



Trinity Topics

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



Trinity Lutheran Church

Since 1893

Volume 29, Issue 8

September 2026

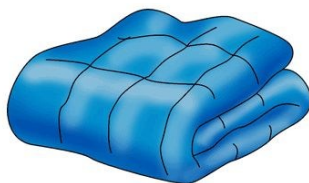


Blanket Drive

When cooler nights eventually arrive, many of us will wrap ourselves in the comfort of warm homes and soft blankets. Yet, for those who live in cars, tents, or on the streets, warmth is a luxury not easily found.

During the month of September, our Social Concerns Project is collecting new or gently used twin size blankets to share with our unhoused neighbors. These blankets will be distributed throughout the colder months, offering comfort, dignity, and – most importantly – warmth.

Your generosity will help ensure that no one is left out in the cold. Please consider bringing one blanket or more and being part of this simple but powerful act of love.



God's work. Our hands.



September 13, 2026

Join the TLC Choir!

On September 9, the TLC Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the church sanctuary. New singers are welcome!



Join Us for Our Sunday of Service

"God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday is an annual day of service in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We will have one worship service at 9:30 am on September 13, followed by a hot dog lunch and several service projects that will be set up in our fellowship hall. If you have a yellow "God's Work, Our Hands" t-shirt, be sure to wear it to church that day!



Ringers Wanted!

Starting on September 9, our handbell choir will rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm in the handbell room. Contact Sue Richards for more information.

Flower Vases Needed

If you have any large flower vases that you don't need, please donate them to our Altar Guild to use to distribute the Sunday altar flowers after our services. If you have a vase that you used to take home altar flowers, please bring it back. Thank you!



Sign Up Now!

Progressive Dinner on September 19

Mark your calendar for our progressive dinner on Saturday, September 19, starting at 4:00 pm. We'll begin in Heineken Hall with appetizers and salads, then move into other rooms at the church for our main course and dessert. Contact Kim Root-George for more information or to volunteer to help.





New Carpet Installed

In August we replaced the worn-out carpet on the stairs leading up to the choir loft. It looks much better now!

Church Workday

Saturday, Oct. 3

Please come and help clean and maintain our church on October 3, starting at 9:00 am. Contact Kelly Krashin for details.



School Backpacks

On Sunday, July 26, our church family filled 60 backpacks with donated school supplies. Each backpack was filled with a 3-ring binder, lined filler paper, pocket folders, composition books, Crayola Crayons, colored pencils, colored markers, a pencil bag, Elmer's glue, glue sticks, a ruler, scissors, pencil sharpener, pencil cap erasers, dry markers, high lighters, pencils and pens.

After filling the backpacks, they were donated to California School for the Deaf and Options for Youth in Upland. Both of these groups are working with foster children. We also kept a few for our families in our church.

Thank you for your donations of school supplies or money to pay for supplies to help these students have what they needed to begin the new school year!

Welcome Stephanie Dykes!



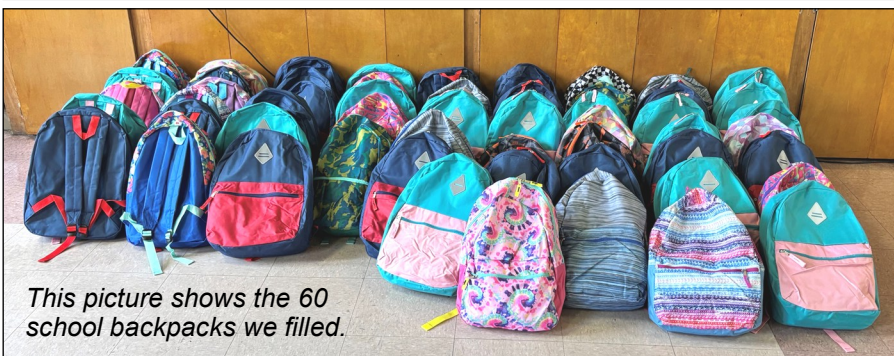
Stephanie Dykes (she/her/hers) is a second-year student at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, where she is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree. She is especially interested in creation and climate care, as well as Latino ministry. Stephanie completed her undergraduate studies at Clemson University and her prior graduate work at the University of South Carolina. Stephanie loves to sing, square dance, and go for walks on the beach. Stephanie lives in Palm Desert, California, and she is originally from South Carolina. As an Air Force brat, her earliest waking memories are of waking up in Japan.

