



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 5, May 2025

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting after the 9:30 am service on Sunday, May 4. (There will be only one service that Sunday.) The purpose of the meeting will be to vote on a recommendation by the council to call Deacon Brenda S. Lussier to serve as a diaconal minister for our church. Copies of the job description and proposed compensation are available in the church office.



Rummage Sale on May 31

The spring rummage sale has been rescheduled. It will be held in the church parking lot on **Saturday, May 31**, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. So, you still have time to clean out your closet or garage and bring your unneeded items to church for our rummage sale! 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 need help pricing items in the afternoons the week before the sale. We also need helpers on the day of the sale. Contact Kelly for details.



"Dietrich & Maria" Recording Project

In April we began raising money to make a professional recording of songs from the musical "Dietrich & Maria." Written by Trinity's Music Director, Dr. Glenn Pickett, and his friend David Goodman, this musical tells the inspiring story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor and theologian who was martyred for his outspoken opposition to Hitler and the Nazis.

"Dietrich & Maria" played to sell-out crowds when it premiered at the CBU Theatre in November of 2023. The purpose of this new recording is to help convince other theatre companies to stage this musical and spread its message of faith and courage. You can make a donation online through our church website, or by a check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church. We've already raised \$8,162 toward the fundraising goal of \$50,000.



Foster Youth Graduation Event

Riverside's annual Foster Youth Graduation Event will be held on June 12, 2025. This event honors the perseverance, achievements, and bright futures of youth in foster care as they graduate from high school and prepare for what's next. Each year, our church participates to remind these remarkable young people that they are seen, celebrated, and supported by a community that believes in them.

During the month of May we are collecting gift baskets, individual items, gift cards, and monetary donations to help create thoughtful, joy-filled baskets that remind these graduates they are not alone as they step boldly into adulthood. A flyer is on the back table of the sanctuary explaining the types of baskets and items needed. See Deacon Brenda if you have any questions.

FAITH in MOTION



A dedicated team of cooks prepared a delicious pancake breakfast on Easter Sunday! Shown from left to right are Ann Herring, Case Bennett, Gil Heth, Abraham Kosobucki, Mike McMichael, Ramon Corona and Mary Kantola.



Kids of all ages enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt on April 27!



On April 5, a new concrete walkway was poured next to the storage shed to help our food pantry move carts of food more easily.



Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Underwear Donations

Thank you for your donations in April of underwear to help the people who come to Trinity on Thursdays for showers! We received 252 pairs of underwear, \$170 in cash donations, and a Thrivent grant of \$250 to help purchase additional items. Your donations will be greatly appreciated by our shower program guests!



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

May 4: Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-8; Psalm 30; John 21:1-19

May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; John 10:22-30

May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Rev. 21:1-6; Psalm 148; John 13:31-35

May 25: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; John 14:23-29

June 1: Ascension of Our Lord

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; John 17:20-26



*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

5/4 Larry & Martha Dodson
5/11 Mickey Ouellet
5/18 Case & Cindy Bennett
5/25 Steve & Kathy Newlen



Pastor's Paragraphs

Jesus said to his first disciples, "Follow me." He calls each of us to follow him as well. What answering that call looks like will be different for each of us. Some of us are called to be teachers, nurses, mechanics or office workers. Many of us feel called to our responsibilities as a parent or grandparent, aunt or uncle. A few of us are called to serve as pastors or deacons.

In the Lutheran church, we believe that when a person feels called into ordained ministry, it's up to the church as a group to affirm that call. We believe that an individual's sense of call needs to be affirmed by others in the church to be valid. (Otherwise, what someone thinks is God's voice calling them may in fact be the voice of their own ego, or something worse.)

In the ELCA, that process of examination and affirmation of an individual's sense of call takes place in seminary, through interviews with a synod candidacy committee, approval by a bishop and, as a final step, the vote of a congregation to extend a formal call to a particular ministry. Each step in this process is accompanied by prayer, reading and journaling, and many earnest conversations with family, friends and pastors. It's often accompanied by a lot of second-guessing, self-doubt and anxiety as well!

I know this not only from my own experience, but also from conversations with many others like me. When I was a pastor in Arizona, I spent 10 years serving as a member of the synod candidacy committee, and our job was to meet with individual candidates for ministry to discuss their sense of call and guide them on their path of discernment and preparation for ordained ministry. I heard many moving stories of how God was at work in someone's life and what led them to consider becoming a pastor or a deacon. I occasionally had to have difficult conversations with someone we did not think had what it takes to be a good pastor or deacon.

