

THE TEMPO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2026

INFORMAL SERVICE
9:30AM

TRADITIONAL SERVICE
11AM

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



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



California
Interfaith
Power
& Light

1 West Avenida de los Arboles, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-2939
805-492-1234 office churchoffice@htlcto.org www.htlcto.org
PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCY - 805-492-1234, press 1

WHAT'S INSIDE

Altar Flower Donations.....	16
Author Discussion.....	6
Blessing of the Backpacks.....	13
Council Members.....	6
Dorcas Quilting Circle.....	11
Events at a Glance.....	3
Fair Trade.....	12
Honey Tree.....	7
Library Book Review.....	9-10
Library News.....	12
Making Sense of Scripture.....	5
Manna Food Bank.....	8
Meditation Group.....	7
Middle School Youth Gathering STD.....	14
Minister of Music Update.....	12
Our Immigrant Neighbors.....	8
Pastor's Note.....	4
Planning Ahead Workshop.....	5
Planning for Tomorrow Webinar.....	13
Prayer Requests.....	15
Registration for 2026-2027 School Year.....	14
Reverend James Oines.....	8
Senior Fellowship.....	7
Thea Book Circle.....	12
Tuesday Morning Bible Study.....	5-6
Vacation Bible School.....	11
Western States Youth Gathering.....	13
Women's Breakfast.....	5
Young Adult Events.....	10-11

2026		AUGUST					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

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

GET SOCIAL WITH US



facebook.com/HTLCTO



instagram.com/htlcto/



youtube.com/HTLCTO/



@htlcto.bsky.social



**SEND FUTURE NEWSLETTER & SOCIAL
MEDIA SUBMISSIONS TO
COMMUNICATIONS@HTLCTO.ORG**

**DEADLINE FOR TEMPO SUBMISSION IS
AUGUST 21 FOR THE SEPTEMBER TEMPO**

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.

OUR LOCATION

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Mitsuanaqan Ventureño Chumash Tribes and Peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home. In making this acknowledgment, we are pledging not to forget them or their story, and to learn from them and our common history.



AUGUST EVENTS AT A GLANCE

8/2 - YAG Bible Study
8/2 - Gather Pool Party
8/4, 11, 18 & 9/1 - Tuesday Bible Study
8/6 - Zoom Meditation
8/6, 13 & 20 - *Making Sense of Scripture* Study
8/9 - Fair Trade Sales
8/13, 20, 27 - Meditation at Church
8/15 - Annual Women's Breakfast

8/19 - Planning Ahead Workshop
8/23 - Blessing of the Backpacks
8/23 - Fair Trade Sales
8/26 - Senior Social and Share Event
8/30 - Vitalant Blood Drive

NEXT MONTH

DORCA's Quilting Circle 9/17
Thea Book Circle 9/28

PASTOR'S NOTE FROM PASTOR ERIK

CREATION IS GROANING

When I opened my newsfeed on my phone this week I was met with a headline that read: "Smoke, fire, flood: US faces triple extreme weather threats." There has been flooding in Texas, fires in Canada which are causing smoke and poor air quality to cover the northeast and Midwest, and drought in the west. When I hear of such natural disasters I think about a verse from the book of Romans in which Paul writes, "We know that the whole of creation has been groaning in labor pains until now, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption and the redemption of our bodies." (Romans 8:22-23)

The image is one of both creation and human beings groaning as they wait for redemption. It is interesting to me that they both feel the suffering together. The one is connected to the other. I think when we hear of natural disasters we tend to just think about the pain humans are feeling, which is obviously very important. But what if creation suffers as well when fires scorch the land or drought dries out vegetation? What if creation itself is longing for healing even as humans are?

Our climate on planet earth is beginning to drastically change. More and more scientific studies are coming out that have linked human behavior and human choices to a warming world. As Paul wrote centuries ago, humanity and creation are connected and they affect each other. When one of them feels pain the other will also feel it eventually.

