

THE TEMPO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 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

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September

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

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[@htlcto.bsky.social](https://twitter.com/htlcto.bsky.social)

SEP 7

**OFFICE CLOSED
FOR LABOR DAY**

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

**DEADLINE FOR TEMPO SUBMISSION IS
SEPTEMBER 18TH FOR THE OCTOBER 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 Mitsqanaqan 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.



SEPTEMBER EVENTS AT A GLANCE

9/1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 - Tuesday Bible Study
9/3 - Zoom Meditation
9/7 - Church Office closed for Labor Day
9/10, 17, 24 - Meditation at Church
9/13 - Fair Trade Sales
9/13 - Part 1 of Sexuality Statement Conversation with Bishop Bos
9/17 - DORCA's Quilting Circle
9/19 - Women's Bible Study

9/19 - Gather Tie-Dye and S'mores Night
9/20 - Part 2 of Sexuality Statement Conversation & Youth Group begins! 10:45-11:30
9/26 - Concert 4 Conejo
9/27 - Part 3 of Sexuality Statement Conversation
9/27 - Fair Trade Sales
9/28 - Thea Book Circle

NEXT MONTH

10/4 - One Worship Sunday 10am
10/11 - Zoom Meeting w/ Regina Banks: Election Information

PASTOR'S NOTE FROM PASTOR ERIK

A FUTURE WITH HOPE

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

-Jeremiah 29:11

The prophet Jeremiah wrote these words to a people who were in exile. The Jewish people had experienced the destruction of Jerusalem and many of them had been carried off to Babylon, a city in a foreign land. It was a time when many of them may have lost a sense of hope because of all that they had been through. Yet the prophet reminds them that God still has plans for them. God has not abandoned them and will be with them into the future. The promise is one of restoration and of someday returning home.

Most of us have not been through what those ancient people endured as they lost everything and were forced into exile. There are other ways, however, that we may have felt like we have gone through a kind of season of "exile" where we might have wondered if we were losing hope. It may have been a time when we ourselves or a loved one was experiencing a difficult health issue. It may have been a time when we were feeling some depression or loneliness. It may have been a time when we were having financial difficulties or difficulties in a relationship with a friend or family member. Sometimes just listening to the evening news and hearing about all the hard things going on in the world can leave us feeling a little hopeless.

This is why when we gather on a Sunday morning it is my prayer that people will feel a little sense of coming "home" as we return to hear once again the promise that God is still with us. It is my prayer that people will feel a sense of restoration as we are reminded of God's purpose for our lives.

It is also in this same spirit that our theme for our Fall giving campaign this year is "A Future with Hope." We will have a three-week emphasis in worship exploring passages of Scripture that talk about hope and issue a call for our members to continue to support the ministry of Holy Trinity so that this message of hope is heard through our words and actions. You can consider how you would like to give towards this mission by filling out the Pledge Form in this newsletter.

In a world where it can be easy to lose sight of where we are going, the Scripture reminds us that we can trust that God still has plans for us that we can live into even now. As the author Brian McLaren writes: "To be alive in the adventure of Jesus is to have a desire, a dream, a hope for the future. It is to translate that hope for the future into action in the present and to keep acting in light of it."

ZOOM MEETING W/ REGINA BANKS: ELECTION INFORMATION

You are invited to join us either from home on Zoom or in the Fellowship Hall for a meeting with Regina Banks, director of Lutheran Office of Public Policy, at 12:15pm on Sunday, October 11. In each state election cycle, the Office of Public Policy Board meets to discuss the propositions on the November ballot and make recommendations based on our Lutheran Social Statements. If the proposition does not address issues on which we have a statement, we do not make a recommendation. This session with Regina is an opportunity to gather information on the November ballot's 14 propositions before you vote. It is NOT telling you how to vote, but only giving our recommendation based on the church social statements.

Please join us if you are interested in information to use as you contemplate your vote. - Dixie Hanson

The Authentic Diversity Team at Holy Trinity will be hosting a three-week conversation in September exploring the ELCA's ongoing work to revise its 2009 Social Statement on Human Sexuality. The question being; How do we faithfully engage important questions when we don't all arrive at the same conclusions?

