



# 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 6, June 2025

## No More Night

A Pentecost Concert  
Presented by the TLC Choir with orchestra



**Pentecost Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM**

Our annual concert celebrating Pentecost, when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church, is entitled "No More Night." Be sure to come, and bring your friends and family to experience this joyous presentation from our music ministry. This year's program will feature several of the TLC Choir's favorite choral pieces, the world premiere of a beautiful new choral anthem by Luke Hamilton, a performance by our handbell choir, and songs from the movie *Prince of Egypt*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. Our guest soloist will be Dominic Salvati, a national semi-finalist in the 2025 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. Don't miss this concert, a chance to celebrate the presence of God in us and in our church through God's gift of music, on Sunday evening, June 8, at 6:00 pm. Admission is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted!!

## Summer Worship Schedule



We will continue to have two Sunday services at 9:30 and 11:00 am during June. During the month of July, we will have one combined service at 9:30 am. We hope to have some special activities after worship during July. (How about a potluck brunch?) Watch for more details in next month's newsletter.

## Peanut Butter & Jelly Wanted



Our Social Concerns project for June is a peanut butter and jelly donation drive to help parents struggling to feed their children this summer. The peanut butter and jelly will be distributed by the Hope Food Pantry at Trinity. Watch for sales on large jars of peanut butter and jelly! Contact Kelly Krashin with any questions.



## Congregational Meeting

There will be a short congregational meeting between our two worship services on Sunday, June 22. The purpose of this meeting is to approve some needed property maintenance work for the parking lot and the sanctuary roof that was not included in this year's budget. A document with a description of the estimated costs will be available on Sunday, June 15.

## Deacon Ordination Service



Following the congregational vote in May to call her to serve our congregation, Deacon Brenda Lussier will be ordained at Trinity on Saturday, July 12, at 2:00 pm, with Pacifica Synod Bishop Dave Nagler presiding. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this special event in her life and in the life of our congregation!

## Our Church Calendar

You can find a calendar of events on our website. Go to [trinityriverside.org](http://trinityriverside.org) and click on the menu for the calendar. It will display a calendar for the current month. You can also check other months for upcoming or past events.

The online calendar is updated regularly, so check there when you want to find out what's going on at Trinity!





## RIC: Three Letters, Big Welcome

*An informational meeting on June 17 at 6:00 pm.*

Many ELCA congregations proclaim a message of welcome and acceptance by identifying as an RIC congregation. Find out what it means to be a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation by attending a one hour Zoom meeting on Tuesday, June 17, at 6:00 pm. Attendance is free. Register online using the link on the pacifica synod website, or type this address into your browser: <https://www.pacificasynod.org/ric-three-letters-big-welcome-curious/>.

### What is Reconciling in Christ (RIC)?

RIC is a journey of discernment and intentional welcome, supported by over 50 years of resources developed by ReconcilingWorks and its ecumenical partners. Through the "Building an Inclusive Church" toolkit, congregations explore how to become places where LGBTQIA+ people and others who have experienced exclusion are publicly welcomed and affirmed.

### Why consider becoming RIC?

The RIC journey deepens a congregation's faith, encourages meaningful dialogue, and strengthens relationships. A public welcome — on websites, signage, or in worship — reminds members of their shared values and signals to the wider community that all are truly included.

Do you think our church should join the growing list of RIC congregations? Attending this informational meeting will help you have an informed opinion.



## Rummage Sale Results

Our rummage sale on May 31 raised a total of \$975, which will be divided between Trinity's music program and the Quilting Bee. Thank you for your donations of household items and for all of the volunteers who made our rummage sale a success!



Deacon Brenda S. Lussier attended her graduation ceremony on May 24 at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley. Also present (left to right): Joanna Tuohino, Pastor Kent, Pete, Mackenzie & Brenda M. Lussier.



## Graduation Gift Baskets for Foster Youth

Riverside County's annual Foster Youth Graduation Event will be held on June 12. 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, along with others, provides gift baskets and gift cards to help celebrate their graduation.