I am grateful that I am a part of a congregation who has recognized this connection and seeks to learn more about our faith and care for God's creation. We are a part of a network of churches

called Lutherans Restoring Creation and we have had a task force off and on over the years called the "Green Team." This team has helped Holy Trinity not only learn about care for creation, but actually put it into action. Over the last several years we have sought to reduce our carbon footprint by adding solar panels on the roof of the Fellowship Hall, replacing all the sanctuary lights with LED lighting, replacing all the preschool lights with LED lighting, and converting all the parking lot lights to LED. This has significantly reduced the cost of our electrical bill while also helping us to become better stewards of the planet by reducing our carbon emissions.

While we have sought to act on a local level, we have also been a part of efforts to make change on a state and national level through our Lutheran Office of Public Policy. This last year at the Lutheran Lobby Day in Sacramento, one of the policies that Lutherans from across California were advocating for was for changing regulations to allow for porch and patio solar panels. This would allow condo and apartment renters across the state to also participate in utilizing solar for their electricity needs.

Of course, there are some things that are simply beyond our control that are the result of weather patterns that have already begun to shift. When we experience or hear about crises around the globe from natural disasters, we can remember our connection to creation and groan together in prayer and petition asking God to watch over and be with those who are suffering and join together to give aid as we can. We can keep watch in faith trusting that God wants both humanity and creation to be redeemed.

PLANNING AHEAD WORKSHOP

You are invited to save the date for a "Planning Ahead" workshop facilitated by a representative from Reardon funeral homes. The workshop will take place on **Wednesday, August 19 at 12:00pm.**

A free lunch will be served. The presentation will talk about end-of-life decisions that can be helpful for friends and family if they are made in advance. It will also cover what to expect when a loved one dies and how having conversations and making a plan ahead of time can help those who are grieving with the acute loss period. If you are interested in attending, an RSVP is helpful to know how much food to prepare. You can RSVP by calling the church office or emailing at pastorerik@htlcto.org.

ANNUAL WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

"Faith Connections: What is your story?" Our annual Women's Breakfast event will be **Saturday morning, August 15, from 9am to 11:30am** in the Fellowship Hall. What was your faith journey to Holy Trinity? We will also share a favorite Bible verse, favorite Bible story, and/or a special Bible. Sign up for this event on the church patio between worship services. -Dixie Hanson

HTLC Women's Breakfast

**"Faith Connections:
What is your story?"**

Saturday, August 15

**HTLC Fellowship Hall
9:00am to 11:30am
Breakfast \$15.00**

We invite you to share a favorite Bible verse or Bible story and/or a special Bible



MAKING SENSE OF SCRIPTURE

Thursdays, August 6, 13 & 20 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

Join Pastor Erik for a three-week Zoom study exploring how to read the Bible with greater understanding. Whether or not you attended the June sessions, you're welcome to participate as we continue this engaging conversation using David Lose's ***Making Sense of Scripture***.

A Zoom link will be included in the Friday Connection each week. To receive a reminder email, RSVP to pastorerik@htlcto.org or contact the church office.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

WALK THROUGH THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

How do you maintain your cultural and religious identity in a foreign land? How do you manage to survive and get along in a culture that is not your own without assimilating to the point of losing who you are? What do you do when it feels as if God has abandoned you? Is suffering God's punishment? Is God at work in international affairs and alliances? These and other big questions have come out of our discussion of the book of Ezekiel so far. The more we have examined it, the more the group has been surprised that this often strange and difficult to discern book can still relate to issues going on today.

As we continue to explore the book of Ezekiel, we are going to take on larger sections so that we might finish by the end of the summer. You will notice that we will be reading through four chapters at a time and discussing them together.

continued on page 6

Tuesday Bible Study continued...