The dates will be **September 13th, 20th, and 27th**. Each discussion will be from 12:15-1:30pm and refreshments will be provided! **Bishop Brenda Bos will lead the first discussion on September 13th.**

Background: In 2022, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly authorized a process to revisit the social statement, reflecting on what the church has learned over the past 15 years and considering how the concept of bound conscience continues to shape our life together. As a member of the task force guiding this work, Bishop Bos will start us off by leading participants through thoughtful conversation about the possible revisions, what they mean for the church, and how we can continue to practice faithful disagreement while remaining rooted in Christ. Download the study [HERE](#).



September 13, 20, & 27 | 12:15-1:30pm

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



WEEK 1: PRESENTATION BY
Bishop Brenda Bos

Weeks 2 & 3: Led by
Pastor Emily & Authentic
Diversity Team Leaders

**CONSCIENCE AND
CONVERSATION:**

*A STUDY DURING THE RECONSIDERATION OF THE SOCIAL
STATEMENT HUMAN SEXUALITY: GIFT AND TRUST*

1 W. AVENIDA DE LOS ARBOLES
THOUSAND OAKS
FELLOWSHIP HALL
FOOD PROVIDED



Presented by Holy
Trinity's Authentic
Diversity Team



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

"THE GOD WHO SEES: IMMIGRANTS, THE BIBLE, AND THE JOURNEY TO BELONG"

September 1st we will finish our study of Ezekiel, Chapters 46, 47, 48.

Beginning on **September 8th** we will start a new study based on the book "**The God Who Sees**" by Karen González, a compelling exploration of the immigrant experience interwoven with Biblical stories of migration, displacement, and divine presence. González, herself an immigrant from Guatemala, skillfully bridges her own life story with those of Biblical figures revealing how the timeless, compassionate God who saw them continues to see and care for the marginalized today. Through her eloquent storytelling and insightful reflections, González invites readers to see beyond the headlines and confront the intricate humanity within every migrant's journey.

González emphasizes that understanding the complexities of the immigration crisis through a lens of faith necessitates a compassionate and proactive stance. She draws on the scriptural depictions of migrants and the moral imperatives they present—the call to emulate figures like Abraham, Ruth, and Hagar, who found themselves as strangers in foreign lands yet were seen and supported by God. This Biblical grounding situates the modern plight of immigrants within a larger, sacred context, reminding readers that the issue is not merely political but profoundly spiritual.

Come join us on **Tuesday mornings at 10:30am** in Fellowship Hall for conversation and reflection on this important topic. (Books can be purchased online or through the church office at churchoffice@htlcto.org)

HTLC WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join us on **Saturday, September 19 at 2pm** in the Fellowship Hall for this first session of the Bible Study theme, Bold faith on an unexpected journey. This first session, "Encountering God in the wilderness," takes us on a journey with Hagar's unexpected encounter with God. Just as Hagar encounters a difficult situation, we also "experience, bewildering encounters that leave us feeling like we are in the wilderness. And right there in the middle of these wilderness seasons, God sees us..." Join us as we begin this new theme.

SEPTEMBER MEDITATION GROUP

Among the busyness of September, do you need some silence and space in your mind? Join us each Thursdays at 4 pm. On **September 3** we have a **Zoom meditation**. Contact miriamnakayama@gmail.com for an invite.

On **September 10, 17, and 24**, we meet in-person in the church library at **4 pm**. Experienced and in-experienced meditators are welcome.

A quote from John Main on "being":

In the silence of meditation, when you go beyond thought and imagination, you begin to experience and later to understand that being is what life is about and that in meditation you are learning to be. To be is to live as the person you are, without trying to justify your existence or make excuses for your personality. Just to be, as you are. The wonder of it is that the more simple you become, the more you are able to enjoy to the full the gift of your being.



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 is almost complete. Students will thoroughly enjoy digging in the dirt, making mud pies, and more!

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! School resumes **September 8, 2026**.

Blessings to you all! Vickie Cass, Director

PRAYER FOR THOSE RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Dear God,

Today, I lift up all the students, teachers, and school staff as they begin a new school year. Please bless them with strength, focus, and courage as they face new lessons, challenges-and friendships.

Watch over the children – keep them safe, healthy, and excited to learn. Guide the teachers with patience and wisdom as they shape young minds and hearts.

May every classroom be filled with peace and respect. Let joy and kindness overflow in their daily routines. Remind them that You walk with them in every step they take.

