

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

ONE WORSHIP
SUNDAY
May 21 | 10 AM

CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING
Sunday
May 21 | 11:30 AM



Reconciling in Christ

Pastor's note It's okay to have questions

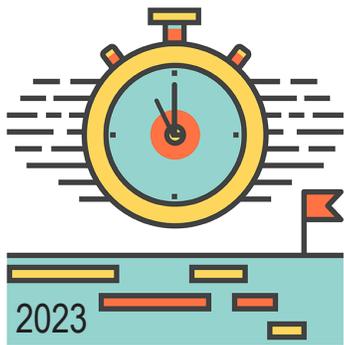
At some point when I was in High School, I had a teacher tell me the phrase that I'm sure many of you have heard at some point. The phrase is: "There is no such thing as a dumb question." I really appreciated that this teacher was trying to make the effort to invite conversation and encourage participation. The phrase has definitely stuck with me and I have tried to let others know they can approach me in the same manner—with a sense of inquisitive openness.

However, no matter how much I believe this phrase is true, there have still been many times when I have been nervous about asking a question because it seemed silly or inconsequential, or because it seemed like everyone else knew the answer and I should too, or I was intimidated by the environment I was in or didn't want to waste people's time. We can say we believe there is no such thing as a dumb question, but it can be difficult to actually express the meaning of this phrase when it comes to putting it into practice.

This is true when it comes to matters of faith as well. Many people may think faith isn't really something you can question—that who God is or what God is about isn't something you can really challenge. This might be because when we expressed our curiosity as kids or wondered about something in regards to faith we may have been told by a Sunday school teacher, a parent or a pastor, that we were not supposed to question such things, that we were just supposed to believe. It might be because we feel God will be angry with us if we question God. It might be because we think having doubts means our faith is weak.



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...

May 18 for the June issue
June 22 for the July issue
July 20 for the August issue
August 24 for the September issue
September 21 for the November 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—May 21

Please mark your calendars for our congregation meeting on Sunday, May 21 at 11:30 AM, following the ONE WORSHIP service and brunch. 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 and food will be provided or you can join on Zoom. We hope you save the date and join us!

—Pastor Erik



Annual Women's Breakfast "Being Bold Together"

Saturday, May 20, 9–11:30 AM HTLC Fellowship Hall
A morning of breakfast (\$20) and discussion

What does being "Bold" mean to you? Let's talk about it. The program with the theme "Being Bold Together" 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.

Sign up on the patio or church office and plan to join us Saturday, May 20.

—Dixie Hanson



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

ONE WORSHIP & MEETING—May 21

On Sunday May 21, we will have ONE WORSHIP service at 10:00 AM, immediately followed by a light brunch and a congregational meeting.

Over the years, our ONE WORSHIP Sundays have become a festive celebration of our combined music ministries as well as a great time to see and get to know folks from another worship time. At the meeting following worship, we will get updates on important topics such as:

- A new website being developed
 - The budget
 - A solar project
 - Voting for new council members
 - Voting on whether we proceed with a round columbarium project which would be a final resting place for the ashes of church members on the Holy Trinity campus. (See the article, *Columbarium update*, on page 11 of this issue of Tempo Newsletter for more information.)
 - New church database and giving platform
- We hope you can attend ONE WORSHIP Sunday at 10:00 AM and the congregational meeting at 11:30 AM on May 21!

—Pastor Erik

Honey Tree Early Childhood Center



Easter Egg Hunts—Before spring break, which began on Good Friday, students enjoyed finding Easter eggs around the campus. Some classes did Easter egg hunts in the new Prayer Garden. Students were very excited to find the colorful eggs hiding in and around the bright green turf.

Chapel Time—Students enjoyed Chapel Time with Pastor Erik in April. They sang songs, said a prayer and listened to Pastor Erik talk about Easter, accompanied with a colorful flannel board story. Students were very engaged. Many Honey Tree parents joined us in the sanctuary.

