



# 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 28, Issue 1, January 2025



## Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 26

This year's annual meeting of the congregation will be held in our sanctuary starting about 10:30 am, shortly after our 9:30 worship service ends (we will have one combined service on this Sunday). You can attend the meeting in person or watch it online.

The meeting will include a presentation of our annual report and proposed budget, and elections of new council members and other leaders.

If you are a ministry leader, please prepare a report on your ministry so that we can include it in the annual report of our congregation. Please send those reports to the church office by Friday, January 17.

If you are interested in serving on our church council or another committee, or would like to nominate someone else, please contact Gary Goldberg, Mike McMichael, or Pastor Kent.

After the meeting, we will have a baked potato lunch in Heinecken Hall. Be sure to attend worship on January 26 and stay for this important meeting!

## Missionary Support

Help support our missionaries in Japan! Rev. Hitoshi and Satoko Adachi are serving Japanese and English-speaking congregations in Kumamoto, Japan. Consider donating \$25/week for one or more weeks to help us reach our annual goal of \$1,300 in support for these ELCA missionaries. When you make your donation to Trinity, please write "Missionary Support" on the memo line of your check or offering envelope.

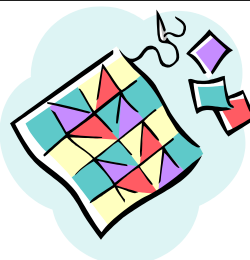
*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."*

*Matthew 28:19*



## Spices Wanted!

This month we are collecting donations for our food pantry of salt, pepper, garlic salt, garlic powder, onion powder, chili powder, oregano, chicken flavor bouillon, and cooking oil (33 oz. or smaller, please). These popular ingredients will be distributed by our food pantry to help families in need prepare nutritious and flavorful meals.



## Quilting Bee

Trinity's Quilting Bee begins meeting again on January 4. They will "bee" meeting on the first and third Saturday of each month from 9:00 am to 12 pm in Cooper-Burkhart

House. You are invited to come and join them! There are many different tasks involved in quilt-making, and you don't even need to know how to sew. Contact Kelly Krashin for more information. They are also in need of used sheets, curtains, and large pieces of fabric to use for quilt backs.

## The Season of Epiphany

The Season of Epiphany begins on January 6 and runs until Ash Wednesday. The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "revealing." During this church season, we focus on how God's light, hope, and love are revealed through Jesus.

On the Sunday closest to January 6, we read the story of the wise men who traveled a long way to honor Jesus. These Gentiles (non-Jews) represent the people from many nations who would one day worship Jesus as Savior and Lord. The next Sunday features the story of Jesus' baptism and how that event reveals him as the Messiah. On the final Sunday in the Epiphany season we remember the Transfiguration, when Jesus began to shine with heavenly glory, and Moses and Elijah appeared with him.





Our two Christmas concerts in December were beautiful and inspiring! The concerts featured the Trinity Choir with a chamber orchestra conducted by Dr. Glenn Pickett. Guest singer Traivon Williams also performed.



Soloist Courtney Caldera sings as Luke Hamilton conducts.



Christmas tree with Chrismon ornaments.



Our Christmas Eve services began with the handbell choir playing a delightful medley of Christmas carols.



## 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

January 5: Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Matthew 2:1-12

January 12: Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 19: 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; John 2:1-11

January 26: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; Luke 4:14-21

February 2: 4th Sunday after Epiphany

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



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

01/05 — Julieta Santos

01/12 — Helen Ramos &

Ralph & Brandon Perez

01/19 — *Donor Needed*

01/26 — Dennis Kringer



## Pastor's Paragraphs

We have just finished another busy and fulfilling Christmas season here at Trinity, filled with music and candles and special times of worship and fellowship.

Christmas is often described as a season of giving, and it's true. It's about God's gift to us of a savior born in a stable. It's about the gifts we give each other to show our love and appreciation. And it's about the gifts we give to those who are less fortunate, so that they, too, can experience the joy and wonder of the season.

In this spirit of giving, each year our Social Concerns Committee sets up a "Tree of Giving" at our church. It's covered with tags that we invite our church members to take, with instructions to purchase an appropriate toy for a child and bring it back to church. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we were able to provide about 150 toys for children in foster care homes through an organization we work with called Faith in Motion. The leader of that organization was delighted when I told her we would provide toys for these children.

We used to distribute the toys our members donated for the Tree of Giving through the Lutheran Social Services office in Riverside, but this year they contacted us the week before Christmas and asked if we would be willing to distribute 100 toys they purchased with a special donation they had just received. Kelly Krashin agreed to help distribute the 100 toys from LSS to the families that come to the Hope Food Pantry at our church. She also purchased 50 additional toys using money in our Social Concerns fund, plus 50 more toys that came from our Tree of Giving donations.

