

TEMPO

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 AM Informal

11 AM Traditional



Reconciling in Christ



Pastor's note

Wealth management

A few years ago I noticed that the title of our Financial Advisor had changed on the notices sent out by the investment company. Her title was no longer “Financial Advisor.” Now it was “Wealth Advisor.” While I was curious about the change I never did ask why they did it. I guess I figured it was a kind of marketing ploy to make the clients feel more empowered. When the person you are working with is called a “Financial Advisor” it implies that you have a kind of shortcoming—that you are having some issues with your money and you need some advice. To have the person you are working with called a “Wealth Advisor,” however, implies that you are already a wise investor. You have already established wealth and you just need some assistance to manage it all.

At first, I did not really like the new title because I thought it sounded kind of elitist. When I hear the word “wealth” I think of the super-rich, those with more money than they know what to do with. I didn’t consider myself in that category and I thought it made me sound arrogant. As I have thought about it more, though, I have come to accept that compared to much of the world I actually am fairly wealthy. I actually do have some resources and to deny that is to avoid reflecting upon the decisions I can make with what to do with those assets. It’s an excuse to be lazy and not really examine my choices and how they might affect others. Not to acknowledge that we do have various kinds of wealth that we can manage can actually lead to mismanagement as we ignore or squander the resources we might have.

Furthermore, there are different kinds of wealth. There is a wealth of knowledge or a wealth of energy. Our minds, bodies and spirits are all potential sources of wealth that we can manage. As people of faith, we believe that

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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...

September 21 for the October issue
October 19 for the November issue
November 16 for the December issue
December 14 for January 2023 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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Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-2939

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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.



Women's Bible study

Join us on Saturday, September 16 at 2:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall for our monthly Bible study. We begin a new three-session study titled "Holy Places" by Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, an ELCA missionary living in Jerusalem. She says, "We'll explore what holy places mean, not only for the Holy Land of the Bible, but for each of us, wherever we may be."

All women are welcome!

—Dixie Hanson

Meditation Group

In this month with new beginnings, prayer is always a good thing to think about and do. Here is a quote from John Main's Word Made Flesh:

All prayer is the pure gift of God given to us with infinite generosity. Meditating is a small token of our reciprocal generosity in our openness to His gift.

Join us for meditation, of being in the presence of God, each Thursday at 4:00 PM. The first Thursday, September 7, is via Zoom. Email miriamnakayama@gmail.com for an invite. September 14, 21, 28, are at 4:00 PM, in the church library, in the same building as the office, through the double doors.

Blessings on your September!

—Miriam Nakayama



Ossuarium pre-sales

At the congregational meeting in May, the congregation voted by over a two-thirds margin to proceed with the Ossuarium project. An Ossuarium is a structure where the cremated remains of a loved one may be laid to rest. The model of what the Ossuarium will look like is still on the patio to the right as you come out of the sanctuary doors.

To move forward with the project, at least 15 spaces totaling \$60,000 must be raised by pre-sales. So far, we have seven commitments for pre-sales for a total of \$26,000.

If you are interested in purchasing a niche as a resting place for your ashes or your loved one's ashes after you are gone, then contact the church office at 805-492-1234 or churchoffice@htlcto.org. Below are the prices for the niches.

Schedule of Fees—2023

Pre-sale (June to November 30, 2023)

Niche \$4,000

A Niche is a compartment on the outside of the Ossuarium where one or two designated urns can be placed.

Ossuary vault \$1,000

The Ossuary Vault is in the center of the Ossuarium where multiple soft urns can be placed for different people.

The cost of the urn and the inscription is paid separately, upon time the loved one is to be placed into the Ossuarium.

