



# 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 9, October 2025



## Progressive Dinner

**A Social Gathering at Trinity  
on Saturday, October 11  
4:00 pm to 6:30-ish**

Let's get together at Trinity for a progressive dinner! The purpose of this event is simply to get to know our church family better. It will be like last year, where the entire event will happen on the church campus. We will all start in Heinecken Hall at 4:00 pm.

Each course will be served in different rooms, providing an intimate atmosphere for conversation... starting with hors d'oeuvres and salads served in one room, then moving on to the main course in another, and ending with dessert and bingo back in Heinecken Hall with our special guest bingo callers. For the bingo prizes we are asking for small "white elephant" gifts, (nice, gently used items that are no longer wanted). As is often said, "one person's junk is another's treasure" – and everyone loves a treasure!

Please sign up on the attendance sheets in the narthex by Sunday, October 5. Or call Kim Root-George by Wednesday, October 8. Please consider volunteering to help provide a part of the meal – there is a sign-up sheet in Heinecken Hall where you can sign up to bring a food item.

If you have any questions, please call Kim at home (951) 683-7716 and leave a message.

*"They broke bread... and ate together  
with glad and sincere hearts." — Acts 2:46*



## Get Ready for Trunk-n-Treat! Saturday, October 25

Join us for a spooktacular night of family fun at our Trunk-n-Treat on Saturday, October 25, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. This event is open to everyone and packed with games, music, food, and, of course, loads of candy! And don't miss the spooky sounds from our DJ, who will keep the energy high all night long. It's a fantastic opportunity for families, neighbors, and friends of all ages to come together for a night filled with laughter, excitement, and festive costumes. Whether you're young, young at heart, or somewhere in between, this event is for YOU!

But we can't do it without your help! We need plenty of decorated trunks to line our lot and volunteers to assist with set-up, cooking, and clean-up. Donations of candy and food are also greatly appreciated. Let's make this a night to remember for all the trick-or-treaters and their families!

Flyers are available for you to share with family, friends, and neighbors. Be sure to invite everyone you know!

For more information or to volunteer, please reach out to Deacon Brenda by phone or email. You can also find the sign-up sheet in Heinecken Hall for volunteer spots and food donations. Let's make this an unforgettable event for our community! See you there!

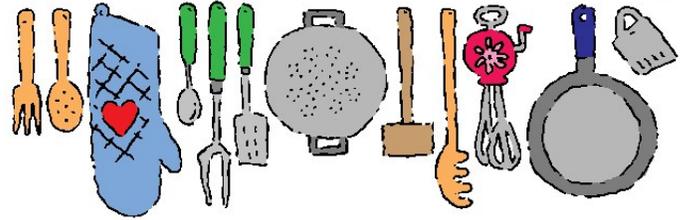


## Sunday of Service Report

On Sunday, September 7, we made 132 blessing bags of food, signed 26 cards for our Trinity members and friends of our congregation. We filled 600 baggies with greeting cards and writing paper for the Gallons of Love prison ministry, and wrote over 200 notes to be placed in the baggies at a later date.

I want to thank everyone for all your hard work. But the work is not done – I am already looking for greeting cards for next year. I can use old used Christmas cards to be reused for note cards.

Thank you for your help! Kelly Krashin



## Kitchen Meeting

All ministry leaders and members who use the church kitchen are invited to a meeting to discuss how we can work together to keep things running smoothly. This will be an opportunity to share ideas, coordinate usage, and ensure the kitchen continues to serve our congregation and ministries well.

If you'd like to attend, please let Deacon Brenda know by signing up on the signup sheet in Heinecken Hall or sending an email to Deacon Brenda. Be sure to include when you are available and any items you would like to discuss. The plan is to schedule a meeting after the 11 am service on an upcoming Sunday, probably October 19 or November 2.



## Rummage Sale!

### Holiday Rummage Sale

**Saturday, November 8, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm**

We are looking for donations! We will accept anything to sell that's in good condition, especially household items, holiday decorations and toys. All proceeds will help support the food pantry. Help is needed to set things up and staff the sale. Contact Kelly Krashin with any questions or to volunteer.

