



# Trinity Topics

The Newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church, Riverside CA  
Sharing God's love, hope and forgiveness



# JULY

# &

# August

Trinity Lutheran Church

Since 1893

Volume 29, Issue 7

July-August 2026



## School Supplies Wanted

When schools resume in August, some families will need help providing

their children with the supplies they need for learning. During the month of July we are asking for donations to help fill backpacks with school supplies. There are tags with the names of the items needed on a bulletin board in the narthex at church. Take a tag, then buy the item and bring it to church by Friday, July 24. We'll fill backpacks with the school supplies after worship on Sunday, July 26. Contact Kelly Krashin or the church office with any questions.

*Jesus took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them.*

»— Mark 10:16 —«



## Summer Worship Services

From July until August 2, 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.

On August 2, we will have one service followed by a reception in honor of Mike Finn, who is retiring from our Praise Team after 19 years.

## Interested in Being a Reader or an Usher?

On Sunday, July 19, we will have one worship service, and we're taking advantage of this opportunity to offer training for anyone interested in serving as a Reader, an Usher, or both.

These ministries are an important part of our worship life, and while we are grateful for those who faithfully serve each week, we are always looking for additional volunteers to help fill these vital roles.

Pastor Kent will lead a session on the ministry of the Reader, explaining why this role is so important and offering practical guidance on how to prepare and read the Scriptures during worship. Deacon Brenda will cover the role of the Usher, including the key responsibilities before, during, and after the service.

Whether you are curious about serving for the first time or would simply like a refresher, this class will provide the information and confidence you need. Participants will receive helpful handouts to take home and use as a reference.

Join us in the sanctuary approximately 15 minutes after the conclusion of worship on July 19. We hope you'll consider becoming part of these important ministries that help make our worship services welcoming, meaningful, and well-organized. Questions? Please contact Deacon Brenda.



*Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.*

»— Hebrews 10:24-25 —«



## Community Wellness Center Grand Opening

You are invited to attend the opening day celebration for the renovated and expanded Community Wellness Center in San Bernardino (formerly known as CCLM), operated by Lutheran Social Services of Southern California. The celebration will be on Thursday, July 9, beginning at 8:30 AM (to beat the heat). Light refreshments will be served. To help the organizers know how many people to expect, please use the QR code to RSVP.

Come and see their new facility and learn more about the programs they will offer there. The expanded campus includes 140 interim housing units (shown in photo) in addition to the existing 70-bed homeless shelter, helping more individuals access safe, supportive spaces as they transition toward permanent housing.



### Suitcases Needed

Faith in Motion is seeking donations of new or gently used medium-to-large suitcases to support youth in foster care. Having a suitcase of their own allows foster youth to safely carry their belongings, and helps them feel valued and respected during a time of uncertainty and transition. If you would be willing to donate a suitcase, your generosity will make a difference in the life of a child experiencing foster care. Please contact Kelly Krashin if you have any questions.



### Day Camp Canceled

Sadly, we have canceled this year's July day camp due to a low number of registrations. Some children have aged out of the program, and other families had planned vacations or other activities during the same week.

## Sunday School Summer Break and a Call to Serve

Beginning on July 5 and continuing through the end of July, Sunday School will take a short summer break. Each year, we consider whether to pause Sunday School during the summer months. Between family vacations, busy schedules, and the slower pace that often comes with summer, attendance can become unpredictable. This year, we have decided that taking a brief break is the best option.

Part of this decision is also connected to a time of transition. Fernanda Ruelas has faithfully served in both the church office and our Sunday School program. As many of you know, she has been balancing both responsibilities, but the time has come for her to step away from Sunday School and focus her attention on the office. We are grateful for all she has done to nurture and support our children.

Our hope is to resume Sunday School in August, but we need your help to make that happen. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to assist with lesson planning, preparation of materials, and teaching. We will also begin the process of searching for someone to hire for this ministry, but that process takes time, not only to find the right person, but also to complete the necessary background checks and requirements.

Whether we have one child or twenty children, we have a responsibility as a church family to provide a strong foundation of faith. The children in our congregation are not simply the future of the church, they are an important part of our church today. By investing in them, we help them grow in God's love and deepen their connection to this faith community.

If you have ever considered helping with Sunday School, now is the perfect time to step forward. Come be part of building that foundation and shaping the faith journey of our youngest members. For more information, please see Deacon Brenda.