Lockdown Drills—With guidance from the local Sheriff's Department, Honey Tree has developed a preparedness plan, in the event there is a situation where we need to hide inside to be safe. We practiced drills in April. We are calling it a "Safety Drill" in order to minimize fear among the students. The drills went well. Students were very cooperative while teachers brought classes into bathroom, kitchen or hallway areas.

Animal Life Cycles—Every classroom has a cup with five caterpillars in it and students are awaiting to observe the formation of the chrysalises. In a couple of weeks, butterflies will emerge, and students and teachers will take them outside to release them into the wild.

Kindergartners put seven fertilized eggs into the classroom incubator and are expecting chicks to hatch in a few weeks, around May 9.

Toy Donations—"Neighbor Larry" Ashim, Holy Trinity Church member, has been donating handmade wooden puzzles to our school for the last couple of years. Larry is so very kind and generous to take the time to make beautiful puzzles for Honey Tree. He always arrives with a smile on his face and offers to make toys for us related to our weekly themes.

Closing Programs—We can't believe our school year is almost over! Our end-of-year singing programs are scheduled for May 31 and June 1, at 11:00 AM in the church sanctuary. All are welcome to join us for this joyous occasion.

—Julie Riedel

Upcoming dates

May 8, 9: Classroom Visits with Pastor Emily
May 8-12: Parent/2s Strawberry Picking at Somis Underwood Farm
May 9: Honey Tree Board Meeting
May 11, 12: Mother's Day Teas
May 29: Memorial Day Holiday, No School
May 31, June 2nd: Closing Programs

Dorcas Quilting & Crafting Circle

May activities will include finishing many spring projects. Our Thrivent Action Team project enabled us to purchase new batting so we can complete the colorful quilts.

We said farewell to Peggy Rothring (see photo below) who is moving to the Portland area. Peggy furnished us with beautiful fabric and her lovely quilts were professionally made with lots of love.

The knitters completed caps and will begin making prayer shawls at the Thursday, May 18, meeting at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

—Sally Johnson



This lunch was to honor Peggy Rothring for all her help making quilts over the years. She is leaving Thousand Oaks to join her family in Portland, Oregon.

Young Adult Group events—Ages 18-35-ish

May 7: Meet at 12:15 PM on the church patio to carpool or meet us at the "Main Trailhead" (we should arrive by 12:30/12:45 PM). The "Main Trailhead" is where we'll start walking. 27326 Crags Rd, Agoura Hills, CA 91301. It's next to the "Main Trailhead parking lot," which sometimes people call the "lower lot." There are signs pointing towards it once one drives into the park.

Entering with a car to park costs ~\$12 unless you have a state parks pass.

Children, Youth, and Family events

Faith Explorers - Sunday, May 7 & 14. These are our last two Faith Explorers events for the year!

Youth Group

May 7 & 21, 4:00–5:30 PM

Confirmation

May 7, 4:00–5:30 PM - Confirmation class is combined with youth group on May 7 due to Mother's Day being the second Sunday of the month.

May 10, 5:00 PM - Last Confirmation class for 8th graders ONLY on Zoom.

May 21 - Confirmation Sunday!

Blessing of the Prayer Garden—May 7

Have you checked out the Prayer Garden yet? Please do! The preschool uses the space during school hours—9:00 AM to noon during the school year. Outside of that, you are welcome to come by. Pray, walk the labyrinth, write on the chalk wall, let your kids play tag on the turf, etc. Please respect those who are praying or walking the labyrinth, as well as the new plants!

Graduates

Are you graduating from high school, college, or graduate school this year? Do you have a grandchild, child, niece or nephew you'd like to celebrate?

Send your name, a photo, school you are graduating from, and any plans you'd like to share to pastoremlily@htlcto.org by May 23. We will honor graduates at our worship services on June 11, and in our June newsletter.

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 will be on vacation and doing some continuing education from June 1-19. She will be out of the country and unavailable.

Pastor's note— continued from page 1

The reality, though, is that many of the people in Scripture had doubts about God and where God was leading them. From Jacob, to Moses, to the disciple Thomas, many people of faith in the Bible wrestled with God, argued with God, and wondered if the resurrection was real.