All told, our congregation distributed about 350 toys to struggling families in Riverside so that their children would each receive a Christmas gift. That's far more toys than we have distributed in previous years! I'm telling you this story because it 1) demonstrates the generosity of our church members, 2) it's an example of the ways we work with local organizations to provide support for struggling families and individuals, 3) it shows that these organizations appreciate what our church does to help others and consider us a good partner in that task.

Thank you for showing your love for Christ by helping to provide these gifts! And remember Jesus' words: "As you did it to the least of these, you did it to me." (Matt. 25:40)

— *Pastor Kent*

P.S. I also want to thank you for the generous financial gift that was given to me on Christmas Eve! Trinity is an amazing congregation, and I'm blessed to be your pastor.



## Stewardship Report

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

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$ 284,000.00

Regular offerings received to date: \$ 310,310.73

Difference: + \$ 26,310.73

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

Scrip income received in 2024: \$ 815.00

Century Club donations received in 2024: \$ 1,360.00

# Living Lutheran

## The *Living Lutheran* magazine print edition is returning soon!

After moving to an online-only format a year ago as a cost-saving measure, *Living Lutheran* magazine has decided to bring back the magazine's printed edition in a quarterly fashion. Each issue (spring, summer, fall and winter) will feature the stories you know and love, along with updates on the church and your ELCA community. The cost for one year will be \$19.95 for an individual subscription and \$17 per year for a congregational group subscription. We expect to receive instructions this month on how to sign up for a group subscription. Watch for that information in next month's *Trinity Topics* newsletter!

If you prefer, you can sign up now for an individual subscription at [livinglutheran.org/subscribe](http://livinglutheran.org/subscribe). You will be invoiced for your individual subscription before March 2025, when the first new printed issue is scheduled to be mailed. If your subscription had not lapsed at the end of 2023, you will receive a renewal notice when your subscription expires. If you have questions, please contact the magazine's office at [livinglutheran@elca.org](mailto:livinglutheran@elca.org) or call 800-638-3522.

## Subscribe to *Gather* magazine for just \$9.95

*Gather* is the magazine of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It offers guidance to help you live and experience your faith every day. With a special discount for new subscribers, you can get a whole year of *Gather* (6 issues) for just \$9.95 — that's \$10 off the regular subscription rate! Go online to <https://www.gathermagazine.org/subscribe/> and click on the link to the introductory offer. This offer is good for U.S. mailing addresses only.

*Gather* is published 6 times a year. Digital access is free to print subscribers. In addition to a regular Bible study, the magazine offers a mix of faith-in-life articles, theological reflections, devotions and stories that speak to the hearts and souls of Christian women. *Gather* connects Christian women of all ages with like-minded others who are committed to growing in faith and building the kingdom of God — next door and around the globe.



**Diana Golbaf** (71) passed away on November 29, 2024. A memorial service for her was held at Trinity on December 21. She is survived by her daughter, Shayna, her son, Kamron, and other relatives.

In  
Sympathy



**Johnnie Corina, Jr.** (81), entered eternal life on December 7, 2024. His funeral service was held at Trinity on December 28. He is survived by his wife, Jackie, their 6 children, 17 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and other relatives.

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

## Tree of Giving Report

Thanks to many generous donations, we were able to give about 150 toys to the Faith in Motion Christmas program for children in foster care, and 200 toys to the parents who come to the Hope Food Pantry. They were all very happy to receive the toys. Of the toys distributed through the food pantry, 100 came from Lutheran Social Services, 50 from the Tree of Giving, and an additional 50 that were purchased with funds in the Social Concerns savings account.



Thank you so much for your support of this project, which helped to provide Christmas gifts for 350 children!

## PIG Project Report

Each November, we ask people in our church to bring in the loose change they have saved in their piggy bank or other container in the previous 12 months.



Each year, it's surprising to see how much money we collect through this simple practice of saving and giving. This year, the donations totaled **\$848.88**. This money will be used to help purchase food to distribute through the Hope Food Pantry at Trinity.

Inspired by the blue piggy banks that Thrivent Financial distributed for several years, Michael Myers came up with the idea of this annual PIG offering, with PIG standing for **People In need of Groceries**. Thank you, Michael, for starting this Trinity tradition! If you would like a blue piggy bank, contact the church office.

# Council Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order by Gary Goldberg at 6:34 pm on December 17, 2024. Members present: Larry Dodson, Gary Goldberg, Cherie Guillow, Wes Krashin, Brenda S. Lussier, Karyl Robinson, and Pastor Kent. Members absent: Mike McMichael, Sue Rogers, Peggy Fryc.