—Pastor Erik

You may pay for an ossuarium niche by check or pay by credit card online

To pay by credit card, Go to our website: <https://www.htlcto.org/give>

1. Click the small rectangle **GIVE** button in the upper left corner
2. Scroll down & click the rectangle **GIVE ONLINE NOW** button on right
3. Under Give: Enter your payment dollar amount
4. From the dropdown menu select: **To: Ossuarium Fund**
5. List your name and address
6. Scroll down and select the black rectangle **CARD** button
7. Enter your credit card information
Select: **Cover Fees** (You will pay processing fees.)
To avoid paying processing fees, please pay by check.
8. Click **GIVE ONLINE NOW**

“You may be richer than you think”— 2023 Stewardship Campaign

God raised us up with Christ...in order that in the coming ages we might be shown the incomparable riches of God's grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. — Ephesians 2:6-7 (NIV)

Most of us may not think of ourselves as wealthy, but in his letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul reminds us that we have the “riches of God’s grace.” While this cannot be put into monetary terms, God’s grace is a kind wealth. It gives us a sense of well-being and value. It also gives us a sense that what we have is a gift from God to be thankful for and we are called to share as God has shared with us.

What kind of gifts have you been given? What kinds of wealth do you have? How do you feel you are managing it? Has it led you to a generous spirit? What does our faith have to do with it? Join us in exploring these questions together in this year’s stewardship campaign. One way we will reflect upon these issues will be through a five-part sermon series based on these themes:

September 10

A Wealth of Attention

September 17

A Wealth of Spiritual Strength

September 24

Finding Wealth within our bodies

October 1

A Wealth of Generous Wonder

October 8

A Wealth of Gratitude

On Sunday, November 12, from 4:00–6:00 PM, we will have a service project making health kits for Lutheran World Relief leading into a dinner in the church Fellowship Hall as a culmination of our Stewardship theme. Please mark your calendars and watch for our annual pledge card coming to your mailbox or email inbox. We hope you will participate in this campaign either through a financial commitment, a volunteer commitment, or just letting us know that you plan to participate with Holy Trinity as your faith community for the

coming year.

Another way you can be involved is by bringing in items for our health kit service project. Lutheran World Relief distributes these health kits to people in need all over the world, including refugee camps and where there have been natural disasters. Beginning September 24, there will be a box for collecting items in the entrance to the church sanctuary and the church office.

Below is the list of items for each kit which you can donate:

- 1 Bath-size towel
- 1 adult toothbrush
- 1 Nail clipper
- 1 Sturdy hair comb
- 2 Bath-sized bars of soap

We look forward to your participation in the 2023 Stewardship Campaign!

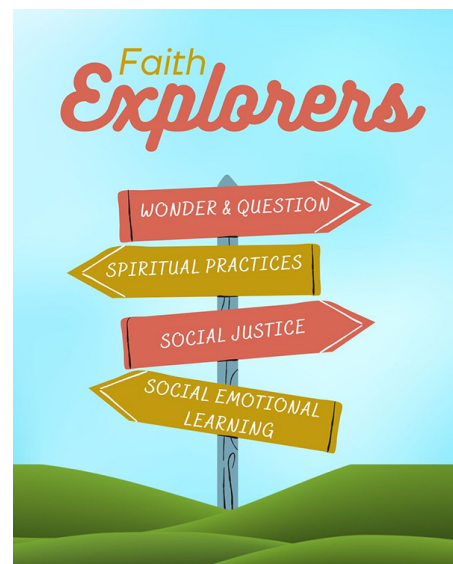
—Pastor Erik

REGISTRATION for 2023-2024 Children Youth and Family activities

Please register your child/youth for Children, Youth, and Family events and activities by going to HTLCto.org. We have Faith Explorers for K-5th grade, Confirmation classes for 6th-8th, and Youth Group for 6th-12th grade. Activities begin September 10!

Need to learn more about our opportunities for kids and youth? Check out the descriptions below and on the following page or contact PastorEmily@htlcto.org.

The registration link is available on the homepage of our website: htlcto.org



This year we will host **YOUTH SUNDAYS** during worship every 6-7 weeks. What is a Youth Sunday? We know kids are in sports and all kinds of activities. It is hard to get to church and be involved every Sunday. But we also want our youth to know that we value their voices and leadership. Youth Sundays are a day when children and youth will take a strong leadership role in worship. We will prep for it ahead of time in Faith Explorers and Youth Group, and they'll have the opportunity to provide input on what we do for worship that day. Our first Youth Sunday is October 8.

WHAT IS FAITH EXPLORERS?