During the season after Easter, we get to hear stories of people who encounter the risen Christ. Many times these folks don't recognize Jesus at first or they wonder if it's really him. Many times they may not fully believe it was really Jesus until he gives them some proof or he has appeared to them multiple times.

One of these stories is about two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus. The resurrected Jesus comes alongside to walk with them, but they don't recognize him at first. They get into a deep discussion with Jesus about all that has happened in Jerusalem the last few days and how they are struggling to make sense of it all. Jesus listens to their questions and engages them in a conversation about what it might mean in relation to the Scriptures. The conversation is so good and intense that later on the two disciples realize they should have known it was Jesus because their hearts were "burning within them."

As one of your pastors, I am open to walking alongside you as you might be struggling with your faith. I am open to having an honest conversation and listening to whatever questions about God you might have. I know that a lot of people are not necessarily comfortable talking about doubts or challenges with pastors because they might worry that they will be judged or that pastors don't struggle with faith like they do, but I'm fairly confident there's a good chance that whatever you are wondering or questioning about God or your faith may also be something I have wrestled with as well.

And if you aren't comfortable talking to a pastor, that's okay. Reach out to one of our small groups or Bible study groups instead. Reach out to a trusted friend at the church or someone you know outside the church who is still open to faith. Share some of your questions with them. For like those two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus experienced, it is often in the deep discussions, the honest conversations, the mutual struggling with the mystery of faith—it is often in those moments—that the presence of Christ unexpectedly shows up.

—Pastor Erik

Library event, May 21, celebrates mothers

During the month of May we tend to think of mothers. The Sunday after Mother's Day, between services, we want to invite all people who have a mother or are a mother to come browse some books written by Holy Trinity women, who happen to be mothers, but to also browse books for mothers. You might find some surprises! We'll serve fair trade tea and have samples of fair trade chocolate. Please come in and sit and relax and browse. Check out a book if one strikes your fancy.

You are encouraged to look at the books featured during the month of May when you are in the library for a meeting or Bible study. Just write the title and your name on the clipboard near the door if you want to check it out.

—Miriam Nakayama

Thea Circle Book Club

Thea will meet Monday, May 22 at 7 PM in the church library. Participants are asked to recall their favorite book read of the year—or ever—and share it with the group. We hope to find the name of some new books we can read and share together. Looking forward to hearing about everyone's favorite book at our May meeting.

—Sally Johnson



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

1 W. AVENIDA DE LOS ARBOLES

2023 BLESSING OF THE BIKES AND THEIR RIDERS!



MAY 13 / 2-4PM
AN EVENT FOR ALL AGES!

RAFFLE & KIDS BICYCLE DECORATING CONTEST

PUPUSAS FOR SALE!

ALL PRIZES DRAWN/ AWARDED AT 3:30PM



All proceeds go towards a teacher's salary supported by our sister church, Espiritu de Gozo, in El Salvador.

May: Bicycle and Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month





Similar banner for reference

Worship Arts Team and Altar Guild need your help!

We are making a new banner to hang on the large blank wall in the sanctuary. A cross in the middle will be surrounded by rainbows of color, representing our identity as an RIC congregation and God's expansive love for all of creation. How can you help?

Donate cloth in one of the colors of the rainbow. It can have a pattern on it, as long as it is generally one of the following: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet! Cotton preferred. Polyester works too. It can be an old shirt, leftover sewing material, etc.

In a few weeks, we will offer the opportunity between worship services where you can cut strips of cloth to contribute to the banner.

Drop off cloth in the marked box in the narthex.

—Pastor Emily



Memorial Day, May 29, 2023
Church Office Closed

Meditation Group

Every meditation gathering, we close with this prayer and I'd like to share it with you, in case this prayer touches your situation!

Closing Prayer: *May this group be a true spiritual home for the seeker, a friend for the lonely, a guide for the confused.*

May those who pray here be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to serve all who come and to receive them as Christ himself.

