



The Trinitarian

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

July - August 2018

I Was There . . .

*I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.*

ELW Hymn # 732

God is calling us before we can even understand or respond – in baptism. In baptism we are ordained as priests (one who lives a sacrificial life) in God's kingdom. My mother heard the call of the Holy Spirit through Grace Church (SD) and responded to it so I could be adopted by God forever, through ordinary water and the extraordinary Word of God's promise.

God is calling us when we start to understand a few things and are able to respond to them. Once again the Holy Spirit was working through Grace Church (SD) and my mother – inviting me to learn God's Word of grace and mercy through Jesus Christ in Sunday School and worship. In my teen years, I heard an even more frequent call of the Holy Spirit through Grace Church (SD), through three years of confirmation/Bible instruction. I learned of human sin and God's forgiveness in the Old and New Testaments – and how God extended this grace to all in Jesus Christ – even me, though I do not deserve it. Our instruction included memory work every week and turning in notes on a sermon once a month. In 7th grade, one of my teachers had written a question on the test she returned, "Have you considered studying to be a pastor?" I hadn't, but I never forgot that note and now I understand that it was holy (not just another note from someone) but the call of the Holy Spirit through Mrs. Burke. I didn't jump on it right away and set my face toward the seminary, but it never left my heart and mind.

God is calling us through our days as young adults. In college and seminary God was calling me—especially through the campus ministry and professors who challenged my way of thinking.

Like Moses, Jonah, and Paul, I resisted new ways of thought and trust, but now I realize that it was the Holy Spirit calling me through these regular folk into new directions and renewed life.

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1. July *through* 2. September

ONE SERVICE!
10:00 am

School Supplies Collection
Throughout the summer, we will collect school supplies for children in need. On God's Work Our Hands Sunday, 9 September, Trinity will assemble the items into school kits during an Intergenerational Sunday School. Please see article inside for more information.

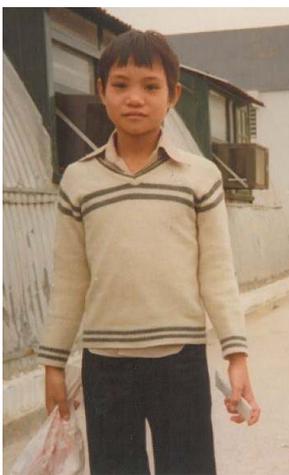
Youth Mission Trip
29. July – 4. August



Devotions – Congregational Council Meeting 12. June 12 2018

Last evening a group of high school students from Minnesota put on the play *Les Misérables* at Trinity. In the program, the play is summarized by "In our journey of redemption, claimed by God's love, we don't change the whole world, but we do what we can to make a difference in the lives of the people around us. This is the story of grace and mercy in this musical, *Les Misérables*.

As you know, I recently retired and this has given me the opportunity to reflect on my own journey and I would like to share part of this journey for our devotions this evening.



After graduating from college in 1975, I was preparing to pursue a career teaching high school math and science. This was also the time that South Vietnam fell to the North. One afternoon, out of the blue, my college physics professor called to ask if I would be interested in volunteering to work with a group from our college assisting with refugee resettlement. This took me to camp Pendleton in California and eventually to Hong Kong

where I worked for 11-years with Vietnamese boat people.

One of my first interviewing assignments in Hong Kong was at the Argyle Street refugee camp. My interpreter was a middle-aged businessman from Vietnam, named Newton, who just happened to be in Hong Kong on business when South Vietnam fell. At the time, his family was back in Saigon but he could not return. He later was able to arrange for his family to escape to Hong Kong. He lost everything and was starting over in Hong Kong. But that's not my story.

At the interviewing site I asked Newton to call the unaccompanied minor who was standing off to the side. At first I thought it was a young boy because of the short hair but it turned out to be a 10-year old girl named Mai. Newton had spoken with Mai earlier and she told him that she had escaped from Vietnam with her older brother and sister but that the engine on their boat broke down in the middle of the ocean. With limited food and water, each person on the boat only received a small daily ration.