As part of her seminary education, Stephanie will be coming to Trinity once a week this fall to participate in Sunday worship and other activities at our church. Her first Sunday will be September 13. Please be sure to welcome her to Trinity!



Trinity Scholarship Awards

The Trinity Scholarships for 2026 were announced on Sunday, August 9. We are blessed to be able to support these students in our congregation! Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship check. Pictured with Karen Clarke (second from the left) and Pastor Kent are scholarship recipients Luke Hamilton, Jarett Guillow, Patrick McKeehan, Abraham Kosobucki and LylaClare Kosobucki. Rachel Rogstad also received a scholarship but could not be present. You can read about each of these students on page 5.



This picture shows the 60 school backpacks we filled.

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.



*Your word is a lamp to my feet and
a light to my path. — Psalm 119:105*

Sunday Bible Readings

September 6: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 13:8-14; Psalm 119:33-40; Matthew 18:15-20

September 13: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Romans 14:1-12; Psalm 103:8-13; Matthew 18:21-35

September 20: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Philippians 1:21-30; Psalm 145:1-8; Matthew 20:1-16

September 27: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Philippians 2:1-13; Psalm 25:1-9; Matthew 21:23-32

October 4: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Matthew 21:33-46



*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 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

9/6: Julie Santos
9/13: Donor Needed
9/20: Carol Haffter
09/27 Donor needed



Pastor's Paragraphs

Each year the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) encourages congregations to observe the second Sunday in September as a day of service, using the slogan, "God's Work, Our Hands." This year it will fall on September 13, and we will have one combined worship service that Sunday at 9:30 am, followed by a hot dog lunch and service projects that will be done in the fellowship hall.

"God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday is not just a one-day event for our congregation – it embodies what we do all year. One of the things I appreciate about our church are the many ways we serve others. We provide food, showers, quilts, and other items to people in need. We help support missionaries serving overseas, provide scholarships for students, and many of our members have served on Cursillo and Tapestry retreat weekends to help people know that they are loved by God and inspire them to live out their faith.

Someone who attended a Tapestry retreat will be coming to our church this fall as part of her seminary education. Stephanie Dykes is studying to be a pastor, and the seminary requires students to spend a few hours a week at a congregation other than their own. Stephanie is a life-long Lutheran and a member of River of Hope Lutheran Church in Palm Springs. She will be joining us on Sundays starting on September 13 and ending in December. I think you will enjoy getting to know her, and she is looking forward to meeting folks at our church and learning about the ways we serve our community. (Since she will be driving in to Riverside and staying overnight on Saturdays, we will need several volunteers to provide a bed for her on one or more Saturdays this fall. We already have places for her to stay on the Saturdays in September.)

One more thing we are planning to do on September 13 is distributing a short survey to measure support for becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We talked about Reconciling in Christ on our Pride Sunday in June, and there is a flyer available at church that describes what it would mean. Depending on the results of the survey, the council may decide to schedule a congregational vote this fall on becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. It would be a way of publicly stating our commitment to be a congregation that welcomes all people.

Because I have been asked, let me be clear that voting to become a Reconciling in Christ church would not change our relationship with the ELCA. In fact, there are over 1,000 active Reconciling in Christ (RIC) ELCA congregations and ministries across the United States, and our own Pacifica Synod is one of the 31 synods of the ELCA that have joined the Reconciling in Christ movement to signal that they are committed to welcoming people of all colors, backgrounds, sexual orientations and gender identities. RIC is another way we can do God's work.

Trinity is a congregation with a strong commitment to serving others and embodying the love of Christ with open hands and hearts. God's work is done through our hands – not just on one Sunday of the year, but every day. What are some of the ways you use your hands to do God's work?

– Pastor Kent



TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/26 through 8/23/2026)

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$230,933.00
Regular offerings received to date: \$185,842.00
Difference: - \$45,091.00

Your faithful giving will help us reach our goal!

Trinity Scholarship Awards for 2026

Trinity's Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Scholarship awards. Each of our recipients received \$1,000. Here they are, in alphabetical order (see the photo on page 2).

Jarett Guillow will begin his fourth year as a medical student at the UCR School of Medicine this fall. His career goal is to become a physician with a specialty in Internal Medicine.

Luke Hamilton will continue his studies at California Baptist University's Collinsworth School of Performing Arts to obtain a Master of Music in Composition degree. His career plans include teacher, performer and composer.

Abraham Kosobucki wishes to continue his career in nursing and plans to attend California Baptist University this fall to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. His ultimate career goal is to become a district nurse manager.