Two Sundays every month, Kindergarten-5th graders are invited to join Pastor Emily and our CLU student volunteer, Nina, for a time of learning Bible stories, wondering together, exploring spiritual practices, connecting the stories to social justice issues, and for building social emotional learning skills. It takes place in the small side of the Fellowship Hall from 10:45-11:30 AM. Parents are invited to stay and participate or share a cup of coffee and conversation together. It just depends on the activity for the day and how much you want to be involved. If you go to 11 AM worship, we'll bring your kids over to the worship space once we are done.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

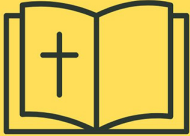
6-8 grade

First class: September 17
3:00-4:30pm

Holy Trinity Youth Room

2nd Sunday of every month after that

Let's get down
some of the basics.
Then, dig a little
deeper.



Currently, our **CONFIRMATION CLASSES** are curated for the 6-8th grade age group. We review the basics of the Bible and dig a little deeper into Lutheran theology as well as how they are feeling about their faith. At the end of 8th grade, they can choose to affirm their faith during a worship service. We encourage attendance at youth group as well to help build relationships and encourage the regular practice of exploring faith in community.



YOUTH GROUP is open to grades 6-12. We meet at least two times per month in the youth room. This year, our youth ministry leadership team—Summer Reith and Lily Bowden—will help lead conversations alongside Pastor Emily and a young adult volunteer or parent. Topics vary from week to week, but a strong focus will be given to growing into and building confidence in our identities. We'll also have a few service projects throughout the year and a few meet ups with other youth groups in the area.

CYF September Schedule

September 6	Confirmation Class Orientation—on Zoom
September 10	Faith Explorers @ 10:45-11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall Youth Group @ 3-4:30 PM in the Youth room
September 17	Faith Explorers @ 10:45-11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall Confirmation Classes @ 3-4:30 PM
September 24	Youth Group @ 3-4:30 PM in the Youth room
October 1	Faith Explorers @ 10:45-11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall Youth Group @ 3-4:30 PM in the Youth room



2024 ELCA Youth Gathering Info

Did you miss the meeting about next Summer's Youth Trip?

What: ELCA Youth Gathering

When: July 16-20 (estimated travel dates July 15-21)

Where: New Orleans!

Who: All current 8th-12th graders are eligible

Commitment date: October 20
Contact Pastor Emily for more information.

What's new this year? It is also a **YOUNG ADULT GATHERING!** Because so many youth missed the ELCA Youth Gathering during the pandemic, they are expanding it this year and creating a Young Adult Event happening alongside the youth gathering. Young adults ages 18-35 can attend. OR as a young adult, you can volunteer (expenses are paid!) Sign up soon though! Registration is already open. <https://www.elca.church/gathering/attend/volunteers>.

—Pastor Emily

Big thank you from our sister church in El Salvador

Our sister church, Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, in El Salvador, has been paying a teacher to come to their local community to teach the children since the pandemic started. Holy Trinity has been helping to fund this teacher. We all know how important teachers are and here is a photo of their wonderful teacher! Thank you to everyone who helped raise the funds to pay the teacher, including our Viking Dog Booth last year and our two Blessing of the Bikes.

—Sherri Groenveld
Community Outreach Ministry



Paying more for fair trade coffee and tea with Miriam

There's good news and bad news. Coffee transportation costs have gone up and has increased our coffee prices. Tea has also gone up, but I'm not sure why. So a regular bag of coffee is now \$9, but Sister's Blend is still \$9. Decaffeinated coffee is now \$10. A box of 20 bags of tea is \$4 instead of \$3.50.

The good news is that Extra Virgin Olive Oil has gone down from \$14 to \$13.

So please come to the Fair Trade Counter on September 10 and 24, between services and after the 11:00 AM service. Nancy and I will be happy to take care of your coffee, tea, chocolate, and EVOO needs!

Happy fair fall!

Peace, Miriam Nakayama and Nancy Truex

FAIR TRADE ITEMS

Coffee

\$9.00 – Breakfast Blend, Love Buzz, French Roast, Toffee Caramel, Sister's Blend

\$10.00 – Decaffeinated, French Roast Decaffeinated

Tea

\$4.00 – English Breakfast, Green Tea, Chai, Peppermint, Rooibos, Ginger, Tumeric and Ginger, Chamomile

Chocolate

\$3.00 – Panama Dark (80%), Milk Chocolate, Milk Chocolate with Toffee, Dark Chocolate with Almonds (55%), Dark Chocolate with Caramel Crunch (43%), Dark Chocolate with Mint Crunch (67%), Dark Chocolate with Toffee (60%), Dark Chocolate with Himalayan Pink Sea Salt (60%), Dark Chocolate with Raspberries (70%).

