



Trinity Topics

The Newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church, Riverside CA
Sharing God's love, hope and forgiveness since 1893



Trinity Lutheran Church
Since 1893
Kent Tuohino, Pastor
Volume 26, Issue 6, June 2023

Helpful Hands & Hearts Needed

There has been a need recently for Trinity's hands, hearts and transportation! If you are willing to help with an occasional ride for a member, or provide a meal or even just a visit, we know members who would be blessed by you! Please contact Mary Kantola or the church office.



Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive



Our Social Concerns project for June is a peanut butter and jelly collection drive to help struggling parents feed their children this summer. The peanut butter and jelly will be distributed through Lutheran Social Services in Riverside, Central City Lutheran Mission in San Bernardino, and the Hope Food Pantry at Trinity. Watch for sales on large jars of peanut butter or jelly! Contact Kelly Krashin with any questions.

Our Church Calendar

You can find a calendar of events at our church on our website. Go to trinityriverside.org and click on the menu for the calendar. It will display a calendar for the current month, with an option to print a copy. You can also check other months for upcoming or past events.

The online calendar is updated regularly, so check there when you want to find out what's going on at Trinity!



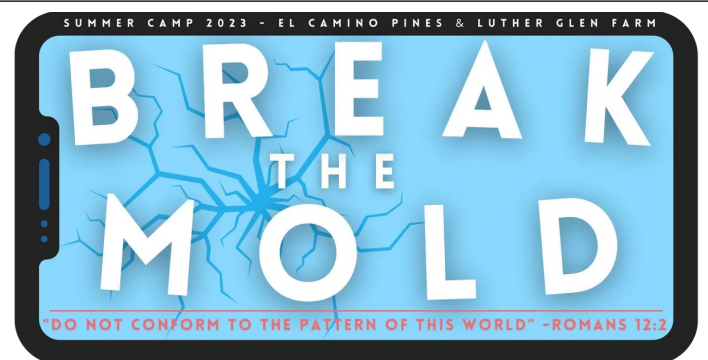
Get Ready for Day Camp at Trinity! July 17-21, 2023

The excitement is building as we get closer to Monday, July 17, when day camp will start here at Trinity! Enrollment is limited, so be sure to register soon! This camp is for children entering K-6th grade this fall. The registration fee is \$25 for one child and \$10 for each additional child from the same household (up to a \$50 maximum). You can pick up registration forms in the church office or call (951) 682-1350 to request one be sent to you. Please share this information with other families interested in this wonderful program!

We also need volunteers to assist with day camp. Volunteers are needed for the following:

- People to prepare snacks each day.
- A person to be on-site each day to check campers in and out and support the LRCC team and campers needs.

We will also need some assistance with snacks and meals for the LRCC staff. A list will be posted in Heineken Hall soon for both the snacks and meals with additional details.



In addition to day camp at our church, there are several other summer camp programs offered by Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences at their two camp locations. Find out more by visiting lrcchome.com.

This summer, they are offering a flexible price plan for the camp programs held at Luther Glen Farm and at El Camino Pines. Summer camp has never been more affordable. Check it out!



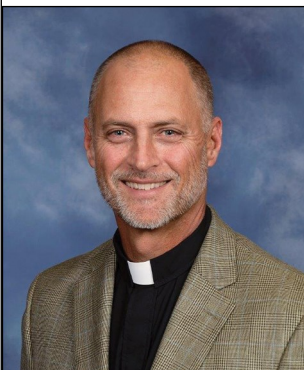
Our Mission Focus

(An excerpt from Bishop David Nagler's Report for the Pacifica Synod Assembly held in May.)

Stephen Covey wrote, "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." This is especially true for the church. We are called to be disciples of Jesus sharing the good news of God's unconditional love. We do so by embodying love, acting lovingly, and then sharing the story of God's love made known in Jesus.

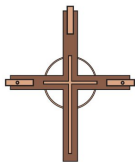
1 John 4:20 states that those who claim to love God but hate their siblings are liars and must learn to love each other if they want to know God. That means that our mission begins at home with each other. Congregations must practice love with each other. When we fail to do so (and we will) we confess, ask for forgiveness, and recommit to loving speech, loving actions, and loving practices. God promises that this practice of love will allow us to experience more fully the Divine and serve our neighbors in truth.