*"A disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of their storeroom treasures new and old." — Matthew 13:52*

## Blanket Donation Report

Thank you for your donations in September of blankets to help our unhoused neighbors stay warm at night! We received a total of 106 blankets, including the ones purchased with a grant from Thrivent Financial.



## 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

October 5: 17th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Timothy 1:1-10; Psalm 37:1-9; Luke 17:5-10

October 12: 18th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Timothy 2:8-15; Psalm 111; Luke 17:11-19

October 19: 19th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Psalm 121; Luke 18:1-8

October 26: Reformation Sunday

Romans 3:19-28; Psalm 46; Luke 18:9-14

November 2: All Saints Sunday

Ephesians 1:11-19 ; Psalm 34:1-9, 22 ; Luke 6:20-31



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

- 10/5: Karyl Robinson
- 10/12 Rudi and Ruta Raterman
- 10/19: Brenda S. Lussier
- 10/26 *Donor Needed*
- 11/2: Tony McNulty



## Pastor's Paragraphs

My wife and I drove to Tucson recently to take part in a memorial service for Rev. Frank Nausin. He and I worked together in ministry for nearly 13 years at Tanque Verde Lutheran Church, where he was the senior and I was the associate pastor. It was my first call after completing seminary, and Frank became my mentor, colleague, and friend.

These were years of growth for the congregation. It's the church where Valerie's and my children were baptized. It's the place where I honed skills for ministry that I still use today. The lessons I learned from Frank came by watching and listening, many conversations, and working together on retreats and various projects and church activities.

Frank was a great storyteller. One he liked to tell involved his father, Frank, Sr. He worked for J.C. Penney for many years, and his responsibilities included managing the shoe department. Since the department store was not too far away from the Lutheran seminary in Berkeley, he often hired seminary students to work in the shoe department. He thought dealing with shoe buyers was good experience for these pastors-in-training, and he said that he could tell which students would end up being good pastors by how well they did selling shoes.

Frank, Sr., said that one of his son's classmates, Andy, was the best shoe salesman he'd ever had. Andy sold more shoes than anyone else, even convincing some reluctant buyers that what looked like an ugly boot was actually fashionable – or at least practical. Sure enough, Andy went on to be a highly successful pastor who shepherded a large congregation.

I like to think that's not just a story about selling shoes, but also about learning to serve others. Kneeling down to help a finicky customer try on their umpteenth pair of shoes in order to help them find just the right fit and style involves patience and good "people skills."

When Jesus gathered with his disciples for their last supper together, the Gospel of John says that he knelt down to wash his disciples' feet. It was an act of humility, and he was teaching them a lesson about serving others. He said to them, "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you also should do as I have done for you." (John 13:14-15)

As a pastor, I am called to serve the members of this congregation, and to serve others as well. But as a follower of Christ, you are also called to serve. I pray that you will consider how you are called to serve in our church and in our community. When you do, Jesus says that you will be blessed: "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them." (John 13:17) — *Pastor Kent*



**Stewardship  
Report**

### **TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/25 through 9/30/25)**

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$236,250.00  
Regular offerings received to date: \$262,541.16  
Difference: + \$ 26,291.16

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

Donations for the "Dietrich & Maria" Recording Project: \$48,022.53

## Thank You, Pastor Kent and Deacon Brenda!

Pastor Kent and Deacon Brenda,  
We all want to say  
"Thank you for your hard work  
At Trinity each day."

Throughout the year,  
You deserve a loud cheer.  
But on Pastor Appreciation Day,  
We might just shout "Hooray!"

That's because we recall  
Everything that you do  
To lead our worship services  
And much more besides, too.

We feel very grateful  
For your pastoral care,  
Your kindness, your concern,  
And your touching, heartfelt prayers.

You point everyone to Jesus  
And, of course, let us know  
That He is always with us  
Wherever we may go.

We are extremely thankful  
That the two of you guide  
Our thriving congregation  
Here in Riverside!

By Carolyn Bolz

*(Carolyn wrote this poem for Clergy Appreciation Day,  
which will be Sunday, October 12.)*

Dear Trinity community:

Thanks for the lovely card and warm wishes. I miss you all, too! I have been in skilled nursing for 5 weeks after a fall, so your card cheered me up!

Love to all!