\$2.00 – Small Dark Chocolate Bars

\$.25 – Mini Dark Chocolates(55%)

Baking Supplies

\$6.00 – Baking Cocoa

\$4.50 - Chocolate Chips

\$13.00 – Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Hot Cocoa

\$6.00 – Regular

\$6.00 – Dark Chocolate (Add milk)

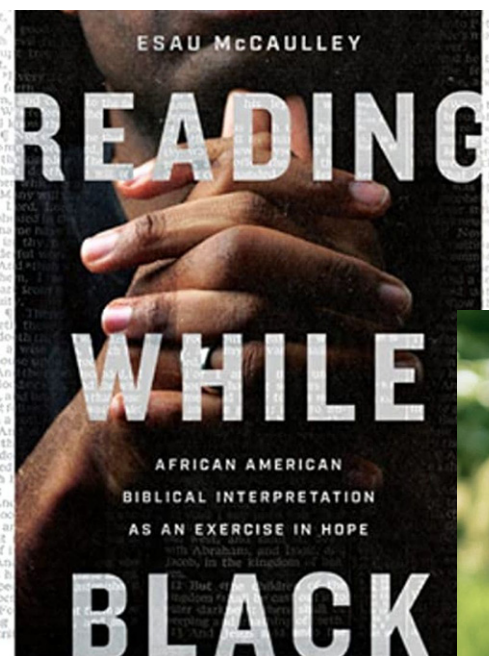


Pastor's note—continued from page 1

these various kinds of wealth originate with God. This is where the concept of stewardship comes from in Christianity. A steward is someone who manages the property of someone else. In the second chapter of Genesis in the beginning of the Bible, God puts the humans in the garden to take care of it. They are to be stewards of the world God has made.

That is why the theme of this year's stewardship campaign at Holy Trinity is "Wealth Management, or You might be richer than you think." In the month of September and October we are going to reflect upon the different kinds of wealth we have been given and how we manage them as caretakers of the gifts God has given us. We will be doing this through a five-part sermon series culminating in an evening service project and dinner on Sunday, November 12. See the article about the event in this newsletter for more details. We hope you will join us!

—Pastor Erik



Details can be found on page 16 of this issue of Tempo Newsletter.

The Tuesday morning Bible study in September and October is based on the book Reading the Bible While Black by Esau McCaulley.



Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank

Thank You all so much for your enormous food donations to Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank last month! When Manna moved to their new facility last year, they installed a huge floor scale to weigh incoming donations. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is always generous, but we outdid ourselves by donating 198 pounds—the most we've ever donated since Manna began weighing! Pretty impressive!

Of course, the need continues, so here is their most recent list of top ten needs.

Top ten items needed

1. Cold Cereal
2. Canned Tuna / Chicken
3. Canned Fruit
4. Flavored Rice / Rice-A-Roni
5. Hamburger Helper / Boxed Potatoes
6. Canned Pasta / SpaghettiOs / Ravioli
7. Canned Vegetables - All Kinds
8. Hot Cereal
9. Drinks - Almond Milk / Fruit Juice / Water / Soft Drinks
10. Coffee / Tea / Hot Chocolate

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

Blessings,
Karen and Marty Kreman

Honey Tree Early Childhood Center

Honey Tree is getting ready for the school year to begin on September 5! Play yards are spic and span and teachers have begun decorating bulletin boards and setting up classrooms. Honey Tree staff came to the school on August 24 to clean and power wash classroom chairs, trash cans and outdoor equipment.

We have been busy preparing, not only for the new school year, but for our 50th Anniversary events. Honey Tree is hosting an Open House on Thursday, August 31. Parents and students can come to school to meet their teachers, look in the classrooms, and do some fun activities on the campus and play yards, to celebrate Honey Tree's 50 year history. Activities include decorating a crown, guessing which baby picture belongs to which teacher, taking photos with signs labeled "Back to School" and "50th Anniversary," and looking at photos

from Honey Tree throughout the years. All are welcome to attend.