Join us Tuesdays at 10:30am in the church Fellowship Hall as we reflect on the words of one of the major prophets in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Here's the reading guide for August :

August 4 - Chapters 35, 36, 37, 38

August 11 - Chapters ...39, 40, 41, 42

August 18 - Chapters 42, 43, 44, 45

August 25 - No Bible Study. Pastor Erik out of town

September 1 - Chapters 46, 47, 48



This virtual event will explore themes of race, justice, faith, and the stories that shape our understanding of one another. Whether you've already read the book or are simply interested in engaging in thoughtful conversation, all are welcome.

Tuesday, September 15

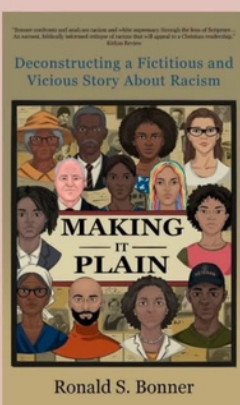
5:00 p.m. PT (6:00 MT | 7:00 CT | 8:00 ET)

Use the QR code on the flyer to learn more, purchase the book, or register for the discussion. Or click the button below:

LEARN MORE



AUTHOR DISCUSSION: MAKING IT PLAIN





Read the book.



Join the conversation.

ELCA Racial Justice Ministries and the Association of White Lutherans for Racial Justice welcome author Ronald Bonner for a discussion of "Making It Plain: Deconstructing a fictitious and vicious story about racism"

Tuesday, September 15
5 pm PT/6 pm MT/7 pm CT/8 pm ET

Register: 

Join ELCA Racial Justice Ministries and the Association of White Lutherans for Racial Justice for an online conversation with author Ronald S. Bonner about his book, Making It Plain: Deconstructing a Fictitious and Vicious Story About Racism.

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2026

Ellen Feigal,
President

Yolanda Mosley,
Vice President

Janet Nokleby,
Secretary

Thomas Harris,
Treasurer

Bernie Bauer

Brian McGuire

Aimee Palosi

Ernesto Santiago

Tim Wagenknecht

Pastor Erik Goehner

Pastor Emily Ebert



A NEW SENIOR FELLOWSHIP IS BEGINNING AT HOLY TRINITY

You're invited to the first gathering of Holy Trinity's **Senior Social and Share Event** on Wednesday, **August 26, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

Senior friends, please join us in the HTLC Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship. It is an occasion to renew old friendships, share memories and talk about forming a group to share thoughts, problems, and opportunities. Let us know you are coming so we can bring enough muffins and cookies by signing up on the Church bulletin board.

If you need a ride, call Marty Schwalm at 805-795-5624 and leave a message. If you have any questions, text Dona Pugh at 805-990-2550.



HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH • THOUSAND OAKS

Let's
RECONNECT.
BUILD FRIENDSHIPS.
GROW COMMUNITY.

A NEW
Senior
CONNECTIONS
IS BEGINNING
at Holy Trinity!

*"Encourage one another
and build each other up.*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11"



FELLOWSHIP & CONVERSATION



RENEW FRIENDSHIPS



FAITH & ENCOURAGEMENT



BUILDING COMMUNITY



WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 26



10:00
A.M.



HOLY TRINITY
FELLOWSHIP HALL



Summer Camp has ended with much success. While it seems quiet at Honey Tree, it is a very busy time in the office for registration processes, creating classes and more. We are so looking forward to the school year and welcoming new and old families into our Honey Tree Family.

Our Mud Garden/Kitchen conversion will begin shortly. We are thrilled to offer this to our youngsters. Dirty kids are learning kids!

Honey Tree classes are filling for the 2026-2027 school year. It has been a joy to give tours and sign up new families. Parents interested in signing up their child should contact the school as soon as possible in order to secure a spot in a class.

(805) 492-1232. Office@myhoneytree.com. We have openings in Kindergarten and Drop-off Two's!

Have a blessed August.

