



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 9, October 2024



Progressive Dinner

**A Social Gathering at Trinity
on Saturday, October 12
4:00 pm to 6:30-ish**

Let's get together at Trinity for a progressive dinner! The purpose of this event is simply to get to know our church family better. It will be like last year, where the entire event will happen on the church campus. We will all meet in Heinecken Hall at 4:00 pm. As we gather, we will be entertained by Mary Francis (Mary Kantola's granddaughter) serenading us on the piano. Shortly after 4:00 pm, everyone will get their room assignment. Each course will be served in different rooms, providing an intimate atmosphere for conversation... starting with hors d'oeuvres and salads served in one room, then moving on to the main course in another, and ending with dessert and bingo back in Heinecken Hall. For the bingo prizes we are asking for small "white elephant" gifts, (nice, gently used items that are no longer wanted). As is often said, "one person's junk is another's treasure" – and everyone loves a treasure!

Please sign up on the attendance sheets in Heinecken Hall by Sunday, October 5. Or call Kim Root-George by Wednesday, October 8. Please consider volunteering to help provide a part of the meal – there is a sign-up sheet in Heinecken Hall where you can sign up to bring a food item.

If you have any questions, please call Kim at home (951) 683-7716 and leave a message.



**Get Ready for
Trunk-n-Treat!
Saturday, October 26**

Join us for a spooktacular night of family fun at our Trunk-n-Treat on Saturday, October 26, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. This event is open to everyone and packed with games, music, food, and, of course, loads of candy! And don't miss the spooky sounds from our DJ, who will keep the energy high all night long. It's a fantastic opportunity for families, neighbors, and friends of all ages to come together for a night filled with laughter, excitement, and festive costumes. Whether you're young, young at heart, or somewhere in between, this event is for YOU!

But we can't do it without your help! We need plenty of decorated trunks to line our lot and volunteers to assist with set-up, cooking, and clean-up. Donations of candy and food are also greatly appreciated. Let's make this a night to remember for all the trick-or-treaters and their families!

Flyers are available for you to share with family, friends, and neighbors. Be sure to invite everyone you know!

For more information or to volunteer, please reach out to Brenda S. Lussier by phone or email. You can also find the sign-up sheet in Heinecken Hall for volunteer spots and food donations. Let's make this an unforgettable event for our community! See you there!



God's Work, Our Hands
Service projects on September 8



On Sunday, September 22, Shu Lin Huang and his wife, Xiao Hui Cai, were both baptized at our 11 am service. They are pictured here with their daughter, Pastor Kent, and Pastor Michelle Kuan-Yang. Pastor Michelle and her husband came from Anaheim so that she could lead part of the baptism service in Chinese and assist with the baptismal prayers and blessings.



Volunteers from Dairy Farmers of America came to help out at the Hope Pantry on Wed., September 25. They brought donations of milk and cheese, plus a \$500 check for the pantry program. We are grateful for their generous and ongoing support!

Thanks for Keeping Tabs!

On Sept. 10, Sue Rogers delivered bags containing hundreds of pull-top tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in Loma Linda. She also received a certificate of thanks for the more than 39,000 tabs that have been donated by Trinity members and friends over the years.

People donate aluminum pull tabs to Ronald McDonald House (RMHC) Charities to help raise money for programs that support families and children. Why tabs?

- **Easier to store:** Pull tabs are easier to store than cans and take up less space.
- **More sanitary:** It's cleaner to collect tabs than cans and there's no mess from beverage residue.
- **Fun for kids:** It can be fun for children to see the tabs pile up in a collection container.
- **Teaches kids about recycling:** Collecting tabs can teach kids about recycling and philanthropy.
- **Supports RMHC programs:** The money raised from recycling the tabs helps support the day-to-day operations of the House and the Family Fund, which provides items for families.



Sue Rogers pictured with the happy recipient of Trinity's tabs.

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 6: 20th Sunday after Pentecost
Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Psalm 119:1-8; Mark 12:28-34

October 13: 21st Sunday after Pentecost
Hebrews 4:12-16; Psalm 90:12-17; Mark 10:17-31

October 20: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Hebrews 5:1-10; Psalm 91:9-16; Mark 10:35-45

October 27: Reformation Sunday
Romans 3:19-28; Psalm 46; John 8:31-36

November 3: All Saints Sunday
Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6; John 11:32-44



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

10/06 — Knapik Family
10/13 — Karyl Robinson
10/20 — Newlen Family
10/27 — Phyllis Stumpf



Pastor's Paragraphs

I love it when God brings people together in ministry. Some of the greatest joys I've experienced as a pastor have been when I have seen that happen in unexpected ways. For example, this last month we celebrated a special baptism at Trinity (see the photo on page 2).

