



# 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 4, April 2024

## Bring Hope with a Shower:

*Support the Shower of Hope Program at Trinity This Month!*

Imagine starting your day feeling fresh and clean. Now imagine not having that necessity for weeks, or even months. This is the reality for many people in our community.

To address this basic need, Trinity works with the Shower of Hope. The Shower of Hope is non-profit organization that provides mobile showers for the homeless. A trailer outfitted with 3 showers comes to our church every Thursday. The Shower of Hope program provides a safe and welcoming space for individuals experiencing homelessness to take a hot shower, get clean underwear, socks and clothes, and regain or maintain a sense of dignity.

Working with the Shower of Hope, Trinity provides personal hygiene items and clothing for shower guests. This April, we're asking for your help to ensure everyone has access to a basic need: clean underwear. Here's how you can make a difference:

- Donate New Men's Briefs (Sizes XL, 2X, 3X): Fresh, clean underwear is essential for hygiene and comfort. Please note, we are currently only accepting donations of men's briefs in sizes X-large, 2X, and 3X.
- Make a Cash Donation: If shopping isn't convenient, your cash donation allows us to purchase the specific underwear needed.

Every contribution, big or small, makes a significant impact. With your support, we can ensure participants in the Shower of Hope program feel confident and prepared to face each day. Together, we can make a difference!



## Rummage Sale on April 27

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.



## Sunday, April 7



Hey, kids! Don't miss our Easter egg hunt on Sunday, April 7, starting about 10:30 am (between the two worship services). It will be held on the grass lawns in front of the church.



# Easter at Trinity



## Lenten Food Drive

Thank you for your generous donations of food during Lent. The picture above shows a small part of the donations received, which were enough to fill 214 shopping bags with food! The food will be distributed by Lutheran Social Services, our food pantry, and blessing bags for the homeless. Thank you!

## CROP Hunger Walk

On Sunday, March 17, the Trinity members and friends shown above participated in this annual fundraiser to combat hunger at home and abroad. See the article on page 5 to read more about it!

## 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

April 7: 2nd Sunday of Easter

1 John 1:1-2:2; Psalm 133 & 134; John 20:19-31

April 14: 3rd Sunday of Easter

1 John 3:1-7; Psalm 4; Luke 24:36b-48

April 21: 4th Sunday of Easter

1 John 3:16-24; Psalm 23; John 10:11-18

April 28: 5th Sunday of Easter

1 John 4:7-21; Psalm 22:25-31; John 15:1-8

May 5: 6th Sunday of Easter

1 John 5:1-6; Psalm 98; John 15:9-17



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

4/07 The Kosobucki Family  
4/14 Available  
4/21 Gary & Sabine Goldberg  
4/28 Available



## Pastor's Paragraphs

We are now in the Easter season, and our Sunday Gospel readings tell us of times when the resurrected Jesus appeared to his disciples. At first they were frightened — as if they had seen a ghost. To prove that it really was him, Jesus showed them his wounded hands and side.

Why didn't he just remind them of a story or an inside joke that they shared? It was because his scars were a kind of certificate of authenticity.

What does it mean for Jesus to be known by his scars? I'd guess that most of us have scars, and every one of them has a story to tell. One that I have is on the ring finger of my left hand. The fingernail is a bit malformed as a result of a childhood incident when I had to pry a pet rabbit that we had out of the mouth of a dog that was eager to kill it. After getting the rabbit free, the dog bit down on my finger before I got my hand out of its mouth. Whenever I look at that finger, I'm reminded of that event.

Jesus' scars also tell a story. They paint a vivid picture of his love for all people and his willingness to sacrifice his life in order to save them. His scars tell of his vision of God and of God's kingdom that is just and generous. They tell a story of responding to the jeers of the crowds and the rejection by religious and political leaders with a message of forgiveness. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34) The scars on the risen Christ are emblems of the life that he lived and the message that he preached.

I have always imagined that when I die, my "resurrected body" will be brand-new and free of the aches and pains I experience now. It's a wonderful hope. But I wonder now if some of our scars might remain, especially those that remind us of our own sacrifices of love and compassion.

Will I still have a misshapen fingernail when I get to heaven? I don't know, but if I do, it will be because God wants me to remember the small sacrifice I was willing to make to save another life. I hope that it will also remind me of the much greater sacrifice and the greater love that God has shown me in my Savior Jesus Christ.

