



Trinity Topics

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



MARCH

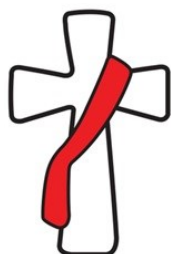
Trinity Lutheran Church
Since 1893
Kent Tuohino, Pastor
Volume 28, Issue 3, March 2025



Ash Wednesday & Lenten Services

The season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5. We will have a service at 7:00 pm that day, which will include the imposition of ashes and holy communion. The members of Eden Lutheran Church will join us for that service. Our Lenten theme this year will focus on Peter's journey as a disciple of Jesus, and the lessons Peter has to teach us as followers of Christ today.

Wednesday Lenten soup suppers will begin on March 12 at 5:45 pm. Volunteers are needed to sign up to bring soup or help with clean-up.



Deacon Suggestions

Trinity's deacon call committee is preparing a job description for the proposed deacon position. If you have ideas or suggestions for the committee to consider, please submit them in writing or by email to the church office by Sunday, March 16. Contact the committee chair,

Gary Goldberg, with any questions.



There will be a 2-session class on March 9 & 16 for anyone interested in becoming a member of our church. Both Sunday class sessions will begin at noon with lunch in the fellowship hall. Please let

Pastor Kent or the church office know if you plan to attend. We plan to welcome our new members on Sunday, March 26.

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

The annual CROP walk to raise money to fight hunger will be held in Riverside on **Sunday, March 23**, starting at 1:30 pm. The 2-mile walk will begin and end at First United Methodist Church, located at 4845 Brockton Avenue, with a turnaround at Trinity.

All funds raised will go to Church World Service and local food programs, including our BAT meals. Pick up a donation envelope if you'd like to participate. Contact Helga Stafford for more information. When you support the CROP Walk, you provide life-saving support that will help feed struggling individuals and families in Riverside and around the world.

Lenten Food Drive



Our Lenten food drive is underway! A list of suggested items to donate is printed below. Please bring your donations to the church anytime from now through Easter Sunday. The food and other items will be divided between Lutheran Social Services, our food pantry and blessing bags. Thank you!

- Rice, pasta, dry beans
- Instant potatoes
- Tomato sauce
- Canned pasta sauce
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Canned meat, tuna, spam
- Juice drinks
- Canned meals: ravioli, spaghetti, soup or chili
- Powdered milk
- Cereal, oatmeal
- Crackers
- Flour
- Sugar
- Spices
- Jello
- Cake & pudding mixes
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Dishwashing soap

Note: Please buy cans with pull tabs if possible, and avoid any glass containers



Jeanne Anne Fitzgerald celebrated her 102nd birthday on February 11. Her family served cake after worship on February 23. They also announced the birth of her first great-grandchild on February 19!



On Feb. 25, volunteers removed the old window blinds in Heinecken Hall and opened up the view of the courtyard.



Thank you for your donations of food for the annual Souper Bowl of Caring on February 9! We collected a total of 1,730 food items, which will be distributed through our food pantry and blessing bags.

Are You Ready for the CROP Walk?

Are you ready for the CROP Walk?
It's time again, you see.
And we are as excited
As we can be.

We'll walk from First Methodist
A mile to Trinity,
Then we'll all turn around.
(Yes, this is so easy!)

When we each arrive back,
We will rest for a while,
Eat a couple cookies,
And, of course, we will smile.

After that, we will give
An extra loud cheer
And we'll promise to return
To the CROP Walk next year!

By Carolyn Bolz



Rummage Sale Donations Wanted

It's time to do some spring cleaning, clean out your closets, and bring your unneeded items to church for our rummage sale! This year's rummage sale will be held in the church parking lot on Saturday, April 26, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Donations can be placed on the stage in Heinecken Hall. We can pick up donations, if needed. However, we are not accepting electronics, books, or furniture for this rummage sale.

Kelly Krashin will start pricing items in the afternoons, starting on Monday, April 21 at 1:00 pm, and will need help with that. Pricing will be done in Cooper-Burkhart House. We will also need helpers on the day of the rummage sale. Contact Kelly with any questions.

