healing and wholeness, we have the strength of faith – trusting Christ's announcement of “the entire forgiveness of all your sin” for ourselves. This trust in God's forgiveness for ourselves gives us the strength to forgive others.

It is not difficult to forgive a loved one who has hurt you and asks for your forgiveness. But, what about a stranger who doesn't care about the hurt they have caused? What about the leader who delights and even brags about the pain they have inflicted – and continues to seek even more destruction for personal gain?

The first step in forgiveness is to go to the offender and name the wrong – the crime – the sin. If this is dismissed with weak excuses or denials, you should offer to meet them with another person. If the offer is rejected, you can let it go – forgive – turning it over to God and resting in knowing you have done all you can do.

If others may be hurt or endangered, it is important to discuss this with a pastor or counselor, before reporting the crime to the police or to others in authority. If others will be harmed by the offender, it is the loving thing to report the wrong – the crime – the sin to the appropriate authorities. Having done all of this, you can let go of the feelings of anger, revenge, or hatred – even without an apology. That letting go is forgiveness – resting in knowing that you have done all that is possible to address the situation and to protect others, knowing that only God's love for the perpetrator may one day transform their lives.

Forgiveness isn't easy – but it has the great reward of healing – for ourselves, and for those who have the faith and strength to accept it.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger L. Berner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor

**Forgive us our sins, as
we forgive those who sin against us!**



Meet Our Afghan Families

Saturday 23. June at 5:30 pm

POTLUCK DINNER

Join us for a potluck dinner on Saturday, 23. June, at 5:30 pm with the special guests being the Afghan families we have co-sponsored in partnership with Lutheran Social Services (LSS). This is your opportunity to meet Aziz and Sediqa and Shahpur and Hilay and their children. Bring a main dish, side, salad or dessert to share, and enjoy an evening of fine food and fellowship. Beverages will be provided.

Halal meat is their only dietary restriction, so please label your dish if made with halal meat to help our Afghan friends with their choices at the buffet table. Everything else is fine. Labels for all dishes may help them with unfamiliar foods. Please contact Lynn B or Kathy T with any questions. See you there!

Kathy T



Birthdays

4	Meredith D Inna S	24	Kristin T Barbara W
6	Garrett P	25	Pamela B
7	Nancy N Juni S	26	Lindsey D Henri H
13	Jan P	27	Vincent M Ricky R
14	Susan S	28	Piper M
18	Mark P	30	Ana N Claire S
20	Maggie H		
21	Miriam M		
23	Emma G		

Baptismal Days

1	Colin G Mark J Luis H	15	Julia L
3	Kellen B Reid D	16	Philip S James T
9	Greg F Elizabeth W Karen W	18	Alex T Rebecca T
10	Wayne D Andrei S	20	Ricky R
13	Steven R	22	Diana M
		27	Joan E
		29	Petra T
		30	Mark J

Wedding Anniversaries

4	Beth & Thomas C Gabe & Lisbeth D
5	Christine B & John F
14	Jeanine & John B
15	Kim & Pamela B Elaine W & Jim J
17	Jerry B & Brian A
19	Joyce & Paul D
30	Susan & Jay D

Deaths

David S – husband of Lineth S
& son of Len S
+ 26. April 2018
Funeral at Trinity – 2. June 2018, 11 am

Stanley J, father of Mike J
+ 10. May 2018

Rob W
+ 27. May 2018



Holy Communion *part 2*

The benefits of this sacrament are pointed out by the words, given and shed for you for the remission of sins. These words

assure us that in the sacrament we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

The Lesson: John 6:24-35

Prayer: *Holy Jesus, the Christ our Lord, we give you thanks for the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation, which we receive through Holy Communion. We know that we are not worthy to receive you, but you have spoken and we are healed. May we neither hinder the healing power of the gift nor stand in the way of your desire that all be made one, just as you are one with us. For your love's sake we pray. Amen.*

Personal Devotion: *Jesus, my Savior, it is with angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven that I laud your name and bow in prayer. You have given to me healing and wholeness through your body and blood, asking nothing in return. Accept my thanksgiving and unite my prayer with all the in your family of faith, that we might be one. Amen.*



Trinity Lutheran Church

11200 Old Georgetown Road
N. Bethesda, MD 20852-3202

Address Service Requested

☎ 301 . 881 . 7275

email office@TrinityELCA.org

web TrinityELCA.org

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Date Mailed
31. May 2018

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US Postage Paid
Permit #34
Suburban, MD 208

June Highlights

Sunday 3. June

ELCA Hunger Offering, Recognition of Graduates
Public Examination of Confirmands, 10:45 am

Sunday 10. June

Installation of Congregation Council, 8:15 & 10:45 am
Annual Picnic, 12:00 noon

Monday 11. June

New Wine performance of *Les Misérables* at Trinity, 7:00 pm

Wednesday 13. June

Men's Group, 1:00 pm

Saturday 16. June

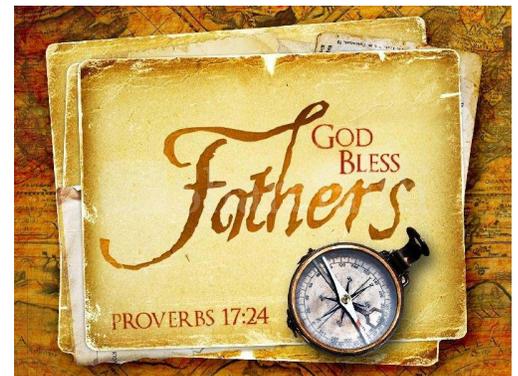
Synod Assembly, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Fairfax VA
Congregation Council Retreat / Special Meeting, 10:00 am

Sunday 17. June – Fathers' Day

Holy Communion with Healing Service, 8:15 & 10:45 am
Youth & Family Ministry Forum, 9:30 am

Saturday 23. June

Meet Our Afghan Families Potluck (5:30 pm)



God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless those fathers, who have taken upon themselves the responsibility of parenting. Bless those who have lost a spouse to death . . . or divorce who are parenting their children alone. Strengthen them by your love that they may become the loving, caring persons they are meant to be. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.