



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 27, Issue 3, March 2024



The Lord's Prayer for Lent

This year our midweek Lenten services focus on the Lord's Prayer. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus' disciples say to him, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). In response, Jesus taught them the prayer we call the Lord's Prayer. Each Wednesday during Lent, we are exploring the meaning of this prayer. Pastor Kent, Pastor Ken Puccio, and Pastor Stephanie Lape (from Eden) are taking turns leading the Wednesday soup suppers and study of the Lord's Prayer at Trinity and Eden.

Lenten suppers continue through March 20 at 6:00 pm in Heinecken Hall. There is a sign-up sheet at church to provide a soup or bread, or help clean up. Mark your calendar and join us for these special times of worship and fellowship during Lent!

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

The annual CROP walk to raise money to fight hunger will be held in Riverside on **Sunday, March 17**, starting at 1:30 pm. The 2-mile walk will begin and end at First United Methodist Church, located at 4845 Brockton Avenue, with a turnaround at Trinity.

All funds raised will go to Church World Service and local food programs, including our BAT meals. Pick up a donation envelope if you'd like to participate. Contact Helga Stafford for more information. When you support the CROP Walk, you provide life-saving support that will help feed struggling individuals and families in Riverside and around the world.

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, March 28

You are invited to attend a "Meal in the Upper Room" at 5:45 pm (sign up in advance for this) and/or the 7:00 pm communion service at Eden Lutheran Church.

Good Friday, March 29

Good Friday services will be held at both Trinity and Eden at 7:00 pm, as we remember Jesus' death.

Easter Sunday, March 31

Two Festival Services with Holy Communion
at 8:30 am (Contemporary)
and 11:00 am (Traditional)

Pancake Breakfast at 9:30 am

Suggested Breakfast Donation:
\$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 for children under 12,
with a \$10.00 maximum cost for families.

Decorate the Easter Cross

Please bring fresh-cut flowers to decorate the Easter Cross in the courtyard between the services.

Lenten Food Drive



Our Lenten food drive is now underway! A list of suggested items is available at the church and is printed below. Please bring your donations to the church anytime between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. The food will be divided between Lutheran Social Services and Central City Lutheran Mission. Thank you!

- Rice, pasta, dry beans
- Instant potatoes
- Tomato sauce
- Canned pasta sauce
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Canned meat, tuna, spam
- Juice drinks
- Canned meals: ravioli, spaghetti, soup or chili
- Powdered milk
- Cereal, oatmeal
- Crackers
- Flour
- Sugar
- Spices
- Jello
- Cake & pudding mixes
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Dishwashing soap

Note: Please buy cans with pull tabs if possible, and avoid any glass containers



Thank you for your donations of food for the Souper Bowl of Caring collection on February 11! We collected a total of 796 food items, which were split between the Hope Pantry, CCLM, and Trinity's Blessing Bags.



Thank you for bringing Valentine cards and goodies for the children and youth in our congregation! They were sorted, bagged, and delivered in time for Valentine's Day.

Flowers for Easter Sunday

Help us decorate the church with flowers on Easter! We are now taking orders for marguerite daisies. The cost for each plant is \$10.00, including tax. Any checks should be made payable to the church, with a note that it's for Easter flowers.



Administrative Assistant Wanted

Michael Myers recently announced his decision to retire by July from his position as our church's Administrative Assistant. We are now looking for a capable replacement, who we hope will begin working alongside Michael this spring. Copies of a job description are available from our church office. Contact Pastor Kent or Brenda S. Lussier if you or someone you know is interested in applying.

Join the CROP Walk!

On Sunday, March seventeen,
Wear something green,
And join us for the CROP Walk
With our Trinity team.

We'll begin at First Methodist,
Then go down the street
Just a mile to our church
(And maybe rest our feet).

Then we'll all head back
The way that we came
On Brockton Avenue,
Yes, exactly the same.

When we finish the CROP Walk,
We'll celebrate with a cheer.
We hope you'll come along
To fight hunger this year!

By Carolyn Bolz



Rummage Sale Donations Wanted

It's time to do some spring cleaning, clean out your closets, and bring your unneeded items to church for our rummage sale! This year's rummage sale will be held in the church parking lot on Saturday, April 27, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Donations can be placed on the stage in Heinecken Hall. We can pick up donations, if needed. However, we are not accepting electronics, books, or furniture for this rummage sale.

Kelly Krashin will start pricing items in the afternoons, starting two weeks before the sale, and will need help with that. Pricing will be done in Cooper-Burkhart House. We will also need helpers on the day of the rummage sale. Contact Kelly with any questions.

