



Trinity Topics

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



JULY

&

August

Trinity Lutheran Church
Since 1893
Kent Tuohino, Pastor
Volume 26, Issue 7, JulAug 2023

Day Camp at Trinity: July 17-21

Monday, July 17, is almost here! The camp staff from Lutheran Retreats Camps and Conferences (LRCC) will be here, and there will be songs, laughter, and activities filling the rooms at church. You still have time to register children for day camp. They must be 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 \$50 maximum). You can pick up a registration form in the church office or contact us at (951) 682-1350 to request one be sent.

We still need lunches to be provided for the day camp staff during the day on Monday-Friday; you can provide a meal/restaurant gift card or give a gift card to a grocery store. Please contact Brenda S. Lussier or the church office to sign up or order gift cards. Thank you!

Our congregation is also invited to join campers and their families on Wednesday, July 19, at 6:00 pm for a barbecue dinner. It's your chance to meet the camp staff and campers. The campers will sing for you and share some of the wonderful things they learned while attending day camp. This will be a potluck dinner, and we ask that each person bring a salad or dessert. We will provide hot dogs and drinks. We hope you can join us in celebrating day camp! Please RSVP for the dinner!

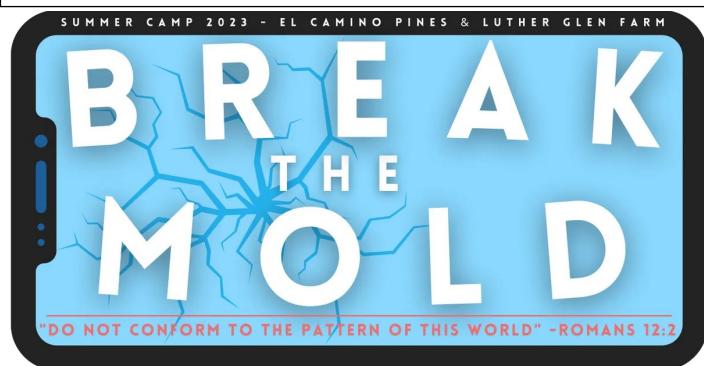


During the month of July, we will have one Sunday service at 9:30 am, with a mixture of contemporary Christian music and familiar hymns. The 11:00 am service will resume in August.

Fourth of July Fireworks

You're invited to join our friends at Eden Lutheran Church on the 4th of July to watch the fireworks on Mount Rubidoux from their parking lot. Bring your own picnic dinner to enjoy while the sun goes down.

Free parking passes are needed for entry, and can be obtained from the church office at Eden. Call 684-3336 to request a parking pass.



Contemporary Praise Concert & BBQ at Eden Lutheran Church on July 21

Enjoy music and fellowship on Friday, July 21, 5-8 pm.
Hot dogs will be provided.

Please bring a salad or dessert to share.

Please RSVP by July 7 to info@edenlutheran.org



Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 8, and join in our first church workday in a very long time! We will begin at 8:00 am. (Please let the BAT team know ahead of time if you would like to eat breakfast.) We will start working in the sanctuary and outside. Mike McMichael will have a list of chores to work on from the Property Committee. The Altar Guild will have a list as well. There are always things that need cleaning! Bring a dish to share for a potluck lunch. Please come and join in, do some chores, visit with others, and have a great time!



During the month of July, we are collecting school supplies to help ensure that children have what they need for learning. We plan to fill 48 backpacks with school supplies, and will distribute them to students through the Lutheran Social Services office at Trinity, Central City Lutheran Mission, and Trinity's Social Concerns ministry.

Please bring your donations to the church by Friday, July 28. We will assemble the backpacks after the worship service on Sunday, July 30. Here is a list of the supplies needed to fill each school backpack:

- one 3-ring binder (size 1"–2")
- package w/100 sheets of lined paper
- two 2-pocket folders
- one composition book
- one spiral bound notebook
- 24-pack of Crayola crayons
- 12-pack of colored pencils
- 8-10 count set of colored markers
- 12-pack of Ticonderoga #2 pencils
- pencil pouch OR pencil box
- pencil sharpener (with a catch to hold shavings)
- pencil cap erasers
- ball point pens
- Elmer's school glue (4 oz. bottle)
- 5 glue sticks
- standard foot-long ruler
- one pair of scissors
- low odor dry erase markers