On Sunday, May 4, our congregation will hold a meeting to vote on calling Brenda S. Lussier as a diaconal minister for our church. For Brenda, this is the culmination of several years of discernment, study, and practice. For our congregation, it's an opportunity to affirm her gifts for ministry and invite her to step into a new role in our church. However that vote goes, I'm thankful that our congregation has served as a place for her to develop her skills for ministry and discern her sense of call. And I hope that she will inspire others to think about how they might answer the call to follow Jesus.

— Pastor Kent



**Stewardship
Report**

TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/25 through 4/30/25)

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$102,980.73

Regular offerings received to date: \$108,385.53

Difference: + \$ 5,404.80

Your faithful giving is helping us reach our goal!

Scrip income received in 2025: \$ 69.61

Donations for "Dietrich & Maria" Recording Project: \$ 8,162.00

Altar Flowers

Do you ever wonder what happens to the altar flowers after our services? An Altar Guild member takes them out of the plastic inserts the Flower Club delivers them in. (Yes, that is a pitch for our wonderful florist!) Then we put them in vases for you to take home, give to someone, or donate somewhere. If you don't designate where they are going, or if no one has signed up to pay for the flowers that Sunday, the Altar Guild will give them to a member who might need a bit of cheer or has a special occasion, such as a birthday. Another favorite place to donate flowers is across the street at the Community Care and Rehab Center. The flowers bring much joy to many!

Please check the Altar Flower chart on the bulletin board outside the office. You can sign up for either one or both Sunday bouquets and specify the occasion or as a memorial.

If you would like to find out what else Altar Guild does, contact Sarah Boese or Mary Kantola.

In Sympathy



Longtime Trinity member **Harold "Wes" Krashin** entered eternal life on April 21. He was 73 years old. In lieu of a funeral service, his family is planning a private ceremony. Please pray for Wes's wife, Kelly, and his family as they mourn his death.

*"Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted."*

— Matthew 5:4 —

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)



Happy Mother's Day to All the Special Women in Our Lives

Mother's Day is for our moms
And our grandmothers too,
Plus stepmothers and mothers-in-law
For the loving things they do.

But how about our sisters,
Our friends, and other ladies who
Always want to help us
So that we can make it through?

All these women care for us
In their own special way.
And so, let's honor each of them
On this Mother's Day!

Carolyn Bolz

It Takes a Village

This month we are recognizing all of the volunteers, led by Larry Dodson, who help with our food pantry ministry. Each week, the pantry distributes food to more than 120 households!



Mike Alfred
Barb Beaver
Marge Bitetti
Kathy Bocian
Sarah Boese
Peg Bradley
Bill Brethauer
Larry Dodson
Tammy Durham
Cherie Guillow
Sabine Goldberg

Shawn Lowell
Brenda M. Lussier
Brenda S. Lussier
Becky Nelson
Judy Okamura
Elizabeth Ortiz
Mickey Ouellet
Sue Richards
Ana Sapon
Steve & Peggi Taken
Justin Torregano

May Birthdays

[1] Ann Herring; [4] Patricia Bayne; [7] Sheryl Heth; [8] Lou Pfeifle; [9] Lynn Baggett, Glenn Pickett; [11] Gretta Merwin; [14] Danielle George, Miranda George, Seth McKeehan; [26] Mo Nekoonam; [30] Rande George; [31] Abby Brunka, Christopher Gallego, Brandon Medvec, Mark Ramos, Juliette Rodriguez.

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



"It's funny: I always imagined when I was a kid that adults had some kind of inner toolbox full of shiny tools: the saw of discernment, the hammer of wisdom, the sandpaper of patience. But then when I grew up I found that life handed you these rusty bent old tools — friendships, prayer, conscience, honesty — and said 'do the best you can with these, they will have to do.' And mostly, against all odds, they do."

— Anne Lamott, from *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*

Council Meeting Summary

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm on Tuesday, April 15, by Karyl Robinson. Members present: Karyl Robinson, Larry Dodson, Peggy Fryc, Gil Geth, Theresa Husted, Brenda S. Lussier, Pastor Kent, Shawn Lowell and Sue Rogers. Steve Newlen joined near the end of the meeting. Absent: Kelly Krashin.

Pastor's Report:

Lutheran Social Services is selling their building on Indiana Avenue and may not have a Riverside location after that. First Christian Church is closing their preschool on June 6th. They are hoping another group will rent the space and run a preschool. The Tapestry Retreat was a success and a second one has been scheduled in September. Glenn and Julie Pickett are leaving on a 2-week trip to Ireland on April 21. Nicolette Rohr will represent the synod bishop at our congregational meeting on May 4th.

