



# 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 4, April 2026

## Holy Week & Easter Services

### Palm Sunday, March 29

Our 9:30 and 11:00 am services will begin outside, then we will process into the sanctuary in remembrance of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

### Maundy Thursday, April 2

You are invited to attend a "Meal in the Upper Room" at 5:30 pm (sign up in advance) at Eden Lutheran Church and/or the 7:00 pm communion service at Eden to remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples.

### Good Friday, April 3

A Good Friday service will be held at Trinity at 7:00 pm to remember Jesus' death on the cross.



### Easter Sunday, April 5

#### Two Festival Services with Holy Communion

at 8:30 am (Contemporary)  
and 11:00 am (Traditional)

#### Pancake Breakfast at 9:30 am

*Suggested Breakfast Donation:*

\$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 for children under 12,  
with a \$10.00 maximum cost for families.

#### Decorate the Easter Cross

Please bring fresh-cut flowers to decorate the Easter Cross in the courtyard between the services.



## Concert by The Bonner Singers Sunday, April 19 at 5:00 pm

Since their beginning in 1995, the Bonner Singers have distinguished themselves as a choral ensemble of musical excellence and versatility, featuring sparkling performances and a vibrant choral tone. Led by Dr. Judd Bonner, they present worshipful original anthems, as well as inspiring versions of tried-and-true classics. Their performances are designed to provide a meaningful Christian message for all who attend. Admission is free; a freewill offering will be received.



## Rummage Sale on April 25

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 Heinecken 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.



## Easter Egg Hunt

### Sunday, April 12

Our celebration of Easter and the resurrection continues on Sunday, April 12, with an Easter egg hunt, starting about 10:30 am (after the 9:30 worship service ends).

*"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime." – Martin Luther*



## Volunteers Needed for Foster Youth Graduation Project

We are seeking volunteers to help plan and support our church's participation in the annual Foster Youth Graduation Event, which celebrates youth in foster care as they graduate from high school. Help is needed with planning, shopping, assembling gift baskets, and delivering donations.

A planning meeting will be held on April 26 as we prepare for the May collection of items and the June event. Please consider joining us in showing these young people they are seen, celebrated, and supported. The meeting will be held in Heinecken Hall after the first service on Sunday, April 26. Contact Kelly Krashin or Deacon Brenda for more information.

## Church Workday

Saturday, April 18, 9am-12pm



We need willing workers to come help us clean and maintain our church buildings! Cleaning supplies will be furnished, or you can bring your own. For further information, please contact Gil Heth.

## Underwear Wanted!

Our Social Concerns project for April will benefit the Shower Program. Each Thursday, we provide essential items to every person who comes to take a shower. They receive a clean pair of underwear, socks, and basic hygiene products — small but meaningful items that help restore dignity, comfort, and care.

At this time, we are asking for donations of new men's cotton boxer briefs in sizes Large and X-Large. These are the sizes we use for approximately 95% of participants, so your support in providing these specific items is significant.



If you prefer not to shop for underwear, you may also contribute to the Underwear Fund. We will gladly purchase the needed items on your behalf.



## Luke Hamilton's Senior Recital

at Trinity Lutheran Church  
on Saturday, April 25,  
at 4:00 pm

Luke Hamilton invites you to attend his senior recital for completion of a B.A. degree in music from California Baptist University. Luke writes, "My senior recital is the culmination of my efforts studying composition, classical piano, jazz piano, and accompaniment. It's a 30-minute cabaret starring Rachel Rogstad Rachel as Serenity, an automaton yearning for free will and creativity, and Luke Behrendt as 0.4Seer, an evil server bent on world domination. The band includes the rhythm section from my jazz trio as well as some horn players who are dear friends.

"Directly after my musical, my bass player, Viktor Pargas, will perform his senior recital in bass performance. There are classical works and clever jazz arrangements. This performance offers a unique look into the nuances of bass performance — it is not usually the feature."



16 Trinity members (plus 3 members from Eden Lutheran Church and a member of First Lutheran Church, Redlands) participated in the annual Riverside CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, March 22. A total of 119 participants from 11 local congregations took part in this year's walk. Our group of Lutherans raised a total of \$2,559. We appreciate everyone who made a donation to help fight hunger in Riverside and around the world!