Vickie Cass, Director

AUGUST MEDITATION GROUP

The peace of the Lord be with you all through August. We will be meeting via Zoom on August 6. This time we will meditate while together instead of leaving the screen to meditate. Contact Miriam at miriamnakayama@gmail.com for Zoom link. We will meet in person in the church library on **August 13, 20 and 27th at 4 pm.**

From John Main's *Word Made Flesh*:

Do not try to unravel the mystery but allow God to unfold His mystery in your heart. God will do so within the simple union of love you have in the deep centre of your being. It will be a personal, unique unravelling which makes a unique contribution to the universe as a whole and to the whole design of creation.

Join us to unfold your unique mystery!

REVEREND JAMES A. OINES – 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Church member Jim Oines received his Master of Divinity (MDiv) from Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary in 1976 and was ordained at his home church, First Lutheran, in Volga, South Dakota on July 25 of that year.

Jim was the pastor here at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church from 1996–2001.



OUR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS SPEAKER SERIES

United Methodist Church Westlake Village is hosting a four-part speaker series exploring immigration through faith, compassion, and community. Join local experts, an author, an immigration attorney, and community leaders for thoughtful discussions on immigration and its impact in Ventura County. Sessions begin Sunday, August 16, at 4:00 p.m. in Alton Hall.

Attend one or all of the presentations.

August 16th, 4pm

August 30th, 4pm

September 13th, 4pm

September 27th, 4pm

OUR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS SPEAKER SERIES

JOIN US

The Social Concerns Committee of United Methodist Church Westlake Village has sponsored a speaker series on issues of immigration in our community.

Join us for one or all of the following events in this thought provoking study exploring the intersection of our faith, compassion and immigration through notable speakers. Engage in meaningful discussions about one of the most important issues of our time.

Aug 16, 4 p.m. Alton Hall

Speaker Dr. Jamshid Damooei, Professor and Executive Director Center for Economics of Social Issues at CLU discussing Who are the Undocumented in Ventura County and their Economic Impact

Aug 30, 4 p.m., Alton Hall

Meet the Author Dr. Julia Lambert Fogg who will facilitate a discussion of her experiences and her book.

Sep 13, 4 p.m., Alton Hall,

Speaker Vanessa Frank, immigration attorney in Ventura County, will give a presentation on current immigration law and policy.

Sep 27, 4 p.m., Alton Hall

Speakers knowledgeable about the effects of immigration policy on individuals and families in Ventura County

United Methodist Church Westlake Village

1049 S. Westlake Blvd.

Westlake Village, CA91361

MANNA CONEJO VALLEY

HTLC donated an enormous amount – 240 pounds – of groceries to Manna in July! (Usually, summer is low on donations.) AWESOME! The current **Most Needed Items** are:

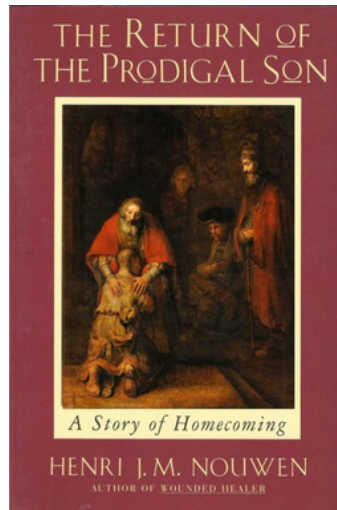
1. Individually Wrapped Snacks (Granola Bars, Protein Bars, Chips, Cookies, Etc.)
2. Dry Pasta
3. Canned Pasta Sauce
4. Canned Meat (Chicken, Spam, or Ham)
5. Canned Tomato Products (Diced Tomatoes, Tomato Paste, Etc.)
6. Small Jars of Peanut Butter or Jelly
7. Canned Baked Beans
8. Cold Cereal
9. Instant Oatmeal Packets
10. Instant Potatoes

Please place your Manna donations on the designated table in the narthex.

