



# Trinity Topics

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



## February

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Since 1893  
Kent Tuohino, Pastor  
Volume 28, Issue 2, February 2025



### Congregational Meeting Report

This year's annual meeting of the congregation was held on January 26. The budget for 2025 was approved, and includes funding for additional lighting in the sanctuary, and the possibility of calling Brenda S. Lussier as a deacon later this year. (The decision to call a deacon will require another congregational meeting after Brenda is approved for a call in the ELCA and we have a formal job description.)

The following people were elected at the meeting:

Church Council: Gil Heth, Theresa Husted, Kelly Krashin, Shawn Lowell, Steve Newlen, and Karyl Robinson (2nd term for Karyl)

Audit Committee: Helga Stafford

Endowment Committee: Carolyn Bolz (2nd term), John Collins (2nd term), and Julie Pickett

Scholarship Committee: Peg Bradley, Karen Clarke, Gretta Merwin

Synod Assembly: Case & Cindy Bennett

After the meeting, a baked potato lunch was served. Donations totaling \$116 received at the luncheon will help support Trinity's Quilting Bee. During the lunch, the new and continuing members of the church council met to choose officers for this year. The new officers are:

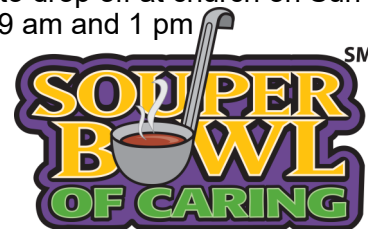
- Karyl Robinson, President
- Kelly Krashin, Vice-President
- Cherie Guillow, Secretary
- Brenda S. Lussier, Treasurer

In addition to the officers and the members newly elected to the council, the council includes Larry Dodson, Peggy Fryc, Sue Rogers & Pastor Kent. Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm. Council meetings are normally held online using Zoom.

### Souper Bowl of Caring

It's almost time! The Super Bowl will be on Sunday, February 9, and so is the annual Souper Bowl of Caring. We are now collecting canned soups and other non-perishable food items. The donated food will be distributed through Lutheran Social Services, Central City Lutheran Mission, and our blessing bags.

You can bring donations to drop off at church on Sunday morning or between 9 am and 1 pm Monday-Friday. A table will be set up where you can choose which team you want to win the football game. Let's team up to tackle hunger!



### Bearing a Gospel Witness at the Border

Wednesday, February 12, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm  
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church  
8350 Lake Murray Blvd., San Diego, CA  
Registration: \$20 (pre-registration is required)

The Pacifica Synod invites you to attend a day of reflection on border concerns. The morning will be spent at the church, with presentations by Pastor Maria Santa Cruz, Pastor Manuel Retamoza, and John Fanestil, and will include a time of worship together. Lunch is included in the registration fee. After lunch, attendees will travel to the border at Whiskey 8 Open Air Detention Site in San Ysidro, California, for the communion portion of worship. To register online, go to [pacificasynod.org](http://pacificasynod.org).

### Valentine Cards

Help us send Valentine cards to children and youth in our church family! A list of their names is available at the church. Please bring your cards to the church by Sunday, February 9, and we will make sure they get delivered in time for Valentine's Day.



Here's a tip: Valentine cards in classroom sets are available at a low price from Dollar Tree and other stores at this time of year.



Here are the elected leaders of our congregation who were at the annual meeting. Pictured from left to right are (front row:) Pastor Kent, Karen Clarke, Mike McMichael, Peggy Fryc, Peg Bradley, Gretta Merwin, Sue Rogers, Karyl Robinson, Shawn Lowell, Carolyn Bolz, Kelly Krashin; (second row:) Stephan Hamilton, Steve Newlen, John Collins, Gil Heth, Julie Pickett, Cherie Guillow, Larry Dodson, Helga Stafford; (back row:) Brenda S. Lussier, Gary Goldberg, Chris Brown.