After collecting donations in May, Deacon Brenda delivered 12 gift baskets from our congregation to the Riverside County Dept. of Public Social Services (DPSS) for the graduation event. Each basket contained items related to a theme. There were 5 dorm baskets, 3 movie baskets, 1 spa basket, 1 school basket, and 2 beach baskets. In addition, we received a total of \$1,890.00 in gift cards. She estimates the total value of the baskets and gift cards was approximately \$3,190. Thank you for your generous donations to send a message of encouragement to these graduates!

## 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

June 1: Ascension of Our Lord

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

June 8: Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-35; John 14:15-17, 25-27

June 15: Trinity Sunday

Romans 5:1-5; Psalm 8; John 16:12-15

June 22: Second Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:1-15; Psalm 22:19-28; Luke 8:26-39

June 29: Third Sunday after Pentecost

Galatians 3:23-29; Psalm 139:1-14; Luke 14:12-23



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

- 6/1: Pastor Kent & Valerie Tuohino
- 6/8: Brenda S. Lussier
- 6/15: Jay & Patie Farrand
- 6/22: Mary Kantola
- 6/29: Available



## Pastor's Paragraphs

Each year, members of the congregations of the Pacifica Synod gather together to be inspired, elect leaders, hear reports, and make decisions about the ministry we do together as part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This year's assembly was held May 16-17 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Dana Point. Nearly 250 people attended, including Trinity members Case and Cindy Bennett, Larry Dodson, Deacon Brenda Lussier, Mackenzie Lussier and me.

During his report, Bishop Dave Nagler delivered a stirring message inspired by the assembly theme, "In a New Boat." He recounted the story of an expedition to Antarctica in 1914 that was led by polar explorer Ernest Shackleton. After sailing their ship "Endurance" through 1,000 miles of pack ice, it became trapped in the ice. Shackleton and his crew of twenty-seven men were forced to abandon their original plan of exploring Antarctica. When their ship was finally crushed between two ice floes, they used a smaller boat from the ship to make a near-impossible journey over 850 miles of the South Atlantic's heaviest seas to the closest outpost of civilization. Miraculously, Shackleton and his crew all survived this ordeal.

With this story in mind, the bishop talked about the changes in churches and society that have put pressure on congregations. "We need to transition to smaller, more nimble watercraft," said Bishop Nagler, drawing a parallel between a large ship deadlocked in ice and "new boats" that can navigate choppy, uncertain waters. He said that the synod staff are planning workshops to help congregations think about what "new boats" they might need to use for ministry today.

During the business portion of the assembly, Larry Dodson, Deacon Brenda and Shawn Lowell were all elected to three-year terms on the synod council. A resolution on preventing gun violence that had been submitted by Shawn Lowell was approved by the assembly. And Trinity's former pastor, Rev. Brad Stienstra, was one of three pastors recognized for their 50 years of ordained ministry.

The annual synod assembly is an opportunity to learn about the ministry that other congregations are doing in our part of the country, and the work that the ELCA is doing across the nation. Each year I come back feeling inspired and refreshed, and grateful for the members of Trinity and the ministry we do together. I'm glad to be in the same boat with you!

— Pastor Kent

## TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/25 through 5/31/25)

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$127,211.49  
Regular offerings received to date: \$138,948.25  
Difference: + \$ 11,736.76

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

Scrip income received in 2025: \$ 120.27

Donations for "Dietrich & Maria" Recording Project: \$ 18,875.00



## Someone to Sit With

By Carolyn Bolz

Because of a rare neurological disorder, I use a walker to get around. It's hard for me to sit in a pew at church, so I always sit in one of the chairs at the very back of the sanctuary. Most of the time, I've been the only person sitting in that section, which would leave me feeling isolated from the rest of the congregation.

A few months ago, a lady named Judy Okamura said hello and took the chair beside me. "I'm an usher this week," she whispered, "so I'll sit back here in between my duties." Even though Judy was up and down during the service, it was really nice to have some company.