## 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 that week's study topic along with a link to the Zoom meeting.



## Sunday Bible Readings

July 5: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 7:15-25; Ps 145:8-14; Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:1-8; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 8:12-25; Ps 86:11-17; Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Rom. 8:26-39; Ps 119:129-136; Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52

August 2: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5; Ps 145:8-9, 14-21; Matthew 14:13-21

August 9: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 10:5-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Matthew 14:22-33

August 16: Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Matthew 15:10-28

August 23: Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 12:1-8; Psalm 138; Matthew 16:13-20

August 30: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 12:9-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Matthew 16:21-28

## Sunday Coffee Hour

Volunteers are needed to serve at the Sunday morning coffee hour. If you would like to 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. The price is \$35 for one bouquet or \$70 for both. Please make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church, or pay online via our website.

### Upcoming Flower Donors

7/5: Barbara Morris & Sara Mills  
7/12: Carol Haffter  
7/19: Theresa Husted  
7/26: Dorie Haddy & Gil Heth  
8/2: *Donor needed*  
8/9: *Donor needed*  
8/16: Carol Haffter  
8/23: Carol Haffter & Matt Bradley  
8/30: Emilia Mayorga



## Pastor's Paragraphs

When I was a child, my family used to take long summer road trips from our home in California to visit our relatives in the Midwest. My parents stopped at many of the historical markers and other mileposts along the way. I think they wanted to teach us something about American history. (They also probably wanted to stretch their legs and let their four restless children run off some energy.)

I thought of those long trips crammed into the back of a station wagon as I began thinking about our nation's upcoming 250th birthday – the U.S. "semiquincentennial" to be precise. The 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence is a kind of historical marker on the highway of time. It's a good time to stop, stretch our legs a bit, and reflect on where we have come from and where we are heading.

The Preamble of the Declaration of Independence declares, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The lofty vision of equality and freedom enshrined in the Declaration of Independence has guided our national journey like a map, giving us direction and inspiring us to wrestle again and again with what it means, and what we need to do in order to reach the promised land of freedom and equality for all people.

That journey has certainly not been easy. It took a bloody Civil War to finally bring an end to slavery and extend the rights of freedom and citizenship to African-Americans. The declaration of God-given equality was finally extended to women in 1920, when the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, granting women the right to vote. The Civil Rights movement of the 1950's and 60's succeeded in overturning segregation and extending the guarantee of equal rights for all Americans. In 2015, gay and lesbian couples finally gained the right to get married.

This year, as we reach the 250th milestone in our nation's highway of history, we realize that the journey is not over yet. The original vision of freedom and equality has expanded, but it is not yet fully realized. And now there are those who want to turn the car around and go back to an earlier time. But our nation's founding documents can still act like a kind of GPS, correcting us when we make a wrong turn, redirecting us when we go astray, and guiding us forward toward the destination of equal rights and freedom for all people.

The Apostle Paul wrote these words in response to the threat he saw posed by leaders who wanted people to go back to the old ways of their religious past: "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1)

Before we climb back into our car and leave behind this semiquincentennial milestone, I pray that we will each take time to reflect on our nation's history, and rededicate ourselves to the values enshrined in the Declaration we celebrate this year. – *Pastor Kent*



## TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/26 through 6/24/2026)

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$173,200.00  
Regular offerings received to date: **\$138,682.00**  
Difference: - \$34,518.00

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

## America at 250: Holding gratitude and humility

June 23, 2026

Dear church,

As we look toward the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, many of us will celebrate with fireworks, parades and barbecues. Independence Day often brings us together with family and friends. Yet there is more that connects us than our communal celebrations. We are also connected through a common vision.

Signed in 1776, the Declaration of Independence proclaims a vision of equality for all people. While there were other nations pushing for equality at the time, the declaration was and is a monumental document in the way it names the aspiration so boldly. As we observe and celebrate the 250th anniversary of that signing, we also affirm the vision of freedom and equality it casts. We can be grateful.

And with contrition and humility, we acknowledge all the ways we have failed to embody that vision. As members of this church, we are called to “pray, participate in, and advocate for civic life in the United States that reflects God’s activity and call, which seek both the well-being of all people and a creation marked by justice and peace” (ELCA social statement *Faith and Civic Life*, p. 89).

As Lutherans, we know the importance of naming realities for what they are. As citizens, we confess the ways we have not yet realized the vision of the Declaration of Independence and, more importantly, as Christians we confess the ways we have participated in or been complicit in failures to live into the vision God provides. This vision is rooted in creation and redemption. God crafts each person in God’s own image and sends Jesus Christ to redeem us, setting us free to follow Christ’s new commandment to love one another.