Happy National Relaxation Day! (August 15th)
Karen and Marty Kreman

HTLC LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

by Brian McGuire



Obsession over Rembrandt's painting ***"The Return of the Prodigal Son"*** is the theme of a book of the same name by Henri J.M. Nouwen, which is in our HTLC Library. The author, an ordained priest, was in a period of transition in his life, both professionally and personally. During this uncertain period he happened upon a reproduction of Rembrandt's work. Seeking an emotional anchor, he became so enthralled with the image that he made a pilgrimage to the Hermitage in St Petersburg Russia where the original is housed.

Rembrandt's painting, dating from the 1660s, portrays the father welcoming home his lost son, who kneels in his father's embrace with several onlookers nearby. The primary figures are illuminated by an out-of-frame light source against a shadowy background, reminiscent of Caravaggio's style. Realism, prevalent at the time in Northern Europe, is manifest in the younger son's threadbare clothing, sandals disintegrating off of dirty feet, his emaciated appearance, shorn hair, and the muted colors.

What I came away with were the subtleties and mysteries of the story itself, which I think Jesus deliberately made ambiguous. Was the younger son truly contrite? In those days, leaving home was a profound rejection of family and cultural norms. In order for his father to give him one-half of the

estate, he would have had to liquidate some assets, decreasing both the value of the estate and its future income, disadvantaging everyone. And there was the son in a foreign land sitting amongst the pigs, scripting exactly what he would say to his father when he returned home a failure. He didn't exactly have a lot of options. And so he goes home for more.

Nouwen indulges in self-examination on whether he identifies more with the younger or the elder son. I'm guessing that most of us would identify with the latter: hungry for parental approval, striving for acknowledgment, fearful of rejection, denying ourselves the liberties that others take. Although Rembrandt portrays the elder son as aloof and emotionally disengaged, it is interesting that only his face and that of the father are illuminated. Does the true drama lie between those two? The younger son's face is in shadow, so we don't know whether he is emoting contrition or triumph.

The focal point of the painting appears to be the hands of the father: one grasping, the other caressing, the back of the prodigal son. We are not positive that the standing figure is indeed the elder brother, for in the biblical story he was not present at the reconciliation—he was out working in the fields. Disappointingly, Nouwen scarcely addresses the other people in the painting. If you look hard you will discern six total. Besides the father, younger son, and (presumably) the standing elder son, there is a fourth man sitting next to the standing figure of whom no mention is made, and almost obscured in the murky background there are two additional figures—both appear to be women. What part they played in the story only Rembrandt can say.

continued on page 10

Book Review continued...

Rembrandt's painting invokes more questions than answers. His own life trajectory must have played a part in the composition. Starting with early success and a life of pleasure and fame, he experienced numerous family losses, marital disappointment, financial difficulties, and waning popularity. He died alone and poor in 1669, several years after he painted this work.



Every viewer will interpret the painting differently, and perhaps that was Rembrandt's goal. Attributes of both sons are in all of us as we cling to our childhood. But should we not be striving to be more like the father? What is certain to us is the father's steadfast love, mercy, and forgiveness. "It was love itself that prevented him from keeping his son home at all cost . . . that allowed him to let his son find his own life, even at the risk of losing it."

YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

YAG (Young Adult Group) Our Young Adult group meets the First Sunday of every month. This is a time for fellowship, and discussion. We usually meet in the church library but the location changes sometimes based on what we are up to. This group is for members of Holy Trinity, but all are welcome to join! We also help and host many Church events throughout the year including VBS, Luncheons, Trunk or Treat and Trivia.

Next YAG event:

Bible Study #4: Gratitude

- **Sunday, August 2nd • 12:15 PM**
- Location: HTLC Library
- Details: Our final summer session. Please bring lunch and your Bible.

GATHER Thousand Oaks is a Young Adult Ministry part of the greater ELCA Gather Network. Members of Gather Thousand Oaks call Holy Trinity home; however this group goes beyond the church building and includes young adults from all walks of life. We gather for Bible studies, worship, discussions, and other social outings and connect with our community.

