



Trinity Topics

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



JULY

&

August

Trinity Lutheran Church

Since 1893

Kent Tuohino, Pastor

Volume 28, Issue 7, July/August 2025

LRCC SUMMER CAMP 2025

WRAPPED IN MYSTERY

BASED ON MATTHEW 13:13

WE ASK, JESUS ANSWERS.

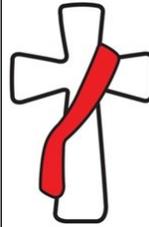
Day Camp at Trinity, July 14-18

It's almost time for day camp at Trinity! 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 are available from the church office and on our church website.

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

Deacon Ordination Service



Deacon Brenda Lussier will be ordained and officially installed as a deacon 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!

School Supplies Wanted



When schools resume in August, some families will need help providing their children with the supplies they need for learning. During the month of July we are asking for donations to help fill backpacks with school supplies. There are tags with the names of the items needed on a bulletin board in the narthex at church. Take a tag, then buy the item and bring it to church by Friday, July 25. We'll fill backpacks with the school supplies after worship on Sunday, July 27. Contact Kelly Krashin or the church office with any questions.

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 will have a potluck brunch after worship on Sunday, July 27. The 11:00 am service will resume on Sunday, August 3.



New Members Class

There will be a class on Sunday, July 20, for anyone interested in becoming a member of our church. It will begin after coffee and refreshments following worship that Sunday. Please let Pastor Kent or the church office know if you plan to attend. We plan to welcome this group of members on Sunday, July 27.

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another. (Hebrews 10:24-25)



The TLC Choir posed for a group photo after their concert on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, along with guest soloist Dominic Salvati.



Jeanne Anne Fitzgerald (102 yrs. old) shown holding her great-grandson, Louis Mateo Fitzgerald-Hernandez, who was born on February 19, 2025. Jeanne entered eternal life on June 11, 2025. A memorial service was held at Trinity on Sunday, June 22.



Thank you for your donations to help families feed their children this summer! Here are the total number of jars received in June for our Peanut Butter and Jelly donation drive.

- 182 jars of Peanut Butter 75 jars of Jelly
- 27 jars of Goobers (a mix of peanut butter & jelly)
- and 1 box of Lucky Charms

In addition, we received generous donations of peanut butter and jelly from the members of Eden Lutheran Church.



After the work was approved at the congregational meeting on June 22, workers coated the sanctuary roof with a silicone sealant to keep it waterproof and reflect the heat of the summer sun.

Asphalt repairs and coating of the parking lot will be done over 3 days: July 11, August 11 & 12.

Thank You

A heartfelt thank you for all the love and support our mother and grandmother, Jeanne Anne, received over the years. She joined Trinity when she retired and moved to California over 35 years ago to be near her children and grandchildren, and it became the most important focus of her life after her family. She appreciated being able to participate in the life of the church and more recently enjoyed the cards, poems & TLC she received when she had to quit driving and relied on us to attend church services and functions. We especially want to thank Pastor Kent and all those who provided such a beautiful memorial service and luncheon in her honor last month, as well as those who took the time to attend or watch the streamed version of the service. It meant so much to us and we appreciate your love, support and prayers. Thank you again,

The Fitzgerald Family

"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live."

John 11:25

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.



Sunday Bible Readings

July 6: 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Galatians 6:1-10; Psalm 66:1-9; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 13: 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Colossians 1:1-5, 9-14; Psalm 25:1-10; Luke 10:25-37

July 20: 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Colossians 1:15-22; Psalm 15; Luke 10:38-42

July 27: 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Colossians 2:6-15; Psalm 138; Luke 11:1-13

August 3: 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; Psalm 49:1-12; Luke 12:13-21

August 10: 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-12; Psalm 33:12-22; Luke 12:32-40

August 17: 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Psalm 82; Luke 12:49-56

August 24: 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 58:9b-12; Psalm 103:1-8; Luke 13:10-17

August 31: 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 19:17 & 25:6-7; Psalm 112; Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

Please consider signing up to donate the cost of the altar flowers for our Sunday services. The price is \$34 for one bouquet or \$68 for both (make checks payable to Trinity).

