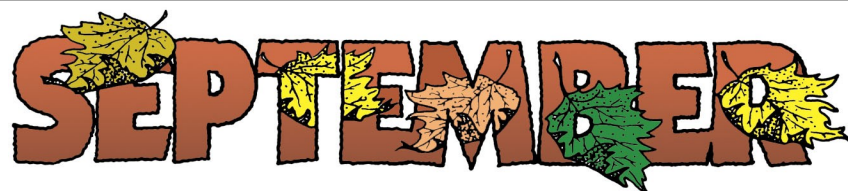




# Trinity Topics

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 8, September 2024



God's work. Our hands.



September 8, 2024

## Join Us for Our Sunday of Service

"God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday is an annual day of service in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We will have one worship service at 9:30 am on September 8, followed by these service projects that will be set up in our fellowship hall:

- Fill "blessing bags" with food for the homeless
- Paint encouraging words on small "Rocks of Hope"
- Tie quilts made by our Quilting Bee
- Sort and fill one-gallon plastic bags with donated stationery that will be sent to people who are incarcerated at the California state prisons in Chino
- Sign greeting cards for members of our church who are homebound or live far away

If you have a yellow "God's Work, Our Hands" t-shirt, be sure to wear it to church that day! If you'd like to buy a shirt, we have several available for \$15 each.

Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all. — Galatians 6:9-10

## Donate Blood on September 1

If you are able to give blood, please plan to donate blood when the bloodmobile is at Trinity on Sunday, September 1, from 10 am to 2 pm. To make an appointment, call 800-879-4484 or visit [LStream.org/cityriverside](http://LStream.org/cityriverside). Donate blood and help save a life!



## Join the Choir!

Trinity's choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 4, at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. New singers are welcome!



## Ministry Capacity Workshop

Saturday, September 14  
9:30 to 11:30 AM

Pacifica Synod Bishop Dave Nagler and the Synod's Director for Evangelical Mission, Pastor Tom Goellrich, will lead this free workshop at Trinity. Leaders from ELCA congregations in the Inland Area are invited to attend. The workshop will address matters of capacity and how they impact ministry. Attendees will be introduced to a ministry capacity measurement tool with instructions on how to administer the tool (including time frame) in their congregation. To register, use the link on the [pacificasynod.org](http://pacificasynod.org) website, or contact our church office.

## Saturday, September 14, @ 3:00 pm

Join the fun in Cooper-Burkhart House for an afternoon of bunco! Please bring a snack to share or a small gift to use for a bunco prize.





## Trinity Scholarship Recipients

Trinity's Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's scholarship awards. Each of our recipients received a check for \$1,200 on Sunday, August 11. Here they are, listed as they appear in the photo above (from left to right):

- **Sandy Rodriguez** is studying music technology at Riverside City College.
- **Abraham Kosobucki** is pursuing a nursing degree (ADN) at Riverside City College.
- **Luke Hamilton** is studying music and education at Riverside City College, and plans a career in music education.
- **Courtney Caldera** is a student at California Baptist University, and is finishing her studies in Music Education with student teaching this fall.

Congratulations to each of our scholarship recipients! We pray for success in their academic pursuits.



On Sunday, July 28, our church family assembled 50 backpacks. We filled them with items donated by our congregation. Each one was filled with a 3-ring binder, lined paper, pocket folders, composition books, spiral notebooks, crayons, colored pencils, colored markers, a pencil box, Elmer's glue, glue sticks, a ruler, scissors, pencil sharpener, cap erasers, dry markers, pencils and pens. After filling the backpacks, they were donated to Family Promise, Lutheran Social Services, kids in our church and kids that come to our Banquets at Trinity program. We also were able to give supplies to the preschool at Eden Lutheran Church.



Rev. Hitoshi Adachi, an ELCA missionary serving in Japan, visited Trinity on Sunday, August 18. He preached at both worship services and described the ministry he does serving 3 congregations and a Lutheran school in the city of Kumamoto. Many Trinity members help support his ministry with their donations.

## Meet Our "Mystery Missionary"!

Wed., Sept. 11,  
at 5:30 pm



In addition to Rev. Hitoshi Adachi, our congregation also supports another ELCA missionary working abroad. That person is back in the U.S. for a few weeks this summer, and will be coming to visit our congregation on Wednesday, September 11.