Lord, I entrust them all to Your care.

DORCA'S QUILTING CIRCLE

The group will be meeting **Thursday, September 17 at 9:00am** in the Fellowship Hall. Our cupboards are full with newly purchased batting and special fabric.

We are looking forward to gathering and sewing special quilts for the autumn season. Our quilts are crafted with care and love. They are easy quilts to make and everyone is welcome to come and join us in September.

FILLING A FAIR TRADE BASKET FOR HARBOR HOUSE AUCTION WITH MIRIAM

This month is Harbor House's Fundraiser! Holy Trinity usually offers a basket full of our Fair Trade goodies. I donated a mini Ghana market basket and a sari dish cloth towel for the silent auction. So I am thinking that maybe some of you would like to buy a product and donate to the basket by September 16th. I will have the basket on our fair trade table September 13th if you want to help me fill it. I usually put a bottle of olive oil, a bag of coffee, a box of tea and some chocolate.

Please come visit our table by the exit doors on **September 13th and 27th**. We are open between services and after the 11:00 service.

I am taking orders for cheese again. The price has gone up to \$7 for both the 3 and 5 year white cheddar. It was the shipping that caused the increase.

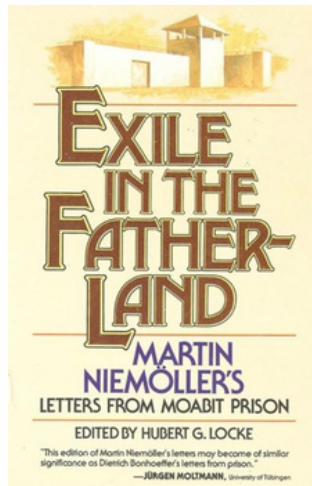
Mark your calendars for our Annual Fair Trade Christmas Sale on November 22nd. Katie has agreed to set up the amazing sale again.

Fair Blessings on you all!

Miriam Nakayama, Nancy Truex, and Terry Kelly

HTLC LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

by Brian McGuire



A voice from the past comes to us through the prison letters of Martin Niemöller, a Lutheran clergyman and contemporary of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. ***"Exile in the Fatherland"*** is in our HTLC Library and contains Niemöller's letters from the Moabit Prison following his arrest by the Nazis in 1937. He was in prison for eight years and survived to be released by the Allies in 1945.

The letters span his first eight months in prison and reflect the positive spirit of a strong-willed man certain in his faith that God will see him through. Even more interesting than the letters themselves (mostly to his wife and family) were the events leading up to his arrest. The book's Introduction chronicles the infiltration of the Third Reich into all aspects of German life that almost destroyed the nation—and the German Protestant Church along with it.

Martin Niemöller was a Lutheran vicar at St Anne's Church in Dahlem, a suburb of Berlin. By nature he was a religious and political conservative and was initially opposed to political resistance—consistent with Lutheran tradition. The year 1933, which celebrated the 450th birthday of Martin Luther, also saw the Nazi's seizure of power through the National Socialist Party. At that time the German Lutheran Church was divided into various historical and geographical synods. Among Hitler's

efforts to consolidate power was his attempt to forge the various regional churches into a single German Reich Church that he could both control and reimagine, basing church doctrine on Nationalistic ideology, racial homogeneity, patriotism, and strength.

Although this was compelling to many, both Niemöller and Bonhoeffer were vocal in their criticism of Hitler's efforts to remake the Church. Niemöller founded the "Pastor's Emergency League" (a precursor to the breakaway "Confessing Church") in opposition, which insisted on a doctrine based on Jesus, not political ideology. Support was initially high: 7,000 of 18,000 Lutheran ministers identified with the breakaway church, resisting the toxic Aryan Paragraph (early anti-Jewish legislation). Yet as time passed, more and more Germans would watch in silence as the violence against Jews increased and Hitler amped-up the punishment for those who dissented.

While Bonhoeffer was at Finkenwalde heading up a seminary for young Confessing Church pastors (1935–37), Niemöller was growing more and more vocal against the Nazis; he could be both abrasive and uncompromising (which might explain his early arrest). He was forcibly retired, then his passport was revoked, and then he was banned from lecturing. Finally, during a visit from Bonhoeffer and Eberhart Bethge at his house in 1937, the Gestapo burst in, dragged Niemöller away, and incarcerated him in the Moabit Prison. His courageous outspokenness cost him eight years in prison. In 1938 he was transferred to the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and then in 1941 to the infamous Dachau prison where he survived the duration of the war. Bonhoeffer was not so lucky: although not arrested until 1943, he was executed by the Nazis two years later: mere

Book Review continued...

weeks before the Third Reich fell in mid-1945.

