

TEMPO

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:30 AM Informal
11 AM Traditional
Communion every
Sunday in April

PALM SUNDAY
April 2 | 9:30, 11 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 6 | 7 PM

GOOD FRIDAY
April 7 | 7 PM

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 9 | 9:30, 11 AM
Annual butterfly
release between
services

**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**
Sunday
May 21 | 12:15 PM



Reconciling in Christ



HOLY TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH THOUSAND OAKS

Pastor's note

Help stop hunger!

In Matthew 25 it talks about how when we feed the hungry, it is like we are feeding Jesus. Holy Trinity has taken this call to feed the hungry very seriously over the years. People from our church have donated thousands of dollars to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America world hunger program. Our congregation has made countless meals for folks in need in the Conejo Valley when Lutheran Social Services was organizing a food program at local churches. Now we host the feeding ministry of Harbor House which operates out of our Fellowship Hall every day.

Additionally, we have written letters to our Senators and Representatives in the government to advocate for policies that will reduce hunger in our nation. Some people may be uncomfortable with the idea of speaking out in this way through the church because it may seem too "political." As citizens in a democracy, however, we have the unique opportunity to use the gift of our voice to help others in need in a larger way than only through acts of charity. As it says in Scripture:

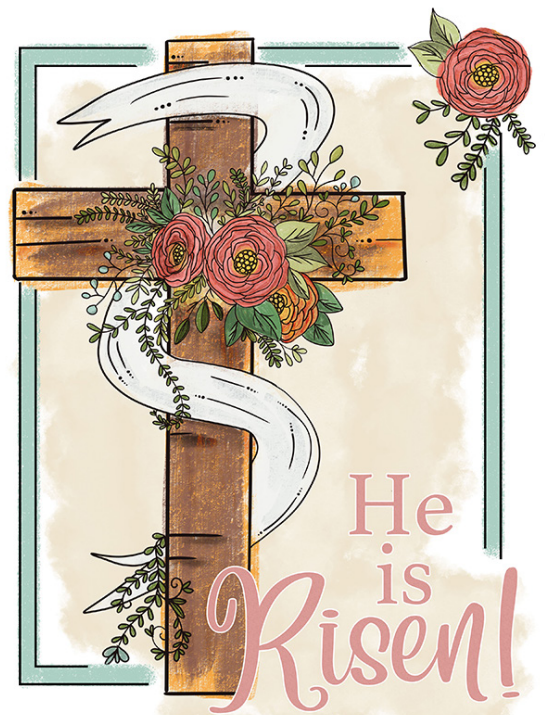
"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

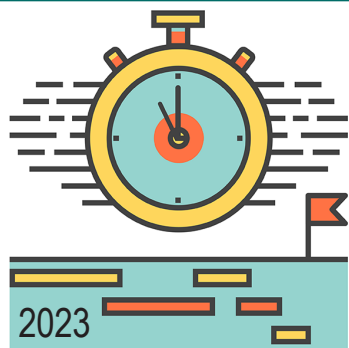
—Proverbs 31:8-9

It is important to physically feed those in our local area, but by seeking to influence policies we can help to feed people on a national and even international level.

On Sundays, April 16 and 23 at noon, Holy Trinity will have an offering of letters campaign on the

Continued on page 7





TEMPO NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION & DEADLINE

Tempo Newsletter is a monthly publication with information provided by staff and members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

To contribute to the newsletter, please follow the submissions requirements listed below.

Contact Lynn Youngren,
805 990-3006 text anytime,
youngrenpro@gmail.com

SUBMISSION requirements

- + Articles/information due by 11 AM, on or before deadlines listed below
- + ONE article per email send to:
youngrenpro@gmail.com
- + Expect a reply that your email was received
- + Each email subject line should contain "HTLC newsletter" or "Tempo" and a descriptive word about its specific content
- + Check spelling and accuracy of information before sending
- + Send final versions of articles only
- + Late submissions may be held until the following month's publication

DEADLINES for 2023

Deadlines are usually on the THIRD THURSDAY of each month but sometimes they are adjusted due to holidays and printing schedules. Submissions are due no later than 11:00 AM on each deadline day.

Due dates...

April 20 for the May issue

May 18 for the June issue

June 22 for the July issue

July 20 for the August issue

August 24 for the September issue

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

"To nurture Christ-centered lives that reflect God's love and grace in our local and global communities."

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HTLC Welcome Statement

Holy Trinity joyfully extends Christ's love to all. We welcome everyone regardless of race, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental health, faith, doubt, family composition, political affiliation, socio-economic status, or any other category that divides us. Christ taught us that loving is a never-ending process of growth and reconciliation. At Holy Trinity, we strive to love diversely and deeply. To all who have been marginalized, we will work to demonstrate that nothing can separate you from the love of God.

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."
Galatians 3:28.

Congregational meeting in May

Please mark your calendars for our congregation meeting on Sunday, May 21 at 12:15 PM, following the second worship service. Besides hearing updates about the good things happening across our various ministries from the past year, we will also be voting on the columbarium project and electing new council members. You can attend in person or on Zoom. We hope you save the date and join us!

—Pastor Erik



"Being Bold Together"

Saturday, May 20, 9–11:30 AM HTLC Fellowship Hall

Join us for a catered breakfast. The theme for the annual women's breakfast is "Being Bold Together." The morning includes music, two speakers on being bold, reflecting and asking questions of the speakers, sharing the bold women in our lives in small groups, reflecting on what boldness looks like in various lives, remembering bold women of history as well as those in our time, and connecting with Holy Trinity women of all generations. Plan to join us on Saturday, May 20!

