



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 29, Issue 3, March 2026



Lenten Services

The theme for our midweek Lenten services this year is "Tell Me Something Good." As we explore stories and teachings of Jesus, the services will provide fertile ground for conversation and worship, rooting our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God. May the good news of the gospel ground us, and inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.

Join us for our Lenten soup and bread suppers on Wednesdays at 5:45 pm. After dinner, we have a short worship service and message. Volunteers are needed to help provide soup and bread each week.

Holy Week & Easter Services

Palm Sunday, March 29: Services at 9:30 & 11 am

Maundy Thursday, April 2: "Meal in the Upper Room" at Eden Lutheran Church at 5:30 pm, followed by a communion service at Eden at 7:00 pm.

Good Friday, April 3: Service at Trinity at 7:00 pm

Easter at Trinity, April 5: Communion services at 8:30 and 11 am; pancake breakfast at 9:30 am.



The annual CROP walk to raise money to fight hunger will be held in Riverside on **Sunday, March 22**, starting at 1:30 pm. The 2-mile walk will begin and end at First United Methodist Church, located at 4845 Brockton Avenue, with a turnaround at Trinity.

All funds raised will go to Church World Service and local food programs, including the BAT meals served at Trinity. Pick up a donation envelope if you'd like to participate. Contact Helga Stafford for more information. When you support the CROP Walk, you provide life-saving support that will help feed families and individuals in Riverside and around the world.



Lenten Food Drive

Help us with our Lenten food drive! A list of suggested items to donate is printed below. Please bring your donations to the church anytime from now through Palm Sunday, March 29. The food and other items will be distributed through our food pantry and blessing bags. Thank you!

- Rice, pasta, dry beans
- Instant potatoes
- Tomato sauce
- Canned pasta sauce
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Canned meat, tuna, spam
- Juice drinks
- Canned meals: ravioli, spaghetti, soup or chili
- Powdered milk
- Cereal, oatmeal
- Crackers
- Flour
- Sugar
- Spices
- Jello
- Cake & pudding mixes
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Dishwashing soap

Note: Please buy cans with pull tabs if possible, and avoid any glass containers

Our Gifts

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. – 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

In 1 Corinthians 12, we're reminded that there are many kinds of gifts and talents, and each one is important. Not just the ones that happen on Sunday mornings, but also the ones that help care for our church, our community, and our ministry throughout the week. Our faith community grows stronger when we share the gifts God has placed in our hands and hearts.

Right now, we have some very real needs where your specific gifts and talents can make a difference.

Maybe you enjoy working with plants or wouldn't mind helping with a little landscaping. Maybe you're handy and able to take care of small repairs or assist with general property upkeep. Maybe you're good with numbers and could help with counting or auditing. Maybe you love to sing, cook, sew, knit, crochet, or are great at organizing behind the scenes. These everyday skills are gifts and they are needed here!

We're looking for volunteers in a variety of roles. This isn't about signing up for something big; it's simply about sharing a little of what you already know how to do, even occasionally. When we do that together, we help create a place where everyone feels cared for and welcomed.

If you're willing to offer your individual gifts and skills in any of these ways, or in areas we haven't mentioned, please speak with Deacon Brenda or Pastor Kent. Together, we can continue building a community where everyone belongs and everyone has something meaningful to offer.



Rummage Sale on April 25 Donations Wanted!

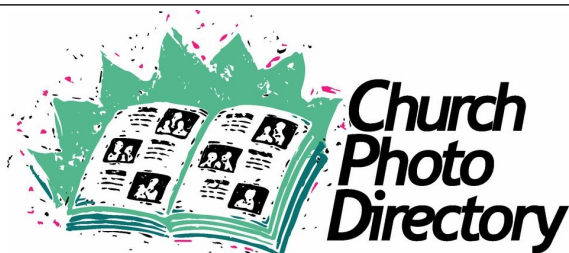
It's time to do some spring cleaning, clean out your closets, and bring your unneeded items to church for our rummage sale! This year's rummage sale will be held in the church parking lot on Saturday, April 25, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Donations can be placed on the stage in Heineken Hall. We can pick up donations, if needed. However, we are not accepting electronics, books, or furniture for this rummage sale.

Kelly Krashin will start pricing items in the afternoons, starting on Monday, April 20 at 1:00 pm, and will need help with that. Pricing will be done in the quilting room. We will also need helpers on the day of the rummage sale. Contact Kelly with any questions.



Souper Bowl Scores

In February we collected donations of canned food as part of the annual "Souper Bowl of Caring." 516 cans were donated, plus \$60 in cash. The donations will support the Hope Food Pantry at Trinity and our blessing bags of food for the homeless. To learn more about the annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" go to tacklehunger.org.



Available Now!

