



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 8, September 2025



God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

Join Us for Our Sunday of Service

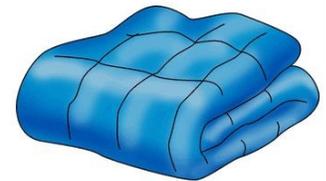
"God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday is an annual day of service in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We will have one worship service at 9:30 am on September 7, followed by a hot dog lunch and several service projects that will be set up in our fellowship hall. If you have a yellow "God's Work, Our Hands" t-shirt, be sure to wear it to church that day!

Blanket Drive

When cooler nights arrive, many of us will wrap ourselves in the comfort of warm homes and soft blankets. Yet, for those who live in cars, tents, or on the streets, warmth is a luxury not easily found.

During the month of September, our Social Concerns Project is collecting new or gently used twin size blankets to share with our unhoused neighbors. These blankets will be distributed throughout the colder months, offering comfort, dignity, and – most importantly – warmth.

Your generosity will help ensure that no one is left out in the cold. Please consider bringing one blanket or more and being part of this simple but powerful act of love.



Join the TLC Choir!

The Trinity choir is meeting again for rehearsals every Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the church sanctuary. New singers are welcome!



Save the Date!

Progressive Dinner on October 11

Mark your calendar for our progressive dinner on Saturday, October 11, starting at 4:00 pm. We'll begin in Heineken Hall with appetizers and salads, then move into other rooms at the church for our main course and dessert. Contact Kim Root-George for more information or to volunteer to help.



Ringers Wanted!

Our handbell choir now rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm in the handbell room. Contact Sue Richards for more information.

Church Work Day Saturday, September 13

Please come and help us clean and spruce up our church on September 13, starting at 9:00 am. A list of the tasks to be done is posted on the bulletin board next to the church office. Contact Gil Heth for more details





Trinity Scholarships Awards

This year's Trinity Scholarship recipients were announced by Karen Clarke on Sunday, July 27. Scholarship awards of \$1,500 each were presented to Rachel Rogstad, Rose Dadlez, Luke Hamilton and Catalina Wall (not pictured). Here are their areas of study:

- **Rose Dadlez** is beginning her second year at Riverside City College with a double major in musical theater and history. She plans to transfer to a 4-year university after completing her classes at RCC.
- **Luke Hamilton** transferred from RCC to California Baptist University this fall to continue his educational pursuits. His career plans include composer, performer, teacher, and church musician.
- **Rachel Rogstad** is beginning her second year at California Baptist University, majoring in theatre arts and music. She is open to a variety of careers, including theater performance and education, music director, singer, and music educator.
- **Catalina Wall** is in her first year at Riverside City College. Her interest lies in the medical field, and she hopes to become a diagnostic medical sonographer.

Congratulations to each of our award recipients! We pray for their success as they pursue their academic and career goals.



New Members

On July 27, we welcomed five new members: (L-R) June Anderson, Brian & Kristin Alemán, Linda Ward and Tammy Durham. Read about them on page 5.



School Backpacks

On Sunday, July 27, our church family assembled 55 school backpacks. They were each filled with a 3-ring binder, lined notebook filler paper, pocket folders, composition books, spiral notebooks, crayons, colored pencils, colored markers, a pencil box, Elmer's glue, glue sticks, a ruler, scissors, pencil sharpener, cap erasers, dry markers, high lighters, pencils and pens. After filling the backpacks, we had a potluck lunch and fun playing Bingo.

The filled backpacks were donated to California School for the Deaf for the students and their siblings. We also distributed a few to families at our church. Thank you for your donations to help children get off to a good start in the new school year!



Jim Haffter passed into eternal life on August 10. His family and friends will gather for lunch and a celebration of his life on Sunday, September 14, at 12 pm in Heinecken Hall. Wear a Hawaiian shirt or dress if you can. Chinese food (Jim's favorite) will be served.