Upcoming Flower Donors

7/6: Case & Cindy Bennett
7/13: Carol Hafter & Brenda S. Lussier
7/20: David & Theresa Husted
7/27: Dorie Haddy
8/3: *Donor Needed*
8/10: Case & Cindy Bennett
8/17: Steven Newlen
8/24: David & Theresa Husted
8/31: Case & Cindy Bennett



Pastor's Paragraphs

It's summertime, when many people go on road trips. When I was a child, my parents would load their four kids in the station wagon and set off on a journey to visit our relatives in the Midwest. My mother grew up in Omaha, Nebraska, and my father was raised on a farm in South Dakota, so those two areas were always on our family's itinerary.

But each year they would try to take a slightly different route to get there in order to see different parts of the country. We followed the lines on the paper maps that showed us where the highway went. Sometimes we would miss the exit we were looking for, and we'd have to backtrack or unfold the map and look for a new route.

Today I rely on the GPS app on my phone to find my way, and it gives me turn-by-turn directions. In theory, that should mean that I never get lost, but it still happens sometimes. And when I miss the turn I was instructed to take, the GPS begins recalculating to find a new route that will get me to where I want to go.

Life is often like that, too. Even when I know where I want to go and have a general idea of how to get there, far too often I manage to lose my way, or I get distracted by some roadside attraction that catches my eye, or I decide to try a more scenic route that delays my arrival at my destination. On more than one occasion, that appealing side trip down a sparsely inhabited road ends with an anxious search for an open gas station!

Fortunately, God has given me help in the form of a written map (the Bible), and turn-by-turn guidance through the whisperings of the Spirit. Thanks to God's Persistent Spirit (another kind of GPS!), I know that even when I take a wrong turn or lose my way, I will still be guided toward my ultimate destination. If I rely on God's guidance and not just my own wisdom, my life's road trip goes much more smoothly. And I'm less worried about running out of "gas," because God offers an inexhaustible source of spiritual energy.

We live in anxious and uncertain times, and sometimes it feels like the road we are on as a nation is leading us toward a destination that I don't want to go to. But thanks to God's GPS, I know I that my final destination is secure. My responsibility now is to help others find direction for their lives, help them steer clear of the rub-bish that others have scattered on the road, and avoid the potholes along the way. And if we help each other do that, maybe we'll all be able to avoid the road that leads to ruin. — *Pastor Kent*



**Stewardship
Report**

TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/25 through 6/30/25)

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$157,499.94

Regular offerings received to date: \$161,831.88

Difference: + \$ 4,331.94

Your faithful giving is helping us reach our goal!

Donations for the "Dietrich & Maria" Recording Project: \$29,921.46

The Shower of Hope

By Deacon Brenda Lussier

Every Thursday at Trinity, we gather for 6-7 hours for The Shower of Hope. It's not just about hygiene; it's about rest, recharging, hot meals, conversation, and care. Those who come — whether to serve or be served — often walk away with something unexpected: a renewed sense of hope.

But I want to share with you something else that's important — even when things don't go as planned, this program still makes a difference. When the shower truck didn't arrive recently, our community didn't stop. Instead, we adapted, and in doing so, we were reminded of the deeper purpose behind what we do. On Thursday, June 5, the showers couldn't open. The staff members who operate the shower truck had car trouble and couldn't make it out to Riverside. Yet the community rose to the occasion, because we are more than just a shower program. We are a place of connection, growth, and love.

Let me paint a picture of that day. Our VIP (Vocational Improvement Program) participants showed up early and prepared coffee and breakfast. These young people come to us to learn job skills and build confidence that will carry them into their futures. Two of our interns — both pursuing their education — served with purpose and heart. I can already see them becoming excellent peer support counselors when their training is complete.

We also welcomed two new volunteers: a recent high school graduate eager to give back, and a curious church member wanting to see what The Shower of Hope is all about. Eden Lutheran Church delivered sack lunches, as they faithfully do every week. And as always, the dedicated volunteers who serve alongside me brought their steady presence and compassion. Our only challenge? No shower truck. But that didn't stop us. Volunteers and interns stepped up, offering hygiene wipes, fresh socks and underwear, encouragement, and presence. We pivoted. We adapted. We stayed present.