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

March 2: Transfiguration of Our Lord
Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; Luke 9:28-36

March 9: First Sunday in Lent
Romans 10:8b-13; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Luke 4:1-13

March 16: Second Sunday in Lent
Philippians 3:17 – 4:1; Psalm 27; Luke 13:31-35

March 23: Third Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; Luke 13:1-9

March 30: Fourth Sunday in Lent
2 Cor. 5:16-21; Psalm 32; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



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

3/02 George Family
3/09 Donor needed
3/16 Doris Haddy/Jackie Corina
3/23 Case & Cindy Bennett
3/30 Jackie Corina



Pastor's Paragraphs

The season of Lent began as a time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. During this time, the early Church focused on teaching new converts the basics of the Christian faith in preparation for their baptism on Easter.

That tradition of Lent as a time for learning and growing in our faith lives on in our modern practices of mid-week Lenten services, soup and bread suppers, devotional readings and Bible study. Like our ancestors in faith, we seek to grow as followers of Christ.

This year, our Lenten services will focus on one particular follower of Christ — Simon Peter. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we can often see a reflection of ourselves. By following Peter's journey of faith week by week during Lent, we will see the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal person trying to figure it all out — just like us.

Peter's wandering journey of discipleship can help us find our way on our own journey of faith. In his story, we'll see that faith is a constant journey, one that ebbs and flows, seeks and wanders. Even though he stumbles at times, Peter keeps on going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he jumps in the water and swims to shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, in spite of his missteps and mistakes.

Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart, but he is always tethered to the love of God. Jesus is near him at each step of the way — offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him forgiveness and love.

In Peter's story we are reminded that God loves imperfect people — in fact, time and time again, that's precisely the kind of people God calls to do God's work.

At our mid-week services and suppers during Lent, we'll wander along with Peter. We'll see what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by walking in his shoes. Pastor Stephanie Lape from Eden and Deacon Brenda Lussier from Trinity will alternate with me in delivering each week's message. We hope that you will join us on this journey of faith.

In Christ,
Pastor Kent

TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/25 through 2/28/25)

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$ 48,461.52
Regular offerings received to date: \$ 55,864.96
Difference: + \$ 7,403.44

Your faithful giving is helping us reach our goal!

Scrip income received in 2024: \$ 838.05
Century Club donations received in 2024: \$ 20.00



Banquets at Trinity: More Than a Meal

By Brenda S. Lussier

Banquets at Trinity (BAT) has been operating in our community for over a decade. Launched in November 2013, BAT was created with a powerful mission: to provide a nourishing meal in a supportive and safe environment for anyone in need. Today, we continue to serve with love and compassion, welcoming our neighbors — whether unhoused, seniors, or local families — into a space where they are seen, valued, and cared for.

BAT has grown over the years, offering meals three times a week: Monday Dinner at 5:00 PM, Saturday Breakfast at 8:00 AM, and Thursday Lunch, in partnership with The Shower of Hope program. In 2024, our Monday and Saturday meals alone served 2,790 guests, while Thursday lunches added another 1,530 meals — demonstrating the deep and ongoing need for this ministry in our community. Beyond food, BAT is committed to offering dignity and support. When we launched The Shower of Hope in 2021, our goal was to provide showers, clean clothing, and pathways toward stability and self-sufficiency. Recently, we have seen the fruits of this labor growing in incredible ways. Six of our guests have successfully transitioned into stable housing in the last few months!

One story that I have been given permission to share is about a 63-year-old man who lost his home after being laid off 8 years ago. He says his journey started with a meal, then a shower, a haircut, and assistance in obtaining his birth certificate and identification after having it stolen while he was on the streets. Step by step, he worked through this long process and is now in his own home. Today, he lives in a one-bedroom apartment in downtown Riverside, the first home he has had in years. He still joins us for meals and has even helped others learn how to find housing, paying forward the kindness and support he received.

Our commitment to supporting our neighbors does not stop at housing. Through a network of volunteers, churches, and community partners, we help individuals furnish their new homes, ensuring they have the essentials to make their space their own. This work is only possible because of the dedication and generosity of volunteers and donors like you. Whether you serve meals, donate food, or offer financial support, you are part of this ministry. Together, we are not just feeding bodies — we are restoring hope, affirming dignity, and building a stronger, more compassionate community. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey of love and service!