The history of the United States is complex, and all too often we have fallen short of our stated values. Indigenous peoples across this land have been forced to cede their ancestral homes and pushed to reservations. Women and men have been prevented from voting because of their sex and race and spat on and jailed when they demanded their rights. Japanese American families were interned during World War II. Queer and transgender people’s lives are obstructed by federal and state orders.

There is a photograph of Elizabeth Eckford, one of the nine Black teenagers who integrated Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957. Books under her arm, she faces forward as angry white people crowd behind her. She was just trying to go to school.

Holding both the failures and the vision in our hearts and minds, I invite us to ask ourselves, “What does it mean to celebrate a promise that is real and yet still unfolding? What does it mean to be a people who always live in ‘the already but not yet’?”

This is a central question for us not only as we mark the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence but also in our daily lives as people of faith. The prophets repeatedly remind us of the vision God casts for all of creation, and they call us to account when, as God’s own people, we fall short.

When we fall short, we remember we are rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We think, speak and live out faith through God’s future. God’s future is resurrection. As a church, we are turned not only to the past but to the future God is making possible right now through us as we love and serve others.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe that God calls us to:

- Remember our connection to each other through baptism, as Scripture teaches us: “We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5).
- Name sin for what it really is and to repent of it, as the Augsburg Confession and the catechisms remind us.
- Serve the common good in society as “earthly measures toward God’s intention” (*Faith and Civic Life*, p. 11).

As we celebrate 250 years of the Declaration of Independence, we can hold gratitude and humility, possibilities and shortcomings. We continue to live in the already and the not-yet.

And we hold fast to the most important promise of all: the presence of God with us, the power of the resurrection of Christ, the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit and the ever-unfolding grace of God.

We celebrate this occasion neither as a perfect nation nor as a perfect church but as a people held in God’s grace and called into community in service to all neighbors and for the sake of the world God so loves.

In Christ,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



### 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.

# Council Meeting Summary

Kelly Krashin called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm on June 16. Present: Shawn Lowell, Theresa Husted, Gil Heth, Kelly Krashin, Jackie Letourneau-Wagner, Steve Newlen, Sue Rogers, Peggy Fryc, Deacon Brenda Lussier, and Pastor Kent Tuohino. Absent: Cherie Guillow and Karyl Robinson.

## Pastor's Report (Highlights)

- Mike Finn has announced his retirement from our music ministry. The council approved holding a single worship service on August 2, 2026, followed by a special coffee hour to recognize and celebrate his years of service.
- Pastor Kent will be on vacation for a week beginning on July 26, and Deacon Brenda will preach and preside at worship that Sunday.
- Retired Lutheran Pastor Dave Herrig, a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Claremont and a leader in its Reconciled in Christ (RIC) process, will preach at our Pride Sunday service on June 28.
- Stephanie Dykes, a PLTS seminary student from Palm Desert, has requested to complete her Ministry in Context requirement at Trinity, and the council approved inviting her to serve in that capacity.

## Deacon's Report (Highlights)

- We have transitioned to a new version of Quickbooks. Reviewed the new financial report format.
- Shared updates to children's programming. Fernanda Ruelas has resigned from her Sunday School position as of the end of June, but will continue to work in the church office Monday-Friday. Day Camp currently has three registrations, and as a result it may need to be canceled.
- The council also received an update on the T-Mobile cell tower negotiations, and an email outlining the latest developments was distributed to the council.

**Treasurer's Report:** Financial reports for the month of May were reviewed. In May we received a total of \$26,011.30 in envelope giving and \$4,567.54 in other unrestricted income. Our net income for the year (as of the end of May) was \$25,010.97.

## Old Business

- **Fellowship Follow-up** – discussion about games to play at the hot dog lunch on Sunday, July 5. Sue Rogers and the game group will make recommendations.
- **Property Maintenance**
  - \*Gil Heth painted the baseboards in Poat Parlor.
  - \*Turf removal: waiting for final inspection. Once approved, the rebate will be issued.
  - \*Gardener: Deacon Brenda shared a bid from one gardener. Gil shared another. He will get a third bid.
  - \*The next church workday is on Saturday, June 27, starting at 9:00 am.
  - \*We discussed fixing a problem with one of the kitchen sinks in Heineken Hall. Water is leaking from the top of the sink into the cabinet below.
  - \*Gil shared a proposal to improve the landscaping on the Rubidoux Avenue side of the church. The proposal will be added to next month's agenda.