## Day Camp at Trinity, July 13-17

We have scheduled a week of day camp at Trinity in July, led by camp staff from Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences (LRCC). Day camp is for kids entering Kindergarten through 6th grade this fall. Watch for registration forms and more details in the coming weeks.



## 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 29: Palm Sunday

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

### April 5: Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; Matthew 28:1-10

### April 12: Second Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 1:3-9; Psalm 16; John 20:19-31

### April 19: Third Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 2:19-25; Psalm 23; John 10:1-10

### April 26: Fourth Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 1:17-23; Psalm 116:1-4,12-19; Luke 24:13-35



I was glad  
when they said to me,  
"Let us go to the house  
of the Lord!"

## 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 sign up to donate the cost of the altar flowers for our Sunday services. Due to rising costs, the price is now \$35 for one bouquet or \$70 for both (please make checks payable to Trinity, or pay online via our website).

### Upcoming Flower Donors

- 3/29: Kosobucki Family
- 4/5: Tuohino Family
- 4/12: June Anderson
- 4/19: Deacon Brenda
- 4/26: Donor needed



## Pastor's Paragraphs

It's almost Easter, and signs of springtime are all around us. Of course, the change of seasons is much more dramatic in colder parts of the country, but here in Southern California you still see signs of new life: trees budding new leaves, flowers blooming, and bees buzzing from one blossom to the next.

Martin Luther said, "Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime." However, if you look at the lawns in front of the church right now, what you see may remind you more of Good Friday than Easter Sunday! The grass is dead and brown. That's because we are preparing to remove the grass and replace it with new landscaping featuring native plants that require less water.

We are doing this now to take advantage of a rebate program that will cover most of the cost. We are doing it in preparation for new restrictions on grass lawns for commercial property that will take effect in California in 2028. And we are doing it because we think it will make the front of our church more attractive when it's finished and the new plants get established.

This may seem like a pretty straightforward project, but anything involving change can lead to plenty of discussion. The council has been discussing what features to include in the new landscaping — mulch or gravel, buried irrigation pipes or an above ground drip system, trees or no trees, etc. These were not questions I learned how to answer in seminary, but fortunately God has given us members with some knowledge and skill in these areas. I am grateful for their experience and insight.

That's part of what it means to be a church — a congregation of people with different skills and abilities. St. Paul used the analogy of a human body to describe the Christian church. Although different parts of the body perform different functions, all of them are important to the overall health of the body of Christ.

Paul says in Romans 12:4-6, "For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness."

What gifts have you been given? How can you use them to benefit the whole body of Christ? As you do, you will contribute to a springtime of growth and renewal for our church. — *Pastor Kent*



**Stewardship  
Report**

### TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/26 through 3/24/2026)

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$86,600.00  
Regular offerings received to date: \$66,628.33  
Difference: - 19,971.67

*Your faithful giving will help us reach our goal!*

## A Special Reunion

By Deacon Brenda

Sometimes I forget what we bring to one another, as family, as friends, as neighbors sharing space in our small corner of the world. In ministry, I often find myself asking, "Are we doing enough?" Enough for those who join us for a meal, a shower, a moment of rest.

Then something happens that reminds me that what we do here at Trinity matters and we are more than a meal, a shower and rest, which is why our guests keep showing up each week. And that is why the volunteers keep showing up each week.

Recently, our church office received a call from a sheriff's deputy seeking help locating a family member who had been missing for nearly six months. In his search, he discovered that an identification card had been mailed to Lutheran Social Services at our Rubidoux address, which eventually led him to our programs. I shared information on our outreach ministry and that I knew who the person was because he had joined us for meals and showers, though sporadically. Later that day, I spoke with his sister and suggested the best way to reach out would be to come and see if he might be at our Monday meal.

During our meal program the next Monday, a young woman arrived quietly, asking if anyone had seen her missing uncle. As we talked, she showed us his picture. One of our newer BAT volunteers looked across the room and gently said, "Is that him?" pointing toward a man whose back was turned to us.