Treasurer's Report:

- Brenda requested authorization to open a second checking account with Altura Credit Union for the church. It will be linked to a debit card that can be used to pay for church-related needs such as janitorial supplies, office supplies, and other approved purchases. Motion approved.
- Brenda also requested authorization to open a business account with a credit card for Lowes. This will be used to purchase items for property maintenance needs. Motion approved.

Old Business Items:

- Congregational Meeting on May 4th – If the proposed deacon call is approved, the official start date would be May 11th. See the proposed "Definition of Compensation and Benefits" document,

which includes the basic amounts required by the synod. This will need to be added to the budget. Copies of this document will be distributed to the congregation on Sunday, April 27. (It will also need to be approved by Bishop Dave Nagler prior to the congregational meeting.)

Property Maintenance –

- Universal Builders has given us a quote of \$14,550 to replace the gutters and fascia boards on the sanctuary. This spending was approved at the congregational meeting on April 21, 2024.
- We've received a bid of \$16,780.00 to recoat the Sanctuary roof. This spending would need to be approved by the congregation.
- Case Bennett is repairing the parking lot lights and the lights in our church sign.
- The lights illuminating the bell tower also need to be replaced; Gil will purchase LED floodlights.
- The sanctuary lighting project is still in process, pending payment for some items.

New Business:

- Council Retreat on May 4th. There will be one service at 9:30 am, followed by the congregational meeting. After that meeting, the council will meet at the church for a planning retreat from 12 to 4 pm. Items for discussion include:
 - Whether to continue the Century Club.
 - The need to update our constitution and bylaws to bring them up to date with ELCA guidelines.
- The Rummage Sale will be rescheduled due to the illness of Kelly Krashin's husband, Wes.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: Pastor Kent closed the meeting with a prayer. The next regular Council meeting will be at 6:00 pm on May 20.

An Ancient Creed is Still Relevant — by ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

During spring and summer of the year 325, bishops from across the church gathered in Nicaea for the church's first ecumenical council. At 325 years, the church was still relatively young and fluid. There were many schools of thought about the nature of the Trinity and the three persons of the Trinity. Some taught that the God of the Old Testament is a different god than the God of the New Testament (Marcionism), that Jesus only appeared to be human (Docetism), that Jesus didn't have a human mind or soul but only a human body (Apollinarianism), that there are three modes of God (Modalism), that Jesus is not fully divine but is a created being (Arianism), and a whole host of others. Confusing.

The Trinity is a complex idea to start with, but putting 300 bishops with strongly held beliefs in a room was bound to cause conflict. One (apocryphal) story was that St. Nicholas punched out Arius, the author of Arianism. Our congregational meetings, synod assemblies and churchwide assemblies seem tame by comparison!

The hoped-for outcome was to have a unified understanding of the faith. The result was the Nicene Creed, used by churches around the world and across the centuries. This elegant statement of belief gives a clear exposition of who God is and how God chooses to be God for the sake of the world.

The Nicene Creed also places each one of us in a global — in fact, cosmic — context. "We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church." Sometimes it helps to look beyond ourselves and the here and now and get caught up in God's breathtaking vastness. We aren't alone. We are part of a great company of the faithful — past, present and future. This year marks the 1,700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea.

Save the Date!!

A Pentecost Concert
Presented by the Trinity Choir with orchestra



Pentecost Sunday, June 8th at 6 pm



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 the 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, May 12, it will be held at:
Trinity Lutheran Church
5969 Brockton Avenue

On Monday, June 9, it will be held at:
Madison Street Church
3991 Madison Street

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)

LRCC SUMMER CAMP 2025

WRAPPED IN MYSTERY

BASED ON MATTHEW 13:13

WE ASK, JESUS ANSWERS.

Day Camp at Trinity, July 14-18

Get ready for day camp at Trinity in July! Our day camp is for kids who will be entering K-6th grades this fall. This year's theme is "Wrapped in Mystery," based on Matthew 13:13. Each day of camp will focus on a different parable or story about Jesus.

Camp staff from LRCC will lead a week filled with games and music, Bible studies, crafts and more. Registration forms will be available soon.

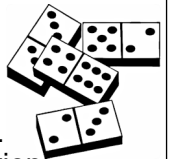
To learn more about the summer camp programs offered by Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences (LRCC), visit their website at lrcchome.com.



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 April 12. 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 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.

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TRINITY TOPICS is published monthly by: Trinity Lutheran Church, 5969 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506
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
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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: • 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. KNOW, GROW, SERVE AND SHARE