Trinity Lutheran Church Staff
Lead Pastor – Jeffery Gaustad x103
Visitation Pastor – Rick Swenson x104
Pastoral Intern – Matt Byrd x 115
Music Director – Jonathan Wohlers x114
Church Steward – Cheryl Mays Comen x112
Administrative Assistant – Pat Durston x110
Communications – Michela Hammond x108
Parish Nurse – Virginia Garrison x106
Operations Support Specialist – Beth Rich
Maintenance – Ed Kane
Hospitality Coordinator – Anita Christian
Youth Ministry Director – Karli Floyd
Financial Secretaries – Joan Oldag
Caretaker – Kaye Olsen
Custodians – Lori Titus, Yelena Zhurko
Sound Engineers – David Christian x 111
Cemetery Manager – David Christian x 111
Healthy Parkland Coordinator –
Devynne Nelons (253) 535-7916

Trinity Childcare and Preschool
Executive Director – Lynn Cooper

2016 Church Council
Jeffery Gaustad, Lead Pastor
Roy Masengale, President
Steve Ufer, Vice President
Joanne Schwartz, Secretary
Keith Cooper, Treasurer
Connie Scafturon
Douglas Wright
Juanita Stalwick
Kurt Scearce
Russ Floyd
Steven Ostrander
Tin Tin Lee

Cover Photo by Michela Hammond

Trinity’s Messenger
Submissions Deadlines

Why Worship – June 29
Making Good Goodbyes – August 17
Your Brain Goes to Church – Sept. 14
Your Heart Goes to Church – Oct. 12
Dealing with Darkness – November 16
The Noelle – December 7

Note: All of the above is subject to change.
Please submit text and images via email to:
michela@trinitylutheranparkland.org.
Submissions before deadline are appreciated

REGULAR SCHEDULES
Sunday Worship at 9:00 and 11:00 am
Office Hours: Monday – Friday
9 am – 4 pm
Food Pantry: Tuesday and Friday 11-3 pm
Sunday 1 pm - 3 pm

FEEDBACK

We want to hear from you! Send us an email at michela@trinitylutheranparkland.org, mail us a letter, or stop by Trinity Lutheran Church
From Pastor Rick
Pastor Rick Swenson, Visitation Pastor

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all” (Ephesians 4:4-6).

As Christians our life together is based upon our unity in Christ, not in our uniformity of opinions. We have various God given gifts, abilities, and personalities. In God’s family there is room for EVERYBODY, which is the opposite of some of the hateful, divisive speech we hear in this presidential campaign.

We live in a broken world. So let’s admit it: life together can be very difficult. Relationships can be broken for all kinds of reasons. As a Big Brothers-Big Sisters caseworker in my first career, I saw a number of children from broken relationships. I recall one little boy I talked to crying because he had been rejected by his father. This happened many years ago, but this sad little boy came to mind as I was writing this article. I will also hasten to add I saw much good that could come from a caring Big Brother or Big Sister—helping fill an emotional void in a young child’s life.

For our life together as Christians we need a purpose bigger than ourselves. This is our unity in Christ, who died and rose for us all. Our life together should be inclusive, not exclusive.

I remember in a sermon I gave years ago, I raised a question to the congregation that each individual could only answer for themselves. I asked the searching and hard question (paraphrasing), “In your mind and in your heart, who is not welcome here?”

For our life together, our unity is in Christ, who welcomes all people. It is a life of inclusion, not exclusion. Therefore we can truly appreciate the diversity and differences in God’s children, without thinking this person or that person should be just like me. Realizing our unity is in Christ is very liberating. I can be me and you can be you.

Continued on next page...
From Pastor Rick continued...

In the words of Gerhard Frost, “Neither you nor I can read the secret thoughts and hopes of our brothers and sisters in the faith, but one thing we know, and that is that we look up to the same cross and name the same Christ. We are ‘called to the one hope’ (Ephesians 4:4).

When God justifies us in Christ, we are given an identity and need no longer struggle for a name. We belong.

Lifestyles vary in the Christian community, patterns of service differ widely, but these variations do not signify disunity where Christ is king. Congregations do not have to be divided because of sharp differences of opinions if they will recognize that deep unity that exists when people share the same hope.