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

September 7: 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Luke 14:25-33

September 14: 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Psalm 9:9-18; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

September 21: 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; Luke 16:1-13

September 28: 16th Sunday after Pentecost
1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19; Psalm 146; Luke 16:19-31

October 5: 17th Sunday after Pentecost;
2 Timothy 1:1-7, 13-14; Psalm 37:1-9; Luke 17:5-10



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 Sunday morning 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

9/7: Case & Cindy Bennett;
Jackie Corina
9/14: Julieta Santos
9/21: Helen Ramos
9/28: *Donor Needed*
10/5: Karyl Robinson



Pastor's Paragraphs

Our congregation is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which includes more than 8,300 congregations across the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The presiding bishop is the official head of our denomination, and for the past 12 years, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has been an able and faithful leader. But a bishop in the ELCA can only serve for two six-year terms, so an important task of the recent Churchwide Assembly was the election of a new presiding bishop. The assembly was held in Phoenix, Arizona, from July 28 to August 2.

The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected on July 30 to serve as the new presiding bishop. An installation service will be held in Minneapolis on October 4. Rev. Curry is the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA. He has served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019. He previously served as mission developer and pastor of Shekinah Chapel in Chicago. Prior to going to seminary, he worked as a teacher and a social worker.

Speaking to the assembly after his election, Rev. Curry reflected on his membership at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Illinois, where he became a lay mission developer while he participated in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts like ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city settings. He spoke to the assembly about his initial hesitation in accepting that first ministry role.

"Perhaps I'm out there in one of you," he said. "I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church's support, of that ministry meant everything. So, if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me, and I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment."

I had the opportunity to hear Rev. Curry preach when I attended the seminary graduation service for Deacon Brenda and others in May. He delivered an inspiring message, and those who knew him spoke highly of him as a pastor and a bishop. Please say a prayer for God to bless Rev. Curry as he steps into this new role of leadership!

To watch a brief video about his election, along with other videos from the assembly, go to elca.org/CWA.

— *Pastor Kent*



**Stewardship
Report**

TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/25 through 8/31/25)

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$212,019.15
Regular offerings received to date: **\$236,540.66**
Difference: + \$ 24,521.51

Your faithful giving is helping us reach our goal!

Donations for the "Dietrich & Maria" Recording Project: \$35,786.88

New Members Who Joined in July

Brian and Kristin Alemán

We have lived in Riverside going on 25 years this upcoming year. Prior to that, Brian grew up in Alta Loma - Rancho Cucamonga, and Kristin grew up mostly in Fullerton, CA, with a couple years in Colorado and a few more in northern California.

We have two children, our son, Sean, who is 19 years old and our daughter, Bridgette, who is going to be 16 in September.

We are both blessed to serve as teachers, going on 30 years now. Brian teaches English at Santiago High School in Corona, and Kristin teaches 1st grade in the Alta Loma School District.

Brian writes, "For fun, I love music and have been known to strum a little on the guitar – still very much a novice, though, and I spend a lot of time listening to Blues, Classic Rock, and some Punk Rock. Also, Kristin and I have been known to follow in Martin Luther's footsteps into a few beer halls locally and afar."

June Anderson

I was born in Glastonbury, Connecticut, in 1938. I spent four years in Washington, DC (during the 2nd Eisenhower administration). Then I moved to California and was an administrative assistant for 20 years at UCLA. Then I moved to Minnesota and managed a travel agency. My husband and I traveled extensively, including some trips with my brother and sister-in-law, Gil and Sheryl Heth.

After retiring, we moved to Florida. We were living in Florida when we decided to live in Italy for 6 months while we were still standing upright and taking nourishment. We lived in Spello, a town of 3,500 people surrounded by a medieval wall. There were 17 Catholic churches and 28 restaurants – all Italian!

My husband passed away in April of 2025, and I moved to Riverside to live with Gil and Sheryl Heth.

Tammy Durham

I have lived in SoCal for 40 years and was born in Michigan. My husband Scott and I have three children, ages 42, 36 and 22. I was a member of Eden Lutheran Church for a couple of years, but since I started helping at Trinity's food pantry, I realize that the ministry here at Trinity is what I truly love.