Mai said that her brother and sister died of thirst and hunger but that she survived because she could drink the sea water and could eat the moss that was growing on some of the boards of their rickety boat. Newton explained to me later that after the tragedy, the survivors all shaved their heads to show their grief for the departed souls. Eventually Mai was resettled with her uncle in Colorado. This encounter with little Mai left a lasting impression – one that I have carried with me and one that I am sharing with you now 39 years later. This remains a reminder to me of the sacrifices families make to live in freedom.

In the sixth chapter of Micah we are reminded that we are called to act with justice, to love tenderly, to serve one another, and to walk humbly with God.

Let us pray – Here I am Lord, is it I Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go Lord, if You lead me. I will hold your people in my heart. Amen.

Ross

June Congregation Council Highlights

1. Trinity's insurance company will fully cover the flood damage. Ideally, the repairs will be completed before August.
2. Pastor Berner informed the Council that Glen would be resigning as Trinity's Organist/Choir Director at the end of Summer 2018. The Worship and Music Committee will be tasked with appointing a Musician Search Committee to hire a replacement.
3. Pastor Berner announced his intent to retire on October 28, 2018 after 28 years of service to Trinity. The Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod will support the Congregation with the approval and appointment of an Interim Pastor who will serve during Trinity's longer term process of calling a new Pastor.



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I have been struck with awe and amazement in every congregation I have served. God called me to new insights and experiences of reconciliation, grace, forgiveness, and mercy through Bible classes, meals, Congregation Council meetings, in hospital rooms, worship, fellowship, and service.

When I was young, I thought of the Holy Spirit as an idea or feeling about God. Now I know better! The Holy Spirit is God – calling, gathering, enlightening and sanctifying us through a particular people and a peculiar place (congregations). I have heard the call of God (comforting and challenging) through Grace (SD); St. Olaf, Luther, and Jehovah (MN); Epiphany (AZ); Zion (NYC); St. John Mark (PA); and now Trinity (MD). Truly, God has been there in every one of these congregations – not an idea, not a feeling, not a program – but the Holy Spirit speaking through people (with and without words). Through these folks, of every race, age, gender, nation, the Holy Spirit gathered me into a new family of faith, challenged me to grow, enlightened me with love and mercy to show love and mercy, and brought hope and sanctity into the world so selfish and crude.

For the last 28 years, Trinity (you and me) has been the Holy Spirit's workshop (aka church) for me. Holy Spirit has comforted, strengthened, and challenged in God's Word, even when we didn't realize God's work among us. And through God's Word we have calling, gathering, enlightening, and sanctifying others to the ends of the earth.

Now God is calling us into a new phase of ministry as we listen for God's call to continue the ministry of the saints who have gone before us, with and for those we have not yet met – in new and challenging ways and with new pastoral leadership. Never forget that you are, and will be, the Holy Spirit's workshop on Old Georgetown Road, as you have been for the last 60 years.



You will always remain in my prayers,
with joy and thanksgiving.

Roger L. Berner
Pastor



President's Message

July/August 2018

I have known Pastor Berner for some years now. He unknowingly gave me my first communion. He baptized both of my children. I have heard close to a thousand of his sermons. Like many of you, he personally is one of the reasons I began to attend Trinity Lutheran Church. I have my favorite stories that he has told us over the years. I can tell you about the good times I have shared with him and the bad times he has stood with me. I will miss his presence in our fellowship when he retires.

I am thankful for the selfless service he has given to us for so long. We are a stronger congregation by his efforts, and we will likely never fully appreciate all that he has done for us. With his upcoming departure, we will need to take time to reflect on our mission, our identity and our vision for the future. This is a time for sadness, but also a time of thanksgiving. God has blessed us richly with the service of Pastor Berner, and I believe that God will continue to bless us just as we will continue to serve Him.

We will have many opportunities over the next few months to thank Pastor Berner, to plan for the future, and to gather and celebrate our faith. Please join me as we journey together in faith, hope, and love.

John B

Giving for Mission



General Fund Giving

As of 31. May

2016	2017	2018
\$169,403	\$186,410	\$193,403



BIGGER Than A Building! 66 families have pledged \$479,040 to our 3-year mission appeal. Total amount received for BTAB! is \$425,006.07 as of 30. June.

Thank you for your Joyful Generosity for mission through Trinity to the ends of the earth.