—Dixie Hanson

Easter Lilies—Bring the joy of Easter into our sanctuary

If you would like to honor or memorialize someone this Easter, you can do so by donating an Easter lily or other spring flower in their name. Just place \$10 into one of the flower envelopes located in the chair pockets in the sanctuary. Fill out the front and drop the envelope into the offering plate on or before Sunday, April 2. We thank all who bring beauty and joy to our Easter services.

—Altar Guild

**Easter Lily
ORDER DEADLINE—April 2**

Visit the library, April 23

The library will be open with activities, books, and refreshments between services on April 23, with the theme of creation and Earth Day.

To celebrate Earth Day and creation, we will feature books on creation and the environment for adults and children, as well as activities like composting.

Because the library isn't available on Sundays, we are starting a tradition of having the library open on one Sunday a month to feature different book selections. If you are meeting in the library, be sure to look at featured books on shelves and counters around the table. They will be changed monthly. Feel free to check out a book any time.

To check out a book, there is a clipboard on the file cabinet near the double door. Fill out your name, email address, date, and the title of the book.

—Miriam Nakayama

Is God calling you to Visitation Ministry?

One of the theological insights of Martin Luther was that he came to see the church as a “priesthood of all believers.” In other words, every member of the church is called to do ministry, not just the pastors. However, we all have different gifts which means we might not all be called to same kind of ministry.

Holy Trinity is looking for some folks who might feel particularly called to a ministry of visitation. The goal of this ministry would be to connect people to the life of the church—through the sacrament, Scripture and prayer—who are otherwise not able to do so, due to health reasons or other issues.

Here is a basic job description for folks who might feel called to be a part of this team.

Visitation Ministers are to:

- Visit a care receiver once a month
- Attend a training session and orientation to the ministry
- Be willing to go through basic background check
- Be comfortable sharing the sacrament with others, choosing a scripture to read and praying with their care receivers
- Must be patient and have good listening skills
- Must have transportation to get to various locations where care receivers are located
- Will communicate with the Visitation Coordinator about any needs or prayer concerns the care receivers might have
- If unable to connect in person, may also occasionally connect over the phone
- Communicate with the Visitation Coordinator about when a visit is made and if substitute is needed because they cannot make it
- Must be willing to wear a mask when making a visit if the care receiver has requested it
- One year commitment

On **Sunday April 30 at 12:15 PM, in the Fellowship Hall**, there will be a luncheon and orientation session for those people who either would like to join this ministry or learn more about it before making a decision. It is helpful for you to **RSVP to 805-492-1234 or churchoffice@gmail.com**, so we know how much food to get, but you can also just show up if you would like.

—Pastor Erik



Thea Circle Book Club

Thea Circle's April read is The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See. The novel illuminates a Korean culture where women sea divers engage in dangerous physical work. The author, Lisa See, highlights the women's friendships and the men who take care of the families. The group will meet Monday, April 24 at 7 PM, in the church library. There are copies of this fascinating book available in the Thousand Oaks Library.

—Sally Johnson

2022 Endowment Fund Grants

Holy Trinity's \$236,000 Endowment Fund had \$9,700 of earnings distributions available for grants this year! The Endowment Fund Committee has approved the following grants:

- 1. Harbor House - Rent Assistance Program\$3,000
- 2. Conejo Valley Interfaith Refugee Fund\$1,500
- 3. Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences - ADA Ramp....\$1,500
- 4. El Salvador Sister Church School Teacher\$1,500
- 5. HTLC Cares Fund - financial needs\$1,200
- 6. African Student Association – financial needs\$1,000

Since the inception of the Endowment Fund in late 2018, \$30,700 in cumulative grants for the following have been approved:

- 1. Harbor House \$8,000
- 2. El Salvador Sister Church \$3,000
- 3. Choir Room Remodel \$1,500
- 4. Ecumenical Collaboration for Asylum Seekers \$1,000
- 5. HTLC Cares Fund \$4,200
- 6. Conejo Valley Interfaith Refugee Fund \$2,500
- 7. Afghan Refugee Fund \$1,000
- 8. United Cerebral Palsy of Los Angeles \$1,000
- 9. National Youth Convention \$2,000
- 10. HTLC Choir Scholarships \$2,000
- 11. Vibrant Faith Coaching for Pastor and Council \$2,000
- 12. Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences \$1,500
- 13. African Student Association \$1,000



Did you know that based on Holy Trinity's gift policy, all undesignated gifts (beyond regular offerings) over \$4,000 must have an automatic 50% of the gift deposited in the Endowment Fund?

And, according to the Endowment Fund Bylaws, the earnings distributions are to be used for extraordinary programs/ capital improvement or other ministry initiatives with the congregation, ELCA/Synod related ministries and/or community ministries with Ventura and Los Angeles Counties. The distribution may not be used to fund recurring operating budget expenses.

—Grace Nelson

Young Adult Group events Ages 18-35-ish

April 2 at 12:15 PM - Bible study in the church library. Bring a sack lunch. We'll hang out, check in, etc.

Saturday, April 22 - Meet at the church at 11 AM. Let's go to Ojai together! We'll grab lunch there, wander, enjoy the afternoon, and probably head back by 3 or 4 PM. For this one, I need a head count beforehand to make sure we have cars for carpooling there. Let Pastor Emily know if you plan to come.

Children, Youth, and Family events

Faith Explorers - a special faith formation time for families with kids in grades K-5th grade. **Sunday, April 2 at 10:45-11:30 AM.**

April 9 is Easter - Come for a butterfly release in between services!

Youth Group

April 2, 3:30-5:30 PM - Help us make lunches for Harbor House

April 16, 4:00-5:30 PM - Come for regular youth group

April 27 (evening) - We're heading over to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to help put together Birthday Baskets for foster kids.