In the silence of this room may all the suffering, violence, and confusion of the world encounter the power that will console, renew, and uplift the human spirit.

May this silence be a power to open the hearts of men and women to the vision of God, and so to each other, in love and peace, justice, and human dignity.

May the beauty of the Divine Life fill this group and the hearts of all who pray here with joyful hope.

May all who come here weighed down by the problems of humanity, leave, giving thanks for the wonder of human life.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Please join us on Thursdays at 4:00 PM. The first Thursday of the month we Zoom. Email Miriam, miriamnakayama@gmail.com for an invite. The other Thursdays we meet in the church library.

—Miriam Nakayama

Worship Leaders - May

05/07/2023 Sun. 9:30AM

Ushers: Jeanne & Dave Balsley

Communion Assistants: Laurel Engstrom
· Terri Kelly

Reader: Dietmar Wagenknecht

05/07/2023 Sun. 11:00AM

Ushers: Yvonne Bernschneider · Sandra
Samuels

Communion Assistants: Joan Cressman ·
Max Del Bosque

Reader: Joan Cressman

05/14/2023 Sun. 9:30AM

Ushers: Angela & Brian Carr

Communion Assistants: Dale Adrion ·
Dixie Hanson

Reader: Dale Adrion

05/14/2023 Sun. 11:00AM

Ushers: Yvonne Bernschneider · Sandra
Samuels

Communion Assistants: Ginny Connell ·
Max Del Bosque

Reader: Max Del Bosque

05/21/2023 Sun. 10:00AM

ONE WORSHIP SUNDAY

Ushers: Sandra Samuels

Communion Assistants: Ellen Hall · Nina
Wong

Reader: Nina Wong

05/28/2023 Sun. 9:30AM

Ushers: Jeanne & Dave Balsley

Communion Assistant: Dixie Hanson

Reader: Dietmar Wagenknecht

05/28/2023 Sun. 11:00AM

Ushers: Max Del Bosque · Sandra
Samuels

Communion Assistants: Denna Heerema ·
Miriam Nakayama

Reader: Miriam Nakayama

**EMAIL OR CALL THE CHURCH
OFFICE TO HELP!**

Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank

Thank You for your continued generosity to Manna! Their website, mannaconejo.org, has lots of information including a monthly blog. A recent blog stated that the rising prices of groceries is making it harder for low income families and individuals to get enough food. Manna has added dozens of clients since the start of 2023, and continues to do so.

Top priority items

1. Personal care items - shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste
2. Cold cereal
3. Hot drinks - coffee, tea, hot chocolate
4. Shelf-stable drinks - juices, oat milk, almond milk, soda
5. Canned tuna or salmon
6. Flavored rice - all types
7. Condiments - ketchup, mustard, relish, mayo, salad dressing
8. Baked or refried beans
9. Cookies or crackers
10. Soup broth and cream soup

Please place your donations on the wooden table by the windows in the narthex.

—Blessings, Karen and Marty Kreman



Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14

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



Newbury Park High School student wins ACSA Region 13 Essay Contest

Congratulations to Hannah of Newbury Park High School for winning the ACSA Region 13, COLVOP Essay content. Hannah wrote her essay on how much science teacher Darin Erickson has impacted her life. For winning the contest, Hannah received \$300 and English Department Chair and teacher Jill Magnante received \$100.

Darin Erickson is a member of Holy Trinity who sings in the Praise Band and Holy Trinity Choir.

—submitted by Janny Franken

**TEMPO
DEADLINE
THURSDAY**

newsletter

**May 18
11:00 AM**

SEE PAGE 2 FOR SUBMISSION
DETAILS

Fair trade—Expanding our Fair Trade reach with Miriam

You will be hearing about Holy Trinity’s Blessing of the Bikes, Saturday, May 13. Fair Trade will be a part of it. There will be a small market basket from Ghana filled with coffee, tea, and chocolate to bid on for the raffle! And also, a sari cloth to give it a beautiful touch! So come and have a pupusa or two, enjoy the fun and excitement, and bid on a raffle basket! Proceeds go to support our partner church in El Salvador.