So, while mission begins at home, it is never about us. We learn to practice love for God, others, and ourselves so that we can become truly good news for our neighbors, especially our most vulnerable neighbors. Because of God's grace we are free to look at difficult areas of our lives and face challenging realities. We can lovingly address our unconscious bias, racial injustices, narrow understandings of gender or culture knowing that we will not get it right the first or second time, but that the journey is worth taking. We ask God to shape us a people who embody the Good News we are privileged to share.



Bishop David Nagler

That is why it is important for us to work more closely together than ever before. The word "synod" means to "caravan" or travel together. An African proverb wisely says, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." Siblings of the Pacifica Synod, let us abandon our silos and limited thinking. Let's learn from each other and celebrate one another's successes. Let's go far!



Pacifica Synod, ELCA

Office of the Bishop

As we have gotten to know Dr. Glenn Pickett, our new Director of Music Ministries, we have learned that he is a creative person who loves to compose and perform music. His latest project is a musical about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran theologian in Germany who was an outspoken critic of the Nazis. Bonhoeffer was eventually arrested and finally executed in April of 1945, but his life and his writings continue to inspire today.



DIETRICH AND MARIA

*A new musical based on the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer
By Glenn Pickett & David Goodman*

Performances November 17-19, 2023, at
California Baptist University

Dietrich and Maria is a Broadway-style musical that looks at how a pastor and his young fiancée confront the human atrocities of Nazi Germany. Faced with the choice of keeping their heads down and surviving the war, or standing up for those who have no voice, they choose to stand. Although Dietrich pays the ultimate price for his stance, Maria also pays dearly as the dream life they were planning to build turns out to be just that, only a dream; dashed to pieces by Hitler's evil — just days before Dietrich's prison camp was liberated by the Allies. A wide variety of musical styles, including African-American Gospel music, are employed to tell this heart-rending, yet triumphant story of a man in love with both his fiancée and justice — and having to choose between one or the other. *Dietrich and Maria* will be presented November 17-19, 2023, in a fully costumed and choreographed production with a live orchestra at California Baptist University's Wallace Theatre.

Thursday Night Bible Study

This weekly Bible study meets online at 7:00 pm each Thursday and discusses the upcoming Sunday Gospel reading. If you'd like to participate, let Pastor Kent know. He will email you the discussion questions along with a link to the Zoom meeting.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. — Psalm 119:105



Sunday Bible Readings

June 4: Trinity Sunday

Deuteronomy 6:1-7; Psalm 8; Matthew 28:16-20

June 11: 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 4:13-25; Psalm 50:7-15; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 18: 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 5:1-8; Psalm 100; Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 25: 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 6:1b-11; Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18;
Matthew 10:24-31

July 2: 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 6:12-23; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18;
Matthew 10:1, 11-15, 40-42



I was glad
when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house
of the Lord!"

Sunday Coffee Hour

Volunteers are needed to help with the coffee hour. If you would like to host and serve a simple treat on a Sunday, please sign up or call the church office.

Altar Flowers

The Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please consider signing up to donate the cost of the altar flowers for a Sunday worship service. The price is \$34 for one bouquet or \$68 for both (make checks payable to Trinity).

This Month's Flower Donors

6/4 David & Theresa Husted
6/11 Larry & Phyllis Stumpf
6/18 Mary Kantola
6/25 Loren & Sarah Boese



Pastor's Paragraphs

We are now at the time of year when there is a transition from springtime to summer. For families, it's a transition from the school year to a summer break. On the church calendar, there is a transition from the season of Easter and the celebration of Pentecost to the Sundays *after* Pentecost — the long "green season" of the church year that usually lasts about 6 months. During the coming months, the Sunday Gospel readings will focus on Jesus' teachings and ministry, and the color green symbolizes the growth of the Church and our growth as Jesus' disciples.