Late in 1945 during postwar soul-searching, Niemöller was integrally involved in producing the "Stuttgart Declaration of Guilt" on behalf of the Church for its passivity (some say complicity) to the outrageous acts of the Nazis. He spent his remaining life supporting pacifism and antiwar efforts and died in 1984 at the age of 92.

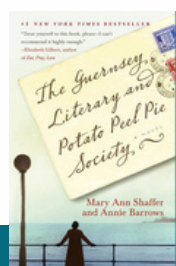
Here is where I'm going with this: at a recent anti-ICE protest, I spotted a placard that read: "Don't Make Me Repeat Myself", signed "History." When a totalitarian leader starts using marginalized minorities as scapegoats for the problems of the country, you'd better start brushing up on your WWII history. The Germans' mistake was in thinking "It can't get that bad" then "It can't get any worse"—and then it was and it did, but by then it was too late.

"Christians have not only the right but the duty to resist evil regimes." – Martin Niemöller

THEA BOOK CIRCLE

Thea Book for October is The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer. This is a story about a book club formed during the German occupation of the island of Guernsey during WWII. It is written as a series of letters and brings to life a unique cast of characters inhabiting the island during this time.

We will discuss our September book, Theo of Golden, on **Monday, September 28th, at 7pm** in the church library.



LIBRARY NEWS

Check Out the Biographies and Learn Something New

Biographies are still on display, and people are still finding treasures! I'm currently enjoying KING: A Life by Jonathan Eig and learning so much about the early life of Martin Luther King Jr. Brian also discovered a biography of Martin Niemöller in our library; be sure to read his review in this month's Tempo.

As we head into the back-to-school season, why not make September a time to learn something new? Stop by the library and discover a biography, or an old favorite!

To check out a book, simply add the title and your name to the clipboard by the library door.

— Miriam Nakayama

MANNA CONEJO VALLEY

HTLC donated 46 pounds of groceries during the month of August. Here is the current list of Most Needed Items:

1. Canned Pasta Sauce
2. Cold Cereal
3. Canned Meat (Chicken, Spam, or Ham)
4. Condiments (Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Mustard, etc.)
5. Oatmeal Packets
6. Toilet Paper or Paper Towels
7. Baking Items (Small Bags of Flour, Cake Mixes, etc.)
8. Baked Beans
9. Canned Tomato Products (Diced Tomatoes, Tomato Paste, etc.)
10. Personal Care Items (Soap, Deodorant, Sanitary Pads, Tampons, etc.)

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

Have a relaxing Labor Day, Karen and Marty Kreman

HEARTS & HANDS ONE WORSHIP SUNDAY & LUNCH OCT. 4

Mark your calendars for a special **One Worship service on Sunday Oct. 4 at 10:00am.**

Following the service there will be a lunch provided by the church over in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate the end of our Fall pledge drive and the blessing of our gifts. An RSVP is helpful to know how much food we should order. You can RSVP to the church office at churchoffice@htlcto.org or you can look for the sign up sheets on the church patio or announcement wall in the entrance way. We hope you can join us!

In 2025-2026, we tried out our first Hearts & Hands worship at the 9:30 service where it was a little more simplified and ended in some kind of service project that invited all age groups to connect and engage with one another. 11 o'clock attendees were invited to come early or to stay after and participate in the service project as well. For the 2026-2027 program year, we will hold similar types of services during our One Worship Sundays. Our first Hearts and Hands service this Fall will be on October 4th, a one worship Sunday that is the culmination of the Stewardship campaign. See below regarding the service project.

SERVICE PROJECT FOR HARBOR HOUSE

As part of our annual pledge drive this year we are going to do a special collection for Harbor House in order to make health kits. Harbor House is a local non-profit which works with volunteers to provide free meals everyday out of our Fellowship Hall for those who are in need in our community. They also

provide many other services for unhoused folks in the Conejo Valley including laundry services, casework, and rental assistance. The items we will be collecting are listed below. There will be a bin in the entrance to the sanctuary where we will collect these items. These will be used for our service project after church on Oct. 4 where we will then build the health kits together. You are invited to bring any of these items that you are able to so we can make a difference in our community!