Minister of Word and Service: Deacon

By Norma Cook Everist, professor emerita of church and ministry, Wartburg Theological Seminary

Jesus uses the word *diakoneo* about himself: “I am among you as one who serves” (Luke 22:27). Deacon! Servant! Through the crucified and risen Christ, we are called to be a missional, diaconal church with a prophetic voice to love with compassion, justice and boldness. In the ELCA, deacons — ministers of word and service — and pastors — ministers of word and sacrament — serve collaboratively, side by side.

Deacons respond to the unhealed hurts of the world. Diakonia is not an add-on, but essential to the life and work of the church. We see diaconal service in the Bible when Jesus washes the disciples’ feet. The towel is flexible and shaped by tired feet. The church needs to be flexible, adaptive and creative in calling deacons to care for changing needs in the world. Deacons respond to concrete situations of suffering, oppression and injustice. Their work is difficult, challenging, daring and life-giving.

From New Testament times through the centuries, deacons and deaconesses served on behalf of the church. Their place and authority grew and waned; most often they served among the marginalized. During the first century to the fourth, deacons had significant liturgical and administrative roles and served the poor. They were the eyes and ears of the early church, reporting needs to the bishop. Ignatius wrote that deacons were to be respected because they represented Jesus Christ. Things changed when Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire. Hierarchical structures diminished the diaconate, reducing their roles. Still, they were called to interpret and meet needs within church and society. In Geneva in the mid 1540s, the hospital couldn’t handle all the welfare needs in the city, primarily because of the many refugees who were seeking religious freedom. Impoverished foreigners were being expelled. A fund was established to help the refugees, administered by deacons.

In recent decades, churches have been rediscovering the role of the deacon, particularly the United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church, the global Anglican Community and the Lutheran World Federation. Deacons are helping the ELCA see how the church can be in service for the sake of the world. For example: Janine Johnson is deacon of rural Calvary Lutheran in Buffalo, Iowa, and urban Zion Lutheran in nearby Davenport, working with both to meet community food needs as the congregations grow in relationship with each other. Community people, in the midst of food insecurity, feel the church really cares about their whole lives. Terese TouVelle is another deacon who serves in Davenport, called by the synod to work with youth at an alternative high school. They grow food and then share it with pantries. Together, from two directions, these deacons and congregations bridge and create community in church and world. That’s diakonia. That’s where the energy is. Deacons stand side by side with pastors, in solidarity with the laity, seizing every opportunity for good news action in the world.

Council Meeting Summary

Call to Order: The meeting on Tuesday, February 18, was called to order at 6:05 pm by President Karyl Robinson. Members present: Peggy Fryc, Pastor Kent, Cherie Guillow, Larry Dodson, Sue Rogers, Karyl Robinson, Brenda S. Lussier, Shawn Lowell, Kelly Krashin, Steve Newlen, Gil Heth, Theresa Husted.

Opening Devotions: Since Pastor Kent had laryngitis, Brenda S. Lussier led devotions based upon Psalm 37. The emphasis was to be patient and kind.

Pastor's Report: Highlights of his report.

- Once a year the Pastor sends a congregational report to the ELCA, and he shared that report with the council.
- The first Tapestry retreat will be held on March 28-30. This retreat is for the LGBTQIA community and their allies.
- The results from the council's e-mail vote regarding accepting the settlement from Dan's Roofing was unanimous. Pastor Kent moved that we accept this settlement of \$5,000.00 and Brenda S. Lussier seconded. Motion carried.
- Pastor Kent moved to add Barb Beaver and Sarah Boese to the Deacon Call Committee. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: All financial reports are reconciled. For the month of January, giving was above projection and expenses were lower than projected.

