



Trinity Topics

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



Trinity Lutheran Church

Since 1893

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October 2026



Get Ready for Trunk-n-Treat! Saturday, October 31

Join us for a spooktacular night of family fun at our Trunk-n-Treat on Saturday, October 31, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. This event is open to everyone and packed with games, music, food, and, of course, loads of candy! And don't miss the spooky sounds from our DJ, who will keep the energy high all night long. It's a fantastic opportunity for families, neighbors, and friends of all ages to come together for a night filled with laughter, excitement, and festive costumes. Whether you're young, young at heart, or somewhere in between, this event is for YOU!

But we can't do it without your help! We need plenty of decorated trunks to line our lot and volunteers to assist with set-up, cooking, and clean-up. Donations of candy and food are also greatly appreciated. Let's make this a night to remember for all the trick-or-treaters and their families!

Flyers are available for you to share with family, friends, and neighbors. Be sure to invite everyone you know!

For more information or to volunteer, please reach out to Deacon Brenda by phone or email. You can also find the sign-up sheet in Heineken Hall for volunteer spots and food donations. Let's make this an unforgettable event for our community! See you there!



Holiday Rummage Sale

Saturday, November 7, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

We are looking for donations! We will accept anything to sell that's in good condition, especially household items, holiday decorations and toys. All proceeds will help support the food pantry. Help is needed to set things up and staff the sale. Contact Kelly Krashin with any questions or to volunteer.

"A disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of their storeroom treasures new and old." — Matthew 13:52

Church Workday

Please come and help clean and maintain our church on **Saturday, October 3**, starting at 9:00 am. Or, if you can't make it that day, we'll have a list of the remaining projects that you can come to do later. Contact Kelly Krashin for details.



Christmas Concerts

Mark your calendar now and tell your friends about our upcoming Christmas choir concerts! This year's concerts will be on Saturday, December 12 at 7 pm and Sunday, December 13 at 4 pm. Conducted by Glenn Pickett, the TLC Choir will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra. The concerts will also feature our special guest, singer Traivon Williams.



Signing greeting cards for prisoners.



Filling blessing bags with food.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday of Service Report

On September 13 we had a full day of giving to others. We started by putting envelopes with cards and paper into baggies for the Gallons of Love prison ministry project. We wrote Christmas messages on postcards to be added to the Gallons of Love baggies. The Gallon of Love project is for inmates in the state prisons for women and men in Chino. We also assembled Blessing Bags of food for the hungry. We signed homemade greeting cards for our church's homebound members and some who now live far away. After all that hard work, we had hot dogs and cupcakes for lunch. It was a good day of fellowship and service together!

Totals

800 Gallon of Love baggies
320 Christmas postcards
100 Blessing bags
25 Greeting Cards



Adoption Day

On Saturday, November 7, Riverside County will celebrate Adoption Day with ceremonies taking place at the Larson Justice Center in Indio and the Historic Courthouse

in downtown Riverside. During these special events, the adoption process will be finalized for children and their families from across the county. These ceremonies represent a new beginning for children ranging from a few years old to teenagers, who will now be permanently placed with loving families.

At Trinity, we are honored to participate in this meaningful day by providing gift baskets, stuffed teddy bears, gift cards, and various other items to the families celebrating these new beginnings. It's a simple but powerful way to show our love and support as these families begin their journey together.

Would you like to help?

Here are several ways you can get involved: Donate new stuffed teddy bears, toys, or books for children of all ages; or donate items or gift cards for gift baskets for family activities like games, movies, baking activities, and going out to eat. You can also help assemble gift baskets for the new families.

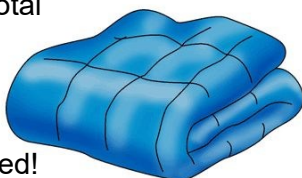
Your contributions, no matter how small, will help brighten the day for these kids and their new families. To get involved, please get in touch with Kelly Krashin or Deacon Brenda for more information.

Sock & Blanket Donations



Each month we ask for donations to support that month's Social Concerns project. By the end our sock donation drive in August, we had received a total of 538 pairs of socks to give to people who come to our Thursday shower program so that they can have clean socks to wear.

In September we asked for donations of twin-size blankets to help our unhoused neighbors stay warm at night. We have received a total of 46 blankets, including blankets purchased with a grant from Thrivent Financial. Thank you for your generous donations to help people in need!



"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (St. Paul in Acts 20:35)

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

October 4: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

October 11: Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Philippians 4:1, 4-9; Psalm 106:1-6; Matthew 22:1-14

October 18: Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

October 25: Reformation Sunday

Romans 3:19-28; Psalm 46; John 8:31-36

November 1: All Saints Sunday

Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; Matthew 5:1-12



*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

10/4: Karyl Robinson

10/11: Emilia Mayorga

10/18: *Donor Needed*

10/25: *Donor Needed*



Pastor's Paragraphs

During the summer months and on into the fall, the Gospel readings for our Sunday morning worship services tell stories about Jesus' ministry, his miracles and his teachings. They also tell us something about the people who were attracted to him.

