



# 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 10, November 2025

## Fall Luncheon Sunday, November 9

Come one and all to our fall luncheon at noon on Sunday, November 9, in Heinecken Hall! It will feature baked potatoes with many delicious toppings.

Please sign up in advance so we know how many potatoes to prepare. There is also a spot to sign up if you are willing to bring your favorite brownies to share. We'll provide the ice cream!



## Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Do you know someone who could use some extra help at Thanksgiving? If so, please fill out a Thanksgiving basket nomination form and submit it by Sunday, November 16.

You can also help give others a reason to be thankful by donating food for our Thanksgiving baskets. Copies of a suggested shopping list are available to take with you to the grocery store. Please bring your food donations to the church by Friday, November 21. The food baskets will be distributed on Sunday, Nov. 23.

*Blessed is the person who is kind to those in need.  
Proverbs 14:21*

## It's Piggy Bank Roundup Time!

If you've been saving your change this past year, please bring your piggy banks to church this month. We encourage people to collect their spare change in piggy banks (or another container) during the year for our PIG Project, and then bring it to church in November.

PIG stand for **P**eople **I**n need of **G**roceries, and the change that is collected will help support the Hope Food Pantry at Trinity.



*Thank the Lord for his steadfast love,  
for his wonderful works to humankind.  
For the Lord satisfies the thirsty,  
and fills the hungry with good things.  
Psalm 107:8-9*

## Christmas Concerts

Mark your calendar now for the Christmas concerts at Trinity on December 13 & 14, starting at 4:00 pm. Our choir will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra. Invite your friends and family to come!



## 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.



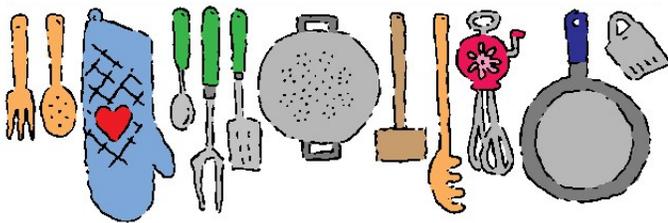
## Trunk-n-Treat Fun!

We welcomed families and friends to our Trunk-n-Treat on Saturday, October 25. Our smiling team of helpers served dinner to 110 people, and many more kids and adults came just for the candy and games. Many came in costume, including Logan Ward, Patrick and Seth McKeehan, who all dressed as Luigi (one of the Mario Brothers).



## Adoption Day Gift Baskets

Thank you for your donations to help us provide a total of 9 baskets for new adoptive families (some of the baskets are pictured below). The baskets will be given to families whose adoptions are finalized on Riverside County's Adoption Day, November 1. Your donations will help make the day even more memorable!



## Kitchen Meeting on November 2

All ministry leaders and members who use the church kitchen are invited to meet in Heinecken Hall at 12:30 pm on Sunday, November 2, to decide how best to organize the kitchen for the different ministries that use it. This will be an opportunity to share ideas, coordinate usage, and ensure the kitchen continues to serve our congregation and ministries well.



## 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

### November 2: All Saints Sunday

Ephesians 1:15-23; Psalm 34:1-9, 22; Luke 6:20-31

### November 9: Stewardship Sunday

1 Peter 2:4-10; Psalm 32:1-6a, 10b-11; Luke 19:1-10

### November 16: 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Malachi 4:1-2a; Psalm 98; Luke 21:5-19

### November 23: Christ the King Sunday

Colossians 1:11-20; Psalm 13; Luke 23:33-43

### November 30: First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Matthew 24:36-44



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

- 11/2: Jackie Corina
- 11/9 Gary & Sabine Goldberg
- 1/16: Barbara Harte;  
Mackenzie & Brenda M. Lussier
- 11/23 Case & Cindy Bennett
- 11/30: Brenda S. Lussier



## Pastor's Paragraphs

One of the Bible readings for our Stewardship Sunday this month comes from 1 Peter 2. Verse 9 includes these striking words, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

In other words, we have been made God's people for a purpose, and that purpose is to proclaim to the world the story of God's incredible love.

God's love comes to you in Jesus Christ. Through Jesus you have become one of "God's own people." God's love also comes to you in many other ways. Among these are the material possessions that you have. They are entrusted to you by our loving God. The Bible teaches us that all that we have in this life comes from God. Our time, our talents, our money and possessions all come from God. In this life we are stewards, caretakers, managers of God's bountiful blessings.

God has placed into your care all that you have. This good news is the beginning of worship, as we respond to God's gifts with thanks and praise. It is also the beginning of stewardship, as we take seriously our responsibility to use what we have been given not only for ourselves, but also to benefit others. This includes our giving to the church. When you give to Trinity Lutheran Church, you are giving some of what God has entrusted into your care to do God's work in the world. And through our church, it accomplishes a lot!