That growth is the result of God's Spirit at work in us, leading us, encouraging us, and helping us to follow Christ. Exactly how the growth occurs will vary from one person to another, but just like in gardening, there are some basic things that are necessary for our spiritual growth.

1) Soil: Plants need a good foundation of soil to start their growth. For Christians, our "soil," our foundation, is Christ. Christ nurtures us and supports us. In John 15, Jesus says that he is the vine, we are the branches connected to the vine, and God is the gardener.

2) Sunlight: Plants need light and so do we. God's Word is our sunlight. Plants grow towards the light. They long for the warmth and strength that the light gives. As children of God, we should also lean towards the light of God's Word for guidance and strength. As Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

3) Water: Last but not least, plants need water to sustain them. One way we are watered is through fellowship with other believers. God didn't intend for us to grow alone, but to encourage each other in Christ. Jesus promised in Matthew 18:20, "Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Believers in Christ are meant to come together, loving one another and supporting each other as we grow. Fellowship can be refreshing to a soul, just like water to a plant. It can quench our thirst for community, and help us perk up on a particularly draining day.

As we enter this summer season, think of how you will grow your soul's garden. Don't see it as a time to take a break from church. Instead, think of how you can strengthen your growth with a foundation of good soil (Christ), sunlight from above (God's Word), and refreshing water (fellowship with other believers).

— Pastor Kent

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

Colossians 2:6-7



TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/23 through 5/31/23)

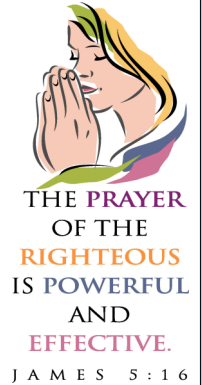
Goal for regular offerings to date: \$ 107,926.28
Regular offerings received to date: \$ 111,543.34
Difference: + \$ 3,617.06

Your faithful giving will help us reach our goal!

Scrip income received in 2023: \$ 611.75

Century Club donations received in 2023: \$ 280.00

Out of respect for privacy,
the names on our prayer list
have been omitted from this
online edition of our newsletter.



Dear Trinity Family,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the support you have given Jim and me during his long battle with cancer. He fought the good fight for six years. Not many people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer can say that. Jim felt guilty that I couldn't go out occasionally, so he insisted on getting help so that I could. Mary Kantola and Brenda Lussier – he actually looked forward to when I went out, so he could be “sat” by you women. He looked forward to your visits and telling stories and hearing your stories. Sometimes I think he encouraged me to go for both our sakes. We both needed a diversion.

All the love and support I received after his death was just overwhelming; the cards, the donations on his behalf, the flowers, being taken out to lunch, and the help with his Celebration of Life was amazing. I do want to share something that I think reflects upon our church. Several family members asked about the women in the aprons. I told them they were church members who were performing a service of love to a fellow church family. They were surprised that they were volunteers, just helping where they could. All I could say was “We are a small church, but we understand that we are to serve with a joyous heart in our Lord's name.” Unless you have been on the receiving end of this service, you cannot even begin to understand how much this means to the family. Our family made the right decision when we joined this church about twenty years ago. Again, from Jarett, Rochelle, Scott, Kayla and me, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. — Cherie Guillow

A poem in memory of Jim Guillow

by Cherie Guillow

Twenty-seven years isn't long enough to spend together; to laugh together, to cry together, to argue together, to make up together, to love together. We married late in life and I thought we would have our golden years together, but I guess God had a different plan.

We complimented one another; you were the strong, silent one, I was the impatient one. You planned and planned things, I was let's just do it. We had our ups and downs, but love was never lacking. You were my husband and my best friend and I am a little lost without you. Your strong support was always there no matter what.

I know your faith was strong and you are now in the arms of Jesus, but I am a little angry. I wanted more time, twenty-seven years wasn't long enough. I know you are now pain free and for that I am happy, but I wish you never had to go through that pain. I know I will see you again in heaven, but the impatient one in me doesn't want to wait, I want you now.

Twenty-seven years was just not long enough.



Pray without ceasing.