## New Business

- **Grant Request:** The council approved the Endowment Committee's recommendation of a grant of \$1,000 for the Pacifica Synod's Tapestry Ministry.
- **Welcome Statement:** A subcommittee of Shawn Lowell, Deacon Brenda Lussier and Pastor Kent Tuohino created a statement for our church that affirms our welcome of all people. The council approved the statement, which will be shared with the congregation at the services on June 28.
- **Insurance:** New policies will be issued in July. We expect cost increases and changes to what is covered by the policy. Once this information is received, this will be discussed by the council.
- **Audit Reports:** The Audit Committee provided their report covering the years 2024 and 2025. Overall, it was a very positive report with no errors found. The committee did request some feedback on some items. A response will be created and approved by the council at a future meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. Pastor Kent closed with a prayer. The next council meeting will be on July 21 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

## July Birthdays

[1] Sandy Hall; [2] Lew Trapp; [3] Amanda Wright; [4] Darii Rohozhynskyi; [6] Case Bennett; [9] Gil Heth; [11] Evan Tedesco; [12] Danielle Bitetti, David Rogers; [14] June Anderson, Marlene DeFrese; [16] Kevin Wheeler [17] Patrick McKeehan; [19] Rachel Rogstad; [21] Sarah Boese, Elizabeth Printup, Stacey Robins; [22] Bill Brethauer, Shawn Lowell; [28] Dorie Haddy

## August Birthdays

[2] Matt Bradley; [8] Mim Frantz; [9] Chris Brown; [10] Ramon Corona; [12] William Wall, Sr.; [13] Debbie Black, Carolyn Bolz, Luke Hamilton; [15] Abraham Kosobucki; [16] Julie McAuley Stuart; [19] Cindy Hogue, LylaClare Kosobucki; [21] Helen Fairfax; [22] Ava Tedesco, Danny Wagner; [24] Amelie Rodriguez; [26] Albert Dominguez; [28] Willie Johnson; [29] Cindy Bennett; [31] Vince Baggett

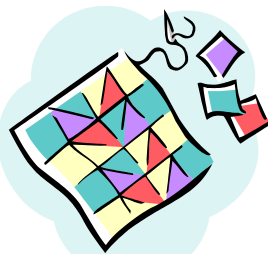
If we missed your birthday, please let us know so that we can add you to our list!

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



## Volunteers Needed

Your help is needed! There is a sign-up sheet in the church narthex to volunteer to serve as an usher or 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!

## Please 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 of prayer on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm.

On Monday, July 13, it will be held at:  
All Saints Episcopal Church  
3847 Terracina Drive

On Monday, August 10, it will be held at:  
First Congregational Church  
3504 Mission Inn Avenue



## "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/>

## Fireworks Show

Eden Lutheran Church will open its parking lot on July 4th for viewing the fireworks show on Mt. Rubidoux. A parking pass will be needed. They can be picked up at Trinity or the church office at Eden. Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be served.



## Celebration of Life for Tim Mott on July 11

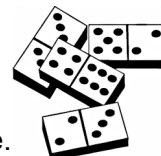
Martha Mott's husband, Tim Mott, died on June 8, 2026, as a result of complications from Parkinson's disease. Tim was Sarah Boese's brother-in-law. A service for Tim will be held at Trinity at 10 am on Saturday, July 11. Mary Kantola is organizing a team of volunteers to serve refreshments after the service. Please pray for God to comfort Tim's family.



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

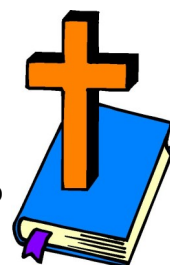
## Game Fellowship Group

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  
5969 BROCKTON AVENUE  
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92506

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| <p>TRINITY TOPICS is published monthly by:<br/>Trinity Lutheran Church, 5969 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p><b>Sunday Worship Schedule</b><br/>9:30 am — Contemporary Service (in person and on YouTube)<br/>9:30 am — Sunday School    11:00 am — Traditional Service<br/><b>Church Office Hours:</b> 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday-Friday<br/>Phone: (951) 682-1350 • Email: <a href="mailto:office@trinityriverside.org">office@trinityriverside.org</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p><b>Ministry Staff</b><br/>Kent Tuohino, <i>Pastor</i> • Brenda S. Lussier, <i>Deacon</i> • Kelly Krashin, <i>Congregational President</i><br/>Glenn Pickett, <i>Director of Music Ministries</i> • Fernanda Ruelas, <i>Administrative Assistant</i><br/>Rev. Hitoshi &amp; Satoko Adachi, <i>Missionaries in Japan</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p><b>Vision &amp; Mission Statements</b><br/>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.<br/>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> |