Shu Lin Huang and Xiao Hui Cai moved to Riverside from China in 2023 to live with their daughter. Although they had been exposed to Christianity through family members in China, they had very limited involvement due to the suppression of religion by the Chinese government. When they came to the United States, they finally felt free to attend church openly, and came to Trinity because it's near where they live. They have been attending our 11:00 am service regularly, using an app on their cell phone to translate my message into Chinese as I speak. (I think that's quite amazing!) I also email them a copy of the bulletin each week so that they can translate it into Chinese before Sunday morning.

Through a recent conversation with a missionary who speaks Chinese, I learned that they wanted to be baptized. I realized I would need the help of someone fluent in Mandarin to make that happen. So I called the Pacifica Synod office, and was referred to Pastor Michelle Kuan-Yang, who serves at Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Anaheim. When I contacted Pastor Michelle, she said that she had a bilingual Lutheran Book of Worship in Chinese and English that I could borrow. (I never knew such a book existed!) She also offered me a Chinese Bible to give the couple when they were baptized. Then she contacted me a little later to say that she and her husband would like to come to Trinity for the baptism, and I invited her to participate in the service. Because of the timing of the service at her church in Anaheim, Pastor Michelle and her husband were able to make it to Trinity in plenty of time for the 11 am service.

In short, all of the pieces came together to make the baptism service a meaningful experience for Shu Lin and Xiao Hui and everyone who attended. It truly felt like the Holy Spirit had been at work to bring us together and to assemble all of the pieces needed for the service. To God be the glory!

I am humbled and grateful to see how God can bring people together in spite of the barriers of language and culture. In this time of anxiety and uncertainty in our nation, I pray that the Spirit will help us to overcome our own barriers of division and teach us how to love our neighbors as ourselves. I wonder if there's a phone app that can help us do that? – *Pastor Kent*



Stewardship Report

TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/24 through 9/30/24)

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$ 208,981.11
Regular offerings received to date: \$ 216,506.16
Difference: + \$ 7,525.05

Your faithful giving is helping us meet our goal!

Scrip income received in 2024: \$ 815.00
Century Club donations received in 2024: \$ 400.00

It's Socktober!



As the temperatures drop, the need for basic essentials like socks becomes even more crucial, especially for our unhoused neighbors who access our Shower and food programs. The Social Concerns Committee is once again launching Socktober, our annual sock drive, to ensure we provide warmth and comfort to

those living on the streets.

While socks are a year-round necessity, they become even more vital during the cold winter months, when staying warm and dry can be challenging for those without shelter. A new pair of socks can prevent cold feet, infections, and other health issues that many people experiencing homelessness face daily.

How You Can Help

We are collecting brand-new men's socks in dark colors (gray or black) that are crew length or longer.

If you'd prefer, financial donations are also appreciated and will help us purchase socks in bulk to meet the ongoing need.

Please join us in making a difference this October — and beyond. Every donation, no matter how small, can provide comfort to someone in need.

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact Brenda S. Lussier.



Adoption Day

On Saturday, November 2, 2024, Riverside County will celebrate Adoption Day with ceremonies taking place at the Larson Justice Center in Indio and the Historic Court-

house in downtown Riverside. During these special events, the adoption process will be finalized for children and their families from across the county. These ceremonies represent a new beginning for children ranging from a few years old to teenagers, who will now be permanently placed with loving families.

At Trinity, we are honored to participate in this meaningful day by providing gift baskets, stuffed animals, gift cards, and various other items to the families celebrating these new beginnings. It's a simple but powerful way to show our love and support as these families begin their journey together.

Would you like to help?

Here are a few ways you can get involved: Donate new stuffed animals, toys, or books for children of all ages, and donate items or gift cards for gift baskets for family activities like games, movies, and going out to eat. Help assemble gift baskets with small toys, snacks, and essentials to give to the families.

Your contributions, no matter how small, will help brighten the day for these kids and their new families. To get involved, please contact Brenda S. Lussier or Pastor Kent for more information.

Hurricane Relief

In late September, Hurricane Helene hit the coast of Florida as a Category 4 hurricane, dropping heavy rains on the southeastern United States and leaving millions of people without power. As the storm has moved inland, it has caused dangerous flooding and landslides, downed trees and power lines, destroyed homes and caused hundreds of deaths.

Lutheran Disaster Response works with its partners to provide immediate relief, such as water, food, clothing, gift cards, tarps and other needs. Since many hurricanes also require a long-term response, Lutheran Disaster Response provides support on the long road to recovery with disaster case management, construction management, attention to unmet needs, and emotional and spiritual care. What can you do to help?

Pray: Please pray for the safety of communities impacted by hurricanes, including people in their paths and any emergency services personnel who are responding. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to rescue survivors and repair damage.

Give: Your gifts will support disaster-impacted communities. Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip it to respond to those affected by hurricanes and related disasters, such as mudslides, severe storms and flooding. These gifts also empower them to respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts to "Hurricane Response" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by hurricanes.