Items needed for health kits:

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Disposable Razors
- Travel size shampoo
- Travel size conditioner
- Travel size body wash
- Soap
- Antibacterial wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Hydrocortisol
- Ear plugs
- Wet wipes

Please scan below or [CLICK HERE](#) to signup to donate for the Harbor House Service Project/Stewardship Drive.





A FUTURE WITH HOPE

2027 PLEDGE FORM

htlcto.org/give



CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____

Pronouns: _____ Phone(cell) _____

Email Address _____

Address _____

2027 FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

☐ I plan to pledge: \$_____ per week OR \$_____ per month
OR \$_____ per year

OR ☐ I intend to give, but will not be pledging at this time.

I/We would like giving envelopes ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know what they are.

☐ I/We would like information about including Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in our will, trust, or as a beneficiary of our life insurance policy.

By checking one of the boxes below, I understand that by making this pledge I am still responsible for changing my giving amount through my bank or tithe.ly.

☐ Yes, I understand and will make the changes myself.

OR

☐ Yes, I understand but I need assistance making changes to my giving in tithe.ly, and I would like Lisa Caestecker, Holy Trinity's Income Recorder to contact me with help.

If giving jointly with a partner/spouse, please include their information here:

Name _____

Pronouns: _____ Phone(cell) _____

Email Address _____

THANK YOU

YAG AND GATHER

Next YAG event:

We will resume Bible Study in September after Labor Day. Keep an eye out for emails and Signal chats from Craig with details on the changes we're making! The sessions will remain informal, offering a space for connection and deep conversation.

September Gather events:

Tie-Dye and S'mores Night

Date: September 19

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Ashlynn's House 144 Pistachio Ave, Ventura, CA 93004

Details: We'll tie-dye, share a delicious dinner, and roast marshmallows together around the fire! Bring something you'd like to tie-dye, we'll provide the rest! If you would like a white Gather Thousand Oaks shirt to tie-dye at this event, please order for \$16 by August 28th. [T-shirt Order Form](#)

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

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



CONCERT 4 THE CONEJO

Join Harbor House for Concert 4 the Conejo on **Saturday, September 26**, from 4:00–7:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Church in Thousand Oaks. Enjoy an evening of live music, hors d'oeuvres, mocktails, a silent auction and community spirit, all while supporting the important work of Harbor House.

Tickets are \$75 per person, and proceeds benefit Harbor House. Scan the QR code on the flyer to purchase tickets and learn more. Or click the link below!

[PURCHASE TICKETS HERE](#)



The flyer for 'CONCERT 4 THE CONEJO' features a dark blue background with a scenic photograph of a mountain valley at sunset. The Harbor House logo is in the top left. The event date and time are prominently displayed in yellow and white text. The bottom section lists the event details, ticket price, and location, along with a QR code and contact information.

CONCERT 4 THE CONEJO

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026
4:00PM - 7:00PM

PROCEEDS BENEFIT HARBOR HOUSE

Join us for a memorable evening featuring:

- Live Music
- Silent Auction
- Hors d'oeuvres
- Delicious mocktails
- Fun & community spirit

Emmanuel Church
588 Camino Manzanitas
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Tickets: \$75 per person

SCAN ME! 

HARBORHOUSE.ORG **805-464-3533**

CHOIR SCHEDULE

Thursday 9/3 – 1st Choir Rehearsal of the season
Thursday 9/10 & Sunday 9/13 – Choir off
Thursday 9/17 – Choir Rehearsal – 7pm
Sunday 9/20– 1st Sunday w/Choir back in Worship
Thursday 9/24 – Choir Rehearsal – 7pm
Sunday 9/27 – Worship with Choir



NEW THIS FALL: WORSHIP AND WONDER FOR PRE-K THROUGH EARLY ELEMENTARY

Beginning in October during the 9:30am service children will be invited to leave worship after the Passing of the Peace for 20-30 minutes of Bible stories, activities, conversation, and wondering about faith before returning for Communion with their families.

- Age-appropriate learning
- Worship with family
- Time to wonder, learn, and grow

We will do Worship and Wonder every week for 2 months at a time, beginning October-November of 2026.