On September 10, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church will celebrate Honey Tree's 50 Year Anniversary at a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Church members and current and former Honey Tree staff members are all invited. We look forward to reminiscing about the history of Honey Tree and how it all began. After lunch, everyone will have the opportunity to tour the campus and classrooms. Thank you to Pastor Erik, Susan Randolph, Kathleen Sands, and Honey Tree Board members for helping to plan and prepare for these events.

There are 142 students enrolled at this time. We have multiple spots available in our three-year-old classes. Parents continue to call for tours and sign up for classes.

We look forward to a wonderful new school year. Our caring and nurturing teachers experience a lot of joy in helping our young students value themselves as unique individuals created by God, and watching them develop a joyful curiosity in knowing and learning about God's world.

—Julie Riedel, Director



Dates to Note

September 5

First Days of School

September 7, 8

Parent Orientation

September 10

HTLC Honey Tree 50th Anniversary Luncheon

September 19

Board Meeting



Newly retired Holy Trinity Choir director, Elmer Heerema, handing over the keys to the music room to newly hired choir director Conor Whalen.

Dorcas Quilting & Crafting Circle

The Crafting Circle will begin crocheting prayer shawls given to console those needing a light touch of comfort. The Dorcas Quilters will make special autumn/fall quilts that are always appreciated in the cooler season.

The group will meet on Thursday, September 21 at 9:00 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. We appreciate all the help with these special projects.

—Sally Johnson

Thea Circle Book Club

The Five Wounds, by Kirstin Valdez Quade, will be discussed at the Monday, September 25, meeting at 7:00 PM in the church library. This redemptive book deals with an exploration of family, faith, and forgiveness starting in Holy Week.

Sally Johnson has some extra copies of the book.

—Sally Johnson.



Honey Tree Early Childhood Center turns 50!

Come join us as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ministry of Honey Tree Early Childhood Center on our church campus on Sunday, September 10.

A free lunch starts right after our second worship service at 12:15 PM, followed by a program. We will hear about how it all began at Honey Tree and the vision the church had of a day school. Those attending will be invited to share memories of the preschool if they have been involved with it or had children who were students there. At the end, we have a special recognition, cake, and an open house of Honey Tree classrooms and play yards.

We hope you can attend the free lunch and 50th anniversary celebration of Honey Tree on Sunday, September 10 at 12:15 PM. An RSVP is not necessary, but helpful to know how much food to get. You can let us know you are coming at: churchoffice@htlcto.org or sign up on the kiosk at church.

—Pastor Erik



Library event between services – September 24

Children and parenting books

To celebrate the starting of another school year, we are featuring books for children, teens, parents and grandparents.

A few grandparents have checked out our new books to read to their grandchildren via Facetime or Zoom. A favorite has been [God's Dream](#) by Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams.

This year we will try to feature a different section of the library each month. In October we will feature “Social Justice” books. Be sure to notice books on book stands when you are in the library for a meeting or Bible study.

We look forward to seeing and chatting with you over a cup of coffee and a treat.

Laurel Engstrom and Miriam Nakayama



September of Song is here!

Thanks to all those who put in song requests last month so that we could incorporate them into the worship services in September. We have received songs from both the 9:30 and 11 AM services. Although we will do our best to make sure everyone who made a request gets to have at least one included in worship, we may also not get to do every request from everyone depending on how the service looks. It is also possible, depending on the length of the worship, that we may just do a few verses from some of the songs on the list.

We appreciate this participation from the congregation and hope that it can be meaningful for folks to have an old favorite included on Sundays in September. Make sure you attend worship or watch online so that you can hear the song you chose or the songs some of our other members have chosen!

—Pastor Erik



Church Office Hours 9:00 AM–2:30 PM

For assistance,
please contact

Kathleen Sands

Church Office & Campus
Operations Manager,

805-492-1234

churchoffice@htlcto.org

September update

Conejo Interfaith Refugee Team

This summer, volunteers from the team has settled three families from Afghanistan into apartments in Reseda as well helping the children get ready for school. We donated 20 used Chromebooks to the International Institute of LA for their clients. We continue to support families we have settled with friendship, assistance with bureaucracies, rides, and advice.