Your offerings help to support our gatherings for worship and the music that lifts our spirits. Your giving helps children and adults grow in faith through Sunday School and Bible study. Your giving helps us proclaim God's love in our community through such things as our food pantry, BAT meals and shower program. Your giving helps us proclaim God's love and mercy around the world through missionaries, quilts, and assistance given to people fleeing wars and suffering from natural disasters.

Because of you and many others, our congregation is making a difference as we proclaim God's mighty acts of mercy and love!

— Pastor Kent



## STEWARDSHIP

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*



**Stewardship  
Report**

### **TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/25 through 10/26/25)**

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$262,500.00  
Regular offerings received to date: **\$279,613.33**  
Difference: + \$ 17,113.33

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

Donations for the "Dietrich & Maria" Recording Project: \$48,373.43



**ELCA DISABILITY  
MINISTRY WEBINAR:  
CREATING ACCESSIBLE  
SPACES ON A BUDGET**

**November 17 at 5:00 pm (PST)**

Every church should be a place where everyone feels welcome and included — regardless of ability. But making your facilities more accessible doesn't have to break the bank.

Join the ELCA Disability Ministry on Monday, November 17 at 5 pm Pacific Time for this practical and inspiring webinar designed specifically for churches seeking to improve accessibility with limited resources. We'll explore affordable strategies to enhance physical, sensory and digital accessibility in your church buildings and programs. From simple upgrades to creative adaptations, you'll gain tools and ideas that can be implemented right away — no large renovation budget required.

In this one-hour workshop, you'll learn:

- Low-cost improvements that make a big impact.
- How to prioritize accessibility changes.
- Ways to engage your church in accessibility efforts.

To register, go to [pacificasynod.org](http://pacificasynod.org) and click on "News & Events" and then "e-News Archive" to find a link to the online registration form.

Dear Trinity Family,  
I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the beautiful card I recently received. I especially want to thank Carolyn Bolz for the poem! I love receiving these cards and reading all the nice words. I miss you all! Thank you,  
Carol Savage



**Show Solidarity with  
Palestinian Christians by the  
Holy Land Accompaniment Pilgrimage  
March 9-19, 2026**

The ELCJHL (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land) is inviting the Pacifica and Southwest California Synods to the Holy Land early next year for an accompaniment pilgrimage. Come be with Palestinian Christians and experience the challenges they encounter just trying to live out their faith in the face of enormous structural obstacles. Yes, you'll see the historic foundations of the early Church — Capernaum, the Mount of Olives, the Sea of Galilee, and others — but more importantly, you'll form relationships with those who are building on those very foundations today. Have your faith inspired and your hope challenged.

Interested? Bishop Dave and Tony Abuaita from Good Shepherd Travel will be hosting an informational Zoom meeting on Wednesday, November 19, at 7:00 pm PST. Get details, ask questions, learn more. You can join the Zoom meeting by going to [pacificasynod.org](http://pacificasynod.org) and click on "News & Events" and then "e-News Archive" to find a link to the Zoom meeting.

*[The following note was sent to Pastor Kent by the recipients of one of the greeting cards we signed on the "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday of service.]*

My wife and I wish to thank the thoughtfulness of the members of Trinity Lutheran Church, who sent my wife Brenda and me a wonderful card, signed by several members of Trinity. My wife, already touched by Pastor Kent's thoughtfulness, was again moved to tears when she read the card. She now says that when she is better, she wants to visit Trinity. Thank you all for sharing the Love of Christ with us.

John & Brenda Prothero



**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.

**November Birthdays**

[3] Charlotte Wall; [5] Larry Dodson; [6] Kimberly Bayne; [7] Gary DeFrese; [13] Joe Afflerbaugh, Barbara McCoy, Barbara Morris; [14] Amanda Reza; Adalynn Wheeler; [21] Kim Root-George; [25] Teresa Hamilton; [29] Barbara Harte; Andrew Thompson

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

*Teach us to number our days, so that we may gain a heart of wisdom. — Psalm 90:12*



# Council Meeting Summary

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Karyl Robinson. Members present: Cherie Guillow, Gil Heth, Sue Rogers, Theresa Husted, Steve Newlen, Kelly Krashin, Peggy Fryc, Larry Dodson, Karyl Robinson, Pastor Kent, Deacon Brenda.

## Pastor's Report

- Progressive dinner on October 11: 40 people attended.
- Quilts: 164 quilts were blessed during services Oct. 19.
- Trunk-n-Treat: It will be on October 25. We still need a few more trunks.
- LSS Homeless shelter: We are again assisting with monthly dinners for this organization, serving about 50 men on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.
- We need to buy more 8' tables to replace broken ones.
- Thursday Night Bible study is discussing the book *Lutheran Trump Cards*.