Youth Ministry (Grades 5-12)

Begins **September 20** from 10:45-11:30am
 We'll meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month, along with pop-up events, service opportunities, retreats, and special gatherings.

WHAT'S COMING?

Trunk or Treat – October 25

Village Connections – connecting families with supportive faithful community, because it takes a village! Look for more info coming out in October.

Fall Bingo Night - Bingo (hosted by Gather)

Date & Time: November 20, 6:00PM

Location: Fellowship Hall

Details: Gather will host a Bingo night for Holy Trinity and surrounding churches. This is a chance to make intentional connections in a relaxed environment.

Spring Game night – TBD, possibly Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras

Middle School Youth Gathering at Great Wolf Lodge – November 6-8

ELCA Youth Gathering – Summer 2027

El Camino Pines Winter Family Camp – January 2027

NEW TEAM AT HTLC

GENERATIONS OF FAITH: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, NURTURING FAITH

The Generations of Faith Team nurtures faith formation for all ages by creating opportunities for children, youth, and adults of diverse backgrounds to learn, grow, and belong together. We believe the stories of our faith evolve over time. Age-appropriate, accessible programs and meaningful relationships across generations and cultures where everyone has something to teach, something to learn, and a place to contribute are an important part of that process.

Our team develops and supports a balance of age-and-stage programming and intentionally intergenerational experiences. We seek to create spaces where children, youth, and adults can share stories, ask questions, serve together, worship together, and discover God's presence in one another's lives.

We recognize that faith formation is not a one-

NEW TEAM CONTINUED...

way process of adults teaching children. While adults play an important role in nurturing and supporting young people, we also believe children and youth are active participants in the life of the church, gifted with unique insights, leadership, and perspectives that enrich our whole community. Through authentic relationships across generations, we grow in faith together and build a congregation where every person is valued, connected, and empowered to belong.

PARENTS & GUARDIANS

Please **fill out this survey** as we plan for the upcoming year.

Register here for the 2026-2027 school year:
Faith Formation Registration

WELCOME NEW MINISTER OF MUSIC: ISAAC JOHNSON

Isaac Johnson joined us for his first day working with the praise band and an installation at both services on August 16th.

Sometimes, we never know the journey on which the Spirit is taking us! With an intentional, year-long search process, we took a lot of time to look at what would be helpful for the future of Holy Trinity. We are on a new path moving from separate choir and praise band positions to a joint Minister of Music, with the goal of building up a music program that appreciates, honors, and uplifts the many musical styles, gifts, and talents within the Holy Trinity community. We are grateful to now have Isaac Johnson on board, and we look forward to the ways he will lead both our praise band and choral programs.

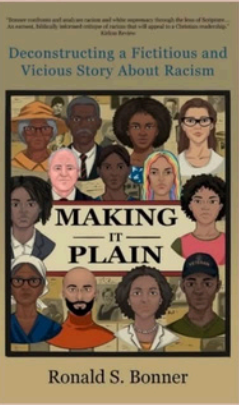
Based on the job description, he will work roughly

20 hours per week during the programmatic year when choir is in session, and 10 hours a week over the Summer months when choir is on a break and he is only working with the praise band.



Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Minister of Music, Isaac Johnson. You can learn more about him [HERE](#)

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*.

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

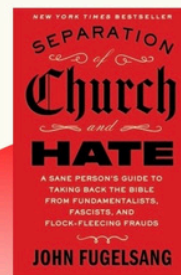
AUTHOR TALK: JOHN FUGELSANG

SVLC WELCOMES

SPEAKER

John Fugelsang

Author of 'Separation of Church and Hate'



September 17, 2026

Thursday

7:00 p.m.

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH
4191 COCHRAN STREET, SIMI VALLEY
RSVP (805) 526-7577 OR churchoffice@svlcsimi.org

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church invites you to a special evening with John Fugelsang, comedian, commentator, and author of the New York Times bestseller *Separation of Church and Hate*. Join us on **Thursday, September 17** at **7:00 p.m.** for an engaging and thought-provoking conversation exploring faith, Scripture, and what it means to reclaim Christianity from those who use it to divide.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

4191 Cochran Street, Simi Valley

RSVP: (805) 526-7577 or churchoffice@svlcsimi.org

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. There are two more sessions in September.