“---When we see one another through our Lord, we can rejoice in each other’s gifts and share our common life. Then we can also feel each other’s hurts and respond to each other’s loneliness and anguish.” Journey of the Heart, Gerhard Frost, pp. 78-79).

I close with 2 stanzas of the hymn “In Christ There Is No East or West”

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north,
All Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth. Amen.
It is a time of great joy in our home. This May Naomi and I were blessed with our first child, Izumi Shiga Wohlers. We are just beginning our life together, and while there is sure to be pain and heartache along the way, it is my fervent prayer that we might “build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live.” Izumi’s given name comes from the title of the prayer poem Inochino Izumi written in 2014 by his grandmother, Yoko Shiga. It was composed as an expression of her faith in the time since the passing of her husband who died from cancer 20 years before, taking inspiration also from John 4:14, “but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (in Japanese izumi means spring or fountain of water). Inochino Izumi (Spring of Life) was set to music as a choral work for women’s choir, soprano solo, and organ by the composer Hina Sakamoto (b. 1968), and was presented in worship at Trinity in February of 2015 by the choir Musica Sacra from Ferris University, Yokohama. For this edition of Great Hymns of the Faith, in celebration I would like to share the text from this anthem.

SPRING OF LIFE

I hear the sweet voice of Jesus saying, “follow me.”
Gathering around the spring of life
The wings of my heart open like a tiny bird’s,
And my mouth sings a song of joy:
I say Amen to you, O Lord; through your power alone,
The morning sun—the evening light,
The evening light—the morning sun.

I hear the voice of Jesus on the hill of sorrow saying, “I will never forsake you.”
My tears are frozen, my mouth has forgotten the song,
The heavy wings of my heart no longer fly. I am a lost bird.
And yet, I am looking for spring, because with you, O Lord,
Despair turns to hope, darkness turns to light, doubt turns to faith.

The hill of Zion is filled with the scent of roses, the scent of earnest love;
And now my heart longs for the Lord.
My heart looks to the light, the everlasting light of heaven.
Countless blessings, and the promise of the Lord, what else do I need?
My soul cries for you with gladness, and I sing of the beauty of the Lord:
Almighty God, everlasting God, you are always right, forever and ever.
Let’s Not (simply) Exist Together
same time every week
same faces that we seek
same spot same pew
same me same you

comfortable and customary
regular and routine

it feels
safe it feels
good it feels
easy it feels
smooth

and
yet

eyes open; not seeing
ears ready; not hearing
people alive; not living

so come
Holy Spirit come
rattle the windows rustle the leaves
reignite my fire revitalize me
teach me to see
to hear
to live

that I may
find a together with
each and every one
of the You-s
You send my way
“Hope for a New Day” Retreat of SW WA Women of the ELCA was held on May 13-15, 2016 at Dumas Bay Centre in Federal Way, Washington. Four women from Trinity were among the 60 women in attendance. Pastor Annie Jones-Barnes was the keynote speaker and gave a dynamic message of hope that spoke to our hearts. She took us a bit out of our “Lutheran box” and showed us another way to praise and worship. We laughed and sang and prayed together and felt surrounded by the peace of Jesus. Pastor Annie is a mission developer pastor in SW WA Synod and the pastor of the Rock City Lutheran Church in Tacoma.

Retired Pastor Margaret O’Neil was the Bible study leader who added to our theme of Biblical “hope” which was a consistent theme throughout the weekend. Dumas Bay is a beautiful location with private sleeping rooms and a fantastic chef who fed us with abundant, delicious, nourishing food! Each year the women of this synod have a spring retreat. It is well worth the time to make plans to attend the spiritual weekend of rest and renewal retreat in May of next year.

The women in the pictures:
Maren Johnson, Shirley Hines, Pastor Annie, Carol Fossum, and Kathryn Wright
From the Heart
Diane Crews

Eternal & Everlasting Promises
Adorning Assurance (White)
The Poetry

Acclaimed adoration cherishes
wisps of white lace crowns
pinned to humble heads
that wrap first Sunday’s
sacred sacrament across
our gleaming altar of
refreshed redemption.

Soft, silk gloves proclaim
anticipated assurance on
cleansed palms of faithfulness
His early sunrise beams of
eternal wisdom glow on
His willing workers, that
shout eternal messages
of merciful magnificence.