At the end of the day, I left in tears — grateful ones. The people who came were disappointed, yes — but not one person left feeling unloved or unseen. Many expressed thanks that we continued anyway, that we didn't give up, and that we chose to share joy and hope. One of the last people I served that day, who is dying of cancer, said to me, "Your joy, your smiles, your hope — it's contagious." That's why he joins us each week.

Not every Thursday looks like this. But June 5 reminded me that we're building something deeper than service. We're creating space to listen, to grow, and to love. And together, we are capable of beautiful things. Every journey has its share of doubts and difficulties, but those are the moments when our resilience shines. That day, we paused, took a breath, and recalibrated. And then we moved forward — one step at a time. Resilient. Hopeful. United. Let us all remember: we are Jesus' people. And together, we move forward — resilient, hopeful, and united, one step at a time.



ATTENTION, SHOPPERS!

If you shop at Ralphs or Food 4 Less, please help support our church by enrolling in their Community Contribution Program. It doesn't cost you anything to participate, but after you enroll, Trinity automatically receives a small rebate based on the amount of your purchases. You can register online at ralphs.com or food4less.com, or call 1-800-443-4438. The organization number for our church is UT644.

July Birthdays

[1] Sandy Hall; [2] Beverly Erck, Lew Trapp; [3] Amanda Wright; [4] Darii Rohozhynskiy; [6] Case Bennett; [7] Tana Fye-Stager; [9] Gil Heth; [11] Evan Tedesco; [12] Danielle Bitetti, David Rogers; [14] Marlene DeFrese; [16] Kevin Wheeler [17] Patrick McKeehan; [19] Rachel Rogstad; [21] Sarah Boese, Elizabeth Printup, Stacey Robbins; [22] Bill Brethauer, Shawn Lowell; [28] Dorie Haddy

August Birthdays

[2] Matt Bradley; [3] Sofia Baroldi; [4] Chrissy Baroldi; [5] Franklin Stuart; [8] Mim Frantz; [9] Chris Brown; [10] Ramon Corona; [12] William Wall, Sr.; [13] Debbie Black, Carolyn Bolz, Luke Hamilton; [14] Sophia Medvec; [15] Abraham Kosobucki; [16] Julie McAuley Stuart; [19] Cindy Hogue, LylaClare Kosobucki; [20] Kim Gilbreath; [22] Ava Tedesco, Danny Wagner; [24] Amelie Rodriguez; [26] Hitoshi Adachi, Albert Dominguez; [28] Willie Johnson; [29] Cindy Bennett; [31] Vince Baggett

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 6:00 pm on June 24 by Karyl Robinson. Members present: Pastor Kent, Karyl Robinson, Theresa Husted, Cherie Guillow, Peggy Fryc, Gil Heth, Deacon Brenda S. Lusier, Sue Rogers, Larry Dodson, Shawn Lowell, Kelly Krashin. Absent: Steve Newlen.

Pastor's Report:

- Jeanne Fitzgerald's memorial service was held last Sunday during the second service. It was very well attended, and the family greatly appreciates all that Trinity has done for her.
- Sunday, June 29, will be Pride Sunday; in place of a sermon, 3 members of our church will talk about their experience as part of the LGBTQIA+ community.
- We will have one service during the month of July. On July 27 we will have a potluck after worship.
- Pastor Kent will be on vacation from August 4-10.
- Glenn Pickett will be on vacation the Sundays of July 6, 20, 27 and August 3.

Financial Report: The reconciliation of the books is complete. We finished May with a net income of \$4,542.07 for the month.

Property Maintenance

- Sanctuary Lighting Project: On hold until the lights can be purchased.
- Sanctuary Roof Coating: They will start the process by power washing the roof on Saturday, June 28, then apply two coats of sealant the next week.
- Parking Lot Repairs and Recoating: Mike McMichael is scheduling this project.
- Window Blinds for Poat Parlor: Dorie Haddy has agreed to investigate options.
- Bathroom accessibility: The proposal is to remodel all three bathrooms at an estimated cost of \$51,850.00. This would make all three bathrooms handicap accessible. We have money in the reserve account to do this project, but this would require congregational approval. We need to investigate the permit process. We discussed whether we should do all of the bathrooms at once, or one at a time. We need

to get more info before we present a proposal for a vote by the congregation.

