



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 9, October 2023



Trunk-n-Treat at Trinity Saturday, October 28

Calling all ghosts, goblins, princesses, and other costumed characters! You are invited to join us on Saturday, October 28, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. for a family-oriented community event that includes games, candy, music, food and fun. This is a fun event for all – young and old and in between.

To put on an event like this, we also need your help and support. We need cars to decorate and hand out treats, candy to give away, food to serve, and volunteers for set-up, decorating, cooking, and clean-up. We want you to come and have a good time at the event and welcome our local community!

Flyers are available to share and invite your family and friends. If you have questions, see Brenda S. Lussier.

The sign-up sheet for volunteers and food donations is available at church, on the table in the narthex! We need you, so be sure to come out and have some fun!

Congregational Meeting Sunday, October 22, at 10:30 am

Trinity's council would like to replace the two air conditioning and heating units for the church office and the kitchen in Heinecken Hall, but we need the approval of our members to do this. Our constitution and bylaws require a congregational meeting to approve any expenditures over \$10,000 that were not included in the church budget. The estimated total cost for replacing these two 30-year-old AC/furnace units with new heat pumps is \$18,476. The funds for this would come from our financial reserves in savings, along with any special donations we receive for this project. A special meeting of the congregation will be held in the sanctuary in between our worship services on Sunday, October 22. The meeting will begin at 10:30 am, and this will be the only item on the agenda, so the meeting will be brief. However, we need a minimum of 50 voting members to attend. So please be there!

"Sock-tober" Sock Drive

This month the Social Concerns Committee is collecting socks for our unhoused neighbors. If you would like to donate socks, please purchase brand-new men's socks in dark colors (gray or black) that are crew length or longer.



Financial donations to help us buy socks are also appreciated! If you have any questions, please contact Brenda S. Lussier.

Let Your Light Shine!

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. – Matthew 5:16

"We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it." – Madeleine L'Engle



New Member Class

If you would like to become a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, or simply wish to learn more about our congregation and the Lutheran church, you are invited to attend a new member orientation on two Sundays, October 1 and 8, starting at 12 noon in the fellowship hall (lunch will be provided). Those interested in becoming members will be invited to join on Sunday, October 15. Please contact the church office or Pastor Kent to let us know you are coming.



Many hands were busy doing God's work!



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



September 10, 2023, was the 10th annual "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday of service for ELCA congregations. At Trinity we had a great turnout of volunteers to help us with the five service projects that had been set up in our fellowship hall!

We assembled 100 blessing bags with food for the homeless, filled 47 personal hygiene bags, tied 20 quilts for Lutheran World Relief, signed 24 greeting cards, and worked on filling 360 Zip-Loc bags with stationery for a prison ministry that will deliver them to inmates at the men's and women's prisons in Chino.



Get Tickets for *Dietrich & Maria*

Featuring music composed by Glenn Pickett, our Dir. of Music, this new musical based on the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer will be performed at California Baptist University November 17-19. Tickets are now available; call the Wallace Theatre Box Office at 951-343-4319 or go to performingarts.calbaptist.edu/theatre/



Help Families Celebrate Adoption Day

On Saturday, November 4, Riverside County will hold their annual adoption day at the historic courthouse in downtown Riverside. DPSS (the Department of Social Services) and FIM (Faith in Motion) have asked for our help. If you are interested in volunteering, or want to donate a gift basket or items for a basket, please contact Brenda S. Lussier. Our 3 basket themes are Movie Night, Game Night and Baking Night.

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

October 1: 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Philippians 2:1-13; Psalm 25:1-9,
Matthew 21:23-32

October 8: 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Matthew 21:33-46

October 15: 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Philippians 4:1, 4-9; Psalm 106:1-8, 47-48; Matt. 22:1-14

October 22: 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22-46

October 29: Reformation Sunday

Romans 3:19-28; Psalm 46; John 8:31-36



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

10/01 Karyl Robinson
10/08 The Knapik Family
10/15 Pat Schwartz & Barbara Morris
10/22 Ruta & Rudi Raterman
10/29 The Myers & Marge Clark



Pastor's Paragraphs

The month of October ends with one of my favorite holidays. No, not the one that features pumpkins and candy! I'm thinking of Reformation Day on October 31. It was on this day in 1517 that Martin Luther nailed his famous list of 95 Theses for theological debate on the door of the main church in the university town of Wittenberg, Germany. That simple act was the spark that ignited a movement to reform the Christian Church.

We remember Martin Luther not only because of his impact on history, but because his personal spiritual struggle still resonates with many people today. As a young man, Martin struggled with forgiveness. He finally found the answer to his struggle by studying the Bible. There he learned that forgiveness is not something we earn — it's a free gift.