Because of where they serve, we have been asked not to share any details about them online or in our church publications. So, you'll just have to come and meet them in person to learn about their ministry!

If you have questions or would like to know more about our "Mystery Missionary," please speak with Pastor Kent or a Church Council or Endowment Committee member. For information about the lasagna dinner, contact Ann Herring.

Dinner will start at 5:30 pm, and the presentation after dinner will be finished before 7:00 pm. There will be a freewill offering for the meal and missionary support. Please sign up in advance so that we know how much food to prepare. We hope to see you there!



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

## 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

September 1: 15th Sunday after Pentecost  
James 1:17-27; Psalm 15; Mark 7: 1-8,14-15, 21-23

September 8: 16th Sunday after Pentecost  
James 2:1-17 ; Psalm 146; Mark 7: 24-37

September 15: 17th Sunday after Pentecost  
James 3:1-12; Psalm 116: 1-9; Mark 8: 27-38

September 22: 18th Sunday after Pentecost  
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Psalm 1; Mark 9: 30-37

September 29: 19th Sunday after Pentecost;  
James 5:13-20; Psalm 19: 7-14; Mark 9: 38-50



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).

### Upcoming Flower Donors

9/1 — Myers Family & Patty Farrand  
9/8 — Knapik Family  
9/15 — Matt & Peg Bradley  
9/22 — Barbara Morris  
9/29 — Donor Needed



## Pastor's Paragraphs

This morning I listened to a podcast while driving to church that features conversations between a father and his son, who is in his early twenties. The topic of this podcast episode was the loneliness many young people feel today. They discussed the influence of social media, and how friendships and the social relationships between men and women have changed compared to years ago. The son in this conversation shared that he and many of his friends feel isolated and alone much of the time.

I had a conversation with another young man recently (he doesn't attend our church), who complained about similar feelings of isolation and unhappiness.

As I thought about these conversations, I realized that much of what they described is true for many men and women of all ages. A book published in 2000, titled "Bowling Alone," blames it on the decline of many social institutions that used to bring people together in America, including bowling leagues, lodges, clubs and churches. It has led to the fraying of the social fabric that binds us together with our neighbors. On an individual level, the result is often loneliness. On a larger societal level, it's contributed to the divisive politics that plagues our nation.

These developments can be discouraging, but they've also created a hunger within many people to build connections with others in order to find fulfillment and happiness. Of course, churches are an excellent place for that to happen, but they need to learn to communicate in ways that can speak to younger generations and to others who would like to find friendship and meaning.

So, as church people we have an opportunity and a challenge. We have what people need to hear — the good news of the Gospel. People need to experience the love of Christ — a love that calls us into fellowship with each other, and sends us out to serve our neighbors. But the challenge is that today, fewer people think of coming to a church to find love and the supportive relationships that churches can provide. It may be because they have a negative impression of what Christianity is about, or they may have had a bad experience with a church in the past.

As members of the body of Christ, our job is to reach out beyond the doors of the church in order to share the love of God with others. As James 1:12 says, "Be doers of the word, and not only hearers." When we are willing to step out in faith, then we will begin to break down the barriers of isolation and help others know God's love.

— Pastor Kent



## TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/24 through 8/31/24)

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$ 182,188.66  
Regular offerings received to date: \$ 185,016.13  
Difference: + \$ 2,827.47

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

Scrip income received in 2024: \$ 815.00  
Century Club donations received in 2024: \$ 280.00

## Bearing Witness to the Body of Christ in Ethiopia

By Pacifica Synod Bishop Dave Nagler

During the last week of July, I was given the opportunity to travel with a delegation from the ELCA to visit with leaders in the Mekane Yesus Church (EECMY) in Ethiopia. The occasion was the beginning of their 70th year celebrations and the further exploration of restoring the relationship between our two churches.

We encountered a vibrant church that is dedicated to evangelism and discipleship training for the whole person. Everything that happened in the various meetings, visits, and seminary graduation was about sharing the good news of God's love for all people in Jesus Christ. The result has been explosive growth. The EECMY is now the largest church in the Lutheran World Federation, with over 12 million members!