Our new photo directory is now available, featuring pictures of people in our church family. A \$5 donation is requested to cover the cost of printing. Stop by the church office during the week, or pick one up on Sunday. We hope it will help you connect with others at Trinity and bring our church closer together!

Thursday Night Bible Study

This weekly Bible study meets online at 7:00 pm each Thursday. If you'd like to participate, let Pastor Kent know. He will email you the weekly discussion topic 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

March 1: Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; John 3:1-17

March 8: Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; John 4:5-42

March 15: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Ephesians 5:8-14; Psalm 23; John 9:1-41

March 22: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Romans 8:6-11; Psalm 130; John 11:1-45

March 29: Palm Sunday

Philippians 2:5-11; Psalm 31:9-16; Matthew 21:1-11



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

- 2/1: Mary Kantola
- 2/8: Donor Needed
- 2/15: Dorie Haddy and Jackie Corina
- 2/22: Donor Needed



Pastor's Paragraphs

Welcome to the season of Lent! Honestly, does it mean anything different in your daily life? I would guess the answer is "no" for many of us. In the church year, the season of Lent has traditionally been about sacrifice, spiritual discipline, and reflecting on your relationship with God. To be clear, I am in favor of all these things. However, I am also a realist. The world we live in today is full of distractions. Finding moments to quiet the voices competing for our attention is a constant struggle.

This Lenten season can be a good time of year to set aside time for reflection. Whether it is by talking a walk, time for personal prayer and Bible reading, or gratefully soaking up a little sunshine while standing outside in the morning with a cup of coffee in hand – how we find those moments for reflection and prayer often depends on our intention to do so.

Finding time to center our spirit – to reconnect and be reminded of our relationship with God – can provide opportunities for the Holy Spirit to move us into a deeper, more personal experience of God's presence. This is what the season of Lent offers to us. In Lent, we are invited to step out of our normal routines and step into different routines.

Maybe it involves picking up a devotional booklet to use for reading and reflection through the days of Lent. (Copies are available at Trinity.) If you haven't been attending worship regularly, consider adding Sunday worship to your weekly routine through the entire six weeks of the season of Lent. Another option is to remember the people who have inspired your life of faith. If possible, reach out to thank them by phone, text message, or even a hand-written note during the season of Lent.

You can also join us for Wednesday night soup suppers at 5:45 pm. Our Lenten theme for this year is "Tell Me Something Good." After dinner, we'll spend time exploring the ways Jesus brings good news. And we all enjoy hearing good news, right?

Dear friends in Christ, I encourage you to see Lent not just as a solemn season between now and Easter. In fact, the word "Lent" comes from an old English word that means springtime. Lent is meant to be a time for spiritual growth – a "springtime for the soul." Use this season to grow your faith. Reconnect with God and people you love. Reconsider how you are spending your time. Be reminded that you are loved by God. And be open to receiving the gifts that this season of Lent has to offer you. — *Pastor Kent*



**Stewardship
Report**

TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/26 through 2/28/2026)

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$57,733.00
Regular offerings received to date: \$44,150.71
Difference: - \$13,582.29

Your faithful giving will help us reach our goal!

Journey? Lent is more of a holy meander.

By Rev. Susan K. Olson

I have always loved a good journey. I like planning trips and figuring out the best way from point A to point B. While GPS mostly does that work these days, I do love looking things up on a map, to include side quests for the best donuts in Massachusetts, an off-the-wall museum or a special exhibit.

Even the word “journey” appeals to me. A journey is better than a trip. It’s an adventure, but a playful adventure. It involves anticipation and suspense, but there’s a structure to it. There are reservations. Plans. Lately it seems like others have taken up my fondness for the word. Everything is a journey now. I just finished the college search journey with my child. I get advertisements for a retirement journey, weight loss journeys, fitness journeys and more.

Despite the overuse of the word journey, I still looked forward to the annual Lenten journey. I regularly created worship materials based on that theme. It was such an obvious metaphor in my mind. We start at Ash Wednesday and keep working through until we reach Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and finally, the ultimate destination, Easter Sunday.

In February 2023, that all changed.

Early one morning, I received word that my sister and niece were involved in a car accident. An intoxicated driver, traveling on the wrong side of a divided highway, had struck their car. My sister was badly injured. My 23-year-old niece—brilliant, beautiful, kind and quirky—was killed instantly.

Nine days later, I rubbed chalky ash onto the foreheads of my parishioners. “Remember you are dust and to dust you will return,” I said.

To manage both the medical and geographic logistics, Beth’s memorial was postponed until the Sunday after Easter. All of us spent Lent in a period of jello-thick suspended grief.

Lent and grief will probably never dis-entangle for me.

After Beth died, while my sister healed, while Lent marched forward, I started walking. I didn’t plan it. I just did it. Actually ... walking sounds too organized and athletic for what I did. I didn’t walk. I meandered.