We will also be selling Fair Trade items on May 14 and 28 between and after services. Buy something fair and delicious for your mom! Look for us at the church entrance at the counter.

Yours in Christ’s fair name—Miriam Nakayama and Nancy Truex

P.S. To continue my chocolate to Ghana story, I tracked it to Accra, Ghana, but haven’t heard if it got to Stephen yet.

Conejo Valley Refugee Team April update

The team welcomes one or two new families almost weekly, most recently a family from Venezuela settling in Gardena, and one from Afghanistan in El Cajon. We are accepting donations of lamps, small bureaus, microwaves. We provide gently used furniture, computers, and baskets of new supplies to all new families. Finding volunteers to help with moving has proved impossible, so we now allow families come to our storage areas and select items they need.

We were able to buy used Chromebooks from Oak Park Schools for a few dollars each and supply them to IRC and new families we assist. Computers are absolutely vital to help families with ESL, immigration applications, and school work. We are grateful to HTLC for the endowment grant which helps us purchase items like computers, mattresses, and sometimes gift cards for new families.

Fardin, Valeria, and Amir thank HTLC for the prayers and generous gifts. They are doing very well. Baby Amir is thriving, Fardin has a car and driver license, and his job is going well. Valeria is busy taking care of Amir. This young family had a difficult time but are soon to be independent.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Women’s Interfaith Network Welcome Basket Project. Volunteers were able to assemble and deliver 45 welcome baskets. Fifteen went to IRC, and we have stored the remainder so we can provide new supplies to incoming families.

For more information or to join this project, please contact jeankammerer@gmail.com. —Jean Kammerer



**Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service**

February 25, 2023

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1 W Avenida De Los Arboles
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-2939




Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service recognizes
**Holy Trinity Lutheran
Church**
Thousand Oaks, CA
as a
TOP GENEROUS CONGREGATION

On behalf of LIRS and those we serve, we thank you for
your generosity in 2022!



ANDREW G. STEELE
Chief Development and Mobilization Officer

Dear Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,

On behalf of all the people we serve, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) would like to thank you for your generosity throughout the year of 2022. Your financial support is truly making a difference in the lives of refugees and immigrants we serve all across the nation.

For over 80 years, LIRS has offered welcome and hope to more than half a million refugees. Since 1939, LIRS has transformed lives, with the support of people like you, to welcome the most vulnerable to the United States. Together we have supported, equipped, and empowered newcomers, while advocating for policy that protects all of God's children.

So today, we want to personally thank you for welcoming refugees and immigrants with open arms by financially supporting this ministry of welcome in 2022. Your ongoing support assists us in the mission of the "long welcome." Thank you for all the ways you continue to act as the hands and feet of Jesus.

In God's peace,




Andrew G. Steele
Chief Development and Mobilization Officer

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing." Psalm 100: 1-2



COLLECTING SWIM SUPPLIES



Safe Passage
Youth Foundation

WIN is collecting 200 sets of swim supplies for Safe Passages, an organization providing access to swim lessons for kids who otherwise would not be able to attend. Needed: totes, goggles, sunscreen, & towels.

How do I help?

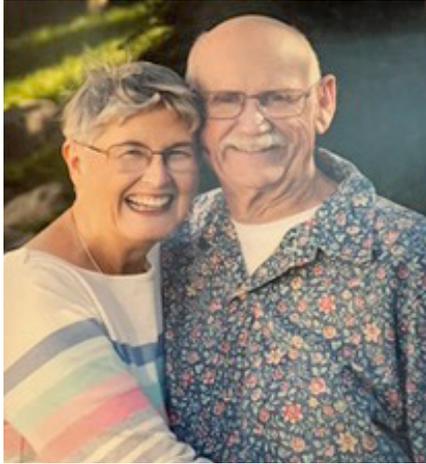
1. Sign up by Thursday, June 1.
2. Bring your items to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 1 W. Avenida de los Arboles by Thursday, June 8.

