



# Trinity Topics

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



# JULY

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Trinity Lutheran Church

Since 1893

Kent Tuohino, Pastor

Volume 27, Issue 7, July & August

LRCC Summer Camp 2024

**Moving Mountains**

Based on Psalm 121: 1-2 | Lift my Eyes to the Mountains

## Day Camp at Trinity, July 15-19

It's almost time for day camp at Trinity! Day camp is for kids who will be entering K-6th grades this fall. This year's theme is "Moving Mountains," based on Psalm 121:1-2. Camp staff from LRCC will lead a week filled with games and music, Bible studies, crafts and more. To register, pick up a form at the church or contact our church office. The cost is \$25 for one child, plus \$10 for each additional child from the same household. Contact Brenda S. Lussier with any questions about day camp.



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

**SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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 on the first Sunday of August.

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



## School Supplies Wanted

When schools resume in August, some families will need help providing their children with the supplies they need for learning. During the month of July we are asking for donations to help fill backpacks with school supplies. There are tags with the names of the items needed on a bulletin board in the narthex at church. Take a tag, then buy the item and bring it to church by Friday, July 26. We'll fill backpacks with the school supplies after worship on Sunday, July 28. Contact Kelly Krashin or the church office with any questions.

## Changes at Church

Michael Myers is retiring as our Administrative Assistant as of Sunday, July 7, and we will thank him that day for his faithful service to our church!

We are also grateful for Kathy Newlen, our new Administrative Assistant. Please note that our new office hours will be 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

Carolyn Bolz wrote the following poem to welcome Kathy to her new job.

Congratulations, Kathy,  
And welcome to Trinity!  
We're excited that you're here,  
As you can hopefully see.

Of course, Pastor Kent,  
And all our members, too,  
Are grateful for your help  
In each task that you do.

As our new office manager,  
We wish you all the best.  
We're happy that you came  
And thankful and blessed!



6-month-old twins Wyatt and Charlotte Venegas were baptized at Trinity on Sunday, June 16. They are the children of Nathaniel and Danielle Venegas.

*Children are a blessing and a gift from the Lord. – Psalm 127:3*



### Peanut Butter & Jelly Donations

Our Social Concerns project for June was a peanut butter and jelly donation drive to help struggling families feed their children this summer. We received 194 jars of peanut butter, 142 jars of jelly, and 9 jars of Goober (PB&J combined in one jar). Thank you all for your donations!

The peanut butter and jelly will be distributed in Riverside through Lutheran Social Services and the Hope Food Pantry at Trinity. Additional food was purchased thanks to a Thrivent Action Team grant.

*“Know that to serve God is nothing else than to serve your neighbors and do good to them in love, be it child, wife, servant, enemy, friend; without making any difference, whoever needs your help in body or soul, and wherever you can help in temporal or spiritual matters. This is serving God and doing good works.”*  
 - Martin Luther -



Lutheran Social Services recently received a grant for the purchase of a van to provide services when and where they are needed. Although they have vacated their office at Trinity as of the end of June, the van will come on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Riverside office of LSS is now located at 6857 Indiana Avenue.

### Foster Care Graduation Report

This year, the Annual Foster Youth Graduation Event took place on June 20, 2024, at Harvest Church in Riverside. The purpose of this annual event is to propel foster youth forward, engaging them in services and resources that pave the way for success in adulthood, whether they are heading to college or starting employment. Most importantly, it serves to celebrate this significant milestone in their lives.

Faith in Motion, working with 12 local churches including Trinity, participated in celebrating the achievements of the foster youth who graduated from high school. Graduates received candied leis and gift baskets filled with gift cards and other goodies provided by various faith partners.

At Trinity, we generously supported this program by providing 17 gift baskets with a total value of \$2,300, 32 gift cards totaling \$800, plus candy, bows, and cellophane for decorating additional gift baskets, totaling \$135. Altogether, Trinity's contributions amounted to \$3,235. Because of your generosity, we have been able to make a meaningful impact on the lives of these young graduates, helping to set them on a path toward a brighter future. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to this important cause!

Here are a few of the 17 gift baskets you helped provide.