LylaClare Kosobucki is presently enrolled in Concorde Career College in San Bernardino. She is studying to become a Licensed Vocational Nurse. As an LVN, her goal is to one day become a one-on-one nurse for medically fragile children.

Patrick McKeehan plans to enroll in Riverside Community College as a freshman this fall. He is interested in Environmental Geology and hopes, one day, to become an Environmental Consultant.

Rachel Rogstad is continuing her education at California Baptist University, majoring in Theatre Arts and Music. Her career goals include theatre and choral director, theatrical performer and singer.

Congratulations to each of our deserving award recipients! We wish them every success as they pursue their academic and career goals.



We have a unique opportunity at the Family Promise shelter, and we are looking for a few special volunteers who may have an education background or experience working with high school students.

We currently have three high school students who are behind on credits, and we would love to provide them with some extra support. We are looking for past educators, tutors, or anyone with a heart for helping students who would be willing to help them get back on track.

We are thinking of meeting a couple of days each week from 6:30–7:30 pm at the shelter. Even an hour of your time could make a HUGE difference for these students!

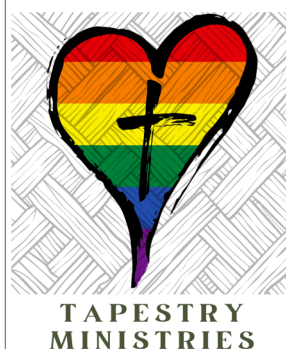
If you are interested please reach out to:

Mrs. Gabie Darrow
951-500-4937
gdarrow@fpriverside.org



LUTHERAN CURSILLO OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

A cursillo is a 3-day "short course in Christianity," intended to help revitalize your faith. Apply now for the next weekends: September 24-27 (for men) and October 1-4 (for women), beginning Thursday evening and ending Sunday afternoon. There is no fee involved. To find out more, contact the church office, Barb Beaver (951-217-5581 or barbara.m.beaver@gmail.com), or any Trinity member who has already attended a cursillo weekend.



TAPESTRY

This is a ministry of the Pacifica Synod for the LGBTQIA+ community and allies. The next Tapestry retreat weekend is Sept. 25-27. Register online at pacificasynod.org/tapestry. Contact Pastor Kent, Deacon Brenda, Mackenzie Lussier or Sandy Rodriguez for more info.



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 6:02 pm on August 18. Present: Pastor Kent, Deacon Brenda, Kelly Krashin, Jackie Letourneau-Wagner, Steve Newlen, Larry Dodson, Gil Heth, Shawn Lowell, Sue Rogers, Theresa Husted. Absent: Cherie Guillow, Peggy Fryc. Gil Heth left at 6:50 pm.

Pastor's Report Highlights

- Gil Heth has resigned from leading the Property Committee for health reasons.
- Pastor Ken Puccio to fill in for Pastor Kent on Sunday, September 27, when he and Deacon Brenda will be at a Tapestry retreat.
- Sanctuary Cooling: the A/C system has been fixed.
- Audio-Visual Team Changes: We have hired Sandy Rodriguez to be the team leader, we also hired Maria Marcelo (an RCC student) to help.
- Christmas Eve service times will be decided at next month's council meeting.

Deacon's Report Highlights

- We are still looking for volunteers to help with Sunday School.
- She is still looking for a backup person from the church to serve when she is unavailable for BAT. This would include planning the meal, shopping, and cooking. She will be unavailable a couple of times in the coming months due to a required training event, the Tapestry retreat, and vacation.
- The next Tapestry Retreat is scheduled for September 25-27.

Treasurer's Report Highlights

- Reconciliation for July 2026 is complete.
- Offerings for this year are down compared to last year.
- Hope Pantry has \$1,508.08 remaining in the Feeding America budget.

Old Business

- Church website: In process, pictures have been submitted for review.
- Audit Report Response: approved a motion to send

the council's response back to the committee.

- New carpet has been installed on the stairs to the choir loft.
- The turf removal rebate is still in process.
- The next church workday will be Saturday, October 3, starting at 9:00am.
- Bathroom remodel: In process, looking at more options.
- Kitchen sinks in Heineken Hall: still in process.
- Landscaping along Rubidoux Avenue: We first need to install an underground drainpipe for one downspout. A contractor was mentioned who may be able to help us or suggest someone who can.