The longstanding and positive relationship between the ELCA and the EECMY was severed when the EECMY decided to break our partnership agreement after our denomination's decisions on human sexuality in 2009. I learned that this was more about the process, the "how" we reached that decision more than it was about the issue of human sexuality itself. This severance happened in 2013. Now we are hopeful for a restoration of our partnership in the near future.

The main reason for this shift is the bold and faithful leadership of many of the synod presidents of the EECMY. The most important leader in this effort has been President Yonas. At several meetings he made a point of reminding everyone in attendance that we cannot separate what God has created in one body through the death and resurrection of his son, Jesus. While there are reasons and times for adjusting our official relationships, the underlying fact is that we are one body, whether we acknowledge it or not. This is God's doing. We are richer when we live into that unity, no matter how challenging it can be.

Certainly, our churches disagree on several issues. However, our unity is not dependent on uniformity. When we find areas of disagreement, we can let the law of love guide our words and actions so that we can learn from one another. (Trust me, we have much to learn from this church.) The whole body of Christ is nourished when we worship together, break bread together, laugh and pray together. We fulfill our calling when we share one another's joys and bear one another's burdens.

This is one of the great values that comes from attending to our companion synod relationships. We are reminded of God's powerful work being accomplished in myriad cultures and places. We bear witness to the similarities and the differences. Both are beautiful and important. I pray for a full restoration of our companion synod relationship with the Southeast Synod of the EECMY. I look forward to returning with a delegation from the Pacifica Synod. To that end, I have already been in contact with that synod's president.

Imagine the richness of being a synod with two vital and diverse global companions! We already walk with the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia. When we build on our renewed relationship with Mekane Yesus, we will have friends in two very different locations and cultures. By God's grace, our friendship will be mutually beneficial. It will further the mission of the church. It will bear witness to the wondrous body of Christ on earth!



**Apply Now for Fall  
Cursillo Weekends**  
Men: September 19-22  
Women: September 26-29

This September, Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California will hold the 190<sup>th</sup> and 191<sup>st</sup> set of retreat weekends since its inception in June 1990. Several Trinity members will be serving on the teams for these weekends.

Cursillo is a three-day, intensive study and experience of how to better live your life as a Christian. It is intended to help revitalize and support the Lutheran Church and its ministries to society, and to build up and strengthen leaders in our home congregations.

You must be an active member at a Lutheran church to attend. If you are married, both spouses are encouraged attend on the same pair of weekends. There is **no cost** involved in attending Cursillo. A sponsor takes care of getting you there and bringing you home.

Applications are now being accepted for the fall weekends: September 19-22, (for men) and September 26-29, 2024 (for women). A Cursillo begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon.

If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office, Barb Beaver (951-217-5581 or [barbara.m.beaver@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.m.beaver@gmail.com)), or another Trinity member who has already attended Cursillo. Copies of the application form are available in Heinecken Hall. The deadline for applications to be received is September 7, 2024.



During his visit to Ethiopia in July, Bishop David Nagler (lower left) participated in a procession in celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Mekane Yesus Church. He was impressed by their emphasis on evangelism and discipleship that focuses on the whole person.

## Council Meeting Summary

The Council met via Zoom on Tuesday, August 20, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by Vice President Karyl Robinson. Present: Karyl Robinson, Sue Rogers, Pastor Kent, Mike McMichael, Wes Krashin, and Brenda Lussier. Absent: Gary Goldberg, Peggy Fryc, Cherie Guillow, and Larry Dodson.

### Pastor's Report

- Rev Hitoshi Adachi gave the sermon at both services on August 18.
- There will be a dinner at the church at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, September 11, to meet another ELCA missionary we help support.
- Pastor Ken Puccio from the now-closed Grace Lutheran Church gave a \$2,000 check for Trinity's choir from their remaining funds.
- There has been a request from AA to hold funeral services for two of their members at Trinity on August 24 and 31.
- The Pacifica Synod will hold a workshop at Trinity from 9:30-11:30 am on Saturday, September 14, on the topic of "Increasing Capacity for Ministry."
- The "I Care Shelter Home" is in transition following the death of their onsite program director. They need financial help to deal with urgently needed maintenance.
- A request has been made by Danielle George to rearrange the church to create a long center aisle for her wedding on March 1, 2025.