Property Maintenance

- **Roofs & Gutters:** There is a leak in the roof above the narthex ceiling that needs repair. Now that the dispute with Dan's Roofing has been resolved, work on the sanctuary gutters can be scheduled.
- **Vertical Blind Replacement:** Kim Root-George is getting quotes to replace the blinds in Heineken Hall. The first quote was \$4,459.25. We currently have \$6,298.00 in the Century Club designated for this project. A motion to remove the old blinds for now and see how the windows look without them was approved.
- **Storage Shed:** Kelly Krashin asked to use the shed to store rummage sale items and quilts. We need to check with other committees that want to use this shed. A motion was approved to use the shed to store rummage sale items for the upcoming sale on April 26th sale, and to decide later the long-term use of the shed.

New Business

Strategic Planning Proposal: Glenn Pickett attended part of the meeting to ask for permission to form a committee on how to bring more young people into our church. A motion to create this committee and to have Glenn Pickett lead it was approved.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: Brenda S. Lussier closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Choir Concert

The Raincross Master Chorale's winter concert will take place at Calvary Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 2, at 4:00 pm. The program is entirely women composers, whose work covers a wide variety of styles and themes, from Clara Schumann to Joni Mitchell, and contemporaries Gwyneth Walker and Elaine Hagenberg. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$15, \$10 for seniors.



It Takes a Village

Each year, Trinity's Quilting Bee makes hundreds of quilts that are distributed around the world by Lutheran World Relief. In the past year, these people have helped make quilts: Jean Aubin, Barb Beaver, Sarah Boese, Marlene DeFrese, Cherie Guillow, Kelly Krashin, Wes Krashin, Sue McConnell, Karen Myers, Michael Myers, Karyl Robinson, Sue Rogers, Pat Sherman, and Jackie Letourneau-Wagner. We are grateful for each of these volunteers! To quote an old Shaker saying, they put their "hands to work and hearts to God."

March Birthdays

[1] Adam Garcia; [2] Peggy Bradley, Jon Brunka, Kaia Gundrum; [5] Sabine Goldberg; [8] Beverly Allert; [12] Doug Brown; [17] Jackie Corina; [19] Joanna Tuohino; [21] Peggy Fryc, Will George; [22] Sam Stager; [26] Sue Richards; [27] Mary Kantola; [28] Bev Trapp; [29] Gary Goldberg.

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



Congratulations!

The Fitzgerald family is happy to announce the birth of **Louis Mateo Fitzgerald-Hernandez**, born on February 19 to **Matthew Fitzgerald and Danae Hernandez Cortes**.



Louis is the first great-grandchild of Jeanne Anne Fitzgerald, who turned 102 on February 11. He is the first grandson of Ray and Mary Fitzgerald, and the nephew of Kevin Fitzgerald.

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.

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

On Monday, April 14, it will be held at:
First Congregational Church
3504 Mission Inn Avenue

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

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

First Retreat Weekend

Tapestry Retreat

March 2025
28th ~ 30th

*fearfully and
wonderfully made
psalm 139:13-14*



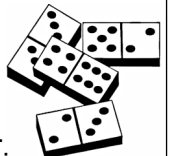
"Tapestry" is a new ministry of the Pacifica Synod for LGBTQIA+ people and allies. The first Tapestry retreat weekend will be March 28-30. Online registration is available at pacificasynod.org. Contact Pastor Kent, Deacon Brenda or Mackenzie Lussier for more information.



Get together for fellowship and fun over a game of bunco on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 3 pm in Cooper-Burkhart House. The next date is March 8. Contact Sue Rogers for details.

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

A NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RIVERSIDE, CA
PERMIT # 380

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

<p>TRINITY TOPICS is published monthly by: Trinity Lutheran Church, 5969 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506</p>
<p>Sunday Worship Schedule 9:30 am — Contemporary Service (in person and on YouTube) 9:30 am — Sunday School 11:00 am — Traditional Service Church Office Hours: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday-Friday Phone: (951) 682-1350 • Email: office@trinityriverside.org</p>
<p>Ministry Staff Kent Tuohino, <i>Pastor</i> • Karyl Robinson, <i>Congregational President</i> Glenn Pickett, <i>Director of Music Ministries</i> • Kathy Newlen, <i>Administrative Assistant</i> Rev. Hitoshi & Satoko Adachi, <i>ELCA Missionaries in Japan</i></p>
<p>Vision & Mission Statements 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. 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>KNOW, GROW, SERVE AND SHARE</p>