As I track the movements of Jesus in the gospels, I'm struck by how many people were attracted to him because of what they believed they might get from him, instead of who they might become through him. When the multitudes eat the loaves and fishes he serves up by the basketful, a number of them follow him to where he is the next day to see if he'll fill their stomachs a second time. Jesus knew what they wanted: "You are looking for me not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate all the food you wanted" (John 6:26).

That tendency to come to Jesus simply to get something from him continues to shape (or misshape) too many lives of faith. It's this bad habit of ours that prompted the biblical scholar Eugene Peterson to say that too many people use prayer as a tool for "doing or getting [instead of] being and becoming."

But the journey of faith is not just a quest to get something from God. At its core, it's about becoming more and more the person God intends us to be. As Max Lucado memorably said, "God loves you just the way you are, but God refuses to leave you that way."

That's the promise that grace brings to our daily lives. The power of becoming something new with the arrival of each new day is one of the privileges of having a relationship with Christ, what Dietrich Bonhoeffer once described in personal terms as "Jesus Christ incarnate, crucified, and glorified, entering my life and taking charge."

The liberating idea that we no longer have to make up our lives on our own — living under the constant pressure of getting by on our own charm or wit — is one of the blessings of being shaped by God. "It's not you who shape God," the second-century Greek bishop Irenaeus wrote. "It is God who shapes you. Let the clay be moist, lest you grow hard and lose the imprint of God's fingers."

If your life feels static and you're struggling to remember what God believes you're capable of becoming, ask God to shape you into something new.

— Pastor Kent

*O Lord, we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand. — Isaiah 64:8*



TRINITY'S GIVING REPORT (1/1/26 through 9/30/2026)

Goal for regular offerings to date: \$259,800.00

Regular offerings received to date: \$210,629.26

Difference: - \$49,170.74

Your faithful giving will help us reach our goal!

Celebrating Our Diversity

(This year, ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry has been publishing monthly messages under the heading, "All Together in One Place." This month's message focuses on the diversity of the church and our unity in Christ.)

Dear beloved children of God,

As a church, we collectively continue to celebrate the diversity with which God has created the world. Scripture tells us that, from the very beginning, we were made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). In the book of Acts, many were gathered in one place when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Each was given the power to witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:32-33). In 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, the human body serves as a metaphor, demonstrating that a healthy Christian community relies on the many distinct gifts and qualities of each unique member — emphasizing unity through continuing to be a connected church.

I am thankful to serve this church in the office of presiding bishop. I am also grateful for my experience as an activist and leader in communities and congregations that are at the margins. Whatever our role and wherever our place in the church, God calls us to develop trusting relationships with our neighbors. In the service of Affirmation of Baptism, the presiding minister asks, "Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism ... to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 236). Striving for justice involves learning about underlying causes of division and inequity. It is a commitment our church makes because of baptism.

Celebrating diversity and striving for equity, inclusion and accessibility for all reflect this baptismal call. The words "diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility" and the initialism "DEIA" mean different things to different people. For the ELCA, as church together, these terms reflect our "delight in the fact that the people called, gathered, and enlightened" by God represent such a wide array of identities, backgrounds and life stories (ELCA social statement Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture, 1993, p. 3). The terms remind us of the gospel vision of community, in which all are truly welcome. They are terms this church has chosen to include in its teachings and constitutions as reflections of our faith in God, who creates, redeems and sustains all people.

Everyone matters in this church. I have celebrated with synods and congregations as they build communities that reflect the people and neighborhoods around them. I have worshiped in places where many languages are spoken and people from different backgrounds feel welcome. Together we have expanded our understanding of what it means to be church through relationships with companion churches around the world and through relationships between congregations in rural, urban and suburban settings here in the United States. We are joined together through holy baptism, through which God calls us to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. "Diversity," "equity," "inclusion" and "accessibility" are reflections of justice when it is fulfilled. Like many saints before us have said, justice is the form love takes in society.

The road is long, but we go forth in faith, trusting in the risen Christ and inspired by one another for the work ahead. Let us continue in the covenant God has made with us, to serve all people in love.

In Christ,

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



Music Composers Conference

Our church and CBU are hosting the annual conference of the Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers (CFAMC) on October 8-10. Several free concerts featuring new music will be held in our sanctuary. These events are open to the public and are listed below. Contact Glenn Pickett or go to cfamc.org for details.

Friday, October 9: String Quartet Concert at 10:15 am; Chamber Choir Concert at 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 10: Organ Concert at 3:30 pm



**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
OF ART MUSIC COMPOSERS**

New Music. New Life.



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 at 6:06 pm on September 15 by Kelly Krashin. Present: Pastor Kent, Deacon Brenda, Larry Dodson, Peggy Fryc, Cherie Guillow, Theresa Husted, Kelly Krashin, Jackie Letourneau-Wagner, Shawn Lowell, Sue Rogers. Absent: Karyl Robinson, Steve Newlen, Gil Heth.

Pastor's Report Highlights

- "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday went very well.
- Stephanie Dykes: She attended worship last Sunday for the first time. Last Saturday, Sue Richards hosted her. She has a class project to do that requires assistance from our members.
- Taizé Service: 29 people attended in person and 81 watched online. It was a beautiful service.
- Progressive Dinner: Will be this Saturday. Kim George is in charge.