1 Thessalonians 5:17



If you are healthy and able to give blood, consider donating blood for the Trinity Donor Club. We thank those who have donated recently. For more information, visit www.LStream.org or call the church office.

June Birthdays

(1) Marie Hinz; (3) Lea Arenas; (6) Ashley Lowell, (7) Dana Reupert; (8) Disa DeFrese; (9) Phyllis Stumpf; (10) Kylie Gundrum, Brenda Sue Lussier; (13) Rob Clarke, Mike Irwin, Luis Reza, Eric Wallior; (14) Bill Cole; (15) Catalina Wall; (16) Sadie Arenas, Theresa Husted; Chris Zamora; (19) Noah Gundrum; (20) Maralene Taylor; (24) Ben Stuart, (25) David Husted, (26) Josephine Arenas, Robert Brooks, (27) Connie Fortier, (29) Beth Houlihan, Karen Myers.

If we missed your birthday, let us know so we can add you to our list!



Council Meeting Summary

The Trinity Council met via Zoom on May 16, 2023. Members present: Pastor Kent, Mary Kantola, Mike McMichael, Gary Goldberg, West Krashin, Larry Dodson, Theresa Husted, and Karyl Robinson. Stacy Wheeler was absent. Glenn Pickett was present for the beginning of meeting as a guest. Please feel free to contact any of the council members if you have any questions. Pastor Kent led an opening devotion from *Christ in Our Home*.

Pastor's Report Highlights

- Work on the photo directory is on pause due to vacations and will resume in June.
- The Rummage Sale raised \$1,910. It was decided to use \$200 to replace flowers in the courtyard in memory of Dorothy Evans. The remainder is to be divided between the Quilting Bee, Shower of Hope, and BAT.

Treasurer's Report

- We completed April with \$21,310.19 in envelope giving and \$6,500.78 in unrestricted income.
- The month of April finished with a negative net of \$8,404.02 for the month due to maintenance and gas costs; however, we finished the four-month period of January through April with a net income of \$26,913.12.

Old Business

- Concrete wall repairs have been completed.
- Additional handicapped parking signs have been installed, and we will cover the new ones for parking during the Wednesday food bank hours.
- Doorstops will be purchased for the narthex doors.
- We will have one Sunday service at 9:30 am during the month of July, and return to two worship services in August.
- We will purchase 16 more padded folding chairs for coffee hour.
- The search continues for a permanent choir accompanist.

New Business

- The purchase of one additional video camera for streaming services was approved.
- The purchase of a MIDI Interface was approved to connect Trinity's grand piano with an electronic keyboard.
- We will purchase a "spider dolly" for the piano on long-term loan from CBU.

The next council meeting will be held on June 20, 2023, at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

2023 Synod Assembly Report

This year's Pacifica Synod assembly was held in Palm Desert at Hope Lutheran Church on May 5th and 6th. Led by Bishop Dave Nagler, the theme was "Living the Good News."

We heard wonderful stories of faith led ministries happening throughout our Synod. The story of Hope Lutheran Riverside's closing and helping River of Hope Palm Springs come to life was a large portion of the theme.

We were also introduced to the new Synod Council and staff. Updates and reports were shared. There was also opportunity to participate in workshops and breakout sessions.

During the assembly, ordained ministers were recognized for their years of ordained ministry. Not sure if you Trinity congregants are aware, but Pastor Kent Tuohino has been ordained 35 years! Congratulations, Pastor! Hope-Palm Desert did a fantastic job of hosting the event. There was delicious coffee and snacks as well as a wonderful worship service. Carl and I were happy to have represented Trinity Riverside in the Assembly votes and elections. You can go to PacificaSynod.org for the results.

Thank you for trusting us to represent you all!

Shawn and Carl Lowell



Help Support Trinity by Using Scrip

We sell scrip cards as a way to help support our church. Cards are available for over 700 stores and restaurants. To place an order, talk to Michael Myers or Judy McMichael on Sunday morning, or call or email Michael in the church office. You can pay when you order or when you receive your card(s); any checks should be made payable to Trinity Lutheran Church. The weekly scrip order goes in on Sunday at noon, and we usually receive the cards on Friday.