## An Open Invitation to Our Trinity Lutheran Church Family



With joy and excitement, Danielle George and Brandon Waters, together with our families, would like to invite all members of Trinity Lutheran Church to join us in celebrating our wedding ceremony. Our ceremony will be officiated by Pastor Kent, and it would mean the world to us to have our beloved church family there to share in this special occasion.

Danielle, raised by her parents Randell George and Kim Root-George alongside her two siblings William and Miranda, has always considered Trinity Lutheran Church her extended family. The church has played a pivotal role in shaping her life, and she is truly grateful for the love and support it has provided.

We hope you can join us for the ceremony, which will begin at **2:00 pm on Saturday, March 1st, 2025**. Light refreshments in Heinecken Hall will follow the ceremony.

We look forward to celebrating this joyous occasion with all of you!

With love and gratitude,  
Danielle & Brandon

## Consider Attending Cursillo

Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California is a three-day "short course in Christianity," intended to help revitalize your faith and support the Lutheran Church and its ministries. Now is the time to consider attending one of the next weekends: February 22-March 2 (for men) or March 6-9 (for women). They begin on Thursday evening and end Sunday afternoon.

During the weekend, you will hear 15 talks and 5 meditations, there will be communion each day, and there will be plenty of good food, fellowship, singing (praise-type music) and fun.

There is no cost involved in attending a Cursillo weekend. If you want to find out more, or if you are interested in attending, please contact the church office or a Trinity member who has already attended Cursillo.





## 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

February 2: 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Luke 4:21-30

February 9: 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 138; Luke 5:1-11

February 16: 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-8; Psalm 1; Luke 6:17-26

February 23: 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11; Luke 6:27-38

March 2: Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; Luke 9:28-36



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

02/02 — Steven & Kathy Newlen

02/09 — Karyl Robinson

02/16 — Carol Haffter

02/23 — Barbara Morris



## Pastor's Paragraphs

Unless you've been living on a desert island, you know that there has been a lot of turmoil in the news lately. Writer Diana Butler Bass says that, at a recent meeting with a group of faith leaders, Rev. Traci Blackmon offered a reflection about hope and resilience in the midst of the current political confusion and uncertainty. "Every day," she said, "I look at a photograph from a house in Los Angeles. Although it was surrounded by complete devastation from the fires, with entire neighborhoods wiped out, this one house remained."



Focusing on this image strengthened her hope. The house — like the few others that survived — employed fire-resistant technologies and building techniques intended to do exactly what they did — not burn down in spite of the fire raging around it. One firefighter remarked, "This house was perfect; it was built for this. Not all homes are built like that."

This house was built to withstand a firestorm. It reminded Rev. Blackmon of Jesus' words in Matthew 7:24-27, "A wise man built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell — and great was its fall!"

For Jesus and for Rev. Blackmon, the house represents our life. Have we built it with the strength to endure the storms that life inevitably brings? Do we have a firm foundation that won't be washed away by a flood of bad news? Do we have a faith strong enough to endure the fires that threaten to burn everything down?

I pray that you will take steps now and in the days to come to strengthen your faith. If you build your life upon the solid rock of Christ, you will have the strength to withstand whatever storm may come your way — and maybe to shelter your neighbor, too. — *Pastor Kent*



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

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$ 24,230.76  
Regular offerings received to date: \$ 30,587.48  
Difference: + \$ 6,356.72

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

Scrip income received in 2025 \$ 0.00  
Century Club donations received in 2025: \$ 10.00



## Presiding Bishop Eaton's Pastoral Message on Executive Orders

January 24, 2025

Dear church,

On Monday, January 20, our nation witnessed the peaceful transfer of power central to our democracy, followed by sweeping actions by the incoming Trump administration. Facing such changes, we receive guidance through Martin Luther's words in the Large Catechism.

In the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer, where we pray "Give us this day our daily bread," Luther writes about the importance of praying for our leaders, asking God to grant them wisdom and strength. He also speaks to the responsibility of leaders to provide stability, sufficiency and equity, saying, "[I]t would be very proper to place in the coat-of-arms of every pious prince a loaf of bread instead of a lion, or a wreath of rue, or to stamp it upon the coin, to remind both them and their subjects that by their office we have protection and peace, and that without them we could not eat and retain our daily bread." (*The Book of Concord*, Kold and Wengert, eds., page 450.)