We walked over. The young woman immediately recognized him and called his name. He turned and looked up in surprise. Soon his sister arrived, and through tears of relief and love, the three of them embraced. After months of uncertainty, they left together — no longer separated but reunited as a family.

In that moment, smiles spread across many faces in the room. Yet there was also a quiet sadness present. Some of our guests were witnessing a reunion they longed for in their own lives. Still, their joy for this family was genuine.

Moments like this remind me that true joy is often found in simply being available to one another. Richard Rohr says, "Hope grows in shared spaces. Love takes shape through compassion."

I am deeply grateful for the volunteers who serve in our outreach programs week after week, bringing their hearts to this ministry. Not every evening is easy. Not every story ends in a reunion, but together we continue to show up because our neighbors need us, and because, in serving them, we often discover grace ourselves.



## The 15th Annual Bonhoeffer Festival "THE REALITY OF FASCISM FOR BONHOEFFER AND FOR US TODAY" Thursday April 16, 2026

Hosted by and located at:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
1700 N. Towne Ave. Claremont, CA

Keynote Speaker: Rick Steves

Rick Steves is a renowned TV personality, historian and author, including the book, [Travel as a Political Act](#) (visit [ricksteves.com](http://ricksteves.com)).

Sponsored by the Southwest California Synod (ELCA), the Pacifica Synod (ELCA), and by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

### Schedule

12:30 pm Commemorative lunch in honor of Bonhoeffer's martyrdom

1:30 pm Program: Keynote Presentation by Rick Steves: "The Reality of Fascism for Bonhoeffer and for Us Today"

2:45 pm Panel Discussion/Q & A – led by Rev. Dr. Thomas Johnson

Panelists: Bishop Dave Nagler, Rabbi Jonathan Kupetz, Nina Fernando

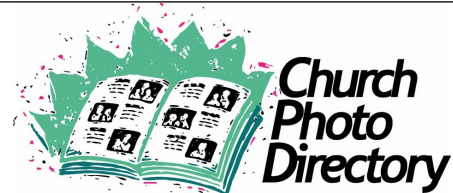
3:10 pm Q & A from the audience

RSVP to confirm attendance or to get the Zoom link at [Tjohnson@cst.edu](mailto:Tjohnson@cst.edu)/909-802-9549

This event is free and open to the public (donations are appreciated).



Rick Steves



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.

# Council Meeting Summary

Meeting called to order by Kelly Krashin at 6:09 pm on Tuesday, March 17. **Present:** Pastor Kent, Deacon Brenda, President Kelly Krashin, VP Karyl Robinson, Treasurer Theresa Husted, Larry Dodson, Sue Rogers, Steve Newlen, Peggy Fryc, Gil Heth, Jackie Letourneau-Wagner, Sandy Rodriguez, Shawn Lowell. **Absent:** Cherie Guillow

**Sunday Greeters:** Council members will take turns standing with Pastor Kent to greet people on Sundays after the 9:30 worship service and before the 11 am service:

3/22 – Sandy Rodriguez    3/27 – Sue Rogers  
April – Shawn Lowell (all month)

## Pastor's Report (highlights)

- **Council Retreat:** Our retreat on March 15 generated ideas for council members to work on this year.
- **Bonner Singers:** We have scheduled a concert by the Bonner Singers on Sunday, April 19, at 5 pm.
- **Regional Gathering:** Trinity will host a gathering of ELCA congregation members on Saturday, May 2. The cost for attending is \$25 and that includes lunch. Register by April 18 via the synod website: [www.pacificasynod.org/2026-regional-gatherings](http://www.pacificasynod.org/2026-regional-gatherings)
- **Easter Breakfast:** Motion to designate BAT as the recipient of Easter breakfast donations (after deducting expenses); approved unanimously

## Deacon's Report (highlights)

- **Worship:** Planning training for ushers and readers.
- **Church Office:** Continuing to train Fernanda on various office tasks and record-keeping skills.
- **Riverside Faith and Arts Committee:** Will be a panelist for discussion of the documentary *1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture on March 27*.
- **Day Camp:** Scheduled day camp the week of July 13-17, with staff from LRCC.
- **Showers:** Working with Shower of Hope for continued support of the Thursday shower program at Trinity. With the council's prior approval, the shower trailer has been relocated to our church property.