Summer Collection:
School Supplies for 

Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. LWR distributes school kits to places where even a few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford. Pencils and paper can help write a positive future for many children.

Beginning in July and continuing throughout the summer, Trinity will collect the school supplies listed below. On God's Work Our Hands Sunday 9. September, Trinity will assemble the items into school kits during an Intergenerational Sunday School. Please place donations in the bins in the Social Hall.

Here are the total items needed to complete this year's goal of 140 kits:

quantity	item
560	70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approx 8x10½"; no loose-leaf paper
140	30-centimeter rulers, or rulers with centimeters on one side, inches on the other
140	Pencil sharpeners
140	Blunt scissors
700	Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
700	Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
140	Box of 16 or 24 crayons
140	2½" eraser

Please note: LWR asks that all kit items be new and have no religious symbols, messages, or patriotic or military symbols. Please contact Kathy T or Anita S with any questions.

Brainstorming About Trinity Youth & Family Ministry

Over 20 members of the Congregation gathered on 17. June, for an hour to discuss evolving Trinity's Youth and Family ministry. The Trinity Youth and Family Ministry Team provided background on current programming, as well as a description of how different Trinity Ministry teams support our youth and families. Thanks to all who participated. If you were not able to attend, we still want to hear from you! Reach out to Anita S, Margaret F, Tamara R, Leslie C, Linnéa A, or Christine B with ideas, feedback, or suggestions. Handouts with volunteer opportunities, an overview of programming at Trinity, and a chart of the four main ministry teams supporting family and youth at Trinity were provided. Ask Anita S for a copy.

Following are notes from the discussion.

Overarching Goals for the Ministry identified:

- Reaching kids of all ages
- Creating program of continuity so youth can look forward as they grow through the program
- Creating and supporting leadership roles for youth in the Congregation and ensuring youth are invited to be a part of everything that happens at Trinity
- Reinforce God's Love
- Creating a safe and welcoming place for youth and families fostering relationships of all ages
- Attracting diverse members to the congregation
- Provides a focus on service to others

Possible opportunities identified for consideration:

- Enhance highlighting of family and youth programming for visiting families via literature rack, bulletin board, website, etc.
- Strengthen follow up with visitors about youth ministry (if information provided)
- Mentor program between older & younger youth
- Baptism anniversary cards sent as reminders
- A more robust youth section of the library for families and teachers; also placing the youth section is on the bottom shelves
- Working with other local congregations
- Create a separate High School Youth Group
- Encourage youth to invite friends to events
- A High School SSL event similar to Tilden Project
- Reevaluate long standing fund raisers
- Reevaluate Vacation Bible School
- Develop podcasts of Sunday School lessons
- Expand exploration of music – parents noted benefit of singing before Sunday School
- Invite youth to participate in services
- Explore youth acting out Bible passages
- Update/ clean out nursery inventory (and activity bags for services)

Enhance communication:

- Publish an annual calendar of activities for youth
- Create a Bulletin Board of youth activities
- Review the use of various technologies – conference call line, google calendar, blast text events, facebook private groups for parents for communications with families
- Continue mailing "Splash" packets for preschoolers

So What's Next? The Youth & Family Ministry Team will synthesize the discussion and, as possible, include the ideas and suggestions, in planning for next year, and share the discussion with other Ministry Teams. Stayed tuned. There will be more conversations and opportunities for input as we move forward.

Stephen Ministry Training Begins 28. Sept 2018 at 7:00 pm



Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministry at Trinity matches a Stephen Minister with a Care Receiver who is dealing with tough times. To learn how to be a Stephen Minister, participants take 50 hours of Training over six months, September/early October through March. The class meets twice a month with a few Saturday mornings included. Future Stephen Ministers first learn about how they deal with life's problems before learning to minister to others. Active Stephen Ministers have told us they use the tools they learned in the Training in their Stephen Ministry caring relationship, and also in their interactions at home, at church, at work, and with neighbors and friends. It becomes part of their lifestyle.

Stephen Ministry emphasizes prayer and Bible study with each module based on scripture. Class participants learn how to pray with others, share Bible verses and stories, and not be self-conscious about doing so. We include devotions and prayer in all Training and all Supervision sessions.