But why does God want to forgive us? One writer said to imagine that you are a visitor staying at someone's home. During your stay, you knock over a beautiful vase which is a family heirloom. The vase shatters into pieces on the floor. It may have been an accident, or it may have been due to a fit of anger. No matter the reason, you know that you cannot replace it or repay the owner for what it's worth.

Your urge is to flee — to pack your bags and leave. But when you go and apologize to your host for what you have done, he urges you to stay, saying, "I accept your apology. Now don't worry about it."

In spite of his reassuring words, you continue to feel uneasy, nervous that you might break something else. You wonder if your host might still harbor some resentment. In time, however, you begin to understand that he really values you over the objects, and you finally understand that he really does want you to stay — and not as his guest, but as a member of his family. He values the relationship.

That's why he offers you forgiveness — the relationship is more important than the sin.

Just so, God longs to have a relationship with each one of us. We are precious in God's sight, more valuable than any object. No matter what we have broken, God still loves us.

I have known many people who have struggled with forgiveness. They have a hard time believing that their sins have been forgiven. But the good news that Jesus Christ brings us is that we have indeed been forgiven. Our broken relationship with God — something we could never fix on our own — has been restored. If you struggle with forgiveness, I pray that eventually you will come to experience the truth of God's grace. Because you are precious in God's sight. — *Pastor Kent*

Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. (Ephesians 2:4-5)



TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/23 through 9/24/23)

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$ 191,323.86
Regular offerings received to date: \$ 185,437.12
Difference: - \$ 5,886.74

Your faithful giving will help us reach our goal!

Scrip income received in 2023: \$ 901.46

Century Club donations received in 2023: \$ 360.00

Funeral Food Committee

The Funeral Committee was originally started by Carol Wallior as the Friendly Food Reach Out Committee in 1997. The goal was to alleviate families' concerns about feeding guests after a funeral and to provide a gathering place. The first funeral reception served was on April 3, 1997. Carol resigned as chair in September of 2021 when her health declined. At that time the committee had served meals for 125 funerals and 1 wedding, with the number of people fed ranging from 8 to 250!

Carol used many of her own recipes, including the "Funeral Jello" which was served at her own reception on September 7. Her family members were so happy to see this on the menu! – Mary Kantola



On "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday in September, one of our "projects" was signing greeting cards that were then sent to church members who live far away or are unable to come to church due to their health. Here's a thank-you note we received later.

Thank you for the beautiful get well card. It may have taken you only a minute to sign a card for someone you probably haven't met yet, but it has given me many hours of pleasure. I read every name and my goal is to eventually meet you. The road to recovery has been a long one and it continues still, but I'm not giving up. And when I'm down, I'll just read your card again! Many blessings to each of you. — Julie McAuley and Ben Stuart

Carol Wallior's Strawberry Jello

2 Large Boxes (6 oz each) strawberry jello	two 13 oz cans of crushed pineapple
3 Cups boiling water	6 Very ripe, mashed bananas
2 Packages (10 oz each) frozen sliced strawberries	2 Pints of sour cream*

Rub a rectangular dish (9.5 x 13.5 x 2 inches) lightly with mayonnaise before putting jello in. (We did not do this, and it all came out just fine.)

Make HALF of this recipe at a time as it is layered and needs to set. Fine if over 2 days.

Melt 1 box of jello in 1 1/2 cups of boiling water. Stir well. Add 10 oz of partially thawed berries, not drained, along with 13 oz of drained pineapple and 3 mashed bananas. Chill until firm.

Cover with a layer of sour cream. Repeat above steps. Add second jello layer and chill again.

After second layer is completely set, preferably the morning of the meal, spread with second layer of sour cream. Garnish with fresh strawberries. Serves 20-30 people.

*Note: We did not use 2 pints of sour cream but rather 1 1/2 pints. The middle layer need not be an entire pint. The can sizes as well as strawberries now come in slightly different amounts. Just go with the closest number of ounces. It will work fine.

Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let your
requests be made known to God.
Philippians 4:6



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.

October Birthdays

(2) Carl Lowell, Mary Stuart; (4) Stefanee Bradley, Karen Clarke; (6) Traci Brunka; (7) Barb Beaver, Paula Teig; (8) Bob Knapik; (10) Jackie Letourneau-Wagner; (12) Judy Okamura; (13) Rudi Raterman, Nancy Resto; (15) Nancy Willis; (16) Mike McMichael; (18) Jordan Castillo, Janet Conn, Ruby Garcia, Valerie Kemp; (20) Pat Sherman; (22) Julia Dominguez; (23) Armando Garcia; (24) Anna Myers; (27) John Britton, Sue Rogers; (28) Rob Carden; (29) Marge Clark, Sarah Mendivel

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



Council Meeting Summary

The Trinity Council met via Zoom on Tuesday, September 19, 2023. Members present: Pastor Kent, Mary Kantola, Karyl Robinson, Mike McMichael, Stacy Wheeler, Gary Goldberg, Wes Krashin, Theresa Husted, and Larry Dodson. Pastor Kent led a devotional from *Christ in Our Home* based on Psalm 133:1 and offered an opening prayer.