**Financial Report:** Brenda S. Lussier presented the Financial Report as of the end of July. All payments were made for bills received in July. We finished the period of January through July with a net income of \$35,192.81.

### Old Business

- Property Maintenance
  - ◇ The refurbishing of rooms in Cooper-Burkhart Annex is still in progress. The new quilting room has been painted by Wes Krashin and the carpet cleaned by Kelly and Dana Krashin.
  - ◇ The roses in front of the church need to be trimmed.
  - ◇ New quotes will be needed for the roof & gutter work on the Sanctuary. We are waiting for a decision on warranty coverage for the existing roof.
- Century Club & Progressive Dinner – A Century Club lunch will be held on Sunday, October 6. The date for a progressive dinner is to be decided.

### New Business

- Endowment Fund Grant Request - A request by Pastor Kent for a \$2,500 grant from the Endowment Fund to help the "I Care Shelter Home" transitional housing program was approved. The Endowment Committee needs to approve this recommendation before the grant money can be disbursed.
- Open a Credit Card Account - Brenda requested that we get a credit card for the church to use for church-related expenses. Approved.
- T-Mobile Lease - The company wants to renegotiate our contract and reduce their monthly payment to the church. Brenda is reviewing their proposal.
- Sanctuary Roof - Gary Goldberg was authorized to take legal action if needed to force Dan's Roofing to repair or replace the roof due to cracks in the material, as guaranteed in their warranty.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 17, at 6:30 pm.

## Day Camp Report

This year's day camp took place from July 15-19. We welcomed 19 enthusiastic children, ages 4-13, who participated in a week filled with learning, fun, and community service. Our three dedicated camp counselors from LRCC led the activities each day from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The camp focused on learning Bible verses and engaging in activities that emphasized the importance of serving our community.

Throughout the week, the children completed three impactful service projects: decorating quilting squares with their handprints, filling "blessing bags" of food for the homeless, and collecting school supplies.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the church members who provided meals, gift cards, and groceries for the camp counselors and campers. Your generosity and support helped make this week an incredible experience for everyone involved. Thank you to all those who made this Day Camp a success!



## September Birthdays

[1] Mike Finn; [3] Carol Savage; [5] Jay Farrand; [9] Sandy Rodriguez; [11] Patty Farrand; [13] Dennis Rogers; [16] Rusty Gilbreath; Christina Reza; [18] Amy Stager, Mark Wheeler; [20] Julie Boyes; [20] Dana Krashin; [23] Cindy Wheeler; [24] Judy McMichael, Stephanie Steele; [25] Kathy Bocian; [26] Josh Hill; [27] Anthony Baroldi.

*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.

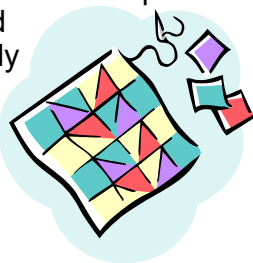
The online calendar is updated regularly, so check there when you want to find out what's going on at Trinity!



## 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 the Annex next to 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 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 Monday, September 9, it will be held at:  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
5969 Brockton Avenue, Riverside

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).

*"Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10)*

## Sunday of Service

We are collecting donations for the service projects we will do on September 8. Here's what we need:

- For Quilts: crochet thread for tying quilts
- For "Gallons of Love" Prison Project:
  - greeting cards (all kinds and occasions)
  - 2-inch stickers
  - lined notebook paper
- For "Rocks of Hope":
  - 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

Join us for service on Sunday, September 8!

## 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.



RaiseRight™

## 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**  
5969 BROCKTON AVENUE  
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92506

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<p><b>Sunday Worship Schedule</b> 9:30 am — Contemporary Service (in person and on YouTube) 9:30 am — Sunday School    11:00 am — Traditional Service <b>Church Office Hours:</b> 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday-Friday Phone: (951) 682-1350 • Email: <a href="mailto:office@trinityriverside.org">office@trinityriverside.org</a></p>
<p><b>Ministry Staff</b> 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><b>Vision &amp; Mission Statements</b> 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. 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><b>KNOW, GROW, SERVE AND SHARE</b></p>