Deacon's Report Highlights

- Sunday School: Patrick McKeegan, with the help of Beth Houlihan, will be leading Sunday School this week. We do need more volunteers. Deacon Brenda is writing the curriculum. Sue Rogers volunteered to help on the first and third Sundays.
- Community Outreach: More volunteers are needed for BAT. Need someone to cover when Deacon Brenda cannot be there. Average attendance is 70 people.
- Property Insurance: This will be \$100.00 less than last year. It will be \$670.00 a year.
- Our janitorial supply service has been canceled due to ongoing service issues.
- Truck of Treat: This will be on October 31 from 5 to 7:30 pm. Need volunteers for the event. She reminded us that this event supports the community, the families, and the children.
- Deacon Brenda will be out of the office on Nov. 10 and 12 to attend first call education.

Treasurer's Report Highlights

- Reconciliation is complete and correct.
- Most expense areas are under budget.
- Our regular offerings are behind by about \$34,000.00 for the year; this includes the money we carried forward from the prior year. This indicates that next year we will have a tighter budget as costs are increasing and envelope giving is down from last year.

Old Business

- Turf Removal Rebate: The full amount has been approved. We are awaiting the check. The landscaper is requesting \$5,623 for the final payment. Several plants have died due to irrigation issues. The landscaper is

responsible for replacing these. A motion was approved to pay half the balance owed now and the second half after the plants have been replaced and we have received the rebate check.

- Workday on Saturday, October 3: A list of jobs to do will be available on that date.
- Bathroom remodel: We have received another quote for converting the nursery bathroom into an accessible bathroom. This estimate is \$9,750.00. The congregation already approved this project in this year's budget.
- Kitchen Sink in Heineken Hall: A temporary fix has been completed, and is holding, but this will need a repair at a future date.
- Sanctuary Downspout to Rubidoux Avenue: Roof work done last year included a new downspout on the side of the sanctuary. It needs to be connected to the street before we can landscape that area. No cost estimate yet.

New Business

- Reconciling in Christ Survey: Surveys were distributed on September 13 and will be accepted through the next Sunday. At its next meeting, the council will review those responses and decide on what the next steps will be.
- Portico Health Benefits for 2027: Portico announced a 15% increase for next year, which is \$323.54 per month, which includes health insurance for Pastor Kent, his wife, and daughter. Motion approved to cover this expense for Pastor Kent's family in 2027.
- T-Mobile Contract: Deacon Brenda and Gary Goldberg have reviewed the proposed changes in the lease agreement. This is a 20-year extension. The council approved a motion to finalize the new lease agreement.
- Install Barriers or Speed Bumps in Parking Lot: We've had a problem with drivers doing stunts ("donuts") in the church parking lot. The council is considering options to stop this by placing barriers in the parking lot.
- Christmas Eve Service: After discussion on how to accommodate the Thursday shower program schedule for this Christmas Eve, the council approved having two services on Christmas Eve, one at 3:30 pm and one at 5:30 pm.
- Strategic Planning Committee: Glen Pickett and John Collins will lead this committee. The goal of this committee will be to determine how we can grow, plan for the future, what we do well, and where we can improve.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm. Pastor Kent led a closing prayer. The next council meeting will be at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, October 20, via Zoom.

October Birthdays

[2] Carl Lowell; [4] Karen Clarke, Julia Kosobucki; [6] Traci Brunka; [7] Barb Beaver; [8] Bob Knapik; [10] Jackie Letourneau-Wagner; [12] Larry Hall, Judy Okamura; [13] Rudi Raterman, Nancy Resto; [14] Jean Aubin; [16] Mike McMichael; [18] Jordan Castillo, Janette Conn, Ruby Garcia, Valerie Kemp; [20] Pat Sherman; [22] Julia Dominguez; [23] Armando Garcia, Linda Ward; [27] John Britton, Sue Rogers; [28] Rob Carden

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



Flower Vases Wanted

If you have any large flower vases about 10-12 inches tall 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 to church for others to use. Contact Mary Kantola or Sarah Boese with any questions.



Sunday 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.

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 Service

Several churches in Riverside take turns hosting a Taizé service of prayer 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, October 12, it will be held at:
Madison Street Church
3991 Madison Street

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



Interfaith Prayer Vigil

Wednesday, October 7, 10-11 am

**In front of the Adelanto Detention Center,
10250 Rancho Road, Adelanto, CA 92301**

As people of faith, we are called to bear witness to the suffering of our immigrant sisters and brothers. You are invited to come stand in solidarity with families harmed by cruel policies that have led to detention, deportation, and separation. For more information, contact Allis: 714-633-8121 X 7775 or ADruffel@csjorange.org, or Hilda Cruz at Trinity.

This vigil is a collaborative effort by:



Sisters of
St. Joseph
OF ORANGE



Suitcases Needed

Donations of new or gently used medium to large suitcases are needed 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. Contact Kelly Krashin if you have any questions.



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.



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.



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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