What do students study in Stephen Ministry Training? Lutheran pastor and trained psychologist, Dr. Kenneth Haugk, founded Stephen Ministry in 1975. Topics covered include: The Person as a Caregiver; Feelings: Yours, Mine, and Ours; The Art of Listening; Distinctively Christian Caregiving; Crisis Management, and many other topics. This is not training to be a counselor; rather, it is training for a Christian lay person to walk with another on their journey.

Stephen Ministers say that the Training has helped them in various one-on-one relationships—where they can listen to the other person, get to know them, understand what they're going through, and treat them like Christ wants us all to treat others. The Training involves role play as practice ministering to others in class. Active Stephen Ministers have shared that it is a gift from God to be a Stephen Minister whom their Care Receiver can lean on, confide in, celebrate the joys with, and also share sorrows. They say that they, as Stephen Ministers, feel like the blessed ones when they are able to walk with another person going through a tough time and help that person. If you are interested in training to become a Stephen Minister, please speak to Miriam M, Susan S, or Pastor Berner.



My second job right out of college was with the Federal Government on Capitol Hill. On my first day I met my boss who had been working there thirty years. He knew: who,

what, when, where & why. He mentored me because he wanted me to succeed. After a year, he retired. Soon my new boss met with me and said, "Now, whenever you need something, I will be with you through thick." I responded, "How about thin?" He said, "Welcome to Washington."

About the time I got a new boss I found an out-of-the-way room, room 220. This was the Chaplain's Office. Not any Chaplain, but one authorized by the Constitution of the United States: Article 1, Section 3. I quickly got to know Chaplain, Dr. Richard Halverson. He had just started a Friday noon Bible Study. From this Dr. Halverson introduced me to an evening Bible Study where I eventually met three men.

At the evening Bible Study the four of us soon became friends because we were, and are, believers, Christians. Thirty years later we are still friends. The fact that God brought us together is not lost on our thinking. Recently we gathered for lunch and I mentioned John 3:17 where Jesus said He came to establish the relationship between man and God. In speaking with Nicodemus, Jesus said that God had sent His Son not to condemn the world, "But that the world through Him might be saved." In thinking of this passage I am reminded that it is through Jesus Christ that we come to God. Not through Sun God Ra or Qushootze, but through Jesus Christ. This is the basis of our belief.

I thank the Founding Fathers who wrote in the Constitution that the Legislative Branch of the Government will have a Secretary, a Sergeant At Arms, and a Chaplain. The Secretary is appointed to record the making of the laws, the Sergeant At Arms to run the offices, and the Chaplain to provide spiritual guidance to those who make the laws. Believe me, the people who make the laws need some spiritual guidance.

I thank my faithful family, my Christian friends, members of my church, and my pastor for their contribution to my understanding of the Bible. I pray every day that I will grow to understand the Word of God. Through the Word I hope to grow in Faith.

Steve S

Opportunities to Serve – July 2018					
	1. July Pent 6 / Lect 13	8. July Pent 7 / Lect 14	15. July Pent 8 / Lect 15	22. July Pent 9 / Lect 16	29. July Pent 10 / Lect 17
<i>Acolyte</i>	TBD	Anusha A	Linnea S	Anusha A	Matthew B
<i>Assist. Minister</i>	John B	Miriam M	Nathan L	Robert M	Sabrina R
<i>Children's Church</i>	David C	Nicholas C	Margaret F	Jane R	David C
<i>Greeters</i>	Nancy J	Noralyn & Phil D	Donna & Steve S	Peggy J	Pam B
<i>Lector</i>	Miriam M	Robyn K	Jim K	Nathan L	Sarah G
<i>Ushers</i>	Mark P & Robert P	David C & Henry C	Joan E & Mike J	Peggy & Dick J	Nancy & Thor N
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	Margaret F	Lynn & Bud B	Christine B	TBD	TBD
<i>Altar Custodians</i>	Carol B	Carol B	Carol B	Carol B	Carol B
<i>Tellers</i>	Lynn & Bud B	Diana M & Thor N	Annie A & Mina	Peggy & Dick J	Margaret & Greg F
<i>Worship Folder Assembly (Prior Thurs)</i>	Dick J (28. June)	Diana M (5. July)	Diana M (12. July)	Noralyn D (19. July)	Dick J (26. July)
<i>First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel</i>	Lam 3:22-33 Ps 30 2 Cor 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-43	Ezek 2:1-5 Ps 123 2 Cor 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13	Amos 7:7-15 Ps 85:8-13 Eph 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29	Jer 23:1-6 Ps 23 Eph 2:11-22 Mk 6:30-34,53-56	2 Kings 4:42-44 Ps 145:10-18 Eph 3:14-21 John 6:1-21