Mim Frantz



## Adoption Day

On Saturday, November 1, 2025, Riverside County will celebrate Adoption Day with ceremonies taking place at the Larson Justice Center in Indio and the Historic Court-

house in downtown Riverside. During these special events, the adoption process will be finalized for children and their families from across the county. These ceremonies represent a new beginning for children ranging from a few years old to teenagers, who will now be permanently placed with loving families.

At Trinity, we are honored to participate in this meaningful day by providing gift baskets, stuffed animals, gift cards, and various other items to the families celebrating these new beginnings. It's a simple but powerful way to show our love and support as these families begin their journey together.

### Would you like to help?

Here are a few ways you can get involved: Donate new stuffed animals, toys, or books for children of all ages, and donate items or gift cards for gift baskets for family activities like games, movies, and going out to eat. Help assemble gift baskets with small toys, snacks, and essentials to give to the families.

Your contributions, no matter how small, will help brighten the day for these kids and their new families. To get involved, please contact Deacon Brenda for more information.

## What Lutherans Believe

This month, the Thursday night Bible study will discuss the book, *Lutheran Trump Cards: Playing Our Best Hand in the 21st Century*, by Dave Daubert. Written in an accessible and conversational style, this book is a great way to renew and refresh our understanding of the riches of Lutheran theology. Copies are available for \$10 each (a Kindle edition is also available). Contact Pastor Kent if you'd like to join our online discussion on Thursdays at 7:00 pm.



## 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](http://ralphs.com) or [food4less.com](http://food4less.com), or call 1-800-443-4438. The organization number for our church is UT644.

## October Birthdays

[2] Carl Lowell; [4] Stephanie Bradley, Karen Clarke, Julia Kosobucki; [6] Traci Brunka; [7] Barb Beaver; [8] Bob Knapik; [10] Jackie Letourneau-Wagner; [12] Larry Hall, Judy Okamura; [13] Rudi Raterman, Nancy Resto; [14] Jean Aubin; [16] Mike McMichael; [18] Jordan Castillo, Janet Conn, Ruby Garcia, Valerie Kemp; [20] Pat Sherman; [22] Julia Dominguez; [23] Armando Garcia, Linda Ward; [24] Anna Myers; [27] John Britton, Sue Rogers; [28] Rob Carden; [29] Marge Clark



## Council Meeting Summary

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Karyl Robinson. Members present: Larry Dodson, Peggy Fryc, Kelly Krashin, Cherie Guillow, Gil Heth, Theresa Husted, Shawn Lowell, Steve Newlen, Karyl Robinson, Sue Rogers, Deacon Brenda, Pastor Kent.

### Pastor's Report

- PLTS – Pastor Kent attended a conference at the seminary Sept. 11-13 in his role as an academic mentor.
- Celebration of Life for Jim Haffter – about 75 people attended the luncheon on Sept. 14 in Heineken Hall.
- Progressive Dinner – will be on Saturday, October 11, starting at 4:00 p.m.
- Photo Directory – photos of new members were taken recently. The goal is to have the directory done by the progressive dinner. Suggested donation will be \$5.00 per copy.
- Pastor Kent will be gone September 27-28 to participate in a memorial service in Tucson for the pastor he worked with for 12+ years. Deacon Brenda will lead worship that Sunday.
- Tapestry Retreat – will be this weekend (Sept. 19-21); both Pastor Kent and Deacon Brenda will be attending. Pastor Ken Puccio will preach and lead worship at Trinity that Sunday.

### Deacon's Report

- She attended many meetings this month!
- The number of people coming for BAT meals has increased lately.
- A local person has been hired for the shower program and it is working well.
- Trunk-n-Treat – will be on Saturday, October 25.

### Treasurer's Report

- We had \$24,021.48 in envelope giving in August. Offerings in 2025 are higher than in 2024.
- We have \$273,753.59 in savings

### Property Maintenance

- Window Blinds for Poat Parlor: We received three quotes. Dorie Haddy reviewed them for the council. Her recommendation was Accent Window Coverings. They are a local company. The valance is rounded and there

is a lifetime warranty. Their price was the best at \$990, including installation. The company recommended that we paint the wall prior to installation. Motion approved to purchase the blinds from Accent Window Coverings for a price of \$990.