Sunday of Service

In August we will collect donations in preparation for the projects we will do after worship on September 10. Here are some of the items we'll need:

- Towels (slightly used or new)
- Travel size personal hygiene products
- Items for blessing bags:
 - Ravioli or Spaghettios (pop-top cans)
 - Vienna Sausages (pop-top cans)
 - Applesauce or mixed fruit (individual cups)
 - Granola bars
 - Crackers w/peanut butter or cheese
 - Fruit snacks
 - Individual bags of cookies
 - Bottled water

Plan to join us for service on Sunday, September 10!



Hope Pantry in Action

Our dedicated crew of volunteers distributes food to more than 120 households every Wednesday!



God's work.
Our hands.

*If you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness.*

Isaiah 58:10



Peanut Butter & Jelly Donations

Our Social Concerns project for June was a peanut butter and jelly collection drive to help struggling families. The peanut butter and jelly will be distributed through Lutheran Social Services in Riverside, Central City Lutheran Mission in San Bernardino, and the Hope Pantry at Trinity. Additional PB&J will be purchased thanks to a Thrivent Action Team grant. Members of Eden Lutheran Church also collected peanut butter and jelly to donate to the Hope Pantry. Thank you all for your donations!

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

July 2: 5th Sunday after Pentecost
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:1,11-15, 40-42

July 9: 6th Sunday after Pentecost
Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16: 7th Sunday after Pentecost
Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23: 8th Sunday after Pentecost
Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30: 9th Sunday after Pentecost
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 6: 10th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 55:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

August 13: 11th Sunday after Pentecost
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

August 20: 12th Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Matthew 15:21-28

August 27: 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

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).

Upcoming Flower Donors

7/2-The Knapiks	8/6-L & S Boese
7/9-Carol Haffter	8/13-Carol Haffter
7/16-Carol Haffter	8/20-The Goldbergs
7/23-L & S Boese	8/27-The Goldbergs
7/30-Dorie Haddy	



Pastor's Paragraphs

On the Fourth of July our nation will celebrate its 247th birthday. Every Independence Day is a celebration of freedom. But as history has shown us again and again, for freedom to endure, it needs to be balanced with responsibility. The founders of our country did that by drafting a constitution that sought not only to preserve their hard-won freedom, but also created a framework for using that freedom to promote the common good.

The Apostle Paul wrestled with the question of freedom and responsibility in his letter to the Galatians. Some people had taken Paul's preaching about God's grace to mean that they were now free to do whatever they wanted. Paul was alarmed that people would take the forgiveness won by Christ on the cross for granted. He saw that some believers were taking that hard-won freedom as an excuse for their own selfish actions.

Paul writes in Galatians 5:13-14, "You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Love for our neighbor is the compass that guides us toward using our freedom responsibly. Love is central to our calling as followers of Christ. We have been freed from sin in order to serve one another with love. In other words, our spiritual (and our political) freedom ought to be used to pursue the good of our neighbor.

One of the things I treasure the most about our congregation is that we seek to show love for our neighbors in many ways. We do it through the food we distribute each week through the Hope Pantry and the meals we serve through BAT. We do it by offering showers, food and clothing to our unhoused neighbors. We do it by collecting donations of peanut butter and jelly, by sewing quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and by preparing meals for members of our church family who are sick or grieving.

After Paul describes our freedom in Christ he launches into the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). As we practice love for our neighbors and for each other, that fruit will continue to grow and bless our lives as individuals, as a church, and as a community.

— Pastor Kent

*"Use your freedom to serve one another in love."
Galatians 5:13*



TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/23 through 6/30/23)

Goal for regular offerings to date:	\$ 127,549.24
Regular offerings received to date:	\$ 128,425.74
Difference: + \$	876.50

Your faithful giving will help us reach our goal!

Scrip income received in 2023: \$ 530.40

Century Club donations received in 2023: \$ 320.00

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



THE PRAYER
OF THE
RIGHTEOUS
IS POWERFUL
AND
EFFECTIVE.