Old Business

Deacon Ordination Service will be on Saturday, July 12, at 2:00 pm. Peggy Fryc is organizing a reception following the service, with help from Mary Jane Thompson. Peggy will have a sign-up sheet available on Sunday for those planning to attend.

New Business

- Check Signing Policy: Although the credit union requires only one signature on checks, the council decided to continue to require two authorized signatures on each check issued by the church.
- Updated List of Check Signers: The council approved an updated list of members authorized to sign checks from the church's account at Altura Federal Credit Union.
- Payroll Service: Deacon Brenda shared information with the council about two companies that can handle our church payroll. The council approved contracting with Heartland Payment Systems. We hope to have this payroll system set up by the end of July.
- Music Lessons: The council approved giving Luke Hamilton permission to conduct private music lessons at our church. He must schedule these lessons around other church activities. He must have another adult over the age of 21 present when teaching children under the age of 18, and comply with Trinity's requirement for a background check and safe church training.
- "Reconciling in Christ" (RIC): Following the Pacifica Synod's recent webinar, the council approved a motion to create a committee to investigate whether Trinity should become a "Reconciling in Christ" church. (More information about this is available online at reconcilingworks.org.)
- Storage Shed Use: The shed formerly used by LSS is presently empty. The council approved a motion to allow Social Concerns to use the shed for storage.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 15, at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

What Is a Joyful Noise?

God loves every voice and every song lifted in His praise. Just like prayer, music as a means of worship is always beautiful. Also like prayer, deliberate study can enrich and enliven the experience of the practitioner.

Starting this summer, I am offering small group classes in music theory and musicianship for members of our church community. For the last two years, I have been a teaching assistant and tutor for music fundamentals and theory at RCC, and I hope to bring the skills I have learned in the classroom to the musical life of our church. I have seen students of all ages and musical backgrounds make great leaps in their music reading, sight singing, and piano skills as long as they are willing to start.

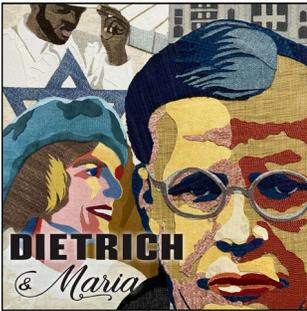
I will schedule 1-hour group sessions of 3-4 students for \$20 per participant. I also offer individual piano lessons for \$60 per hour. If you would like to take lessons, or you would like to discuss other ways to grow in your appreciation of music, I'd love to hear from you. I'm grateful to you, my church family, for your support of my music education. I hope you will join me on this journey.

Sincerely,

Luke Hamilton

Call/text (951) 602-0038 or email hamiltonlukeevan@gmail.com





“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.

Recording is now underway! The first recording sessions — for the string instruments — took place in June. Recording sessions for the other instruments are scheduled for this summer, followed by recording sessions for the vocal parts. To help complete these recordings, you can make a donation online through our church website or by a check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church. As of the beginning of July, we had raised \$29,921.46 toward the goal of \$50,000.

The Hairnet Brigade is Back!

The Hairnet Brigade is back and helping provide a Sunday dinner for the men’s shelter run by Lutheran Social Services in San Bernardino. It will be on a month-by-month basis for now – since the property is still undergoing amazing renovations. So, we may or not be serving each month.

However, on July 6, we will be serving dinner – yes, that’s right, serving dinner rather than just dropping off the food. If you want to either help make the dinner or come help serve, please let Ann Herring know. We’d love to put you to work!



Our Church Calendar

You can find a calendar of events on our website. Go to 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!



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.



We won’t meet in July, but please join us on Saturday, August 9, at 3 pm in Cooper-Burkhart House for fellowship and fun over a game of bunco. Contact Sue Rogers for details.

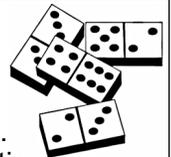
Thanks for Keeping Tabs!



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, July 14, it will be held at:
All Saints Episcopal Church
3847 Terracina Drive

On Monday, August 11, it will be held at:
First Congregational Church
3504 Mission Inn Avenue

“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.

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<p>Sunday Worship Schedule 9:30 am — Contemporary Service (in person and on YouTube) 9:30 am — Sunday School 11:00 am — Traditional Service (not held in July) 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> • 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 & 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>