Sign up at <https://bit.ly/WINSwimsupplies>



—Pastor Emily

Welcome new members



Karen & Larry Ashim

Larry grew up in Minneapolis and attended and was confirmed at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. At 19, he left Minneapolis to join the US Navy. Karen's father was in the Marine Corps, and they moved frequently. She was confirmed in the Episcopal Church.

We met in Idaho Falls, when Larry was attending Nuclear Power School. We married 16 months later. Our first home was in Lawrence, Kansas, where Larry and I attended the University of Kansas. After Larry graduated and was commissioned, we moved to San Diego and then Naples, Italy, for two years.

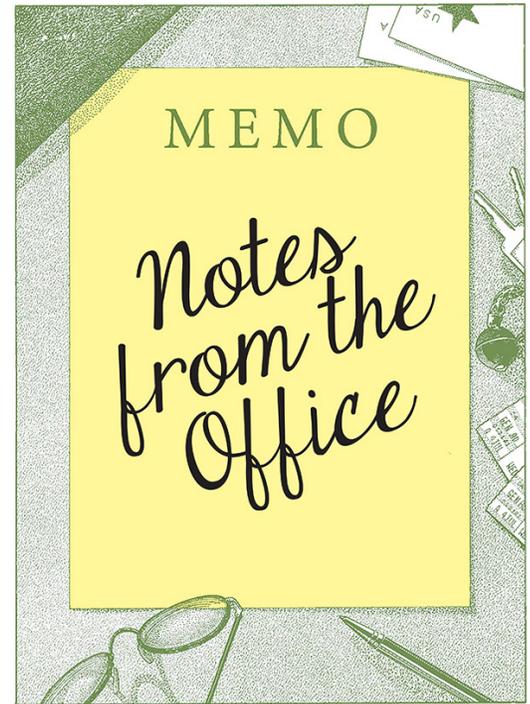
While in Monterey, California, when Larry was earning his MS in Oceanography, Becky was born. Debby was born 5 years later in Bremerton, Washington. They have been the joy of our lives.

Karen graduated from Pacific Lutheran University as Larry was retiring from the Navy. Larry then worked as an analyst for a physical oceanographic firm, and Karen earned her MS from CLU. We have lived in Thousand Oaks for 37 years.

Karen was a teacher, librarian, counselor, and assistant principal at Fillmore High School for almost 30 years. We have been active in a variety of groups, but most of our leadership roles have been with Sons of Norway and SACHF (Scandinavian American Cultural & Historical Foundation), of which Larry has been president, and Karen is the current president.

Since we retired, we remodeled our home and started to travel. We are fortunate to have traveled the world. Our last trip included a week in Israel.

Many of our friends attend HTLC, and it is a good fit for us. We appreciate its outreach to all people. —Larry and Karen Ashim



Church Office Hours

9:00 AM–2:30 PM

For assistance contact

Kathleen Sands

Church Office & Campus

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Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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HTLCTO.ORG



Tuesday Bible study in May—Be the Bridge and Love Wins

We have three sessions where we will be joining 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. Morrison also applies biblical principles, such as lamentation,

confession, and forgiveness to lay a framework for restoration.

At the end of the month, we will start a new study based on the book [Love Wins](#). In [Love Wins](#),

SCHEDULE

May 2 Be the Bridge (Chs 5 & 6)

May 9 Be the Bridge (Chs 7 & 8)

May 16.... Be the Bridge (Chs 9 & 10)

May 23... Love Wins session one

May 30 ... Love Wins session two

bestselling author, international teacher, and speaker, Rob Bell, addresses one of the most controversial issues of faith—hell

and the afterlife—arguing, would a loving God send people to eternal torment forever? With searing insight, Bell puts hell on trial with a hopeful message—eternal life doesn't start when we die; it starts right now. And ultimately, [Love Wins](#).

We hope you can join us at 10:30 AM, on Tuesday mornings in the church library, for these studies and discussions. You can attend in person or on Zoom. Just let us know if you want the Zoom link and we will email it to you.

—Pastor Erik