New Business

- "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday, September 13. One worship service at 9:30 am, followed by a hot dog lunch and service projects in Heineken Hall.
- Progressive Dinner: Saturday, September 19, starting at 4:00 pm at the church.
- Kitchen Use on Fridays: Council approved allowing a local "Food Not Bombs" group to prepare about 86 meals in our kitchen, on 2 Fridays a month from 6-8 pm, for \$50/month. These meals are distributed to unhoused people.
- Insurance Changes: Property insurance policy was renewed in August. We will be renewing the umbrella policy in September for \$800.
- Speed bumps or barriers in parking lot: Council members were asked to come back next month with suggestions on ways to discourage drivers using the church parking lot for doing "donuts" or other stunts.
- A motion was approved to reimburse Stephanie Dykes 76 cents a mile (the IRS rate) for her weekly drive to/from Trinity as part of her Ministry in Context requirement this fall.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm. Pastor Kent led a closing prayer. The next council meeting will be at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, September 15, via Zoom.

Prayer Update from Michael Myers

Michael Myers sent us this update on Friday, August 21, regarding his bone marrow transplant progress: Received wonderful answer to prayers on Thursday. My oncologist was trying a metronomic treatment of two different kinds of chemotherapy. It was a good success. I'm still on low dose chemotherapy once a week. The chromosomes are all XX & revealed no mutation except 1% blasts, which indicates some cancer is still there. Anna's donor cells are 100% and mine are 0%. That's called chimerism, which means she's taking over! I will start vaccinations next month as we continue with the low dose chemo. Blessings, Michael

September Birthdays

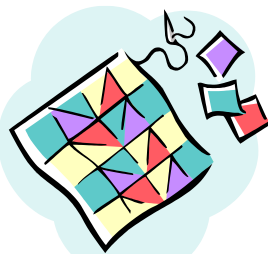
[1] Mike Finn; [3] Carol Savage; [5] Jay Farrand; [9] Sandy Rodriguez; [11] Patty Farrand; [13] Dennis Rogers; [16] Christina Reza; [18] Mark Wheeler; [20] Dana Krashin; [24] Judy McMichael, Stephanie Steele; [25] Kathy Bocian; [26] Josh Hill, Zoë Minter

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 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!

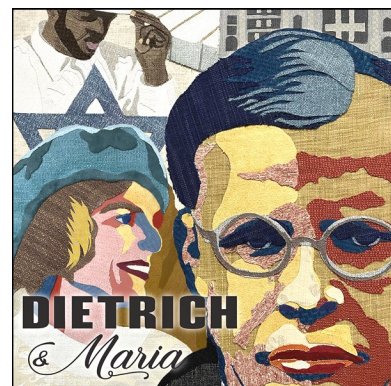
There are many different tasks involved in quilt-making, and

you don't even need to know how to sew. Contact Kelly Krashin for more information.

Check Out the New Dietrich & Maria Website

Go to DietrichandMariaMusical.com to hear recordings and watch videos of songs and other highlights from the musical created by Glenn Pickett and David Goodman about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor and theologian who was an outspoken critic of the Nazis.

These musical recordings and the website have been made possible by donations from our congregation and other donors. Thank you for your support!



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!

Suitcases Needed

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 like 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.



Please Keep Tabs!



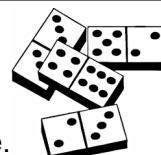
Please save the pull-tabs from drinks and other canned goods and help support the Inland Empire Ronald McDonald House. You can drop the tabs off at the church. — Sue Rogers

BAT Wants You!

We are looking for additional volunteers to help with Trinity's BAT meal program. If you are willing to help prepare and serve meals for the Monday dinner or the Saturday breakfast, please contact Deacon Brenda Lussier.

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.



Taizé Service



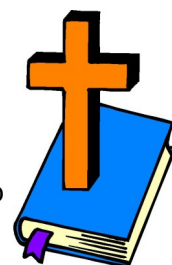
Several churches in Riverside take turns hosting a Taizé service of prayer on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm.

On Monday, September 14, it will be our turn to host a Taizé service at Trinity. You are invited to come and be blessed by this time of quiet worship. The service will also be available to watch on our YouTube channel.

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

Christ in Our Home

Copies of the *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
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Ministry Staff Kent Tuohino, <i>Pastor</i> • Brenda S. Lussier, <i>Deacon</i> • Kelly Krashin, <i>Congregational President</i> Glenn Pickett, <i>Director of Music Ministries</i> • Fernanda Ruelas, <i>Administrative Assistant</i> Rev. Hitoshi & Satoko Adachi, <i>Missionaries in Japan</i>
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 <u>represent</u> 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