Update to Youth Trip

Due to low registration numbers because of summer school and sports activity conflicts, we're switching up our plans. Instead of heading to Denver, we'll be attending the Western States Youth Gathering (WSYG) from July 6-9, 2023 at California Lutheran University.

All money raised will go towards registration cost. Any extra money will go into the Youth Gathering Fund so that we can attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer.

WSYG is fairly similar to the ELCA Youth Gathering, but on a smaller scale. We will sleep at Cal Lutheran, meet youth from all over the Western United States, do service projects, have an interactive learning day, team building experiences, hear from guest speakers, and worship together.

Cost for WSYG: Registration is \$535 per person. We hope to cover most of the cost with fundraising opportunities. Cost to you each youth is \$100.

Commitment deadline: April 23

Break the Mold Summer Day Camp

Summer Day Camp registration is now open! Register your kids, grand kids, nieces and nephews today, OR share it with a friend who you think might be interested!

Holy Trinity is hosting a day camp run by "Lutheran Retreats, Camps and

Conferences (LRCC)" this Summer from June 26-30 on our campus at 1 West Avenida De Los Arboles, Thousand Oaks.

Learn more about the theme, day camp, and our partnership with LRCC by going here: <https://lrcchome.com/day-camp>. Lead counselors from LRCC come to our campus to host. We provide other volunteers for extra assistance. The LRCC camps are accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA). Lead counselors have been background checked, are at least 18 years old, and are certified in First Aid, CPR & AED.

Day Camp is designed for campers in kindergarten to 5th grade and runs Monday-Friday 9 AM-3 PM. We will provide 5 days of engaging activities and program materials for a memorable and meaningful week.

(Age for TK attendees: at least 4+ by January 1, 2023)

(You can also choose extended care from 8-5:30, but we'll need a minimum of 8 kids to make that happen.)

Do you have a youth in middle or high school? Let us know & we can talk volunteer opportunities!

We offer tiered pricing ranging from \$50-\$125 per child. Extended day costs \$150/child for the week.

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/HTLCSummerDayCamp>

Are you interested in volunteering? Contact Pastor Emily and/or fill out this form: <https://tinyurl.com/HTLCCampVolunteer>

—Pastor Emily

Bread for the World: Reauthorizing the Farm Bill



Bread for the World is a nonpartisan Christian advocacy organization begun by a Lutheran minister whose goal is to end hunger. Their mission is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

The Farm Bill which is reauthorized every five years is the single piece of legislation that has the biggest impact on hunger in our country and also impacts hunger globally. Bread for the World is organizing people all over the country to advocate for hungry people by influencing the reform for this legislation to be more effective in reducing hunger.

We have a food crisis in the U.S. We have too much food waste which creates methane. We have depleted soil and thus fewer nutrients in our food. We prioritize animal feed and junk food with subsidies. People of color are pushed out of farming and food sovereignty. Agriculture policy is preventing good nutrition.

Bread for the World is advocating for reform in the Farm Bill in four areas:

- 1) Make SNAP benefits (food stamps) more accessible and nutritious.** Increase funding instead of cuts to the SNAP program. Eliminate barriers for incarcerated people. Allow students to receive benefits without work requirements (their job is their schooling).
- 2) Protect and restore the earth.** As more chemicals are added to the soil, it creates less nutritious food. Promote less food waste with fewer expiring dates. Incentivize gentler farming on the land with fewer chemicals. Subsidize fresh fruits and vegetables which can reduce diabetes.
- 3) Include people of color.** Allow Native people to administer SNAP on reservations. Support food recovery programs. Support small farmers of color.
- 4) Equip U.S. to respond better to hunger and famine.** Increase food aid for programs like Food for Peace. Buy food intended to eliminate international hunger and famine locally, saving money and time for shipping. Buying locally as opposed to shipping food from the U.S., also helps local economies not be undermined by imported food.

—Dixie Hanson

Pastor's note— continued from page 1

patio after the second worship service at which you are invited to write to our senators. The focus is on advocating for changes to the Farm Bill that will help reduce hunger, improve nutrition, and also slow the impacts of climate change. The bill is currently being rewritten in the Senate, so it can be influenced by our advocacy efforts.

◀ On this page is information about the Farm Bill from Bread for World compiled by Dixie Hanson who is one of our church members. You can also learn more about the Farm Bill by attending a Zoom presentation on Wednesday, April 12 at 7 PM. RSVP if you would like to attend or watch for the link in the church's weekly Connections email.

—Pastor Erik



**TEMPO
DEADLINE
THURSDAY**

newsletter

**April 20
11:00 AM**

SEE PAGE 2 FOR SUBMISSION
DETAILS



A new directory is on the way!



We are in the process of creating a new church directory. You will be able to request a paper copy, and, as it becomes available, we hope you will utilize the password protected digital directory to save on paper and to help keep our records up to date.

Why an online, password protected, directory?

- 1 Records are more likely to be up to date.
- 2 You can update your address, photo, and other basic account information anytime.
- 3 You can access your pledge and giving records at any time.
- 4 You can sign up for committees, small groups, etc. anytime.
- 5 Helps us save paper!

Are you an active member of the community? Please let us know if you would NOT like your information to be included in the church directory.

What is the information other members will see?

- 1 Name & your preferred pronouns
- 2 Address
- 3 Family members
- 4 Phone number
- 5 Email address

The online directory is only accessible by church members who have their own individual login information. The online directory IS NOT accessible by the general public.

If you would like your basic information to be left out of the church directory, please email or call the church office and let us know.