Relay for Life
Myron Thompson

The American Cancer Society sponsors a number
of “Relay for Life” events in Pierce County during
the month of June. It honors all people who have
been touched with cancer personally, or as a
caregiver, spouse, relative, or friend with a relay
walk. Cancer is no stranger at Trinity with many
members and friends, as evident on the prayer list
each week. Come and walk (not run) if only for
one lap in remembrance of someone present or past
at a relay this summer.

Local relays are as follows: Lakewood,
June 3-4 (6PM – Noon) at Clover Park High
School; Tacoma, June 11-12 (Noon – Noon) at
Tahoma High School; Central Pierce, June 17-18
(6PM – 3PM) at Franklin Pierce High School;
PUYallup, June 25-26 (Noon – Noon) at Sparks
Stadium.

Hopefully, you can find time to Celebrate,
Remember, Fight Back, and have Hope at a Relay
this summer.

Happy Anniversary
Joanne Schwartz, Prayer Shawl Ministry Coordinator

May marks the tenth anniversary of the Prayer Shawl Ministry when in 2006, eight
women who knit and crochet answered the invitation to form the Ministry. Long-time
members include Carol Beyer, Nellie Cassinerio, Mary Felkins, Marilyn Haugen, and
Betsy Henderson. Our newest members are Mary Gentele and Shirley Hines. We have
also appreciated the participation of Donna Feller, Bea Flatness, Linda Lindsey, Betty
Ostrander, Karen Perrine, and Debra Gramm. Kaye Olsen has been a faithful prayer
leader.

In our ten years of sharing shawls with the ill, grieving or otherwise challenged friends
and neighbors, and also to newly weds and those baptized, we have gifted 696 shawls,
large and small, triangular and oblong, in a myriad of colors. All are meant to wrap
recipients in love from Trinity.
Announcements

THE EVERGREEN BRASS QUINTET AND FRIENDS - Annual “Big Brass” Concert
Join us on Sunday, June 12th, 3:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church - Music for a Sunday Afternoon featuring George Steward, trumpet and Kel Kelly Haley, trombone, and works by: W.A. Mozart, Scott Joplin, and Hoagy Carmichael, with selections from Bernstein’s West Side Story and Bizet’s Carmen. A cookies and coffee reception will follow presented by the Worship & Arts Committee. Admission by freewill donation.

MEN OF TRINITY
After a very successful Spaghetti Feed followed by an enjoyable accordion concert on May 12th, the Men of Trinity look for an active season in late spring and through the summer months! Remaining spring events are listed below.

May 27 • Trinity Cemetery Clean-up #3 • 9:00 AM – Noon
May 28 • Trinity Cemetery Clean-up #4 • 9:00 AM – Noon
May 30 • Memorial Day Service • 10:00 AM • Trinity Cemetery

June 06 • Men’s Bible Study • 6:00 PM • 208 Garfield
June 11 • MOT Planning Breakfast • 9:00 AM • Thompson Hall

COOKIES, COFFEE, AND CONVERSATION
Stay connected with Trinity family who has moved to the Tacoma Lutheran community, and join this social event on Wednesday, June 8th from 2:15 to 4:00 pm in the Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Center Chapel. Address: 1301 N. Highlands Parkway in Tacoma. Any questions, please contact Nancy Belle Skeels.

BLUEGRASS GOSPEL SING-ALONG
AND PICNIC
Save the date – Sunday, July 3rd – after 2nd worship for a sing-along with Matt and musicians, Bowling for Jesus, plus a picnic in the Courtyard. More details to follow via Weekly News. Stay tuned!

SUMMER SCHEDULES
June 5 – September 11
One Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM
Office Hours: Monday – Friday
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Food Pantry: Tuesdays and Fridays
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Sundays: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
# Birthdays

## MAY

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## JUNE

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MIDSUMMER Concert
and
Ice Cream Social

Sunday, July 17, 2016
7:00 PM
Trinity Lutheran Church

A Recital of Musical Delights for Early Summer

Featuring:
Madeline Bersamina (soprano) • Erin Calata (mezzo-soprano)
John Stuntebeck (piano) • Brian Fairbanks (flute)

Admission by Freewill Donation

12115 Park Avenue South; Tacoma, WA 98444 • (253) 537-0201 • trinitylutheranparkland.org