This past week has been one of rapid and cascading change, from the inauguration of a new president and vice president to the flurry of activity in government orders and regulations. The policies and decisions reflected in this week's executive orders and regulatory changes have the potential to profoundly impact our lives, the well-being of our neighbors and the future of the planet. Therefore, I am concerned about the ways that many of the executive actions have created uncertainty and fear in our communities among neighbors struggling to survive, neighbors struggling to provide for their children, and neighbors struggling to be seen.

As a church, we are called to speak up when the government distorts or denies the image of God in each person by endangering access to protection, peace and daily bread. Where harm or inequity occur, we are called by God to respond with love and advocacy.

Luther also writes that in asking for daily bread, we are to pray for our leaders. We should pray that they act wisely and justly, protect all people and not cause harm.

Prayer is not passive; it's an act of hope. Prayer reminds us to ground ourselves in God's promise. We pray for strength, to love unconditionally and to serve one another. As we lift up our petitions, we must also act—advocating for policies that affirm the dignity of every person and standing against actions that demean or exclude.

This church is committed to upholding the humanity of everyone, regardless of who we are or where we come from. We are a church called to love our neighbors and accompany all people in their joys and struggles. We must remain steadfast in this calling. As the ELCA, we will continue to proclaim the radical inclusivity of Christ's love. And we will deepen our local and global partnerships with those working to build a just and compassionate society, especially through our ecumenical and interreligious networks.

I commend to you the social message "Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy," which states on page 7: "To evaluate how well agencies of government are doing their proper work of providing for the safety and well-being of those within their borders and/or jurisdiction, Lutherans ask one simple but all-encompassing question: Is the neighbor being served?"

I encourage our congregations to use the resources of the ELCA Witness in Society Team with advocacy networks on the state and federal level. And get involved with AMMPARO, the ELCA's strategy toward just and humane policies affecting migrants.

As we move forward, let us hold fast to our faith and to one another. Let us be bold in our witness to the gospel, steadfast in our prayers for those in authority and tireless in our efforts to seek justice for all.

May God grant us courage, wisdom and peace in these days.

In Christ,  
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# Council Meeting Summary

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order on January 21 at 6:32 pm by Gary Goldberg. Members present: Peggy Fryc, Pastor Kent, Cherie Guillow, Larry Dodson, Sue Rogers, Gary Goldberg, Karyl Robinson, Brenda S. Lussier, Mike McMichael. Member absent: Wes Krashin.

**Pastor's Report:** See attached report. We have received a donation of two life-saving medical devices: an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and a device to help choking victims. We need to decide where to keep them and how to train people to use them properly.

**Treasurer's Report:** See attached report. Brenda S. Lussier presented the financial reports. Major highlight of the report are: All bills have been paid, we have \$321,306.83 in our savings account, and our net income for 2024 is \$70,376.96.

## Old Business:

- **Property Maintenance & gutter work:** We are presently in negotiations with Dan's Roofing regarding the damage on the sanctuary roof. They do not have insurance to cover their warranty.
- **Website Update:** We are currently waiting for a proposal from a company that specializes in websites for churches.
- **Deacon Call Committee:** Gary Goldberg has agreed to chair this committee. We would like two representatives from council and two from the congregation. Brenda will meet with the synod's Candidacy Committee on Thursday, January 30, for the approval interview needed to become a deacon. Pastor Kent made a motion to have Karyl Robinson and Peggy Fryc represent the council and Gary Goldberg and Beth Houlihan represent the congregation.

## New Business:

### Annual Meeting Nominees for Elections:

Three people are going off of council. Those going off are Gary Goldberg, Wes Krashin and Mike McMichael.

- **Slate of candidates for council are:** Gil Heth, Kelly Krashin, Shawn Lowell. Karyl

Robinson has agreed to serve another term.