—Pastor Emily



Update Crop Hunger Walk 2023

The walk this year started out a bit rainy but ended with some sunshine. We had 23 walkers and as of this writing, the entire walk has raised over \$17,000 for Church World Service. Holy Trinity has raised \$3,104 so far online, but the final results are not in yet. More to come...



Thank you for everyone who walked and who donated to make this event a success and allow us to help those internationally who suffer from hunger as well as people locally in our own community.

—Sheri Groenveld



Knitting for Harbor House

In March, we hosted a fun event to knit, and we had lots of people who wanted us to host it again. Please come to the Fellowship Hall and knit or crochet to help the clients of Harbor House. We have a good selection of yarn that will be available and snacks as well. Bring a friend!

Knitting & Crocheting Night
Saturday, April 15, 2-4 PM—Fellowship Hall



Meditation Group

In this season of spring, flowers and Easter, a “flowery” quote from John Main about prayer:

The wonderful beauty of prayer is that the opening of our heart is as natural as the opening of a flower. Just as to let a flower open and bloom it is only necessary to let it be, so if we simply are, if we become and remain still and silent, our heart cannot but be open: the Spirit cannot but pour through into our whole being. It is this we have been created for. Community of Love

There are so many blooming flowers, these days, this is a pretty image for our mind!

Join us for prayer, short discussion on a reading, and 25 minutes of silence. We meet by Zoom on the first Thursday, April 6, at 4 PM. Contact Miriam at miriamnakayama@gmail.com for a Zoom invite. On the rest of the Thursdays—April 13, 20, 27, we meet in person in the library next to the church office. Enter through the double doors.

Easter Blessings to all! Miriam Nakayama

Offering of Letters—Sunday, April 16, 23

Visit the tables on the patio between services to do some quick advocacy. In honor of Earth Day we will be writing to Toyota to urge them to convert to 100% electric vehicles by 2035. We will also be supporting the reauthorization of the Farm Bill.

—Sheri Groenveld
 Community Outreach



Dinner & A Movie—Friday, April 21, 6 PM

Join us the night before Earth Day to see a series of short films entitled Current Revolution. These films are being featured by the Interfaith Power and Light in honor of Faith Climate Action week. These films show the possibility of a just transition to a clean energy economy where the well-being of the workers and frontline community members is valued instead of neglected. We will enjoy the movies, eat dinner and have some discussion. Look for a sign-up sheet at church so we can ensure we have enough food and goodies.

Please reach out to the Community Action Team if you have any questions. —Sheri Groenveld

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

AT the May Congregational meeting in 2022, the church council was tasked with researching and developing a proposal to bring to the congregation about how a columbarium might be built on the Holy Trinity campus. A columbarium is a structure for housing the cremated remains of a loved one who has died.

A question some of you might have is: How does an Columbarium fit into Holy Trinity's mission?

Part of Holy Trinity's mission statement it fits into is "To nurture Christ-centered lives..." Keeping in a long tradition in the church, a columbarium is similar to having a cemetery near a congregation to remind them that the church is called to nurture their faith from the cradle to grave and from birth to burial. It is also a tangible reminder of the communion of saints who have gone before us and nurtured the community with their faith.

The Columbarium also fits with the part of the mission statement talking about "reflecting God's love and grace" as it allows the congregation to more deeply care for those grieving who have lost loved ones by providing a final resting place and a faith-

based burial process outside of a typical secular mortuary. The reduced costs also allow a church member to be less anxious about the expense of the burial and more focused on grieving and remembering their loved one.

Here are some of the pro's and cons of a columbarium.

Potential Benefits:

- Powerful symbol of caring for people from baptism to burial
- Symbol of the communion of saints right near the sanctuary
- Reduced burial costs for church members and their families
- Adds value to being a member (only members or their families will most likely be allowed to buy into the Columbarium, with perhaps exceptions granted on a case by case basis)
- An additional layer of care the church can offer its members at a time of loss
- Potentially significant return on investment over time as more niches are sold and the initial cost investment has been paid back
- Convenient place for people to visit loved ones when they come to church. It may be a draw for people to come to church for worship or just onto the church campus knowing their loved

ones are interred nearby.

Potential Down-side:

- Added maintenance costs
- Additional work load for staff and volunteers
- The niches may not fill up for a long time
- It could take many years to pay back the initial investment

After consulting with the work done by the columbarium task force and the finance committee the church council is working on a recommendation for the May congregational meeting. So far the recommendation includes a pre-sale price for a niche of \$4,000 and \$1,000 to have a soft urn in the middle of the columbarium. The overall cost is going to be targeted at around \$100,000 with at least \$60,000 needing to be covered by pre-sales before the project can be launched.

The Bishop's garden between the church office and the sanctuary is the space the council is currently recommending the circular columbarium structure be placed.

For more information attend the Columbarium Forum on Sunday May 7 after church at 12:15 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be provided.

—Pastor Erik

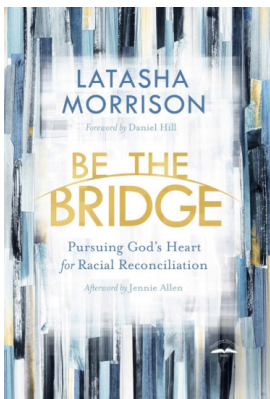
Women's Bible study—April 22

Join us for our fourth session of *Commandments; Reviving the Soul* on Saturday, April 22 at 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This session is "Trail Markers for love of God and Neighbors: Commandments 7-10."

"The commandments are linked like a chain, or like a gorgeous piece of knitting. To break one strand is to ruin or begin unraveling the entire thing, keeping it from protecting what it's meant to protect." Gather p.35

Join us as we conclude our reflection on these markers for our life together.

—Dixie Hanson



HTLC Book Discussion Series

Do you want to be a Bridge Builder?