That afternoon, I texted Judy to thank her for her kindness. "It made me feel less alone," I told her. These days, Judy joins me in the back section of the church every Sunday morning. As soon as she sees me come in, she walks over to greet me with a big smile. I just love having someone to sit with. I feel so much more welcome and included in our church service now.

*(This article appeared in the June/July 2025 issue of Guideposts magazine. Reprinted here with permission from Guideposts.)*

## Watch 4th of July Fireworks at Eden Lutheran Church

Eden will open their church parking lot for viewing the fireworks on Mount Rubidoux. The parking lot will open at 5:00 pm. Eden members will provide water, iced tea and hot dogs. You are welcome to bring your own non-alcoholic beverages and food.

Please RSVP by Sunday, June 22, either by calling (951) 684-3336 or sending an email to [info@edenlutheran.org](mailto:info@edenlutheran.org). Please include your name, address, phone number, email address, church affiliation, and the number of vehicles and people expected in your party.

## Congratulations, Graduates!

- **Luke Hamilton** completed an Associate Degree in music at RCC and will continue his studies this fall at California Baptist University.
- **Ava Tedesco** graduated from Woodcrest Christian High School and will attend CSU San Marcos this fall.
- **Catalina Wall** graduated from Martin Luther King High School and plans to attend RCC this fall.



## Congratulations, Newleyweds!

Sara Andrin and Nick Trokel were married in New York City on May 31. Sara is the daughter of Michael and Karen Myers.



## Birth Announcement



Mark and Amanda Wheeler welcomed their second child into the world on May 15: **Eleanor Lillian Wheeler**. She is Stacy Wheeler's second granddaughter.

## It Takes a Village

This month we recognize our Altar Guild volunteers, who set up communion, change the seasonal paraments, and decorate the church for special days. Contact Sarah Boese or Mary Kantola if you'd like to help!



Sarah Boese  
Peggy Fryc  
Ann Herring  
Mary Kantola  
Abraham Kosobucki

Shawn Lowell  
Brenda M. Lussier  
Gretta Merwin  
Karyl Robinson

## Hospital Bed Available

Sarah Boese know someone with a hospital bed that they no longer need. They would like to give it to someone who needs one. If you know someone who could use it, contact Sarah.



## June Birthdays

[1] Marie Hinz; [6] Ashley Lowell-Munoz; [8] Disa DeFrese; [9] Phyllis Stumpf; [10] Kylie Gundrum, Brenda S. Lussier; [13] Rob Clark; [14] Bill Cole, [15] Catalina Wall; [16] Theresa Husted; [18] Chris Zamora; [19] Noah Gundrum; [20] Maralene Taylor; [24] Ben Stuart; [25] David Husted; [26] Robert Brooks; [27] Connie Fortier; [29] Beth Houlihan, Karen Myers; [30] Adrian Rohozhynsky

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



## Council Meeting Summary

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:13 pm by Karyl Robinson. Members present: Theresa Husted, Karyl Robinson, Cherie Guillow, Brenda S. Lussier, Pastor Kent, Kelly Krashin, Larry Dodson, Shawn Lowell, Gil Heth, Peggy Fryc, Steve Newlen, Sue Rogers.

**Pastor's Report:** At the Pacifica Synod Assembly, Brenda S. Lussier, Larry Dodson and Shawn Lowell were all elected to serve on the synod council. This is a three-year term. Brenda S. Lussier's ordination as Deacon will be at Trinity on Saturday, July 12, at 2:00 pm, with a reception in Heinecken Hall after the service.

**Treasurer's Report:** Our net income for the first quarter is \$30,073.02. Brenda S. Lussier made a motion to transfer \$3,000.00 from the Property Savings account to cover the cost of the sanctuary gutter replacement and \$4,450.00 to cover the cost of the new concrete walkway in the fenced area at the back of the church (for the Hope Pantry). Theresa Husted is willing to take over as Treasurer once Brenda S. Lussier is ordained in July.