Gather is a space for anyone who identifies as a young adult and...

- Who doesn't have other young adults at their church
- Isn't closely tied to their church
- Who is involved in their church and wants to meet new people and connect their young adult community to other young adults throughout Ventura County.
- Who might not jive with traditional church
- Who want to ask questions and dive deeper together
- Who may have had a hard time finding a church to connect with.

Young Adult Events Continued...

If you want more info about Gather Events and how to get involved, check here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/gatherthousandaks/home>

Upcoming Gather events:

Rescheduled Pool Day, August 2nd

- Location: 1377 Ashton Park Ln, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

We are gonna try this again! Join us and cool off at Craig and Thomas's home. Please bring a snack to share.

Camping Trip: Lake Casitas

- August 14th-16th
- Note: All spots are currently full.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Thank you to all our amazing volunteers who showed up to help with VBS! We had adults of all ages helping with science activities, crafts, Bible stories, snack, check-in and check-out, and all the in betweens. Thanks to our former camp counselors who stepped in to lead games and opening/closing worship every day! And we can't forget about all the middle and high school youth who kept the kids entertained and safe in their small groups as they went to each activity. We have a number of non-member kids who have come to VBS/Summer camp at HTLC since we started it back up after Covid, and it is a joy to see them grow year after year.

Thanks to our planning team: Ashlynn Bryson, Yolanda Mosley, Julie Ruth, Miriam Nakayama, Dixie Hanson, and Nina Wong for starting the planning back in January. We really enjoyed the curriculum from Shine Curriculum. It provided depth and meaning, provided accessible activities

as a starting point, and we even bought some of The Peace Table Bibles, which we gave away to a few of the kids at the end of the week as a special gift. We sometimes use this Bible in our children's activities and Pastor Emily has used it as inspiration to create worship practices that are accessible to all generations.



DORCAS QUILTING CIRCLE

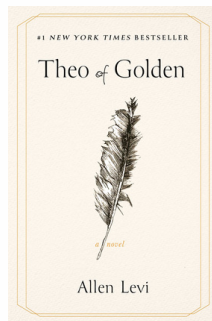
The quilting group is looking forward to meeting again on **September 17**. We were able to purchase batting and new supplies through Thrivent Social Action so our cupboards are full. Special hugs go to Angela's 6 year old granddaughter Margot who did such a beautiful job on coloring the beautiful flowers on the calendar quilt. A caring and special work of art. Our quilts are crafted with love. Come and join us in September.



THEA BOOK CIRCLE

The summer read for the group is **Theo of Golden**, by Allen Levi. This popular book is a story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen and the kindness that binds us to one another. In other words, a perfect summer read. This best selling novel is on the request list at the TO Library.

The group meets again on **September 28 at 7pm** in the Church Library. Plenty of time to read about the kindness and love we share.



AUGUST LIBRARY NEWS!

Inspired by Brian's love of biographies, I am displaying biographies on our library shelves. One member discovered an autobiography by Michael J. Fox. I decided to find out what biographies we had and they include: a Holocaust survivor, Ruth Youngdahl Nelson, Mary Magdalene, Henri Nouwen, Corrie Ten Boom, Oscar Romero, Desmond Tutu, Charles Wesley, Simon Peter, Carl E. Lundquist, James Baldwin, Elizabeth Edwards, Billy Graham, Ruth Bell Graham, Catherine Marshall, Harriet Tubman, St. Francis, Martin Niemoller, Muhlenberg, Albert Schweitzer, John Paul II, Martin Luther, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Check out a biography for summer reading. Just sign your name and the book title on the clipboard near the library double doors.

- Miriam Nakayama



FAIR TRADING WITH MIRIAM ENJOYING THE SUMMER IN A FAIR TRADE WAY WITH MIRIAM

Medjool Dates and Olive Oil seem to be flying off our fair trade table even if they both are \$15. I just got a new shipment in of both.