The Authentic Diversity Team is sponsoring a five-week discussion of Latasha Morrison's book, Be the Bridge.

These days silence around race, particularly in the church, seems deafening. Change begins with honest conversation among Christians willing to give voice to unspoken hurts, guilt, grief, fear, and mounting tensions. Read and discuss how ongoing dialogue can be the foundation for a transformative response to racial division. Discuss how the power of the gospel can help start racial reconciliation.

(Paraphrased from Latasha Morrison, 2019)

This honest, open, powerful book will change our consciousness and help prepare us to become bridge builders. Sessions will take place starting April 16. We will offer two meeting times on Sunday. First session starting at 9:45 AM and a second session starting at 10:45 AM. There will be an in-person session on Tuesdays at 10:30 AM in the library. There will be a Zoom option Thursdays at 7:00 PM. Each week's discussion will cover 1-2 chapters. Please use the Sign-Up Genius here <https://bit.ly/BeTheBridgeHTLC> or call the church office 805-492-1234.

Books are available for \$18 at the church office.

—Jean Kammerer



Memorial Day Weekend Lutheran Family Camp!

Memorial Day Family Camp is an annual retreat at El Camino Pines. You and your family can expect sessions for both adults and kids, games, BBQs, theme meals, archery, rock wall, music, campfires, and plenty of time to wander around the forest.

This long weekend of camp style family fun is led by the camp staff and is only 80 miles from Thousand Oaks (up the 5 Freeway and one exit past Gorman). Arrive Saturday morning May 27 and return Monday afternoon May 29. Includes all food and bunks in a heated cabin—with a restroom—for two nights.

Prices:

\$185 ages 12 and up

\$125 ages 3-11 (3 and younger free)

\$525 Family Max (for members of same household)

Partial scholarships available and maybe even catch a ride with someone from Holy Trinity.

To register go to www.lrcchome.com click on Summer Camps and Memorial Weekend.

For questions and details, talk with Shawn Howie.

—Shawn Howie

Worship Leaders

04/02/2023 • 9:30 AM

Ushers: Bernie & Sue Bauer

Communion Assistants: Laurel Engstrom · Sheri Groenveld

Reader: Dietmar Wagenknecht

04/02/2023 • 11:00 AM

Ushers: Sandy Samuels

Communion Assistants: Denna Heerema · Ginny Connell

Reader: Ginny Connell

04/06/2023 • 7:00 PM • Maundy Thursday

Ushers:

Reader: Nina Wong

04/07/2023 • 7:00 PM • Good Friday

Ushers: Yvonne Bernschneider

Reader:

04/09/2023 • 9:30 AM • Easter Sunday

Ushers: Dave & Jeanne Balsley

Communion Assistants: Dale Adrion · Beth Goodnight

Readers: Dale Adrion

04/09/2023 • 11:00 AM • Easter Sunday

Ushers: Yvonne Bernschneider · Sandy Samuels

Communion Assistants:

Reader:

04/16/2023 • 9:30 AM

Ushers: Angela Carr · Brian Carr

Communion Assistants: Beth Goodnight

Reader: Dietmar Wagenknecht

04/16/2023 • 11:00 AM

Ushers: Joan Cressman · Sandy Samuels

Communion Assistants: Nina Wong

Reader: Nina Wong

04/23/2023 • 9:30 AM

Ushers:

Communion Assistants: Lauren Graf

Reader: Anne King

04/23/2023 • 11:00 AM

Ushers: Joan Cressman · Sandy Samuels

Communion Assistants: Ellen Hall

Reader: Dietmar Wagenknecht

04/30/2023 • 9:30 AM

Ushers: Angela Carr · Brian Carr

Communion Assistants: Dale Adrion

Reader: Dale Adrion

04/30/2023 • 11:00 AM

Ushers: Yvonne Bernschneider

Communion Assistants: Nina Wong · Denna Heerema

Reader: Nina Wong

Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank

Holy Trinity continued with generous donations in March with 150 pounds of groceries given to Manna!

Top priority items

1. Cold cereal
2. Canned fruit
3. Hot drinks - coffee, tea, hot chocolate
4. Canned tuna or salmon
5. Flavored rice - all types
6. Condiments - ketchup, mustard, relish, mayo, salad dressing
7. Instant Ramen or Cup O' Noodles
8. Hamburger Helper or instant potatoes
9. Canned soup - beef barley, vegetable, stew
10. Canned spaghetti or ravioli

Simply leave your donations on the wooden table by the windows in the narthex. —Blessings, Karen and Marty Kreman



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Welcome Basket drive sponsored by the

Women's Interfaith Network. The Khan-Kualaha family whose son, Amir, was born prematurely on January 30, is doing very well. The baby is home and thriving. Fardin has obtained a driver license, an old used car, and has a good job as an auto mechanic specializing in restoring damage. A large thank you for the prayers and love Holy Trinity members showered on them and other new families.

The team recently settled new families from Afghanistan, Myanmar, Guatemala, and Ukraine. We provided welcome baskets, rides, and gift cards to a couple from Ukraine living in Camarillo. They had been detained in difficult conditions for five months at the southern border, but have received temporary asylum, work papers, and a path to a new life.

We are currently accepting donations of clean, gently used items, including microwaves, refrigerators, rugs, lamps, twin and queen bed frames, small sofas, dining room chairs, small kitchen table and chair sets, electric kettles, cookware, flatware, glassware. Please send photos and dimensions to jeankammerer@gmail.com. Ability to drop off in Simi or Thousand Oaks a plus. Cash donations are always welcome.

The team desperately needs strong people who are willing to help with move-ins, individuals or a team to be on call for pickups in the Conejo Valley on an evening during the week, and to make deliveries (usually LA County) on Saturday mornings. High School and older students welcome. Adult supervision provided. Especially needed is a driver with a van or truck.