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

March 3: 3rd Sunday in Lent

1 Corinthians 1:18-25; Psalm 19; John 2:13-22

March 10: 4th Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; John 3:14-21

March 17: 5th Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 119:9-16; John 12:20-33

March 24: Palm Sunday

Philippians 2:5-11; Psalm 31:9-16; Mark 11:1-11

March 31: Easter Sunday

Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1, 14-24; John 20:1-18



I was glad
when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house
of the Lord!"
Psalm 122:1

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

3/03 Helen Ramos
3/10 Mike & Judy McMichael
3/17 Jackie Corina/The Lowell Family
3/24 Sue Richards
3/31 The Raterman Family



Pastor's Paragraphs

When my daughter was in elementary school, one year (after persistent lobbying on her part) we took on the project of hatching several duck eggs. After obtaining the necessary supplies, including an incubator to keep the eggs warm, we waited for them to hatch.

When that great day finally came, Joanna gently picked up each tiny duckling and cuddled them in her lap. And I learned something about ducklings. When they hatch, they will follow the first thing that they see. Usually, that's the momma duck, but in this case, it was my daughter.

To her great delight, the ducklings followed her all around our backyard. No matter where she went, they followed. They didn't know that they were following the wrong animal. They just followed the first animal they saw.

If they had first seen a cat or a dog or another person after hatching, they would have imprinted on them and followed them wherever they went. But no matter how well they followed, they would probably never learn that a duck's natural home is on water.

Aren't you glad people aren't like ducks? We don't just follow the first person we see when we're born. We can think about who we want to follow, what we want to do, and how we want to act. Ducklings can't do that.

In Mark 8:34, Jesus says we can choose to follow him: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." As followers of Christ, we are called to go where Jesus would go and do what Jesus would do.

Jesus promises to those who follow him that he will lead them to eternal life, saying that "those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mark 8:35)

People can choose to follow Jesus and live the way he wants us to live, or they can choose to act in other ways and do other things. But in the end, following someone other than Jesus is like a duckling following a cat or a dog. No matter how hard they try to follow, they won't be led to where they need to go. Like a momma duck, only Jesus can lead us to our true home.

— Pastor Kent



Stewardship Report

TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/24 through 2/29/24)

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$ 42,867.92
Regular offerings received to date: \$ 43,430.29
Difference: + \$ 562.37

Your faithful giving is helping us reach our goal!

Scrip income received in 2024: \$ 531.36
Century Club donations received in 2024: \$ 0.00

Missionary Support

You can help support our missionaries in Japan! Rev. Hitoshi and Satoko Adachi are serving Japanese and English-speaking congregations in Kumamoto, Japan. Consider donating \$25/week for one or more weeks to help us reach our annual goal of \$1,300 in support for these ELCA missionaries. When you make your donation to Trinity, please write "Missionary Support" on the memo line of your check or offering envelope.

*"Go and make disciples of all nations."
Matthew 28:19*



Dear Trinity Family,
Thank you for thinking of me during this very difficult time. Your sympathy cards, phone calls and beautiful flowers have meant so much. Your continued prayers are appreciated, too!

Sincerely,
Robbin Johnson

*Bear one another's burdens,
and so fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2*



Congratulations, Dr. Pickett!

(Dr. Glenn Pickett began serving as our new Dir. of Music Ministries on March 12, 2023.)

Congratulations, Dr. Pickett,
It's time for a loud cheer.
You have been our music director
For exactly one year!

Each week, you lead our choir
And play the organ and piano, too.
Plus, you invited all of us
To your musical at CBU.

You prepared two Christmas concerts
Here at Trinity besides
To welcome friends and neighbors
To our church in Riverside.

We appreciate your Christian faith
And the hard work that you do.
Our congregation is thankful
For you and, of course, Julie, too!

By Carolyn Bolz



Sunday School Teachers Wanted

Due to the demands of her college schedule, Zoë Minter has given up her part-time paid position at Trinity as a Sunday School teacher. We are now seeking one or two qualified teachers for our multi-age Sunday School program. This paid position involves preparing lessons in advance as well as teaching our wonderful group of children. Interested applicants should contact our church office or Brenda S. Lussier.



Thanks for Keeping Tabs!



Please save the aluminum pull-tabs from drinks and other canned goods to help support the Inland Empire Ronald McDonald House. You can drop tabs off at our church. Keep pulling tabs for the "House that Love Built"! — Sue Rogers

Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are a Thrivent member, you may have Choice Dollars® to direct to a cause that's close to your heart. If you haven't already done so, please support your church or a favorite nonprofit by directing Choice Dollars by March 31. After that date, any Thrivent Choice Dollars awarded last year will expire.



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Council Meeting Summary

Trinity's council met at 6:30 pm on February 20, 2024, via Zoom.

Members Present: Pastor Kent, Karl Robinson, Cherie Guillow, Gary Goldberg, Wes Krashin, Brenda S. Lusier, Sue Rogers, Larry Dodson, Mike McMichael, Peggy Fryc. Pastor Kent read from the Lenten devotional booklet and prayed.