I will be placing an order for Red Barn Family Farms cheese in August. So get your orders in when Terri, Nancy and I sell on Sunday, August 9th. Ascension Lutheran places a big order in August and then I ask them for the cheese we need. It works out well. Their fair trade person brings over our order soon after I place it! Both the 5 yr white cheddar and the 3 year white cheddar are \$6.

To make things easier to calculate, all chocolate bars will be \$4.00.

Thank you again for your support for fair trade products! See you on **August 9th and 23rd** between services and after the 11:00 service at our table inside by the double doors. We are by the little kitchen.

Fairly yours,
Miriam Nakayama, Nancy Truex, and Terri Kelly

MINISTER OF MUSIC UPDATE

Thank you for your support and patience as we continue our search process in finding leader(s) for our choir and praise band. Over the course of the last year, the team and council developed a plan with the goal of hiring a minister of music that would be director of both music programs. Please click the link below to read the full update!

READ MORE

**NEW
UPDATE**

WESTERN STATES YOUTH GATHERING: A FAITH ODYSSEY

Another thank you to all the folks who stepped in to help with Western States Youth Gathering. From leading kids on hikes (Mark Groenveld and Krister Swanson), leading service day planning (Vera Bezemer, Janny Franken, and Pastor Emily), and helping out with the service learning day project, making it an intentional time with over 130 high school youth (Hazel Lindgren, Sophia Munhall, Vera Bezemer, Luke Freeberg, Joe Ebert, and Vicar Tanja from Santa Barbara). We could not have done it without you!



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

On **August 23rd**, we will hold a blessing of the backpacks during both worship services. This is for all ages! If you're going back to school or work, come for a special beginning-of-the-school-year blessing.



PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

Planning for tomorrow is one of the greatest gifts you can give yourself and the people you love. The Southwest California Synod is offering this free two-part online workshop designed to make estate planning approachable and understandable. Whether you're just getting started or looking to update your plans, you'll receive practical guidance on wills, trusts, probate, charitable giving, and more—all in a welcoming, easy-to-follow format with plenty of time for questions. Click **[HERE](#)** to register.



Southwest California Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

A PRACTICAL ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP



REGISTER HERE or visit
socialsynod.org/synodevents/estateplanning

A free two-part online workshop designed to help you plan with confidence and peace of mind.

Many people know they should have an estate plan, but aren't sure where to start. This two-part workshop offers practical, easy-to-understand guidance on **wills, trusts, probate, charitable giving, and other tools** that can help you care for your loved ones and plan for the future. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

SESSION 1 - BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION AUGUST 12, 2026, 2PM-4PM (ONLINE)

You will learn about: Wills and trusts, Probate basics, Joint ownership, Common estate-planning misconceptions, Working with professional advisors

SESSION 2 - STRENGTHENING YOUR PLAN AUGUST 19, 2026, 2PM-4PM (ONLINE)

You will learn about: Trusts and asset protection, Reducing estate administration expenses, Donor-advised funds, Charitable gift annuities, Charitable remainder trusts, Legacy giving options

FREE TO ATTEND • REGISTRATION REQUIRED
visit socialsynod.org/synodevents/estateplanning



It's LEO Season at HTLC! Happy Birthday to our pastors and staff:

Pastor Emily on August 15th

Stacey Beaman on August 19th

Pastor Erik on August 23rd

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERING SAVE THE DATE

YOUR FAITH SHOULD BE YOURS. THAT'S WHY IT'S TIME TO CHOOSE YOUR OWN FAITH ADVENTURE!

Middle School Youth Gathering returns to Great Wolf Lodge in Anaheim/Garden Grove, **November 6th through 8th**, to explore the theme of "Choose Your Own Faith Adventure." There's still a lot more information to come, but if you have youth in the Pacifica or Southwest California Synods who are entering 6th through 9th grades, stay tuned.