If you give through our congregation, make any checks payable to Trinity and indicate that it's for "Hurricane Relief." To give to Lutheran Disaster Response directly by phone, call 800-638-3522. Checks or money orders can also be mailed to:

Lutheran Disaster Response
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009



Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Council Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm on September 17 by Congregational President Gary Goldberg. Members present: Pastor Kent, Larry Dodson, Gary Goldberg, Wes Krashin, Cherie Guillow, Brenda S. Lussier, Karyl Robinson, Sue Rogers. Members absent: Mike McMichael, Peggy Fryc.

Pastor's Report

- Ministry Capacity Workshop: Members of 13 congregations and several members from our congregation attended this workshop organized by the Pacifica Synod. A ministry survey was handed out for each congregation to use with their members. There will be 3 follow-up meetings over the next 12 months.
- The synod's annual professional leaders conference will be held from October 15 through October 17 in La Quinta. Both Pastor Kent and Brenda S. Lussier will be attending.
- The Progressive Dinner will be on Saturday, October 12, and Kim Root-George is organizing it. It will be held at the church, with diners moving from room to room for each course of the meal.
- Trunk-n-Treat will be held on Saturday, October 26. Brenda S. Lussier is organizing it.
- Pastor Kent recommends that we consider calling Brenda S. Lussier as a deacon after she completes her internship. We will need to address this in the budget for 2025.
- Pastor Kent will serve as lead pastor for a Chrysalis youth retreat on the weekend of November 8-10. Brenda S. Lussier will preach and lead worship that Sunday.
- Several door locks in the education wing will be re-keyed soon to make them more functional.

Treasurer's Report

- Brenda S. Lussier presented the Financial Report for August. All bills for August were paid. We finished August with a net of \$4,437.47 for the month. For the period from January through August, we ended with a net income of \$34,464.00.
- The council approved setting Pastor Kent's healthcare and disability insurance to the new an-

nual cost for Gold+ in 2025, resulting in a \$418.56 increase for the year, and continue to pay the medical insurance coverage for Joanna Tuohino in 2025.

Old Business

- Property Maintenance: Dan's Roofing inspected our sanctuary roof and found no water leakage into the building. We haven't gotten the official report back yet regarding the repairs needed. Gary Goldberg will file a lawsuit regarding this matter in order to expedite repairs.
- Church Directory: We have new names to add and additional photos. Cherie Guillow agreed to assist.
- Century Club lunch will be postponed until next year, with discussion of a new date at the November council meeting.

New Business

- Glenn Pickett presented a proposal for improved lighting for the sanctuary. The cost would be about \$45,000.00. This would require congregation approval. The council will discuss this proposal at its next meeting.
- Our church website needs to be thoroughly updated. Pastor Kent will contact a web designer about getting a quote for this work. A committee will need to be created to look into website changes.
- The Audit Committee has submitted their report for 2023. A committee has been established to review the recommendations and how they can be implemented. The committee will consist of Sue Rogers, Brenda S. Lussier, Gary Goldberg, Cherie Guillow and Michael Myers.
- The council approved an adjustment to the amount owed by the dental office next door to the church for trash pickup and use of our parking lot.
- Next month's meeting will include planning the church budget for next year. Budget suggestions or questions should be directed to the Treasurer.
- The council approved a request to designate the proceeds from the holiday rummage sale in November to go to support the Hope Pantry.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm. The next council meeting will be on Tuesday, October 22, at 6:30 pm.

Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25

October Birthdays

[4] Stephanie Bradley, Karen Clarke, Julia Kosobucki; [6] Traci Brunka; [7] Barb Beaver; [8] Bob Knapik; [10] Jackie Letourneau-Wagner; [12] Judy Okamura; [13] Rudi Raterman, Nancy Resto; [14] Jean Aubin; [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





Holiday Rummage Sale

The rummage sale committee will have a Christmas-themed rummage sale in the church parking lot on Saturday, November 2, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. We are now seeking donations of Christmas-themed decorations and new or slightly used Christmas gifts for this rummage sale. Contact Kelly Krashin with questions or to volunteer to help.

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! Contact Kelly Krashin for more information.

On Sunday, October 20, the Quilting Bee will display all the quilts they have made this year. We will bless them and send them on their way to help people in need around the world.



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.



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.



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, October 14, it will be held at:
Madison Street Church
3991 Madison St, Riverside

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

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

SAVE *the* DATE

NOVEMBER 8TH, 2024
2024 LSSSC GALA & AWARDS

"There's no place like home..."



Lutheran Social Services invites you to join them on Friday, November 8, at the historic Mission Inn in Riverside for their 2024 Gala & Awards. Reception from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Dinner and Program starts at 6:00pm. The gala will be a wonderful evening of fun, food and entertainment in support of LSS!

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.

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