—Jean Kammerer

Dorcas Quilting & Crafting Circle

We will meet Thursday, April 20, 9 AM to noon in the Fellowship Hall. The knitters have been busy crafting warm and colorful caps to wear in all our cold weather. The quilters have soft flannel and made bright and comforting blankets for Easter joy. We have beautiful yarn and fabric that needs loving hands to create caps and quilts. See you April 20! —Sally Johnson

2022 Holy Trinity Giving Submitted by Grace Nelson



2022 Holy Trinity Giving

Did You Know that there are several different ways that Holy Trinity gives financially to the community and ELCA ministries? Following is a summary of our giving for 2022.

We provide some giving as part of our annual budget, including our benevolence to the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) synod (see Giving included in the 2022 Income Statement below). But in addition to this we give to many other ELCA related and community ministries. Members of our congregation give dedicated donations and the church has specific fundraisers for various organizations (shown below under Giving from Designated Funds). When we have a surplus, the congregation votes to give funds to specific ministries (see Giving from 2021 Budget Surplus below). Holy Trinity's Endowment Fund gives all of its earnings distributions for the year to ministry initiatives (shown below as 2021 Endowment Fund Grant Giving paid in 2022). In addition, we provide free facility use for Harbor House to organize and distribute weekday meals.

Our giving in all of these areas totaled almost \$109,000 in 2022.

HTLC 2022 Giving Summary			
Giving included in the 2022 Income Statement (Budget)		Giving from Designated Funds	
Mission Support (Regular Synod Benevolence)	\$ 45,860	Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services	614
Habitat for Humanity	500	Crop Walk	435
LSS Ventura County	500	El Salvador Sister Church: School Teacher Salary - Viking Dogs	4,000
Lutheran Office of Public Policy	500	Manna Food Bank	75
Many Mansions	500	Thousand Oaks Refugee Fund	785
El Salvador Sister Congregation	131	African International Students	1,432
Winter Shelter & Meals Program	418	Border Angels	525
Harbor House	500	HTLC Cares - Gas, Hotel and Utilities Assistance	2,824
CLU Youth Ministry Scholarship	2,000	CLU Scholarship - African Student	2,500
Total Giving in Income Statement Budget	\$ 50,909	Park Oaks Gift Cards	350
		Seminary Student Scholarship	2,000
		Afghan Refugee Fund	1,000
		ELCA World Hunger	3,695
		Harbor House	600
		Angel Tree Fund	100
		Lutheran World Relief - Ukraine Assistance	1,000
		Total Giving from Designated funds	\$ 21,935
Giving from 2021 Budget Surplus paid in 2022		2021 Endowment Fund Grant Giving Paid in 2022	
Harbor House	5,000	Harbor House	3,000
Lutheran Retreats and Conference Centers	10,000	United Cerebral Palsy of Los Angeles	1,000
Mission Support (Synod Benevolence)	5,000	Total Endowment Grant Giving	\$ 4,000
Total Giving from 2021 Budget Surplus	\$ 20,000	Total 2022 Congregational Giving	\$ 108,844
Rent Estimate- Harbor House Free Facilities Use	\$ 12,000		

El Salvador Ministry

During the pandemic, Holy Trinity heard from Pastor Matias who serves our sister church, Espiritu de Gozo (Spirit of Joy), which is located in El Salvador. He shared that there was a need to fund a new teacher in the rural area called Brisas del Valle, where our sister church is located. Holy Trinity decided to take some of the funds already set aside for Espiritu de Gozo and add to it with a special collection in order to pay for this position.

Since then, our Community Outreach and Advocacy Ministry (COAM) has continued to support this teacher through various fundraisers. This year Holy Trinity has sent over \$2,172 to our sister church to again help fund the school teacher. The Endowment fund will be granting another \$1,500 to add to this in order to cover the cost for the next school year.

The teacher is Jacinto de Jesus Hernandez Avalos, and we have recently received word that she is very grateful for our support. The school that operates in Brisas del Valle is a public school but receives very little support from the government. Ms. Hernandez Avalos teaches 60 children, spanning 13 grade levels including preschool. This is a long-term position for her, so our Community Outreach committee may be discussing the possibility of long-term support for the teacher.

Thank you for the ways you have given through our various fundraisers that help our sister church and now this teacher serving many of those who attend the church!

—Pastor Erik



Fair trade—Sharing our chocolate with Miriam

This past month I finally sent off a package of our Equal Exchange and Divine chocolate to a 9 year old boy in Ghana that Kiyo and I sponsor through World Vision. Because my daughters

have been to Ghana, I wanted to know if he ever ate chocolate because some of our chocolate is from Ghana. He said no, but his father grows cacao trees! This makes me feel badly. I did know this happens from a boy from Ghana we had previously sponsored. Chocolate is processed in Europe and is too expensive for people who live in villages, because it is imported.

Several years ago I mailed some chocolate to Accra, Ghana, to the World Vision Office and the chocolate actually got there! So I wanted to try again with our new boy, Stephen.

I sent a small flat rate box of chocolate and ended up almost paying \$50! I was a bit shocked even if I expected a high rate! I just hope it arrives. At least I can track it. Because I have a passion about fair trade and farmers and their children around the world and I guess chocolate, I felt called to share chocolate with someone who has probably never tasted it. I'm not sure if I'll do it again soon, though.

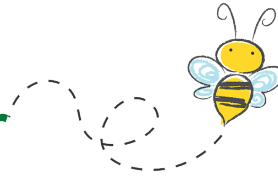
This Easter, why don't you share some chocolate or tea or coffee or olive oil? It's fairly cheap if you don't have to mail it overseas!