It was New England March, raw and muddy, cloaked in every shade of brown and grey. My breath hung in cotton-ball puffs in the air. Forgotten mittens left my hands red and worried. March is not New England’s best season. The snow is gone. The flowers are months away. Sensible people stay inside.

I meandered. I was slow, purposeless, dull. I just went nowhere and everywhere.

I walked when I could— before work, during lunch, after work. It didn’t matter. Every day, I put my salt-caked boots on the slushy sidewalk and walked to nowhere.

All I remember of that Lent was walking, heading nowhere. I slogged through worship. Other than that, I just walked. All other Lenten observances fell to the wayside. Easter came as a surprise. The joy of it, even more so.

Someone told me that walking was clearly a metaphor for the grief journey. I don’t believe that though. I don’t think there is a grief journey. A journey implies organization and planning. A journey implies a beginning, a middle and an end. It implies something purposeful. I couldn’t do that.

There was, however, a grief meander. Lent is much the same.

While my initial season of purposeless walking was born out of necessity, I now commit myself annually to a holy Lenten meander. I read scripture in no purposeful order. I read parts of books. Sometimes I walk; sometimes I don’t. My Lent is purposeless yet brimming with purpose. I spend my time just observing. I fast from planning.

Our lives are so swift. There is such pressure to always be progressing, improving, striving. Every product made and advertised seems to offer us a way to do life better, faster, smarter. We shave bits of time from every endeavor, so we can fit more things into the 24 hours we have. Life is so fast, too fast. If the goal of Lent is to deepen our relationships with Christ through prayer, fasting and service, maybe many of us would benefit from not pressuring this goal with too many requirements. Maybe Lent doesn’t need to be a Girl Scout badge. Maybe Lent needs to just be. Maybe we can’t do Lent any faster, any better, any smarter, because nothing we do will make the resurrection any more or less wondrous.

The Lent after Beth died, I let myself believe that all God expected of me was to put one foot in front of the other, even if it meant going nowhere. That was the year I found out that I could become totally lost 6 blocks from home but never be alone. That was the year I learned that Lent doesn’t have to be a journey. It can be a walkabout, a wander, a meander. I learned then, and continue to learn now, that all paths—purposeful or not—lead to the glory of Easter morning.

+ + +

The Rev. Susan K. Olson is a teaching elder (pastor) in the Presbyterian Church USA. She currently serves as part-time pastor for the First Congregational Church of Lyme, Lyme, Connecticut, while working full time in disability services at Yale University. Susan lives in New Haven, Connecticut, with her daughter and two poorly behaved but beloved cats.

This article appeared in the March/April/May 2026 issue of *Gather* magazine, published by the Women of the ELCA. Reprinted by permission.

Council Meeting Summary

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 17, at 6:04 pm by Kelly Krashin. Present: Larry Dodson, Peggy Fryc, Cherie Guillow, Gil Heth, Theresa Husted, Kelly Krashin, Shawn Lowell, Steve Newlen, Karyl Robinson, Sandy Rodriguez, Sue Rogers, Jackie Letourneau-Wagner, Deacon Brenda and Pastor Kent.

Pastor's Report:

- The new photo directory is done and copies are available for \$5.00 each.
- Narthex windows - Security film has been installed on two windows in the narthex at a cost of \$630.
- Lent – Ash Wednesday service will be at 7:00 pm on February 18. Starting the following week we will have our Lenten Soup/Bible study at 5:45 pm. Pastor Kent and the interim pastor at Eden will alternate speaking at the Wednesday suppers.
- The Riverside City Council recently rejected a \$20 million grant from the state to create housing for the homeless. This would have been used to convert the Quality Inn motel on University Avenue into a 114-unit apartment complex. Local church and community leaders have asked the council to reconsider this decision.

Deacon's Report:

- She has participated in several community meetings and activities in the past month, including plans for the showing of the movie "1946" (see article on page 7) and serving on an Interfaith and Spirituality Subcommittee for Riverside University Health Systems Behavioral Health.
- Working on recruiting more ushers and other volunteers.
- Fernanda is doing well in her new office position, but is still training in certain areas.

Treasurer's Report:

- \$274,960.47 in savings account as of the end of January.
- \$24,885.80 in envelope giving in January.
- \$27,781.85 in unrestricted income in January.
- We finished January with a net of \$44,198.85 (due largely to surplus funds carried over from 2025).

Old Business:

- a. Church Website** – Now that the directory is done, Pastor Kent will schedule a meeting with John Dadlez to resume work on this.

b. Property Maintenance

- **Turf removal and landscaping** — We are presently in the second week of letting the grass die in the front lawns. Then the turf will be removed and the landscaper will get to work. We need to decide if we still need our present gardener after we finish this new landscaping. Gil will work on dates to go look at properties that have completed similar landscaping projects.
- **Bathroom remodeling** – On hold for now. We need to gather more information.