- Workday: 22 people came on September 13 and got lots done, but more work needs to be done.
- Parking Lot Repairs & Recoating: Some touch up needs to be done and the handicap lines in the back need to be redrawn. Final payment is being held until these are completed.
- Sanctuary Lighting Project: New lighting has been selected and is on order. The cost is higher than the original estimate.
- Bathroom Accessibility: We are planning to do the bathroom next to the nursery first. That cost is \$9,950. Need a quote for new toilet. Need to verify that having the door open out into the hallway will be OK.
- Turf Removal – Gil Heth met with a landscape designer and hopes to have information by next week to give to the city. The city rebate for turf removal is \$14,000 for front only, and \$18,000 for front and side. We do not need to select plants yet. Paramount Landscaping is working with Gil. The plants must be drought tolerant and at least 3 plants per 100 sq. feet.

### New Business

- Preparing for ICE Agents: We reviewed a policy from a church in San Diego for dealing with ICE agents if they show up. We need to create a committee of congregation members and council members to investigate this subject and develop a policy for our church.
- Health Care Benefits for 2026 (for Pastor): This needs to be done by October 14. We have not received the info yet. We may have to have an e-mail vote.
- Pacifica Synod Regional Gathering on May 2, 2026: We have been asked to host this event. Approximately 100 people will attend and it will run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm. Motion approved to host this event.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Pastor Kent closed the meeting with a prayer. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 21, at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

## Prayer Vigil on October 11

Evi Sihomping is one of the active members of Getsemani Indonesian Lutheran Ministry, Riverside, CA. Pastor Robert Waworuntu reports that she was picked up by ICE on June 7, 2025, at about 7 am, at her place in Loma Linda, CA. She is being held at Adelanto ICE Detention Center. She lived in Denver, Colorado, before moving to the Inland Empire area in 2005. She and her former husband applied for asylum back in 2003, but were denied. Her former husband went back to Indonesia, and she stayed with her daughter in CA.

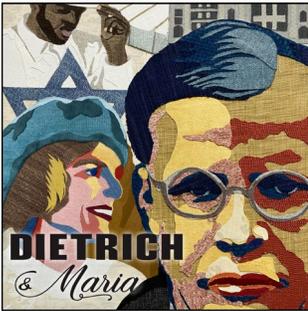
When her daughter (who was born in US) reached 21 years of age, she petitioned for her mom. While it was still in the process, ICE came to pick her up. Right now, Evi is working with her immigration lawyer to get out of detention so that she can be with her daughter and her current husband. There will be a one-hour prayer vigil for Evi Sihomping on:

Saturday, October 11, 2025, at 10:00 am,  
at Adelanto ICE Detention Center (outside, on Rancho Road).

ELCA Pacifica Synod Bishop Dave Nagler will lead the vigil. All are invited!

*Do not mistreat foreigners who are living in your land. — Leviticus 19:33*





## “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.

*The recording is almost done!* Instrumental and vocal recording sessions took place this summer. Percussion, drums and harp were recorded last, then all of the recordings will be mixed 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 September, we have raised more than \$48,000 toward the goal of \$50,000.



A free exhibit of contemporary icons is on display at Immanuel Lutheran Church from now through Nov. 16. Featuring 150 works by artist Ludmila Pawlowska, with several dedicated to the people of Ukraine, the exhibit is open to the public on Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm and on Sundays 1 – 4 pm. The church is located at 5455 Alessandro Blvd. More information is available online at [immanuelriverside.com/icons](http://immanuelriverside.com/icons).



## 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.

## 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!

## Join the Hairnet Brigade!

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. Our church does this on the 3rd Sunday of the month. This month we’ll deliver and serve dinner on Sunday, October 19. 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!



## Let’s Keep 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, October 13, it will be held at:  
Madison Street Church  
3991 Madison Street

On Monday, November 10, it will be held at:  
All Saints Episcopal Church  
3847 Terracina Drive

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

## 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**  
5969 BROCKTON AVENUE  
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92506

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

<p>TRINITY TOPICS is published monthly by: Trinity Lutheran Church, 5969 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506</p>
<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 (not held in July) <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>