### Old Business:

**Century Club:** The council voted to discontinue the annual Century Club fundraiser. The remaining funds in this account will be used to purchase new window blinds.

### Property Maintenance:

- **Sanctuary Roof & Gutters:** The gutters and fascia boards have been replaced at a cost of \$13,900.00. The roof needs to be coated with a sealant at a cost of \$16,780. We need to get congregational approval for the roof coating work.
- **Outside Lighting:** The parking lot lights have been replaced, and new lights to illuminate the bell tower have been installed.
- **Sanctuary Lighting Project:** We have received some of the needed parts. The remaining parts still need to be purchased.

- **Parking Lot Repairs & Recoating:** We need to coat the entire parking lot with sealant and replace asphalt in the bad sections. The estimated cost is \$24,260. We will need congregational approval for this. We have money in the Property Savings account for this, with an additional \$10,000 to \$15,000 coming from the reserve account in savings. We will have a short congregational meeting on June 22 between the two services to approve recoating the parking lot and the sanctuary roof.
- **Bathroom Accessibility:** Shawn Lowell has received three quotes for making the bathrooms in Heinecken Hall and next to the nursery meet ADA requirements. Action was tabled until next month's meeting.

### New Business:

- **Deacon Ordination Service** on Saturday, July 12, at 2:00 pm. Peggy Fryc will be in charge of planning the reception. Vons makes a vegan cake. Cherie Guillow and Theresa volunteered to help. They will talk to Mary Kantola about assisting with this project. The color scheme should be purple or lavender.
- **Summer Worship Schedule:** Approved having one Sunday service starting at 9:30 during the month of July. Christian Unity suggested having a potluck brunch after worship on a Sunday in July.
- **Pride Sunday:** This will be on June 29, with details still being planned.
- **RIC Webinar on June 17 at 6:00 pm:** Anyone interested in attending must register in advance. All council members are encouraged to attend this free one-hour Zoom meeting hosted by the Pacifica Synod (see page 2 of this month's newsletter for details). Due to this event, the next council meeting will be on Tuesday, June 24, at 6:00 pm.

## What's in Your Cup?

You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you or shakes your arm, making you spill your coffee everywhere. Why did you spill the coffee?

"Well because someone bumped into me, of course!"

Wrong answer. You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup.

Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea.

Whatever is inside the cup, that is what will spill out.

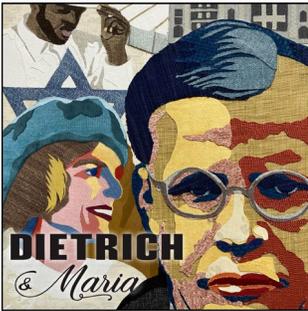
Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which WILL happen), whatever is inside you will come out. It's easy to fake it, until you get rattled.

So, we have to ask ourselves... "What's in my cup?" When life gets tough, what spills over?

Joy, gratefulness, peace and humility? Or anger, bitterness, harsh words and reactions? You get to choose! Fill your cup with gratitude, forgiveness, joy, words of affirmation; and kindness, gentleness and love for others.

*"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." – Galatians 5:22*





### “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,

the musical tells the inspiring story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor and theologian who was martyred for his 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. As of the end of May, we had raised \$18,875 toward the fundraising goal of \$50,000.

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](http://lrcchome.com).



### 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 2nd Saturday of the month at 3 pm in Cooper-Burkhart House. The next date is April 12. Contact Sue Rogers for details.

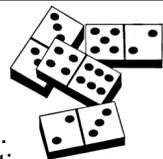
### Thanks for Keeping Tabs!



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

### 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.



### Taizé Services

Several churches in Riverside 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 meditative songs, inspiring readings, and prayerful silence.

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](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)

### 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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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> • Brenda S. Lussier, <i>Deacon</i> • Karyl Robinson, <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>