## 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 7: 7th Sunday after Pentecost  
Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 24; Mark 6:1-13

July 14: 8th Sunday after Pentecost  
Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Mark 6:14-29

July 21: 9th Sunday after Pentecost  
Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 28: 10th Sunday after Pentecost  
2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18; John 6:1-21

August 4: 11th Sunday after Pentecost  
Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; John 6:24-35

August 11: 12th Sunday after Pentecost  
1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; John 6:35, 41-51

August 18: 13th Sunday after Pentecost  
Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14; John 6:51-58

August 25: 14th Sunday after Pentecost  
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; John 6:56-69

## 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

7/7 - The Knapiks	8/4 - Doris Haddy
7/14 - Carol Haffter	8/11 - Carol Haffter
7/21 - D & T Husted	8/18 - J & J Corina
7/28 - L & S Boese	8/25 - Marge Clark & Terry Mack



## Pastor's Paragraphs

It's summertime, and with the change of seasons come some important changes at our church. On July 1, Brenda S. Lussier began a six-month internship as part of her preparation to become a diaconal minister. She will split her internship time between Trinity and Eden Lutheran Church. You can read more about this on page 5.

Brenda led worship and preached at Trinity on June 30. As part of our Pride observance, she preached a powerful message about the challenges faced by people who experience rejection or derision because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Speaking from her own experience as the mother of a transgender daughter, Brenda closed her message with a poem she had written to express her feelings. You can read her poem in this newsletter, and if you missed worship on June 30, you can watch a recording of the service on our YouTube channel.

On Sunday, July 7, we will note another transition, as Michael Myers retires from his position as our church's Administrative Assistant. He isn't leaving our church, and he will continue to serve in volunteer roles of his choosing, but you won't find him working in the office during the week. I have relied on Michael to handle many of the day-to-day functions of our church, and am deeply grateful for his years of faithful service in our church office. Please join me in giving thanks and expressing our gratitude for Michael's service to God and to our church.

I am also grateful that one of our newest members, Kathy Newlen, will be taking over Michael's responsibilities as our new Administrative Assistant. She has been working side-by-side with Michael for several weeks, along with tutoring from Brenda Lussier. Please be patient and be sure to introduce yourself to her as Kathy gets to know us all and becomes familiar with her new tasks.

Another change in the past month has been the decision by Lutheran Social Services to close their office at Trinity and consolidate their operations at their new location on Indiana Avenue. They are working on expanding their programs in Riverside, and needed more space than our church could provide. One new program involves the purchase of a van that will be used as a mobile unit to go where needed to provide services. For example, the LSS van will be at Trinity on Wednesday mornings when our food pantry is open and on Thursdays when the Shower of Hope program is operating.

Amid these and other changes in our church and the world around us, I'm grateful that the Gospel's message of love and mercy never changes, for "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13:8). *Pastor Kent*



## Stewardship Report

### TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/24 through 6/30/24)

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$ 139,320.74  
Regular offerings received to date: \$ 148,378.14  
Difference: + \$ 9,057.40

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

Scrip income received in 2024: \$ 260.70  
Century Club donations received in 2024: \$ 70.00

## **My Diaconal Journey: An Update from Brenda S. Lussier**

As you know, I have been a seminary student at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary for the past two years. In May, I completed all of my classes — YAY! — and now I am heading into my internship, which is mandatory for all candidates for ELCA ordination into the Ministry of Word and Service.

While I have finished my classes, the internship is also considered a class, and I still have a project to complete and, yes, another paper to write. The purpose of the internship is to help me develop my skills and support my training for future roles in ministry and pastoral work.

I will be serving my internship, which requires 1,000 hours under the supervision of two experienced Pastors, Pastor Stephanie Lape at Eden and Pastor Kent Tuohino here at Trinity, starting July 1 and ending December 31. The internship is split into two parts: worship and community. At Trinity, my internship will focus on community work. I will continue my efforts with Banquets at Trinity, Shower of Hope, assist with the Hope Pantry if needed, and take on other assignments as they arise. For the worship portion, I will serve at Eden on Sundays, learning more about worship by preaching and participating in various areas of the church. This means that for the most part, I will be worshipping with the Eden community for the next six months, so you will not see me on many Sundays. I am looking forward to getting to know the congregation of Eden and am excited about my journey over the next six months.

I am filled with hope and faith as I move into this new chapter of my journey. I trust that God is guiding me every step of the way, and I am excited about the opportunities to grow and serve in new ways. Thank you for your support as I have traveled this journey, and I ask for your continued support and prayers during this important time.