Pastor's Report

- The chimes have stopped working in the bell tower; will look into that issue.
- Two of our Sunday audio technicians are leaving soon, and we are in the process of hiring replacements.
- Zoë Minter is leaving her position as Sunday school teacher, and we will need to hire two people for this program, plus volunteers.
- Pastor Kent will attend the Day of Theological Education and the conference deans' retreat in San Diego Feb. 22-23.

Treasurer's Report

January was completed with \$24,169.13 in envelope giving and \$4,447.21 in unrestricted income. We finished the month of January with a net income of \$28,372.58.

Old Business

- Mike McMichael will investigate when the rain gutter repair work in the courtyard and entryway that was approved last month can be done. He will get additional quotes for other gutter and fascia board repair work needed.

- The audit committee recommended that we have more volunteers involved in handling offerings.
- Directory: Kim Root-George and Pastor Kent are working on this project. They need more photos of church activities and are updating other information for the directory.

New Business

- Lutheran Social Services will be reducing their use of our buildings from two rooms to one starting April 1. An adjusted rental agreement reflecting this change needs to be presented and signed. They are opening a second Riverside office at 6857 Indiana Ave.
- An updated job description for the Administrative Assistant has been prepared. We are now ready to look into hiring for that position. We will advertise this opening to local colleges, our church members, and other churches.
- Glenn Pickett has proposed having a choir concert on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. The cost would be covered by special donations, an offering at the concert, and from the Trinity Arts Program fund.
- Social Concerns reported that the spring rummage sale will be on Saturday, April 27.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm with a prayer by Pastor Kent.

The next council meeting will be held on March 19th at 6:30pm via Zoom.

Congratulations to

John Collins & Gretta Merwin

who were married in a private ceremony at Trinity on Wednesday, February 28.

Now faith, hope and love abide... and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13



There is no more lovely, friendly, and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage. – Martin Luther

Save the Date!

Trinity's choir will present a special evening concert accompanied by a chamber orchestra on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. Watch for further details in next month's newsletter!



Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. – Martin Luther

March Birthdays

[1] Adam Garcia; [2] Peggy Bradley, Jon Brunka, Kaia Gundrum; [4] Jenna McMichael; [5] Dan Bradley, Sabine Goldberg; [8] Beverly Allert; [12] Doug Brown; [17] Eric Custode; [19] Joanna Tuohino; [21] Krista Beaver-Goodman, Peggy Fryc, Will George; [22] Sam Stager; [26] Amy Printup, Sue Richards; [27] Mary Kantola, Marna Lister; [28] Bev Trapp; [29] Gary Goldberg

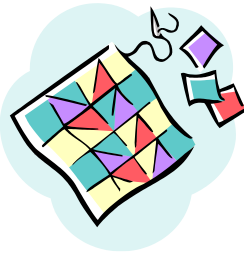
If we missed your birthday, please let us know so that we can add you to our list!



Quilting Bee

Trinity's Quilting Bee meets on the first and third Saturday of each month from 9:00 am to 12 pm in Cooper-Burkhart House. You are invited to come and join them! There are many different tasks involved in quilt-making, and you don't even need to know how to sew. Contact Kelly Krashin for more information.

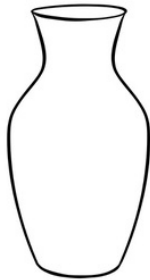
The Quilting Bee also needs used sheets, curtains, and other large pieces of fabric to use for quilt backs.



Lutheran Social Services of Southern California has been awarded a grant to help introduce CalAIM in Riverside. CalAIM is intended to improve care and outcomes for millions of Medi-Cal participants, by providing well-rounded care that goes beyond the doctor's office or hospital and addresses all of their physical and mental health needs. LSS is now hiring case managers for this program, and if you know someone who would be interested in applying, encourage them to call the LSS office at 951-689-7847.

Flower Vases Wanted

If you have any clear glass flower vases that you don't need, please donate them to our Altar Guild to use to send the Sunday altar flowers home. If you have used a vase to take altar flowers home with you, please bring it back to church for others to use. Thank you!



Help Support Trinity with Scrip

We sell scrip cards as a way to help support our church. They are the same gift cards you can buy elsewhere, but when you buy them through our church, a percentage of your purchase is returned to the church. Cards are available for over 700 stores and restaurants. Visit raiserright.com to see all of the brands available.

To place an order, talk to Michael Myers or Judy McMichael on Sunday morning, or call or email Michael in the church office on weekdays. 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 is submitted on Sundays at noon, and we usually receive the cards on Friday, in time for you to get them on Sunday.



RaiseRight™

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 March 11, it will be held at:

All Saints Episcopal Church
3847 Terracina Drive

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

Volunteers Needed

Your help is needed! There is a sign-up sheet in the church narthex to volunteer to read the Bible lessons and the prayers of intercession for a Sundays, and another sign-up sheet to help with coffee and refreshments. We also need volunteers to help with Sunday School. Think about which of these you can help with.

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

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.



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.



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<p>Ministry Staff Kent Tuohino, <i>Pastor</i> • Gary Goldberg, <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>