High school students (grades 10 through 12) will also be welcome to come along for their own faith adventure during a special leadership track running alongside the gathering.

2026-2027 FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH - REGISTRATION

We ask that a new form is filled out every year for each child. The form lets us know all about your young participants in Holy Trinity's Ministries and assists us to get you information about the events best fit for the kids in your household. Use this form to let us know the best info about your child and how to get you information effectively.

This form covers all Holy Trinity Sponsored Children, Youth, and Family events from Sept 1, 2026 - August 31, 2027.

htlcto.org/registration

Need to know what events are happening for kids? All of our families who fill out a Faith Formation Enrollment form are automatically added to the Children, Youth, and Family email list. This email goes out separately from the church-wide email when we have lots of events going on. If you are a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or other adult who helps take care of children and youth, you can also find information related to Children, Youth, and Families in the Friday weekly church-wide email.

DID YOU KNOW?

North America's First Synod: On August 26, 1748, leaders from various Pennsylvania Lutheran communities met under the guidance of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg to establish the first formal Lutheran church body in North America.

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please keep these people in your prayers:

The family of Trevor West, at his sudden passing. Trevor is the son of our praise band pianist, Steve West

The family of Sarah Jensen-Elhoff who recently died, sister of Kathleen Sands

The family of Darryl Priest, upon his recent death

Robin Slattum, for healing

Lecy Fredo, for healing after surgery

Patrick, and all those seeking safety

Fred Lindberg for healing as he goes through radiation treatments

Ashley Domingue, for healing

Mike Duhig, Julie Riedel's brother, for successful treatment and healing

Joan Cressman, for healing after a hospital stay

Leatrice Oram and Amanda Palmquist (friends of Katie Yant) for comfort during treatment

Susie Wilber, for continued good recovery

Craig Dodson, a friend of Brian & Jude Wurschum, for comfort and strength

Lori O'Neil, for continued healing

Evonne Larson, for continued healing after a fall

Pamela Baldwin, for healing

Please hold these families in prayer as they grieve the loss of their loved one:

The family of Susan Sanchez, friend of the Erickson family

The family of Brian and Patti Stouch, friends of the Goehner's, on the death of Patti's mother

The family of William Horbury, Beth Goodnight's brother

The family of Tom Converse, Pastor Emily's uncle

The family of Paul Sullivan, Cindy Grether's brother-in-law

The family of Mary Kathryn Davenport, Susie Wilber's sister

The family of Greg Miller, son of Jerry & Margaret Miller

The family of Elizabeth Velarde, Yolanda Mosley's mother

The family of Anne Lieberknecht

The family of Christopher Vandezande, Margie Vandezandee's grandson

The family of Hazel Dell Hansen, cousin to Margaret Schwalm and Nelius Ronning

The family of Dawn Aiken, cousin to Pamela Baldwin

The family of Scott Yant, Katie Yant's brother-in-law





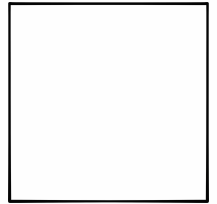
Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

1 West Avenida de Los Arboles

Thousand Oaks CA 91360-2939

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

Return service requested



August
2026

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

If you would like to purchase and donate flowers for the church altar, please fill out **THIS FORM** or follow the instructions below.

1. **Sign Up:** Visit the Flower Chart located on the kiosk in the narthex and select the date you would like the flowers to be placed on the altar.
2. **Payment:** The cost is \$65. Please write "Flowers" on the memo line of your check to ensure proper allocation or use an Altar Flower Envelope, available in the narthex. Kindly make your payment by the Wednesday prior to your selected date to allow ample time for ordering.
3. **Bulletin Note:** Email your dedication and any color preferences to churchoffice@htlcto.org by noon on Wednesday to be included in the Sunday bulletin.
4. **Pickup:** After the second service, you are welcome to take the flowers home.