## **From the Threshold Choir**

Members of the RiverSong Threshold Choir sang at Trinity's worship services on Sunday, June 23. We hope you enjoyed it!

We sing at the bedside of those who are nearing the threshold of life or dealing with a serious illness. Another thing we offer are song baths. We have you relax in a zero-gravity chair and the choir members sing quietly for you. This can be for any reason, including alleviating stress, help dealing with an ailment, or just because you would like some TLC.

If you have an interest in a song bath or would like to have members of the Threshold Choir come sing for you or a loved one at home, please do not hesitate to contact Sandy Rodriguez.

## **A Mother's Heart, An Ally's Call**

By Brenda S. Lussier

*Brenda shared this poem at the end of her sermon on Trinity's Pride Sunday on June 30. It conveys her feelings as the mother of a transgender daughter.*

In the heart of a mother, love knows no bounds,  
It echoes with a strength that forever resounds.  
A child of God, unique and free,  
Beloved by the One who made the sea.

With eyes that see beyond the norm,  
A mother's love is steadfast and warm.  
Through trials faced and battles fought,  
Her child's worth is never lost.

In every hurtful word she hears,  
She feels her child's unspoken tears.  
Yet with each pain, her resolve grows,  
In her heart, compassion flows.

For she knows the truth divine,  
In every person, God's love does shine.  
No child of hers will stand alone,  
For in her love, they've always known.

As a mom, she lifts her voice,  
In justice and love, she makes her choice.  
To welcome, to protect, to stand tall,  
To embrace God's children, one and all.

So let us learn to open our hearts,  
In this world, we all play a part.  
To love, to cherish, to stand by,  
With open hands and spirits high.

For every child under the sky,  
Deserves to live, to love, to fly.  
In the grace of God, we find our way,  
In the light of love, we boldly stay.

## **Sunday of Service**

In August we will collect donations for the service projects we will do on September 8. Here's what we need:

- For quilts: crochet thread for tying quilts
- For prisoners:
  - greeting cards (all kinds and occasions)
  - 2-inch stickers
  - lined notebook paper
- For "kindness rocks":
  - misc. permanent markers
  - 2-inch river rocks
- 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 8!

# Council Meeting Summary

Trinity's Council met via Zoom on Tuesday, June 18. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Gary Goldberg. Members present: Larry Dodson, Peggy Fryc, Gary Goldberg, Cherie Guillow, Wes Krashin, Brenda S. Lussier, Mike McMichael, Karyl Robinson, Sue Rogers, and Pastor Kent.

**Pastor's Report:** Luke Hamilton, Sandy Rodriguez and Pastor Kent represented Trinity at the Pacifica Synod's online "Azoombly" on Saturday, June 15. Larry Dodson and Brenda S. Lussier also attended as members of the synod council. Pastor baptized 6-month-old twins Wyatt and Charlotte Venegas at the 11 am service on Sunday, June 16.

**Treasurer's Report:** Brenda has made changes to the format of the Treasurer's Report to make it easier to find financial data. Income projections for May were met and all bills were paid. We've hired a new teacher for Sunday School, named Fernanda Ruelas.

## Old Business

- **Property:** Mike is installing new flooring in the small office in the Cooper-Burhart Annex. He hopes to have it done by the end of the month. He is having problems with the roofing company about the sanctuary roofing and gutter work. Gary Goldberg will send an official letter to them. A mold problem in the cooling system for the sanctuary will be treated by Taylor Corbin of Chem Search.
- **Church Directory:** Pictures of new members and others will be taken by Bill Nicoletti on Sunday, June 23rd.
- **Missionary Visit:** Pastor moved that we help with the expenses for the missionary scheduled to visit Trinity on Wednesday, September 11, with a minimum gift of \$320.00. Seconded by Karyl Robinson. Motion carried.
- **Century Club:** We will plan to have a luncheon sometime in September. We presently have \$5,918.85 in this account. We still have items approved that have not yet been finished. Pastor Kent

will report on these items at our next meeting. This year's Sunday of Service will be on September 8.