New Business

- a. Confidentiality** – Some topics discussed within the council need to stay within the group, especially personnel matters.
- b. Sunday Greeters:** After Sunday services, one or two council members should stand with Pastor Kent after services to greet people.
- c. Council Retreat** – The council members will have a mini-retreat on the afternoon of Sunday, March 15, following the second service. Lunch will be provided.
- d. Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers** – Glenn Pickett requested permission for this group to use our facilities for a conference in October. Pastor Kent made a motion to allow this group to use our facilities October 8-10, 2026, for a small fee.

Miscellaneous:

Jackie Letourneau-Wagner shared that the earphones for the hearing assistance receivers are too small. Dennis Kringer bought some lightweight headphones that work much better. We should buy several of these.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: Pastor Kent closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

The next regular meeting of the council will be on Tuesday, March 17, at 6:00 pm.



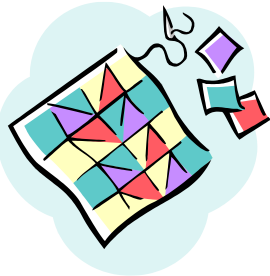
March Birthdays

[1] Adam Garcia; [2] Peggy Bradley, Jon Brunka, Kaia Gundrum; [5] Sabine Goldberg; [8] Beverly Allert; [12] Doug Brown; [17] Jackie Corina; [19] Joanna Tuohino; [21] Peggy Fryc, Will George; [26] Amy Printup, Sue Richards; [27] Mary Kantola; [28] Bev Trapp; [29] Gary Goldberg.

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





Quilting Bee

Trinity's Quilting Bee meets on the first and third Saturday of each month from 9:00 am to 12 pm in the Cooper-Burkhart Annex. Come and join the fun! 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.

Join the Choir!

The TLC Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. New singers are welcome to join the choir! The choir sings at our worship services about twice a month.



Hope Food Pantry

Our food pantry distributes food from 9:00 to 10:30 am every Wednesday. Volunteers pick up and organize food on Tuesdays, and hand out food boxes on Wednesdays. Contact Larry Dodson to volunteer.



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. Meets in the fellowship hall at Eden Lutheran Church, 4725 Brockton Ave. All are welcome!



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

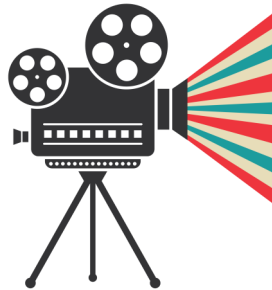
Several churches in Riverside take turns hosting a Taizé service on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm.

It's a contemplative style of worship featuring meditative songs, inspiring readings, and prayerful silence.

On Monday, March 9, it will be held at:

All Saints Episcopal Church
3847 Terracina Drive

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



Faith, Film, and Conversation: An Invitation

The Riverside Arts and Faith Committee invites you to join us at the Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California (3933 Mission Inn Ave., Suite

102) on March 27, for a special screening of the documentary "1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture," directed by Sharon "Rocky" Roggio.

This thought-provoking film explores how a small change in biblical translation helped fuel the modern anti-gay movement and invites viewers to consider the impact that translation, interpretation, and history continue to have on faith communities today.

Following the screening, there will be a panel discussion to reflect on the film and engage in meaningful conversation. Panelists, including Deacon Brenda, will answer questions and share insights.

Enjoy snacks, thoughtful dialogue, and an opportunity to connect with others who share a love for Jesus and for our neighbors. Come learn, reflect, and be part of the conversation!



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.



No bunco this month! The next get together for fellowship and fun over a game of bunco on **Saturday, April 11**, at 3 pm in Cooper-Burkhart House. Contact Sue Rogers for more

Choir Concert

The Raincross Master Chorale's next concert will take place at Calvary Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 1, at 4:00 pm. The theme of this concert is "American Patchwork" and will feature works by American composers.



Admission at the door for \$20, or \$10 for seniors, students or military.

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Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 am — Contemporary Service (in person and on YouTube)

9:30 am — Sunday School 11:00 am — Traditional Service

Church Office Hours: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday-Friday

Phone: (951) 682-1350 • Email: office@trinityriverside.org

Ministry Staff

Kent Tuohino, *Pastor* • Brenda S. Lussier, *Deacon* • Kelly Krashin, *Congregational President*
Glenn Pickett, *Director of Music Ministries* • Fernanda Ruelas, *Administrative Assistant*
Rev. Hitoshi & Satoko Adachi, *Missionaries in Japan*

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 represent our Lord Jesus Christ in this time and place. We will do so by:

- **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.

KNOW, GROW, SERVE AND SHARE