



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 6, June 2026

Peanut Butter & Jelly Wanted



Our Social Concerns project for June is a peanut butter and jelly donation drive to help struggling parents feed their children this summer. The peanut butter and jelly will be distributed by the Hope Food Pantry at Trinity. Watch for sales on large jars of peanut butter and jelly! Contact Kelly Krashin with any questions.

Thursday Night Bible Study

Our weekly Bible study is currently using the book, *The Ballot & the Bible: How Scripture Has Been Used and Abused in American Politics and Where We Go from Here*. In this book, author Kaitlyn Schiess explores these questions:

How do Bible passages written thousands of years ago apply to politics today? What can we learn from America's history of using the Bible in politics? How can we talk with people whose views differ from our own?

In *The Ballot and the Bible*, Schiess unpacks examples of how Americans have connected the Bible to politics in the past, highlighting times it was applied well and times it was misused. She combines a careful study of American political history and biblical interpretation to help readers...

- read and understand Scripture faithfully
- talk with others about it
- apply it to contemporary political issues

As our nation prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday, I invite you to join us on Thursdays at 7 pm via Zoom for this fascinating study of the Bible and how it has been used throughout American history. – Pastor Kent

Day Camp at Trinity

**WHEN: July 13-17, 9 am to 3 pm
(Friday 9-12)**

WHERE: Trinity Lutheran Church

WHO: Children entering grades K-6

COST: \$25 for one child, \$10 for each additional child from the same household

Day camp offers a summer camp experience without leaving town. Staff from Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences (LRCC) will conduct games, music sessions, Bible studies, crafts, and other activities aimed at faith-building and community engagement throughout the week. Registration forms are available now in the church office.

This year's theme is "From the Ashes," based on Isaiah 43:2. Campers will learn how to use God's strength to overcome any obstacles they face in life. Campers will discover the power of faith to raise us up from the ashes!

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;... when you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned."



ISAIAH 43:2

Summer Worship Schedule



During June, we will continue to have two Sunday services at 9:30 and 11:00 am. During the month of July, we will have one combined service at 9:30 am. On Sunday, July 5, we will have a service in celebration of our nation's 250th birthday, followed by a hot dog lunch. Watch for more details in next month's newsletter.

Church Workday Saturday, June 27

Our next date for cleaning and maintenance will be Saturday, June 27, starting at 9:00 am. Please come for part or all of that morning to help keep our church beautiful and ready for ministry!





Turf Replacement

The grass lawns in front of the church have been replaced with new plants and mulch designed to lower our water use. It looks good now, and the new landscaping will look even better when the plants grow and mature!

Most of the cost for this project will be repaid with a rebate from the water district. We are in the final stage of submitting documents for that rebate now.

Step by Step



Many of us were blessed to be part of the Spring Choir Concert titled “Step by Step”, either as a member of the choir or orchestra, as a member of the technical and hospitality teams, or just as a member of the audience. I have been approached by many of you, saying how much you enjoyed the concert and how you can see such growth in the choir over the last few years.

This past year, the choir grew in number, adding 6 new members, several of whom joined the choir after having attended one of our concerts. We grew in our ability to sing better as a cohesive group, to memorize our music and to connect better with the congregation as we allowed the lyrics to minister to our listeners.

The good news is that we are already making plans for two Christmas concerts (I know it’s only June!) on December 12 and 13. What you may not be aware of is that, although there is a line item in the budget that appears to cover the cost of these concerts, no money from your regular giving goes towards these costs. All of the costs must be covered by offerings received at the concerts and by additional gifts.

Could you pray about helping us? Perhaps you could add an extra offering designated for the choir’s Christmas concerts, in addition to your regular giving, for each of the next seven months. Or maybe you would consider a one-time offering specified for the Christmas concerts?

Just as we all need to joyfully accept God’s free gift of grace, we want everyone — members of the congregation and friends throughout the community — to be able to *joyfully* receive these concerts as a free gift, without having to charge admission. We will need your help to do this! 2 Corinthians 9:7-8 says, “I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over and make up your own mind what you will give... God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.” (Message translation)

It is truly a joy for the Trinity (TLC) Choir to share God’s gift of song with you, and what a joy it will be to share this gift with others as we continue our ministry into the future — step by step!