Opportunities to Serve – August 2018					
	5. Aug Pent 11 / Lect 18	12. Aug Pent 12 / Lect 19	19. Aug Pent 13 / Lect 20	26. Aug Pent 14 / Lect 21	2. Sept Pent 15 / Lect 22
<i>Acolyte</i>	Colin G	Anders S	Anjali A	Matthew B	
<i>Assist. Minister</i>	Jerry B	Nancy N	Robyn K	Sarah G	Bill B
<i>Children's Church</i>	Margaret F	Nicholas C	Margaret F	Jane R	
<i>Greeters</i>	Louise G	Jerry B, Brian A, Stella	Trevor H	Joan E	Lily & Keith C
<i>Lector</i>	Sabrina R	Len S	Hagen S	Susan S	Linnea A
<i>Ushers</i>	Donna & Steve S	Margaret & Greg F	Angela B, Robert P	Patricia S & Mike J	Joan E & Mike J
<i>Coffee Hour</i>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	
<i>Altar Custodians</i>	Carol B	Carol B	Carol B	Carol B	
<i>Tellers</i>	Petra T & Thor N	Annie A & Mina	Peggy & Dick J	Margaret & Greg F	Diana M & Thor N
<i>Worship Folder Assembly (Prior Thurs)</i>	Diana M (2. Aug)	Diana B (9. Aug)	Noralyn D (16. Aug)	Dick J (23. Aug)	Diana M (30. Aug)
<i>First Reading Psalm Second Reading Gospel</i>	Ex 16:2-4, 9-15 Ps 78:23-29 Eph 4:1-16 John 6:24-35	1 Kings 19:4-8 Ps 34:1-8 Eph 4:25– 5:2 John 6:35, 41-51	Prov 9:1-6 Ps 34:9-14 Eph 5:15-20 John 6:51-58	Jos 24:1-2a,14-18 Ps 34:15-22 Eph 6:10-20 John 6:56-69	Deut 4:1-2, 6-9 Ps 15 James 1:17-27 Mk 7:1-8,14-23



Trinity Lutheran Church

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27. June 2018

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Washington DC Synod Assembly – 16. June 2018

This Synod Meeting was attended by Tom M, Bill and Diana B, and Pastor Berner. The meeting commenced with a service led by Bishop Graham. Subsequent to the service, the Bishop gave his 11th report on key activities of the previous year (2017). He particularly discussed the many activities associated with the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. He also reminded us that he would give his 12th and last report next year as his plans are to be retired in 2019. This of course means the Synod is embarking on a process to identify a worthy successor. He commented how grateful he was for the opportunity to have served as our Bishop.

The ELCA representative from the presiding Bishop, Bishop Eaton, discussed ELCA mission outreach activities. ELCA mission activities are diverse and much money has been contributed to help deal with significant international and domestic disasters over the past year. She thanked the Synod for their generosity.

Other activities included:

- Elections for various positions.
- Review and approval of the Synod proposed mission spending plan.
- Update of progress one year into the three year New Connections Campaign. We were reminded that the goals of the Campaign for a three year period are for each church in the Synod to grow by 10%, to raise \$2.25 million, and to increase the DC Synod population by 3000 members. As of the end of the first year, \$1.3 million has been raised, Synod membership is on track for an increase of 930 members, and 3 new missions have started.
- Approval of five resolutions.
- Report on the progress of the Synod's evangelical mission efforts. There was some good news for a change. In particular, using the metric of the number of congregations in the Synod over a 3 year period, more churches are growing, fewer churches are showing declining membership, and more churches are showing a stable population. This good news was attributed to having the right leaders in the right positions.

There were a number of breakout sessions on various topics. Our representatives attended selected sessions.