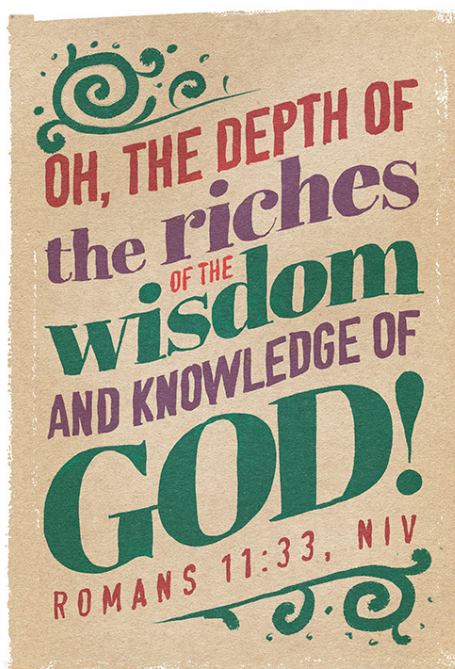
Save the dates

Walk With Amal (walkwithamal.org) will be visiting the Los Angeles area on October 31 to November 3, starting with a Dia de Los Muertos on Olivera Street and visiting multiple locations in the Los Angeles basin. Amal is a bigger-than-life puppet who travels around raising awareness about the plight of migrants. Sunday evening, February 4, Conejo Valley Interfaith Network and Temple Adat Elohim will be hosting a program and discussion for the community.

Needs: Strong volunteers to help with moves, translators (Ukrainian, Russian, Farsi, Dari, Spanish), money, and used cars in good running order. Email me at jeankammerer@gmail.com for details. We are not accepting furniture donations at this time.

The team thanks Holy Trinity for our ongoing support.

—Jean Kammerer



Fair Trade



Sunday Worship Volunteers - September

09/03/2023 Sun. 9:30AM

Ushers: Jeanne & Dave Balsley

Reader: Dale Adrion

Communion Assistants: Dale Adrion,
Colleen Windham-Hughes

09/03/2023 Sun. 11:00AM

Ushers: Joan Cressman, George Williams

Reader: Miriam Nakayama

Communion Assistants: Miriam Nakayama, Ginny
Connell

09/10/2023 Sun. 9:30AM

Ushers: Angela Carr & Brian Carr

Reader: Laurie Morrow

Communion Assistants: Laurie Morrow,
Beth Goodnight

09/10/2023 Sun. 11:00AM

Ushers: Dixie Hanson, Sandy Samuels

Reader: Nina Wong

Communion Assistants: Nina Wong, Terri Kelly

09/17/2023 Sun. 9:30AM

Usher: Ron Klassen

Reader: Dietmar M Wagenknecht

Communion Assistants: Laurel Engstrom,
Desta Goehner

09/17/2023 Sun. 11:00AM

Ushers: Joan Cressman, Dixie Hanson

Reader: Dietmar M Wagenknecht

Communion Assistants: Ginny Connell, Nina Wong

09/24/2023 Sun. 9:30AM

Ushers: Angela Carr & Brian Carr

Reader: Dale Adrion

Communion Assistants: Dale Adrion, Karie Lynch

09/24/2023 Sun. 11:00AM

Ushers: Joan Cressman, Sandy Samuels

Reader: Nina Wong

Communion Assistants: Nina Wong

Denna Heerema, Ellen Hall

New Members



Christopher Gilstrap (he/him)

grew up in central Georgia, raised by his mother, a TV journalist, and his father, a Presbyterian minister. He got his BA in Dramatic Arts from Georgia Southwestern State University in 2015, and moved to Los Angeles in 2016. He now works as an actor and educator with a passion for Shakespeare. He's a full-name-only kind of guy, and therefore answers only to Christopher and never to Chris.



Ken Woerman

I was born in 1945 and raised on a farm near Barnes, Kansas. My brother and I still own the farm. My youngest daughter and her family now live in the farm house. Our family attended the local Lutheran Church (Mo. Synod).