JAMES 5:16

(In the report on the synod assembly that was published in last month's issue, it was noted that Pastor Kent celebrated the 35th anniversary of his ordination in March of this year. After Carolyn Bolz read that, she wrote the following poem.)

Congratulations, Pastor Kent!

You were ordained in nineteen eighty-eight,
And since that very important date,
You have been a pastor who truly cares,
Plus a worship leader extraordinaire,
And, of course, a man who's devoted to prayer.

Thirty-five years of ordination
Calls for many cheers and congratulations.
We feel grateful and as blessed as we can be
By all the time that you've spent in ministry.
Thank you from everyone here at Trinity!

By Carolyn Bolz



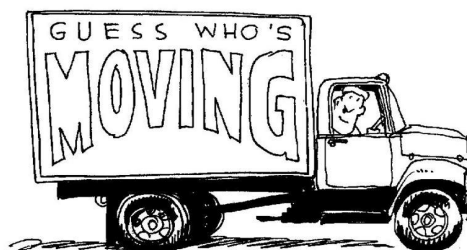
Taizé Service

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 July 10, it will be held at:

Madison Street Church
3991 Madison Street

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



Christina Reza and her family are moving to Virginia in July, and their final Sunday at Trinity will be on July 16. Join us for a special coffee hour after the 9:30 am service that Sunday to say farewell and Godspeed!

Whenever you cross my mind, I thank my
God for you and for the gift of knowing you.
Philippians 1:3 (The Voice)

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.



July Birthdays

(2) Bev Erck, Lew Trapp; (3) Emily Clarke Anderson, Amanda Wright; (7) Dan Brizendine, Tana Fye-Stager; (9) Gil Heth; (12) Danielle Bitetti, David Rogers; (14) Marlene De Frese; (16) Kevin Wheeler; (18) Loren Boese; (21) Sarah Boese, Sara Myers, Elizabeth Printup, Stacey Robbins; (22) Bill Brethauer, Shawn Lowell; (28) Dorie Haddy; (29) Emily Arenas; (30) Curt Ritchie

August Birthdays

(2) Matt Bradley; (3) Sofia Baroldi; (4) Chrissy Baroldi, Don Welker; (5) Franklin Stuart; (8) Lana Dugan, Mim Frantz; (9) Chris Brown; (12) Wayne Powers, William Wall Sr.; (13) Debbie Black, Carolyn Bolz; (14) Sophia Medvec; (16) Julie McAuley; (19) Cindy Hogue, Dave Willis; (20) Kim Gilbreath; (22) Danny Wagner; (24) Chris Bayne, Amelie Rodriguez; (26) Hitoshi Adachi, Jamason Doucett; (28) Willie Johnson; (31) Vince Baggett

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



Council Meeting Summary

The Trinity Council met via Zoom on June 20, 2023, at 6:30 pm. Members present: Pastor Kent, Mary Kantola, Karyl Robinson, Mike McMichael, Larry Dodson, Gary Goldberg, Wes Krashin, Theresa Husted, and Stacy Wheeler. Feel free to contact any of the council members if you have any questions. Pastor Kent's devotion used "The Summer Day," a poem by Mary Oliver.

Pastor's Report Highlights:

- The choir is now on a summer break and will resume in September.
- The spider dolly for the piano on loan from CBU has been purchased and installed.
- Other musical and video equipment approved by the council is pending.
- Reverend David Berg will cover for Pastor Kent on Sunday, July 30.
- Pastor would like to invite Executive Director of Family Promise, Riverside, Claire Jefferson-Gilpa to speak at a worship service this summer.
- Whiteside Manor has been using Trinity to hold family therapy meetings twice a month, but that ended in June, as they have found a new location closer to their facility.
- Two affordable housing projects have upcoming grand openings. Habitat for Humanity will open transitional cottages at Mulberry Village on June 23, and St. Michael's Apartments open on July 24.

Treasurer's Report:

- The month of May had \$21,523.37 in envelope giving and \$6,857.97 in unrestricted income. Envelope giving in the first five months totaled \$111,543.34, which is \$3,208.34 more than projected.
- May ended with a negative net income of \$2,879.91 for that one month. However, there is a positive net income of \$24,033.21 for the 5-month period of January through May.