Pastor's Report Highlights:

- A big THANK YOU to Mary Kantola and the many others who helped make the services for Loren Bose, Carol Wallior, and Kay Powell a true celebration of their lives and the impact they made.
- "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday went well, with many staying after worship to participate in the various projects.
- Eden Lutheran Church has invited Trinity members to a Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 22. The hope is that Trinity would host the following year, and then the congregations would alternate each year after that.
- Pastor Kent will attend the synod's Theosis retreat October 17-19.
- Two new member sessions will take place on October 1 and 8, with new members joining October 15.
- Quilt Sunday will be on October 15, with the LWR quilt ingathering on October 20.
- A Living the Resurrection Workshop will be held at Trinity on Saturday, November 11, 9:00 am-noon.

Treasurer's Report:

- August was completed with \$19,155.92 in envelope giving and \$4,102.59 in unrestricted income. For the first seven months of this year, we received a total of \$168,407.11 in envelope giving, which is \$4,928.89 under projections.
- We finished January through August with a net income of \$23,531.41.

Old Business

- Met with Joanna Waterfall to discuss her social media/branding proposal
- Approval of a loan from the Sandra Hendrick Memorial Fund.
- Painting still needed in the LSS office following.
- Scheduling carpet cleaning for the sanctuary.
- Recommendation that Scott Heady A/C replace the existing air conditioner units for the kitchen and office, pending a congregational meeting to approve the expenditure.

New Business:

- Information presented on a proposal to install solar panels.
- Discussion and approval of Portico health benefit package for pastor in 2024.
- Fall Lunch scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 5, at noon.

The next council meeting will be held via Zoom on October 17, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

Living Lutheran Magazine Moving Online

The rise of online media along with the rising costs for printing and postage have challenged many magazines. The ELCA's *Living Lutheran* magazine is no exception. Beginning in 2024, *Living Lutheran* will no longer publish a printed edition and will be available online only.

Sign up now to receive the free *Living Lutheran* e-digest to stay informed about the many ways Christ is at work in congregations and members of the ELCA. Articles will be sent directly to your email inbox. You can pick your favorite topics and the frequency of delivery – weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. Sign up at livinglutheran.org/subscribe.



Wayne Powers now lives in Nebraska; he sent a message to thank us for sending him a card in September.

Blessed

BEYOND MEASURE

My Trinity Family

Today I received a beautiful card from you wishing me blessings and well wishes. As always, this brought tears as I read your messages. I want to thank you for your kindness and love, and I want to return that love to you. Trinity is doing great things, I'm proud to say I belong to Trinity Lutheran Church, Riverside CA. I may not be a member anymore, but I still belong to TLC. I am blessed beyond measure! – Wayne Powers

Buy Scrip and Help Support Our Church

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™

LSSSC Color of Hope Gala & Awards

Saturday, October 7, 2023
Mission Inn, Riverside

Join with supporters of Lutheran Social Services on Saturday, October 7, at the historic Mission Inn in Riverside for the 2023 Color of Hope Gala & Awards. The gala promises a wonderful evening of fun, food and entertainment in support of Lutheran Social Services of Southern California.

The evening will include a reception, silent auction, gourmet dinner, Hope Awards, live auction and program featuring artist Brian Peterson from the Faces of Mankind project.

Purchase your ticket by September 10 to get the early-bird price of \$150/person. Go to <https://www.lsssc.org/color-of-hope-gala-2023/>



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 Oct. 9, it will be held at:
Madison Avenue Church
3991 Madison 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.

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!



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.



Holiday Rummage Sale

The rummage sale committee will have a Christmas-themed rummage sale and craft fair in the church parking lot on Saturday, November 11, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. We are only accepting donations of Christmas-themed decorations and new or slightly used Christmas gifts for this rummage sale.

If you would like to help or have questions, please contact Kelly Krashin.



Quilting Bee

On Sunday, October 15, Trinity's Quilting Bee will display the 200+ quilts they have made this year. It's always a joy to see their beautiful and colorful quilts covering the chairs in our sanctuary!

After praying for God to bless them for service, the quilts will be packed up for shipping to Lutheran World Relief. LWR gives these handmade quilts to people around the world who are suffering as a result of natural disaster, war, or famine. It's a tangible expression of Christian compassion for people in need of a sign of hope.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Daily Devotions

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. A few large-print copies are also available.

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.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
5969 BROCKTON AVENUE
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92506

A NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RIVERSIDE, CA
PERMIT # 380

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

<p>TRINITY TOPICS is published monthly by: Trinity Lutheran Church, 5969 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506</p>
<p>Sunday Worship Schedule 9:30 am — Contemporary Service (in person and on YouTube) 9:30 am — Sunday School 11:00 am — Traditional Service 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>