Linda Ward

Linda Ward has lived in Jurupa Valley for 33 years with Tim, her husband of 44 years. Tim and Linda have two adult sons, Logan and Michael. Previously Linda attended Hope Lutheran Church in Riverside. She retired last year after 38 years working for San Bernardino County Public Health Department. She enjoys exploring her faith through book and Bible studies and other faith-based activities. She enjoys helping at the Hope Food Pantry every week.

Welcome

Thank You! ❤️

Dear Trinity Family,
I have some good news to share. Thanks to your prayers, I was able to see a top neurologist at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona recently. I'll return this month for more medical tests to determine whether brain surgery is possible.
Thank you all for your prayers, kindness, and support. Trinity is such a caring church family!
Carolyn Bolz.

Exercise Class for Seniors at Eden Lutheran Church Thursdays at 10:15 am

Exercises led by certified trainer, Chris Pena, focusing on strength, mobility, and getting better balance. The exercises can be done sitting or standing, and include laughing and socializing! \$8.00 per session, checks or cash only (no cards). Meets in the fellowship hall at Eden Lutheran Church, 4725 Brockton Ave. All are welcome!

Thank You for Your Prayers!



Dear Trinity Family,

On behalf of Jonathan Cady, my daughter's family and myself, we would like to thank you for all of your prayers, phone calls, cards and texts!! Jonathan's open heart surgery was an answer to many prayers. All of his doctors are pleased with his progress. In fact, he was able to join his siblings on the first day of school. He is excited to begin 2nd grade. Sports and recess will come at a later time.

Blessings, Robbin Johnson

September Birthdays

[1] Mike Finn; [3] Carol Savage; [5] Jay Farrand; [9] Sandy Rodriguez; [11] Patty Farrand; [13] Dennis Rogers; [16] Christina Reza; [18] Mark Wheeler; [20] Dana Krashin; [24] Judy McMichael, Stephanie Steele; [25] Kathy Bocian; [26] Josh Hill.

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 6:04 pm on August 19 by Karyl Robinson. Members present were Theresa Husted, Deacon Brenda, Pastor Kent, Larry Dodson, Cherie Guillow, Gil Heth, Kelly Krashin, Sue Rogers, Karyl Robinson, Shawn Lowell, Steve Newlen. Member absent: Peggy Fryc.

Pastor's Report

- Trespassing – A letter has been submitted to the Riverside Police Department authorizing the police to disperse homeless people who camp out on the church property.
- Progressive Dinner – Kim Root-George is planning this event for October 11.
- Church Directory – Photos will be taken of new members on Sunday, August 24.
- Sunday of Service – Will be on September 7, with one worship service at 9:30 am.

Deacon's Report

- Shower Program - There has been a problem getting staff on site to operate the showers. Only once in the past four weeks were we able to offer showers. We were still able to offer other services, i.e., clothes, moist towelettes, food. Shower of Hope has agreed to hire local people to handle the shower trailer, so this program should soon be up and running again.

Treasurer's Report: All bills for July were paid. The net income for July was \$5,545.30. All major expense categories are under budget.

Property Maintenance

- Sanctuary Lighting Project: Brenda is working with the bank to resolve the problem that has delayed this project.
- Parking Lot Repairs & Recoating: Completed. May need some touch up.
- Window Blinds for Poat Parlor: Dorie Haddy is working on this. We have had one person come out to give a quote, with 4 more coming in September.

- Narthex Windows: The window has been replaced, now looking into tinting it. We are also getting an estimate on caulking around the windows.
- Bathroom Accessibility: The company doing the proposed work would be responsible for getting the permits. The cost will range between \$3,500 and \$5,000. (This was not included in the original quote.) A question was brought up about whether we might have to upgrade more things to meet new city requirements. Shawn will look into this.
- Turf removal & landscaping: Last month several people volunteered to be on this committee. Gil will talk to the city about the requirements.
- Church workdays: Gil would like to have it on September 13.