Old Business

- Drywall repair in the LSS office is underway and the report showed no asbestos present.
- Church workday will be scheduled for Saturday, July 8, starting at 8:00 am.

New Business:

- The council approved the use of Poat Parlor for Gamblers Anonymous meetings. The meetings will be held on either Friday or Saturday nights.
- Instead of a regular Synod Assembly in 2024 there will be a series of regional gatherings next May. There is a possibility that Trinity may be asked to host one of them.
- An in-person council meeting is scheduled for July 16 in Poat Parlor following the coffee hour.

The next council meeting will be held in Poat Parlor on July 16, 2023, following coffee hour (about 11:30 am).

Reflection: I Will Give You Rest

By Tiffany C. Chaney

The Gospel reading for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost offers a promise many might crave. In Matthew 11: 28, Jesus says, "I will give you rest." In this passage, Jesus addresses people who are burdened and weighed down by legalistic and oppressive ways. It's also while they're in this oppressive place that Jesus makes his gracious invitation of rest.

But this invitation might seem misleading. Perhaps the promise, "Come to me, all you who that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" leads you to believe this is about a nice, long sleep. Or maybe rest for you is a free day without anyone around, when you can recline in your special chair and watch your favorite TV show without anyone talking to you during the good parts.

But a nap and watching TV aren't what this promise from Jesus is all about. It was a call for people to depend on Christ, rather than on themselves. Jesus was calling the gathered community to follow him as committed disciples. The same call is extended to us.

Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me" (verse 29). This call to discipleship, the means by which people find rest, is by walking with and learning the ways of the Lord. This learning isn't just cognitive – it's experiential. It's a way of life. It means to learn by asking questions and practicing until the ways of Christ become part of who we are.

The yoke of Jesus is different – it is gentle, it is humble, it is caring. One learns from Jesus by adopting his spirit and living with a focus on those things important to Christ, by engaging in Jesus' mission and ministry. The only time the load becomes overwhelming is when we try to take it over and do the pulling ourselves. Come, all who labor, and the Lord will give you rest. Take on the ways of Christ, learn from him. The burden is light.

To be clear, this invitation of rest isn't an invitation into a life of ease. Following Jesus will be full of risks and challenges, as he has made abundantly clear. Yet, Jesus calls us to a life of humble service, and in that service is a life of freedom instead of captivity.

We are freed to walk with Jesus. Freed to be honest about those ways in which we struggle. Freed to be released from the bonds of sin. Freed to live into the mission of Christ. Freed to love our neighbor as Christ has so beautifully modeled for us. Freed to experience the relief, joy and blessings of life through a grace-filled relationship with our Lord.

When life is yoked to Jesus under God's gracious and merciful reign, free from the burden of sin and the need to prove ourselves, free to rest deeply and securely in God's grace, we find rest.

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Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. – 1 Peter 4:10

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.



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 for you!

Help Support Trinity by Shopping with Scrip Cards

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.

Go to raiseright.com to see what stores and restaurants are available. Using their website, you can also order scrip cards online, reload cards, or download scrip directly to your phone. If you order online, be sure to choose Trinity Lutheran Church as the organization to benefit from your scrip purchases.



RaiseRight™

In addition to the 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 at 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 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.

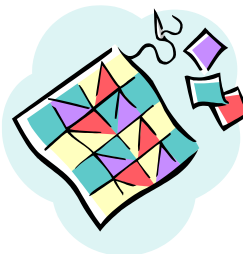
The online calendar is updated regularly, so check there when you want to find out what's going on at Trinity!



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 ask for one to be sent to you.

Quilting Bee

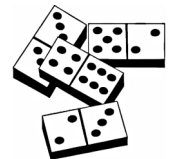


Trinity's Quilting Bee meets in Cooper-Burkhart House on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 9:00 am. New helpers are welcome, and you don't even need to know how to sew! Contact Kelly Krashin for more info.

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

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.



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>Sunday Worship Schedule 9:30 am — Contemporary Service (in person and on YouTube) 9:30 am — Sunday School 11:00 am — Traditional Service (resumes on Aug. 6) Church Office Hours: open 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, Monday-Friday Phone: (951) 682-1350 • Email: office@trinityriverside.org</p>
<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>