- **Slate of candidates for Audit Committee:** Nancy Willis is going off and Helga Stafford has agreed to take on her position.
- **Slate of candidates for Endowment committee:** Carolyn Bolz and John Collins are willing to serve a second term, and there is one more opening.
- **Slate of candidates for Scholarship Committee:** All are willing to continue on this committee: Peg Bradley, Karen Clarke and Gretta Merwin.

Karyl Robinson made a motion to accept these slates of candidates for the above positions. Peggy Fryc seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Pacifica Synod Assembly:** It will be held in Dana Point, May 16 to 17. We are allowed to send one man and one woman. We will take nominations from the floor at the annual meeting.

**Other Annual Meeting Details:** The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary on January 26 immediately after the 9:30 service. We need at least 50 members to attend. Karyl will be in charge of the sign-in sheet. Following the meeting we will have a baked potato lunch in Heinecken Hall.

**Social Concerns Report:** In December we received a \$1,000.00 grant from the Pacifica Synod for our blessing bags.

**Adjournment and Closing Prayer:** Pastor closed with a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.



# Church Council Meeting

## February Birthdays

[4] Scott Taylor, Steve Newlen; [11] Jeanne Fitzgerald, Ruta Raterman; [16] Addison Garcia; [19] Kathy Newlen; [23] Julie Root-Almond; [26] Helen Ramos; [27] Amanda Pitts.

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

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





## It Takes a Village

We deeply appreciate the many volunteers who help with our church's ministries. This month we want to highlight the members of Trinity who help with our BAT meals, led by Brenda S. Lussier.

Frequent Monday dinner helpers include Kerri Henderson, Stacy Wheeler, Mary Jane Thompson, Dennis Kringer, Brenda M. Lussier, Theresa Husted, and Peggy Fryc. Mary Kantola and Larry Dodson have also filled in when needed, and Kim Root-George often donates food items she has found on sale.

Current Saturday breakfast volunteers include Brenda M. Lussier, Peggy Fryc and Dennis Kringer.

Volunteers for the Thursday shower program include Kerri Henderson, Theresa Husted & Brenda M. Lussier.

In addition to these Trinity members, there are many other volunteers from other churches and the community who provide great support. Thank you all!

## Spice Drive Results

Thank you for your donations of spices and cooking oil during the month of January! We received a total of 1,038 containers of spices and seasonings, plus 100 bottles of cooking oil.

These items will be distributed along with boxes of food by our food pantry to help struggling families and individuals prepare nutritious and tasty meals.

## 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 Services



Several Riverside churches take turns hosting a Taizé service on the second 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, February 10, it will be held at:  
Madison Street Church  
3991 Madison Street

On Monday, March 10, it will be held at:  
All Saints Episcopal Church  
3847 Terracina Drive

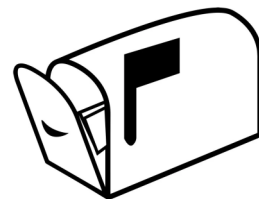
The services are often available to view online, too. For more info, visit [facebook.com/taizeriverside](https://facebook.com/taizeriverside) or contact Sandra Soares at [fccucc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fccucc@sbcglobal.net).

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

## New Mailing Address for Michael & Karen Myers

After selling their home, Michael and Karen are staying temporarily with one of his sisters. Mail can be sent to:

Michael & Karen Myers  
59655 Hop Patch Spring Road  
Mountain Center, CA 92561



## Quilting Bee



Trinity's Quilting Bee meets on the first and third Saturday of each month from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Cooper-Burkhart Annex. 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.

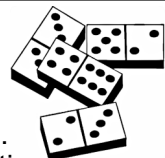
They are also in need of used sheets, curtains, and other large pieces of fabric to use for quilt backs.



Get together for fellowship and fun over a game of bunco on the second Saturday of each month at 3 pm in Cooper-Burkhart House. Contact Sue Rogers for more information.

## 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.



## 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.



## Daily Devotions Available

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>Director of 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>