Because of Easter, Nancy and I will be selling Fair Trade on April 2 and 16 between services and after the 11 AM service. Look for us at the counter by the entrance doors. I may be in the library leading a small group on a few Sundays from 9:45 to 10:45, but someone should be at the counter.

—Miriam Nakayama and Nancy Truex



Honey Tree Early Childhood Center



Happy Spring! “Every child is a different kind of flower, and altogether make this world a beautiful garden.”

Students are learning about animals and life cycles. The past month they have participated in fun activities related to dinosaurs and our solar system. On St. Patrick’s Day, students arrived to messy classrooms with over-turned chairs and lots of glitter on the floor! Students made traps in hopes of catching the culprit responsible for the mess: the infamous Leprechaun.

On March 20 and 21, Pastor Emily visited students in classrooms. She talked about feelings and being kind to one another. Students repeated a song and prayer with Pastor Emily. The students truly enjoy pastor visits and chapel times!

Registration has been going well for the 2023/2024 school year, which will begin on September 5, 2023. Approximately 130 students are enrolled for the fall. We have 50 spots left to fill. We are receiving many phone calls and doing tours of the school on a regular basis. Honey Tree is offering our typical half day classes, with the option to add an “Extended Lunch Hour” for most of our class sessions. Our kindergarten hours will extend to five hours,

in order to align with scheduling in the CVUSD school district. The benefit of attending preschool and kindergarten at Honey Tree is small class sizes with two teachers in every classroom. We offer a warm and nurturing environment, where students feel safe and are able to play and learn in a positive atmosphere.

Creativity Night was a success. Parents and students came to the school in the late afternoon/evening on March 8, and participated in fun art activities together in the classrooms. Teachers had an inservice the next day, in order to clean up after the event. Honey Tree staff enjoyed breakfast and fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place in March and April for students in four and five-year-old classes. Conferences for three-year-old students are available by request. Teachers do assessments and parents receive progress reports for each student.

Students and teachers came wearing super hero capes and princess dresses on March 22 and 23. For the next spirit day, students will come to school wearing clothes and accessories representing their favorite color.

Donation: Rose and Alvin Schultz donated a custom, furnished dollhouse to Honey Tree. Rose and Alvin currently have three great-grandchildren attending our school, and they have a long history in the “miniatures” business. They wanted to do a community project and Honey Tree is the lucky recipient of their beautiful work! Anyone is welcome to come to the Honey Tree office and let us know if you would like to take a look at the incredible dollhouse. Rose is our guest speaker at the April faculty meeting where she will share about the process of creating and furnishing the house.

Important Dates

March 24-March 30: Parent/2YO

Field Trip/Nature Walk at
Greenmeadow Park

March 27-31: Spring Pictures with
Brenda Russett Photography

March 31-April 6: Easter Parties and
Egg Hunts

April 4: Honey Tree Board Meeting

April 7-14: Easter/Spring Break

April 19, 20: Chapel Times and
Favorite Color Days

April 28: Faculty Meeting

—Julie Riedel



February 15, 2023

Dear Community Partner,

In 2022, Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank took a huge leap to better serve our community. The move to our new facility come at just the right time as *increasing rent, gas, and groceries prices have had a devastating impact on many of our neighbors.*

Thanks to your consistent support through your food donations, we have been able to meet the growing need for food in the Conejo Valley. You are making a difference as you collect and deliver food and financial gifts to Manna. Thank you!

We are pleased to share some of the highlights of the year with you on the enclosed card. Your contributions brought smiles to our clients' faces. One woman shopping for groceries said that her full shopping cart was *"like winning the lottery."* Thank you for bringing that joy to so many families, including 246 new Manna households.

If you have not yet come to visit us at our new facility, please come for a tour! We would love to show you how we are serving the community now and tell you more about what we hope to do in the future. We are so grateful to be a part of this special community. Thank you for your generosity and continued support!

Best,

Leanne Portzel and the Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank team



Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank
95 N. Oakview Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
805-497-4959 • mannaconejo.org
info@mannaconejo.org

Tuesday Bible study in April

After finishing our study on the Ark of the Covenant in early April, we will join others in the congregation in reading the book Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation, by Latasha Morrison.

In an era where we seem to be increasingly divided along racial lines, many are hesitant to step into the gap, fearful of saying or doing the wrong thing. But change begins with honest conversation among a group of Christians willing to give a voice to unspoken hurts, hidden fears, and mounting tensions.

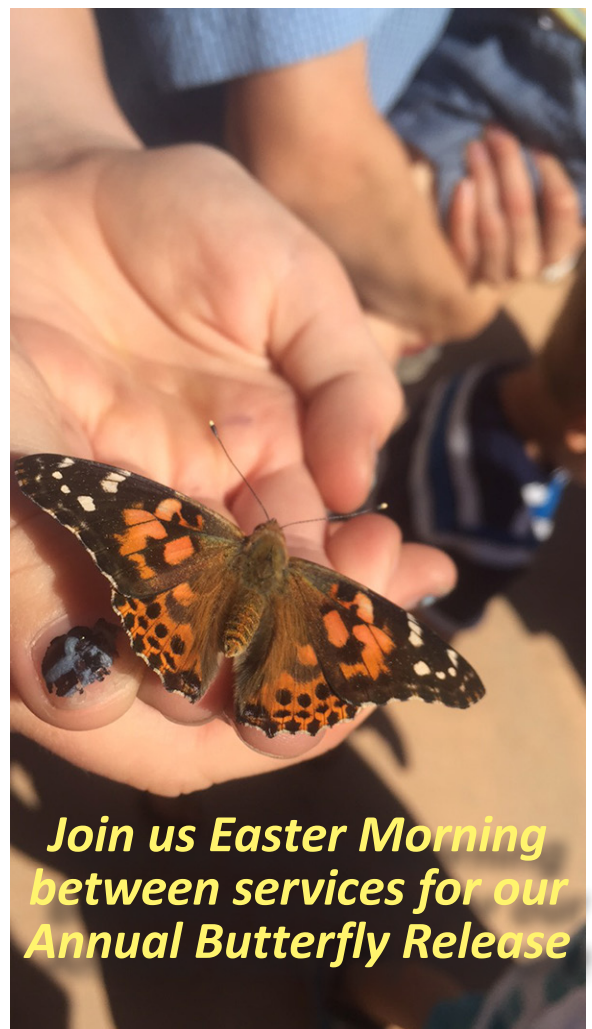
In this perspective-shifting book, author Latasha Morrison shows how we can participate in this incredible work in our own communities. With conviction and grace, she examines the historical complexities of racism. She also applies biblical principles, such as lamentation, confession, and forgiveness to lay a framework for restoration.