New Business:

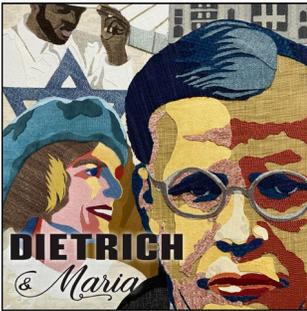
- Preparing for ICE Actions: The Pacifica Synod council is having a meeting on September 6th and this will be discussed. Both Shawn and Larry are on the synod council. We have scheduled a tentative meeting for September 9th at 6:30 pm to review the council's recommendations. Pastor Kent will send out a notice if we are to have a meeting that day.
- T-Mobile Cell Tower Lease Amendment: They are asking for an amendment to our agreement that is highly favorable to them. Deacon Brenda asked Gary Goldberg to review the amendment request. Based on his review, Brenda made a motion to reply with a proposed amendment stating that the two parties would have equal termination clauses, and with a 2% rent increase each year, effective in November, and with no reduction in the current monthly payment. The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, September 16, at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

The Bean Brigade

On July 22nd, the Hope Food Pantry crew was pleased to welcome a group of youth from St. John's Lutheran Church in Sacramento, CA. The students, along with their youth pastor and two other adults were spending a week at Luther Glen and joined us to help clean and stock the food pantry. But their favorite job (according to the kids) was slicing open ten 50-pound bags of pinto beans and repackaging them in smaller bags for distribution to our food pantry guests. It was fun to watch them set up a production line and to listen to them chatter and laugh as they worked. We joined them for lunch, learned about St. John's, told them more about our outreach programs and gave them a tour of our sanctuary. And... they hardly spilled any beans!!





“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 almost done! Several recording sessions took place this summer. Percussion, drums and harp will be recorded soon, then it will be time to mix all of the recordings together to create the final album of songs. To help complete this recording project, you can make a donation online through our church website or by a check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church. As of the end of August, we have raised more than \$35,000 toward the goal of \$50,000.



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 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, September 8, it will be held at:

Eden Lutheran Church
4725 Brockton Avenue

On Monday, October 13, it will be held at:

Madison Street Church
3991 Madison Street

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

Consider Cursillo

A cursillo is a three-day “short course in Christianity,” intended to help revitalize your faith. Apply now for the next Lutheran Cursillo weekends: September 25-28 (for men) and October 2-5 (for women), beginning Thursday evening and ending Sunday afternoon. There is no fee involved.



To find out more, or if you are interested in attending, contact our church office (951-682-1350 or office@trinityriverside.org), Barb Beaver (951-217-5581 or barbara.m.beaver@gmail.com), Pastor Kent, or any other Trinity member who has already attended a cursillo weekend.



TAPESTRY
MINISTRIES
PACIFICA SYNOD, ELCA

Tapestry Retreat

“Tapestry” is a ministry of the Pacifica Synod for LGBTQIA+ people and allies. The next Tapestry retreat weekend will be Sept. 19-21 at Luther Glen Farm. Register online at pacificasynod.org/tapestry. Contact Pastor Kent, Deacon Brenda, Mackenzie Lussier or Sandy Rodriguez for more info.

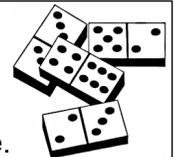
The Hairnet Brigade is Back!

The Hairnet Brigade is back and helping provide a Sunday dinner once a month for the men’s shelter run by Lutheran Social Services in San Bernardino. We plan to do this on the third Sunday of the month. This month we’ll deliver and serve dinner on Sunday, September 21. If you want to either help make the dinner or just come help serve, let Ann Herring know. We’d love to put you to work!



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

Our food pantry distributes food from 9:00 to 10:30 am every Wednesday. Volunteers are needed to pick up and organize food on Tuesdays, and to hand out food boxes on Wednesdays. (You don’t need to help every week.) Contact Larry Dodson to volunteer.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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<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 (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>