The stories we read in the Bible of the risen Jesus appearing to his disciples tell us that he embraces his scars, and uses them to confirm his identity and comfort his disciples. Richard Rohr says, "If we do not transform our pain, we will most assuredly transmit it." Jesus' scars show us that he transformed the pain he suffered into signs of healing and hope for his first disciples and for believers today. May God grant us the grace to have our scars transformed as well. — *Pastor Kent*



## Stewardship Report

### TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/24 through 3/31/24)

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$ 69,660.37  
Regular offerings received to date: \$ 73,065.36  
Difference: + \$ 3,404.99

*Your faithful giving is helping us reach our goal!*

Scrip income received in 2024: \$ 185.37  
Century Club donations received in 2024: \$ 0.00

# Our Grateful Praise

## Choir Concert on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, at 6:00 pm

The church, the Body of Christ, was born in diversity. Read what Acts 2:5-11 says:

At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?"

In many ways, our church's choir is similar to the people gathered in Jerusalem on that Pentecost morning. Different people, with different kinds of voices, some low, some high, coming from different kinds of backgrounds, some students, some teachers, some professionals, all of us uniting in song to sing "about the wonderful things God has done!"

So, it's fitting that our church will celebrate Pentecost this year with a concert presented by those of us who sing in our choir. We'll be joined by friends who play orchestral instruments to accompany us. If you were able to come to one of our Christmas concerts, it will sound and feel similar to that, but with music that praises God more about the great things he does for us throughout the entire year. We're calling this celebration concert, *Our Grateful Praise*.

Also joining us to sing as a special guest soloist will be singer/songwriter, Jon Byron, composer of the song "We Are the Family of God." Jon has been a good friend of Glenn Pickett's since 1989. Glenn has helped Jon produce five albums, and together, they have presented concerts with each other in places as far flung as Greece and Turkey, and as close as here in Riverside. Glenn will be writing arrangements for Jon, the choir and orchestra that will enable us all to musically sing praise "about the wonderful things God has done!"

Donations are needed to offset the cost of the additional musicians needed for this concert. Please make any checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and include a memo that it's for "Choir Concert." Donations may also be given online at [trinityriverside.org/giving](http://trinityriverside.org/giving).

Please mark your calendar and invite your family and friends to attend this special concert!  
— Glenn Pickett, Director of Music Ministries



## Thank You, Team Trinity, for a Successful CROP Walk 2024!

by Carolyn Bolz

Thank you to the sixteen walkers and volunteers from Team Trinity who participated in CROP Walk 2024 on Sunday, March 17th. That afternoon, our group joined members from other local congregations at First United Methodist Church, then we walked down Brockton Avenue to Trinity and back.

Helga Stafford did an amazing job in her first year as our volunteer coordinator. Pastor Kent, Michael and Karen Myers, plus two VIP guests from Lutheran Social Services joined us also. Sue Rogers and her husband Dennis kept very busy under the pop-up awning at Trinity, offering water bottles and snacks to the walkers who had reached the halfway mark.

Of course, I was happy to recite one of my poems before the walk began. I also appreciated having my sister Judy and my caregiver Amber push me in my wheelchair down the (often bumpy) two-mile roundtrip route.

Thank you all for participating in CROP Walk 2024 and for your donations too. We'll see you next year. Go, Team Trinity!

### Editor's Note:

As of April 2, the 2024 Riverside CROP Walk has raised a total of \$18,805, which includes \$2,162 raised by Trinity's team. A total of 94 people participated from 10 congregations.



# Council Meeting Summary

Trinity's Council met on March 19, 2024, at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Members present: Pastor Kent, Gary Goldberg, Mike McMichael, Wes Krashin, Sue Rogers, Karyl Robinson, and Brenda S. Lussier. Absent: Peggy Fryc and Cherie Guillow.

Pastor Kent led prayers and a reading from the Lenten devotional booklet, *Gathered into One*.

## Pastor's Report

- CROP Walk: Trinity had 11 people participating as walkers, plus Dennis and Sue Rogers, who handed out water at Trinity. A total of 84 people from 10 church groups participated in the walk.
- LSS Update: They plan to have the LSS office at Trinity open Monday-Friday. They also plan to open a second office on Indiana Avenue. LSS will no longer be renting the smaller office as of April 1. They will continue to use the larger room for their office at Trinity.
- Lenten Services: Our Wednesday soup suppers have been well-attended, with about 24 people each week.
- Choir Concert: There will be a special choir concert on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, at 6:00 pm.
- Day Camp: Brenda contacted LRCC, and we have scheduled day camp for the week of July 15-19.