– Barb Beaver, on behalf
of the Trinity Choir



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 study 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

June 7: Second Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 4:13-25; Psalm 50:7-15;
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 14: Third Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 5:1-8; Psalm 100; Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 21: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 6:1b-11; Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18;
Matthew 10:24-31

June 28: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 6:12-23; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Matthew 10:1, 5-7, 40-42



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

- 6/7: Helen Ramos
- 6/14: June Anderson & Emilia Mayorga
- 6/21: Mary Kantola
- 6/28: Larry & Sandy Hall
- 7/5: Donor needed



Pastor's Paragraphs

On May 20, my wife and I attended the commencement ceremony for our son, Chris, who graduated as a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona. He will begin his medical residency in July at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

At the graduation ceremony, we gathered with hundreds of other proud parents who came to witness this crowning achievement after years of study. One of the speakers at the ceremony was a graduating doctor named Esmeralda. She was born in Mexico, but her family had moved to the U.S. when she was very young. She spoke movingly of the hard work and long hours that she and her fellow classmates had spent in their medical studies. Sometimes when it seemed overwhelming, she said that she felt like quitting. But then, as she sat in the air-conditioned library studying, she thought of her father working long hours outside in 100 degree weather, installing asphalt roofs. She thought of her mother, who had been denied an education growing up, because her mother's grandfather didn't think that girls needed an education. Esmeralda was not only the first member of her family to earn a medical degree — she was the first one to graduate from college.

When she called out to her parents in Spanish, thanking them for their hard work and sacrifices, they stood up and we all applauded. At the end of her speech, there was not a dry eye in the house. All of us present felt parental pride, but Esmeralda eloquently testified to her parents' love, hard work and the sacrifices that had allowed her to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor.

What she said described the dream that has drawn many millions of immigrants to America. In my grandparents' day, it drew them from Finland to the plains of South Dakota. They came dreaming of a better life for themselves and for their children. They came, inspired by the words written on a plaque in the base of the Statue of Liberty,

"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Today, when there are so many negative things said about immigrants coming to our country, I'm grateful that I and all the families who attended the Western University graduation ceremony were reminded that immigrants are part of what makes America truly great.

— Pastor Kent

"When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them... Love them as yourself." Leviticus 25:33, 34



TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/26 through 5/31/2026)

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$144,333.00
Regular offerings received to date: \$113,909.00
Difference: - 30,424.00

Your faithful giving will help us reach our goal!

Trinity's Quilting Bee: Seventeen Years of Compassion, Fellowship, and Service

One of Trinity's ministries can often be found hard at work on the first and third Saturdays of every month, starting at 9:00 am. Amid conversation, laughter, snacks, and fellowship, members of Trinity's Quilting Bee gather to create something beautiful. These quilts carry comfort, hope, and love to people facing some of life's most difficult circumstances.

This year marks the Quilting Bee's 17th year of ministry, and what an incredible impact they have made. Current and past volunteers have created **2,189** quilts, all of which have been donated to Lutheran World Relief. These quilts are distributed to people around the world who are experiencing hardship, displacement, emergencies, or disasters. Last year, Lutheran World Relief began sending quilts to communities within the United States experiencing these same hardships.

The history of Trinity's Quilting Bee is a story of faith, vision, and inspiration. A piece of the story involves Bev Erck and Kelly Krashin. After visiting a quilting group in Moreno Valley and seeing the ministry firsthand, they recognized the opportunity to create something similar at Trinity. From that visit, the seeds of our Quilting Bee were planted, and the ministry has flourished ever since. Another connection is that Sarah Boese's mother, Lois Allbeck, was one of the original quilters, and Sarah continues to serve in this ministry today.

On a recent quilting day, Sarah Boese, Jackie Letourneau-Wagner, Karyl Robinson, Sue Rogers, and Kelly Krashin were hard at work. They are part of a larger group of volunteers that includes Jean Aubin, Sue McConnell, Pat Sherman, Cherie Guillow, and Brenda M. Lussier. Over the years, many church and community members have contributed their time and talents.

When asked why this ministry is important to them, every volunteer spoke about the comfort these quilts provide to people they may never meet. They know that each quilt represents more than fabric and thread; it represents care, compassion, and God's love reaching someone in need.