We hope you can join us at 10:30 AM on Tuesday mornings in the church library for this important study and dialogue. Attend in person or on Zoom. Just let us know if you want the zoom link and we will email it to you.

SCHEDULE

April 4 Study on the Book of Jonah
April 11 ... No Bible Study—Easter break
April 18 ... Be the Bridge (Chapters 1 & 2)
April 25 ... Be the Bridge (Chapters 3 & 4)

—Pastor Erik



**Join us Easter Morning
between services for our
Annual Butterfly Release**

THANK YOU!

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Thousand Oaks's 2023 Collection

raised:

\$40 and 170 lbs. of food

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed, and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

February 13, 2023

TACKLE HUNGER

Alison Reese
Executive Director
Tackle Hunger: Home of the
Souper Bowl of Caring

HTLC received this lovely thank you for our participation in the Souper Bowl of Caring/Tackle Hunger campaign. All of our donations went to Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank.

—Karen Kreman

A Free Community Event Celebrating the Environment

ARBOR EARTH DAY *Celebration*

April 15, 2023
9am - 1pm

2525 N. Moorpark Rd,
T.O. Community Center Park
(Next to T.O. High School)



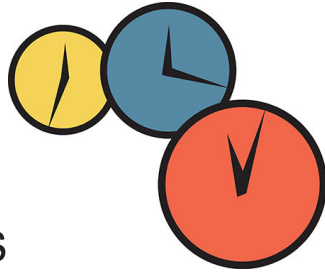
Environmental Workshops - Kids Activities - Compost
& Plant Giveaways - Live Music - Raffles and More!

**Go
Green**

www.toaks.co/earthday

City of
Thousand Oaks

Deadline for Sunday bulletins & Connections emails

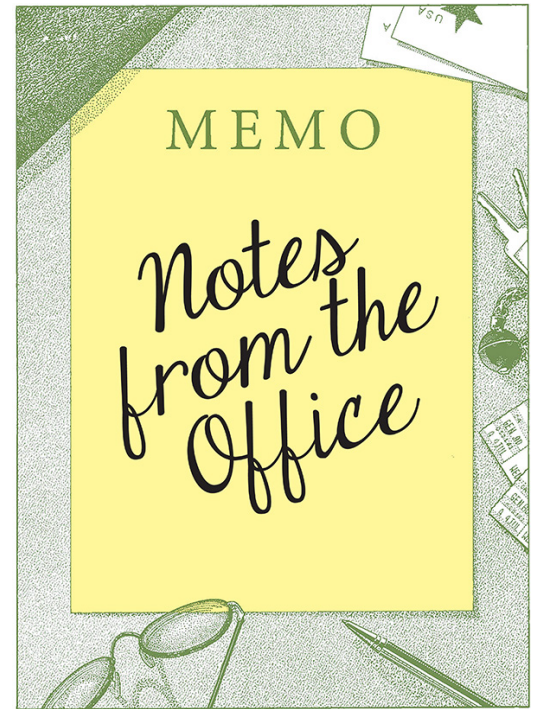


Do you have an update or announcement for the Sunday worship bulletins or weekly Connection emails?

Submit your announcement by Wednesday, on or before noon, to churchoffice@htlcto.org.

Write "**announcement**" in the subject line of your email to ensure it is added to the bulletin.

—Kathleen Sands
Church Office and Campus Operations
Manager



Church Office Hours

9:00 AM–2:30 PM

For assistance contact

Kathleen Sands

Church Office & Campus
Operations Manager

805-492-1234

churchoffice@htlcto.org



ATTENTION! SCHEDULING YOUR EVENT

We are having more and more activity on the church campus these days. Please remember to notify the church office regarding your event as soon as you establish the date. **We need to know about your event so we can add it to the:**

- ⇒ Church calendar
- ⇒ Bulletin
- ⇒ Kiosk in the narthex
- ⇒ Slides on Sunday morning
- ⇒ Social media
- ⇒ Website
- ⇒ Tempo Newsletter

Email your event information to churchoffice@htlcto.org with the name of your event, the date, time, and all the details you want to share. Write "calendar" in the email subject line for proper tracking.

—Kathleen Sands, Operations Manager





Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

1 West Avenida de Los Arboles

Thousand Oaks CA 91360-2939

805 492-1234 office churchoffice@htlcto.org www.htlcto.org

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HTLCTO.ORG

2023



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

April 2 9:30 & 11:00 AM

Maundy Thursday Service

April 6 7:00 PM

Good Friday Service

April 7 7:00 PM

EASTER

Easter Sunday

April 9 9:30 & 11:00 AM

Annual butterfly release between services