## Treasurer's Report

In February we received a total of \$19,286.41 in envelope giving and \$6,440.40 in unrestricted income. After deducting expenses, we finished February with a negative balance of -\$272.52.

## Old Business

- Work was completed on gutter sealing and cleaning in the breezeways next to the office and Heineken Hall, and a new downspout was installed.
- Additional work was approved to repair stucco damaged by rainwater in the courtyard next to Heineken Hall.
- Vinyl flooring will be installed in the office that LSS is vacating.
- Administrative Assistant – Interview Committee appointed, consisting of Gary Goldberg, Brenda S. Lussier, Karyl Robinson and Pastor Kent.

## New Business

**Additional Roof, Gutter & Air Conditioning Work:** We are still gathering bids for this work. Once all bids are collected and questions answered, a proposal will be presented to the congregation. The plan is to bring all bids for review at the next council meeting on April 16, 2024, followed by a vote for approval at a congregational meeting. A congregational meeting for the presentation and vote on these property maintenance projects is scheduled at 10:30 am on Sunday, April 21. Sufficient funds are available in our savings to pay for these projects.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm with prayer. The next Council meeting will be on April 16, 2024, at 6:30 pm.



# Church Council Meeting

## Day Camp at Trinity: July 15-19

Mark your calendar for another special week of day camp at Trinity, July 15-19! Camp staff from LRCC will lead a week filled with games and music, Bible studies, crafts and more. Day camp is for kids who will be entering K-6th grades this fall.

To learn more about the summer camp programs offered by Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences (LRCC), visit their website at [lrcchome.com](http://lrcchome.com).

They offer a flexible price plan for the summer camp weeks held at Luther Glen and El Camino Pines. Summer camp has never been more affordable. Check it out!



Congratulations to

*Sandy Rodriguez  
& Jacob Holland*

who were married in a private ceremony on March 26, 2024.

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

*1 Corinthians 13:13*



## April Birthdays

[5] Sue McConnell; [12] Helga Stafford, Jamie Custode, April Powers; [13] Marty Lueking; [17] Carol Haffter; [18] Tom Conn, Kristine Rodriguez; [19] John Collins; [22] Sara Mills, Bill Pitts; [26] Ilene Tedesco; [28] Nick Boyes.

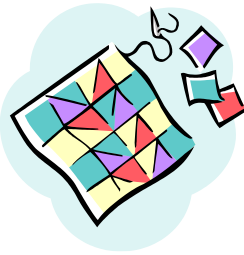
If we missed your birthday, please let us know so that we can add you to our list!



## 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.



## Sunday School Teachers Wanted

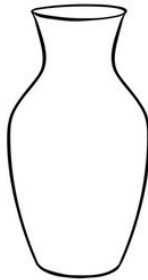
We are seeking one or two qualified teachers for our multi-age Sunday School program. This paid position involves preparing lessons in advance as well as teaching our wonderful group of children. Interested applicants should contact our church office or Brenda S. Lussier.

*We also need volunteer helpers!*



## Flower Vases Needed

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](http://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**<sup>TM</sup>

## 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 April 8, it will be held at:

First Congregational Church  
3504 Mission Inn Avenue

Most of the services are available to view online. For more information, visit [facebook.com/taizeriverside](https://facebook.com/taizeriverside) or contact Sandra Soares at [fccucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.



## 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

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<p>TRINITY TOPICS is published monthly by: Trinity Lutheran Church, 5969 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday Worship Schedule</b></p> <p>9:30 am — Contemporary Service (in person and on YouTube) 9:30 am — Sunday School            11:00 am — Traditional Service</p> <p><b>Church Office Hours:</b> open 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, Monday-Friday Phone: (951) 682-1350 • Email: <a href="mailto:office@trinityriverside.org">office@trinityriverside.org</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ministry Staff</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 &amp; Satoko Adachi, <i>ELCA Missionaries in Japan</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vision &amp; Mission Statements</b></p> <p>The vision of Trinity Lutheran Church is to provide a community of faith where all people are <b>challenged</b> to reach their full potential in Christ.</p> <p>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"><li>• <b>INVITING</b> people to <b>know</b> God and His message of grace, love, hope and forgiveness.</li><li>• <b>ASSISTING</b> people to <b>grow</b> in their relationship with God.</li><li>• <b>EQUIPPING</b> people to <b>serve</b> Christ's church.</li><li>• <b>ENABLING</b> people to <b>share</b> their faith through what they say and do.</li></ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>KNOW, GROW, SERVE AND SHARE</b></p>