One volunteer shared this heartfelt reflection: *"Our quilts are helping families and individuals affected by emergencies and disasters. We are happy and blessed to know that we are helping our neighbors all over the world."*

The quilters also spoke about the joy they experience each year on Quilting Sunday when the finished quilts are displayed across the sanctuary pews. Seeing the congregation admire the quilts and celebrate the ministry's accomplishments is a meaningful reminder of the impact Trinity is making beyond our walls.

The most important message the Quilting Bee wants everyone to know is this: everyone is welcome to participate. You do not need sewing experience to be involved. There are many ways to help, such as ironing, cutting fabric, tying quilts, and preparing supplies. Some tasks can even be done from home for those unable to attend the Saturday gatherings.

The Quilting Bee is more than a quilting group. It is a ministry of fellowship, service, and love, a ministry that reminds us how God can use willing hands and caring hearts to bless people across the street and around the world. If you would like to learn more or become involved, consider stopping by the Quilting Room on the first or third Saturday of the month. You will find friendly faces, warm fellowship, and an opportunity to be part of something truly special.



A Quilters Prayer: Creator God, you have entrusted us to be your witnesses in the world and you give us the tools to do this work. Thank you for the skills to create beautiful quilts that will wrap our neighbors in your love. Bless the recipients of our gifts and help us to continue to care for our neighbors all around the world, even those who are far away and sometimes hard to reach. Amen.



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 or food4less.com, or call 1-800-443-4438. The organization number for our church is UT644.

Council Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order by Kelly Krashin at 6:08 pm on May 19. Present: Cherie Guillow, Gil Heth, Theresa Husted, Kelly Krashin, Jackie Letourneau-Wagner, Shawn Lowell, Steve Newlen, Karyl Robinson, Sue Rogers, Deacon Brenda, and Pastor Kent. Absent: Larry Dodson, Peggy Fryc, Sandy Rodriguez.

Pastor's Report (Highlights)

- The Synod Regional Gathering on May 2 at Trinity went great, thanks to everyone's help.
- Choir Concert: 107 people attended the concert on May 17. Offerings totaled \$3,356.00. We were short \$1,690.00 needed to cover the cost. Pastor Kent requested a grant from the Endowment Committee to cover the shortfall.
- The organization "Gallons of Love" needs to incorporate as a non-profit. This is one of the organizations we support during our Sunday of Service.
- New carpet in Poat Parlor has been installed. The baseboard now needs to be painted.
- Jonathon Grover died recently and his service will be at 11 am on June 13 at Trinity.
- Sandy Rodriguez has decided to resign from the church council for personal reasons.

Deacon's Report (Highlights)

- Began transferring QuickBooks data from the desktop version to the online version of QuickBooks. This will be completed soon.
- Still in negotiation with T-Mobile about an amended agreement for use of our bell tower for cell phone equipment.
- Day Camp is July 13-17. We need volunteers and children!
- Lutheran Social Services – Met with the new local supervisor about sending staff on a regular basis to pick up mail and to offer social services to people in need of housing on Thursdays.

Treasurer's Report: As of April 30, we had \$260,663.72 in savings. We received \$21,154.21 in envelope giving during April, plus \$1,372.59 in unrestricted income. The Hope Pantry account at Feeding America has \$3,053.48. All bills have been paid. Offerings are lower compared to last year.

Old Business

- **Council Retreat Follow-Up** – We would like to schedule more fellowship activities and need volunteers to help plan activities. Sue Rogers will talk with the "Game Day" group about ideas for fellowship activities, such as lunch outings, plays, concerts, etc.
- **Property Maintenance**
*New Carpet in Poat Parlor – it was installed on May 12. The new carpet is lower than the previous carpet, and so the bottom of the baseboard is now visible and needs to be painted.

Gil will add this to the list of items to do at the next workday.

- *Turf Removal & Landscaping - It looks really good. Gil is working with the landscaper to get all the paperwork together to forward to the Water District for the rebate.
- *Gardener for Landscape Maintenance - Gil is getting bids for this. Deacon Brenda will get a bid from her gardener and Theresa will forward the names and info of the gardeners they use.
- *Church Workday on June 27 – Gil has a list of items that need to be done.
- *Bathroom Remodel - It is presently on hold till we get some of the other projects completed.