## New Business

- **LSS Office Closing at Trinity:** Lutheran Social Services has decided not to renew their lease at Trinity and will consolidate their operations at their new location on Indiana Avenue. They will vacate the office at Trinity by June 30th. The future use of this room will be on the agenda for the next Council meeting. The storage shed will revert back to the church. We will also lose Internet service to Cooper-Burkhart House, so this needs to be addressed.
- **Church Office Transition:** Michael Myers and Brenda Lussier have been training our new Administrative Assistant, Kathy Newlen. Starting in July, the new office hours will be 9 am to 1 pm, Monday-Friday. Michael Myer's retirement day will be Sunday, July 7th. Karen Myers is planning the coffee hour that Sunday. Come and thank Michael for his faithful service to our church!
- **Update List of Account Signers:** We will add our new Administrative Assistant, Kathy Newlen, to our current list of authorized signers for the church's Altura Credit Union account.
- **Internship Plans for Brenda:** Her 6-month diaconal internship will be from July through December. Starting July 1st, she will work 20 hours/week at Eden and 20 hours/week at Trinity. She will attend Eden's Sunday services and perform necessary duties at Trinity for BAT and Shower of Hope during the week.
- **Pastor Kent** will be on vacation the last week of June, and Brenda will preach and lead worship on Sunday, June 30. We will celebrate Pride Sunday that day.

The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, July 16, at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held in person, in Cooper-Burkhart House.

## July Birthdays

[2] Beverly Erck, Lew Trapp; [3] Emily Anderson, Amanda Wright; [9] Gil Heth; [12] Danielle Bitetti, David Rogers; [14] Marlene DeFrese; [16] Kevin Wheeler; [17] Patrick McKeegan; [21] Sarah Boese, Elizabeth Printup, Stacey Robbins; [22] Bill Brethauer, Shawn Lowell; [28] Dorie Haddy; [30] Curt Ritchie

## August Birthdays

[2] Matt Bradley; [3] Sofia Baroldi; [4] Chrissy Baroldi; [5] Stuart Franklin ; [8] Mim Frantz; [9] Chris Brown; [12] William Wall, Sr.; [13] Debbie Black, Carolyn Bolz, Luke Hamilton; [14] Sofia Medvec; [15] Abraham Kosobucki; [16] Julie McAuley Stuart; [19] Cindy Hogue, LylaClare Kosobucki, 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 that we can add you to our list!

*Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. — Psalm 90:12*



## Our Church Calendar

You can find a calendar of events at our church on our website. Go to [trinityriverside.org](http://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!



## Quilting Bee

Trinity's Quilting Bee normally meets on the first and third Saturday of each month from 9:00 am to 12 pm in Cooper-Burkhart House. However, in July the Quilting Bee will only meet on July 27. It will resume its usual schedule in August. Contact Kelly Krashin for more information.

The Quilting Bee is in need of donations of used sheets, old, curtains, and other large pieces of fabric to use for quilt backs.



## Game Fellowship Group

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



## Thanks for Keeping Tabs!



Please save the pull-tabs from drinks and other canned goods and help support the Inland Empire Ronald McDonald House. You can drop the tabs off at our church. — Sue Rogers

## Taizé Service

Several Riverside churches 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 8 it will be held at:  
All Saints Episcopal Church  
3847 Terracina Drive

On August 12 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).

**Wayne Powers** entered eternal life on June 1, 2024. He was 88 years old. Wayne was a long-time member of Trinity before moving to Omaha, Nebraska in 2015. A service for Wayne will be held at Trinity on Saturday, July 20, at 10 am. Lunch will be served after the service.



**Dana Reupert** passed into glory on June 9, 2024. She was 82 years old. Her family plans to schedule a funeral service later this year.

**Eric Sweetman** died on June 18, 2024, at the age of 75. He was married to Rev. Sherry Sweetman, and served a 50-year career with the U.S. Forest Service. A memorial service was held at Trinity on Wednesday, July 3.

*Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live." — John 11:25*

## 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.

To place an order, see Michael Myers or Judy McMichael on Sunday morning, or contact 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 Sunday at noon, and we usually receive the cards in time to hand out the next Sunday.



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## 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.



## Christ in Our Home

Copies of the *Christ in Our Home* devotional booklet are available at our church. Pick one up to use for your personal prayer time. If you would like to have one sent to you, contact our church office and we will be happy to mail you a copy or drop one off at your door. A few large-print copies are also available.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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<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 (resuming in August)</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>Music Ministries</i> • Kathy Newlen, <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>