## Deacon Report

- Added a new employee to payroll
- BAT – Currently working on a plumbing problem in Heineken Hall kitchen; hopefully that will enable the ice-maker to be installed.

## Treasurer's Report

- \$30,180.75 in envelope giving during September; \$3,625.02 in unrestricted income.
- Net income for the month was -\$12,645.26 due to maintenance costs, e.g., new lighting and roof repair.

## Old Business

- **Update List of Authorized Signers for Scholarship Account:** We needed a third authorized signer. At present we have Pastor Kent Tuohino and Peggy Bradley. The council appointed Deacon Brenda as the third signer. The new list of signers will be:
  - Pastor Kent Tuohino
  - Peggy Bradley
  - Deacon Brenda Lussier
- **T-Mobile Cell Tower Lease Amendment:** They did not accept our counter proposal. They want to pay the church \$2,123.00 per month, a reduction from the current \$2,439.36 per month. The current contract includes a 3% increase per year; they want to change this to a 2% increase per year. We want the same termination clause as they want, which is the main remaining issue.

## Property Maintenance

- **Window Blinds for Poat Parlor:** One wall was painted and baseboards repaired at a cost of \$595.00. We received a quote to remove the popcorn ceiling at a cost of \$1,800.00. Council approved a motion to hang the vertical blinds now and review the ceiling issue next year due to the cost. *[After this council meeting, a member of the church offered to pay for the ceiling work, so it has already been done.]*
- **Sanctuary Lighting Project:** We are presently looking into purchasing different lighting equipment for the sanctuary.
- **Narthex Windows:** Presently investigating what is the best way to treat the windows for tinting and security.
- **Bathroom accessibility:** Since we are now looking into just remodeling one bathroom, we requested a new quote. This quote is \$12,500. We hope to put that in the budget plan for next year.
- **Turf Removal:** The total cost for replacing the grass lawns in front of the church with low water use landscaping is \$37,938, minus an expected rebate of \$25,788, making our net cost \$12,150. We will have 180 days to complete the project once it is approved by the city. Gil is meeting an inspector on November 11<sup>th</sup> for a pre-inspection of the lawn areas to be removed.

## New Business

- **Church Immigration Response Policy:** A policy has been written, and we are to review it before the next council meeting. Any recommendations for changes should be sent to Deacon Brenda.
- **Response to Audit Committee:** We are each to review the responses to their recommendations and review them as a group at our next meeting.
- **Budget discussion:** The goal is to have the 2026 budget proposal finalized and approved at our December meeting. We want the congregation to have time to review it before our congregational meeting.
- **Stewardship Sunday:** Will be November 9th with a luncheon at noon.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

## **CENTERING PRAYER WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, November 15, 10:00 am–2:00 pm**  
**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
**1609 Hamner Avenue, Norco, CA 92860**

Join us for a time of stillness, reflection, and deepening in the practice of Centering Prayer. Whether you're new to contemplative prayer or seeking to refresh your prayer life, this workshop will offer guidance, practice, and fellowship.

### What to Expect

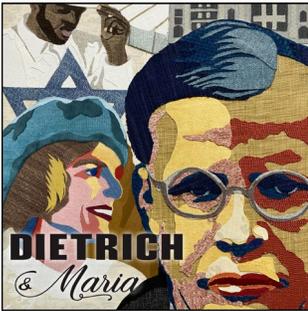
- Presentations on the method of Centering Prayer
- Guided times of prayer and silence in community
- Opportunity for questions and reflection
- Light snacks and a soup & salad lunch provided

### Why Attend?

Centering Prayer invites you to rest in God's presence beyond thoughts, words, or images. This simple yet profound practice can deepen your prayer life, nurture inner peace, and ground your relationship with God in silence and stillness.

Space is limited to 25 participants  
Registration deadline: Wednesday, November 12  
To RSVP, contact Pastor Darryl W. Kozak  
Text: 951-387-8220  
Email: PeacePastorDarryl@gmail.com

Suggested donation: \$20 (to offset costs, a portion of which will support the Bethany Lutheran Meditation Garden Fund)



## “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 October, we have raised more than \$48,000 toward the goal of \$50,000.



On October 19, our Quilting Bee displayed 164 quilts made for Lutheran World Relief. A beautiful blessing!

## 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 Avenue. All are welcome!



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).

## 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

## Join the Hairnet Brigade!

The Hairnet Brigade provides a Sunday dinner on the 3rd Sunday of the month for the men’s shelter run by Lutheran Social Services in San Bernardino. If you want to help make the dinner or just come to help serve, let Ann Herring know. We’d love to put you to work!



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

On Monday, December 8, it will be held at:  
First Congregational Church  
3504 Mission Inn Avenue

“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

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<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>