New Business

- **Rummage Sale Funds** – Council approved a motion that the \$930.00 we earned from the April rummage sale be allocated to the Quilting Bee ministry.
 - **Grant Requests** – Council approved a motion to request \$1,700.00 from the endowment committee for our choir concert costs. Council also approved a motion to request \$500.00 from the endowment committee for the Gallons of Love prison ministry, to help them incorporate as a non-profit organization.
 - **Childtime Letter of Agreement:** (This childcare facility on Jurupa Avenue was previously called The Growing Place.) Council approved a motion to accept a Letter of Agreement giving them permission to use Heinecken Hall as an emergency evacuation location.
 - **Pride Sunday** – We will celebrate this on June 28. Pastor Kent would like to have a Statement of Welcome on our website. He requested permission from council to have a small committee write this statement and bring it to the council for approval next month. This statement would make clear that we welcome all people, no matter what color, social background or sexual orientation. Motion approved.
 - **Summer Activities** – We will have one worship service at 9:30 am during the month of July. On July 5th we will have a hot dog lunch after the service, along with a game, such as bingo. Other summer activities to be planned.
 - **Kitchen Counter Repair** – The countertop around the sinks in the Heinecken Hall kitchen is sinking due to water leaks. Deacon Brenda will contact a plumber to determine if there is a leak. Afterwards we will need to look into fixing the damage the water has caused.
- Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm. Pastor Kent closed with a prayer. The next council meeting will be on June 16 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

June Birthdays

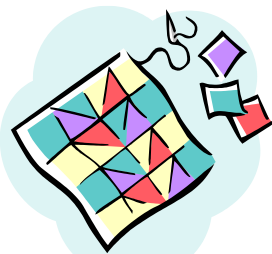
[1] Marie Hinz; [6] Ashley Lowell Muñoz; [7] Leiana Chavez; [8] Disa DeFrese; [9] Phyllis Stumpf; [10] Kylie Gundrum, Brenda S. Lussier; [13] Rob Clarke; [14] Bill Cole, [15] Catalina Wall; [16] Theresa Husted; [18] Chris Zamora; [19] Noah Gundrum; [20] Maralene Taylor; [24] Ben Stuart; [25] David Husted; [26] Robert Brooks; [27] Connie Fortier; [29] Beth Houlihan, Karen Myers; [30] Adrian Rohozhynski.

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



Volunteers Needed

Your help is needed! There is a sign-up sheet in the church narthex to volunteer to read the Bible lessons and the prayers of intercession at a Sunday service, and a separate sheet to sign up to provide refreshments on a Sunday morning.



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, June 8, it will be held at:
Madison Street Church
3991 Madison Street

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



Birth Announcements

Hudson Reed Clarke was born on May 13 to Robert & Samantha Clarke. Hudson is the seventh grandchild of Rob & Karen Clarke.

Amani Jarome Stanley was born on May 22. Amani is Gretta Merwin's & John Collins' great-grandson.



"Concert for Heroes"

7:00 pm on Friday, July 3rd
at Riverside National Cemetery

An evening of patriotic symphonic music, picnicking, and fireworks at the Riverside National Cemetery. Admission and parking are free. The Riverside National Cemetery is located at 22495 Van Buren Boulevard, Riverside, CA 92518. For more information, including a map of the concert location, go to:

<https://concertforheroes.wordpress.com/>

Celebration of Life for Jonathon Grover on June 13

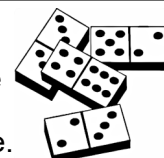
Jonathan Grover died on April 27. He had been living at the Community Care Center near our church for more than 17 years, after he was left paralyzed from an accident in which he was hit by a drunk driver. His father used to wheel him across the street to bring him to our services. A funeral will be held at Trinity on Saturday, June 13, at 11 am. Mary Kantola is organizing a team to serve lunch after the service.



The next get together for fellowship and fun over a game of bunco will be on **Saturday, June 13**, at 3 pm in Cooper-Burkhart House. Contact Sue Rogers for more information.

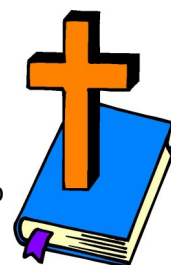
Game Fellowship Group

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.



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.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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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