## Treasurer's Report

The net income for the month of February was – \$6,305.52. The fiscal year net income for the two months of January-February combined is \$37,871.00 (this includes the carryover from FY 2025). We had \$21,070.15 in envelope giving for the month of February and \$4,747.88 in unrestricted income.

## Old Business

- **Church Website:** Pastor Kent and Deacon Brenda met with John Dadlez on March 11 to begin work on a new website. They will gather photos and other information for the new website and meet again on April 22.
- **Turf Removal:** the council weighed several options for the new landscaping in the front of the church (facing Brockton Avenue).
  - ◇ Approved using decomposed granite in some areas and mulch in the rest.
  - ◇ Approved the removal of 4 ginko trees. Gil Heth will get bids for their removal.
  - ◇ Approved installation of buried hard pipes for watering the new landscaping.
- **Church Workdays scheduled:**
  - 4/18 – sanctuary and narthex to be cleaned.
  - 6/28 – Cooper-Burkhart House to be cleaned in preparation for day camp in July

## New Business

- **Easter Breakfast Plans:** Motion to approve BAT as the designation for the Easter breakfast donations (Pastor Kent/Karyl)
- **Plans for Holy Week Services:** (See dates and times on page 1 of this newsletter.)
- **Carpet in Poat Parlor:** Poat Parlor needs new carpeting. Kim Root-George will get quotes for installing commercial grade carpet.
- **Pacifica Synod Regional Gathering:** to be held at Trinity on Saturday, May 2. Anyone interested in attending needs to register via the synod website before April 18; the cost is \$25. To register, go to: [www.pacificasynod.org/2026-regional-gatherings](http://www.pacificasynod.org/2026-regional-gatherings)

## Miscellaneous Reports

- Reviewed Glenn Pickett's planned Sundays of vacation for this year.
- The missionaries we support in Japan will retire in the fall. At that time, we will need to choose a new missionary to support.

**Adjournment and Closing Prayer:** Pastor Kent led a closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next regular meeting of the council will be on Tuesday, April 21, at 6:00 pm via Zoom.



## April Birthdays

[5] Sue McConnell; [12] Helga Stafford; [14] Ihor Rohozhynskiy; [17] Carol Haffter; [18] Tom Conn, Kristine Rodriguez; [19] John Collins, Sandy Snorek; [22] Sara Mills, Bill Pitts; [26] Ilene Tedesco; [28] Nick Boyes

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



## TLC Choir Concert

Trinity's Choir will present their spring concert on Sunday, May 17, at 4 pm. Don't miss this uplifting concert featuring our choir accompanied by a chamber orchestra!



## 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.

## 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, April 13, it will be held at:  
First Congregational Church  
3504 Mission Inn Avenue

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



## Concert Featuring "Circle City Suite"

Saturday, April 18, at 7:00 pm

Northpoint Church, 988 W. Ontario Ave, Corona, CA

This concert features the "Circle City Suite" composed by Glenn Pickett. It's a 5-movement work dedicated to the history of Corona and Norco. It includes visuals and live narration. The concert, titled "A Night of American Composers," celebrates the 10th anniversary of the suite's original premiere. Concert admission is \$25 for adults, \$23 for students and seniors.

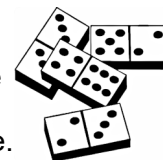
## Christ in Our Home

Copies of the new *Christ in Our Home* devotional booklet are available at our church. If you would like to have one sent to you, contact our office and we will be happy to mail you a copy or drop one off at your door. A few large-print copies are also available.



## 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.



The next get together for fellowship and fun over a game of bunco will be on **Saturday, April 11**, at 3 pm in Cooper-Burkhart House. Contact Sue Rogers for more information.

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are a Thrivent Financial benefit member, you may have Choice Dollars® to direct to a cause that's close to your heart. If you haven't already done so, please support your church or a favorite nonprofit by directing Choice Dollars by March 31. After that date, any Thrivent Choice Dollars awarded last year will expire.



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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](mailto: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**