RaiseRight™

Go to raiserright.com to see what stores and restaurants are available. You can also order scrip cards online, reload cards, or download scrip directly to your phone. If you order online, be sure to choose our church as the organization to benefit from your scrip purchases.



Congratulations to Our Graduates!

(Last month we announced the graduations of Danielle George from the Rochester Institute of Technology and Joseph Dadlez from Martin Luther King High School. Carolyn Bolz wrote the following poems in honor of their graduations.)

CONGRATULATIONS, DANIELLE

Congratulations, Danielle,
You have done so well,
All of us can tell.

We've watched you grow up here
And we want to loudly cheer
For your master's degree
From R.I.T.

Of course, we're as proud
As we can possibly be.
God bless you from everyone
At Trinity!

THANK YOU, JOSEPH

Joseph, all of us agree
That you've been a great help
Here at Trinity.
Thank you for the Sunday mornings
That you have spent
Adjusting the microphone
For Pastor Kent.

We'll miss you, but
We're excited for your news
That you'll be attending
UC Santa Cruz.
Of course, our heartfelt prayers
Will accompany you
And our very best wishes
Will follow too.



Taizé Service

Several churches in Riverside take turns hosting a Taizé service on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 pm.

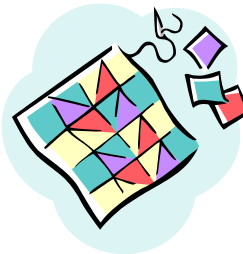
It's a contemplative style of worship featuring simple but beautiful songs, inspiring readings, and prayerful silence. On June 12, it will be held at:
First Congregational Church
3504 Mission Inn Avenue

The service will also be available to view online. For more information, visit facebook.com/taizeriverside or contact Sandra Soares at fccucc@sbcglobal.net.

Daily Devotionals

Copies of the *Christ in Our Home* daily devotional booklet are available at Trinity. Pick one up at church, or contact the church office and we will be happy to send one to you. Large-print copies are also available.

Quilting Bee



Trinity's Quilting Bee meets in Cooper-Burkhart House on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 9:00 am. New helpers are welcome, and you don't even need to know how to sew! Contact Kelly Krashin for more info.

Also, if you have any old bed sheets that you don't need, the Quilting Bee would love to have them!

Join the Brigade!

Trinity's "Hairnet Brigade" prepares dinner for the men at Central City Lutheran Mission on the third Sunday of the month. They are always very appreciative of these meals!



Volunteers are needed for this ministry. If you are interested, contact Ann Herring at aehlaw@gmail.com or (909) 380-2710. There's a hairnet waiting with your name on it!

Game Fellowship Group

This monthly fellowship group for adults meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10 am in Cooper-Burkhart House. All are welcome. Contact Karyl Robinson for more information.



Eyeglasses Wanted

We make used eyeglasses available to those who cannot afford them. If you have readers or prescription reading glasses you do not need, please bring them to church and place them in the donation box in Heinecken Hall.



Hope Food Pantry

The Hope Food Pantry is open at Trinity from 9:00 to 10:30 am every Wednesday. Volunteers are needed to help with the food pick-up on Tuesdays and food distribution on Wednesdays. (You don't need to help every week.) Contact Larry Dodson to volunteer.



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<p>Ministry Staff Kent Tuohino, <i>Pastor</i> • Mary Kantola, <i>Congregational President</i> Glenn Pickett, <i>Director of Music Ministries</i> • Michael Myers, <i>Administrative Assistant</i> Rev. Hitoshi & Satoko Adachi, <i>ELCA Missionaries in Japan</i></p>
<p>Vision & Mission Statements The vision of Trinity Lutheran Church is to provide a community of faith where all people are challenged to reach their full potential in Christ. Our mission is to <u>represent</u> our Lord Jesus Christ in this time and place. We will do so by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• INVITING people to know God and His message of grace, love, hope and forgiveness.• ASSISTING people to grow in their relationship with God.• EQUIPPING people to serve Christ's church.• ENABLING people to share their faith through what they say and do. <p>KNOW, GROW, SERVE AND SHARE</p>