September 13th, 4pm

September 27th, 4pm

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

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH SPIRIT OF JOY BRISAS DEL VALLE COMMUNITY

Our sister church in El Salvador

Brothers and sisters of Holy Trinity,

The reason for writing to you is to greet you and send you these photos about the Anniversary Celebration of the Lutheran Church Spirit of Joy Brisas del Valle Community. I hope you like receiving these photos.

Thank you very much, we are grateful to God for the Sisterhood that unites us in Christ since all we have is Thanks to God.

May the Lord Bless You Abundantly with much Love:

Pastor Matías, Pastora Martina, Pastora Guadalupe Escobar



A THANK YOU FROM GLOBAL REFUGE

Dear Friends of Global Refuge,

Thank you for your kind offering of \$250.00 to Global Refuge. Since 1939, we've built a legacy of compassion by walking alongside more than 800,000 newcomers as they rebuild their lives in the United States. Your generosity today continues to restore a sense of home for families who have been forced to leave theirs.

With more human beings displaced every day by violence, scarcity, and a changing climate, our work of welcome is needed more urgently than ever. Once again, thank you.

With gratitude,



Andrew G. Steele
Chief Development and Mobilization Officer

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please keep these people in your prayers:

The family of Shirlee Stone, upon her recent death

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

Robin Slattum, for healing

Doug and Mike, friends of Brian and Jude Wurschum

Doug Hosler, son of Betty Hosler

Rodger Kendrick, brother of Jean Kammerer for on-going heart issues and an infection

Joyce Lawson, for upcoming surgery

Kyler Cosgrove (friend of Lisa Caestecker) and his fellow firefighters as they are on an extremely difficult firefighting assignment in Northern California

Leilani Smith, for healing from cancer and for wisdom with decisions around treatment

Pastor Jonathan Hemphill, for healing

Patrick, and all those seeking safety

Lecy Fredo, for healing after hip surgery

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

Fred Lindberg as he goes through radiation treatments for cancer and for healing

Ashley Domingue, for healing

Mike Duhig, Julie Riedel's brother, for successful treatment and healing after recent cancer diagnosis

Joan Cressman, for healing after a hospital stay

Prayers continued

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

Susie Wilber, for continued good recovery

Lori O'Neil, for continued healing

Evonne Larson, for continued healing after a fall

Pamela Baldwin, for healing

All those affected by the shooting at the Islamic Center in San Diego

All those affected by the warehouse fire in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles

All those affected by the 2 earthquakes in Venezuela

All those affected by the extreme heatwave in Europe

For the people of Spokane WA, and all those facing horrific wildfires across the US, and in Canada and Europe

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

The family of Sarah Jensen-Elhoff, sister of Kathleen Sands

The family of Darryl Priest upon his recent death

The family of Chuck Fedorow, cousin of Chris Erickson

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
LUTHERAN CHURCH THOUSAND OAKS

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Tuesday Bible Study 10:30am	2	3 Zoom Meditation 4pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5
6	7 Church Office closed for Labor Day	8 Tuesday Bible Study 10:30am Honey Tree Classes Resume	9	10 Meditation at Church 4pm	11	12
13 Fair Trade Sales Part 1 of Sexuality Statement Conversation with Bishop Bos 12:15pm	14	15 Tuesday Bible Study 10:30am	16	17 DORCA's Quilting Circle 9am Meditation at Church 4pm Choir Rehearsal	18	19 Women's Bible Study 2pm Gather Tie-Dye and S'mores Night 5pm
20 Youth Ministry Begins 10:45am Part 2 of Sexuality Statement Conversation 12:15pm	21	22 Tuesday Bible Study 10:30am	23	24 Meditation at Church 4pm Choir Rehearsal	25	26 Concert 4 Conejo 4pm
27 Fair Trade Sales Part 3 of Sexuality Statement Conversation 12:15pm	28 Thea Book Circle 7pm	29 Tuesday Bible Study 10:30am	30			



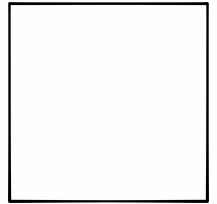
Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

1 West Avenida de Los Arboles

Thousand Oaks CA 91360-2939

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

Return service requested



SEPTEMBER
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.