I attended Emporia State University and met my wife Lani. Lani was born and raised at Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii. We majored in Marketing and Elementary Education and graduated in 1967.

Continued on page 15



Reith family

Katie and Dave met in college at San Diego State University and have been married for 18 years. They have three kids, Summer, 16, Skye, 14, and Slater, 10. Fun fact... all three kids attended Honey Tree Early Childhood Center here at Holy Trinity! Dave is a structural engineer and has his own business in Thousand Oaks. Katie is a teacher by trade, but is currently focusing on being a mom, while subbing occasionally to keep her teaching skills and resume current. They love the vibe here at Holy Trinity and are excited to "officially" become members of this wonderful community!

welcome to Holy Trinity

Continued from page 14

The next four years I was a Supply Corps Officer in the US Navy stationed for most of my time on shore duty at Pearl Harbor. Our two older daughters were born during my Naval years.

Following the Navy, I attended Kansas State University receiving a MBA in Finance and Accounting while also passing the CPA examination. I subsequently worked for a national CPA firm in Atlanta concentrating in Insurance and Computer Auditing. Lani began her teaching career at the Lutheran parochial school where we attended church.

After several years I took a position with one of my clients, AFLAC, in Columbus, Georgia initially as their US Information Management (computer) executive and later headed a medical claim processing subsidiary and helped develop new insurance subsidiaries in New York and London. Lani, meanwhile, directed and taught at the parochial school for our Lutheran church.

Tiring of the travel, we moved here to Thousand Oaks as controller for a life insurance group. I next worked for Blue Cross of California in financial positions including Chief Financial Officer and SVP of Strategic Planning. Just after arriving in California, our third daughter was born. Lani taught here at Honey Tree.

We moved to Sacramento where I was the regional financial officer for a medical claim management company and Lani again directed and taught in the parochial school at our Lutheran Church. Eventually, I joined a good friend's Management Consultant practice in insurance company financial system design and implementation, mostly on the East Coast.

Following some medical problems, I retired. We moved to Santa Maria near our middle daughter. Retirement was boring and I took a "retirement" job with H&R Block in their Santa Maria office where I became an IRS Enrolled Agent (the highest level H&R Block tax preparer).

In 2018, Lani passed away. I sold our Santa Maria house and moved into a Senior Apartment Complex with my dog, Oe. Retiring again at the beginning of 2022, I stayed busy at our Lutheran church as treasurer and as a member of the choir and bell choir. I also sang with the Central Coast Chordsmen barbershop chorus and was their treasurer.

My daughter, Kathy Lindgren—a member of Holy Trinity—has convinced me to slow down and move in with her and Jeff here in Thousand Oaks, be part of their family and still take part in activities I can enjoy in this active community.

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

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Tuesday Bible study in September

Our Bible Study in September and October is based on the book Reading the Bible While Black by Esau McCaulley. Since 2019, McCaulley has been assistant professor of New Testament at Wheaton College. He was ordained in the Anglican Church in North America AND is a contributing writer on several outlets such as Christianity Today, The Washington Post, and The New York Times.

Growing up in the American South, Esau McCaulley knew firsthand the ongoing struggle between despair and hope that marks the lives of some in the African American context. A key element in the fight for hope, he discovered, has long been the practice of Bible reading and interpretation that comes out of traditional Black

churches. This ecclesial tradition is often disregarded or viewed with suspicion by much of the wider church and academy, but it has something vital to say.

Ultimately McCaulley calls the church to a dynamic theological engagement with Scripture, in which Christians of diverse backgrounds dialogue with their own social location as well as the cultures of others. *Reading While Black* moves the conversation forward.

The book cost is \$15. If you would like to purchase one you can write a check or pay cash to Holy Trinity since we are ordering books as a group. If you would like to be on the list to receive Bible study reminders and the Zoom link to join online please call or email the church office, 805-492-1234 or churchoffice@htlcto.org. —Pastor Erik

SCHEDULE for SEPTEMBER

September 5 - No Bible study

September 12 - The South Got Something to Say...Making room for Black interpretation

September 19 - Freedom is No Fear...Towards a New Testament Theology of Policing

September 26 - Tired Feet, Rested Souls...The New Testament and the Political Witness of the Church