## Pastor's Report

- Christmas Concerts: They were well attended, with many positive comments. We covered the cost through donations received and using some music funds in savings.
- Bathrooms: Kim Root-George, Miranda George, Mary Kantola and Brenda M. Lussier have been updating the restrooms in Heinecken Hall by removing old wallpaper, thoroughly cleaning and repainting the women's room. Case Bennett handled major plumbing repairs in the men's room and repainted the walls in that restroom.
- Bell Tower Carillon: A new digital carillon has been ordered and should arrive soon.
- Copier: Our new copy machine arrived last week. It works better than the old one and it costs less, too.
- Annual Meeting: This meeting will be on Sunday January 26, 2025. There will be one worship service at 9:30 am, followed by the meeting and then a baked potato lunch.

## Treasurer's Report

All bills have been paid and financial records for November have been reconciled. Our finances are in good shape and Brenda is working on the budget proposal for 2025.

## Old Business

- Budget for 2025: Brenda presented a preliminary budget proposal. To balance the budget, we will carry over \$24,000 in income from 2024. Brenda will have the final budget done by the first of the year. The council will meet on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm to go over the final budget and salary proposal.
- Property Maintenance: After attempting to get a response from Dan's Roofing to the suit filed against them regarding the condition of the sanctuary roof, they are now officially in default. Gary Goldberg will prepare the default package to present to the judge.
- Sanctuary Lighting: This proposal to install additional lighting is included in the budget that will be presented to the congregation for a vote.
- Website Update: We are now investigating different prospects.

- Deacon Call Committee: Brenda S. Lussier will be available for a call early in 2025. We need two people from the congregation and two people from council to serve on a call committee. Gary Goldberg is going off the council in January, and he has agreed to head this committee as a congregation member. Karyl Robinson has agreed to be on the committee as a council member. We will recruit the other two more committee members once the new council has been elected.

## New Business

- Endowment Committee Recommendations: This committee had \$2,500 remaining to allocate in 2024. The council approved their recommendation to donate \$1,000 to the ELCA Fund for Leaders Federal Chaplaincy Scholarships, \$1,000 to Family Promise of Riverside, and \$500 to Shower of Hope. The Endowment Committee will be able to allocate at total of \$6,300 in 2025. From that amount, they proposed \$1,000 for Trinity's Day Camp, and \$1,300 for support of our second missionary. The council voted to approve these recommendations for 2025. The Endowment Committee also suggested that we start more small group ministries, i.e. Bible studies for men and for women, etc.
- Annual Meeting: We will have a freewill offering to cover the cost of the meal, and the council approved giving any income in excess of lunch expenses to the Quilting Bee so that they can purchase the batting needed to make quilts.

## Committee Reports

- The Social Concerns Committee shared a calendar of the projects they have planned for 2025.
- Pastor Kent applied for a Global Mission Grant from the Pacifica Synod to help our missionaries in Japan, and it was approved in the amount of \$2,000. This grant will be used to purchase Bibles and Christian education materials.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm. The next council meetings will be at 12:30 pm on Sunday, January 12, to finalize the budget proposal, and at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 21, for its regular monthly meeting via Zoom.



## January Birthdays

[4] Darren McMichael, Lily Stager; [7] Marilyn Dodson; [9] Mary Nouritabar, Julie Pickett; [10] Kelly Cole; [12] Kelly Krashin; [16] Pastor Kent Tuohino; [19] Elizabeth Lossing; [25] Pete Lussier, Andy Perkins; [29] Marge Bitetti, Debbie Bracey, Michael Myers; [31] Karyl Robinson.

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







## Wedding of Neón Garcia & Kimberly Gonzalez

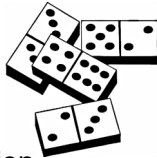
Many people in our church will remember Neón Garcia, one of the three teenagers Christina Reza took into her home in 2018. Although he was born in the U.S.,

Neón decided to return to Tijuana, Mexico, after graduating from Rubidoux High School in 2020.

Christina, who now lives in Virginia, shared the news that Neón married Kimberly Gonzalez in a civil ceremony on December 18, 2024, in Tijuana. May God bless them with a long and happy marriage!

## 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 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, January 13, it will be held at:  
Eden Lutheran Church  
4725 Brockton Avenue

On Monday, February 10, it will be held at:  
Madison Street Church  
3991 Madison Street

The services are usually available to view online. 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)*

## Join the Choir!

The Trinity Choir will resume weekly rehearsals on Wednesday, January 15, at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. New singers are welcome to join the choir! The choir generally sings at our worship services twice a month.



## Volunteers Needed

Michael and Karen Myers have announced that they have sold their home and will be moving back East soon. Since they will no longer be able to serve in the ministry roles we have relied on them for, we hope that several volunteers will step up to help with:

- Counting offerings
- Folding the monthly newsletter
- Cooking and serving the BAT Saturday breakfast
- Handling scrip orders

If you are willing and able to help with any of these, please contact our church office.



Bunco is a fun game played with dice. Get together for fellowship and friendship over a game of bunco on Saturday, January 11, starting at 3:00 pm in Cooper-Burkhart House. Contact Sue Rogers 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**  
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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>