

TEMPO

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023



SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:30 AM Informal
11 AM Traditional

**THANK YOU
LUNCHEON FOR
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**
and

**THANK YOU
DR ELMER HEEREMA
RETIRING HOLY
TRINITY CHOIR
DIRECTOR**

on
**Sunday, June 11
12:15 PM
Fellowship Hall
All are invited!**



Reconciling in Christ

Pastor's note

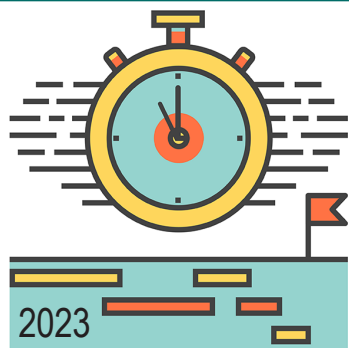
Permission to Pause

Big spiritual things seem to happen in the Bible when people take time to pause. When Abraham is just sitting outside his tent taking a momentary break from the day's activities—that's when three strangers bring him a word from God that he will have a son, as they rest under a nearby oak tree. When Moses has wandered up the mountainside while pausing from his regular shepherding duties—that's when God calls to him out of a burning bush. When Jacob steps away from the caravan to sit by himself as night begins to fall—that's when the angel-like figure wrestles with him until dawn and bestows an unexpected blessing. When Joseph takes a break from his anxious worrying about whether or not he should divorce Mary and falls into a deep sleep—that's when the angel tells him to stay with her.

As Pastor Emily and I were discussing a sermon theme for the summer, these stories started coming to our mind. We were thinking about how summer is often when folks go on vacation and seek out a time for some rest. We were thinking about how people might pause from their normal routines and experience something different. That got us thinking about the importance of sabbath in the Bible and how it was often when people had stopped their usual activity for a moment that the Holy Spirit had the opportunity to speak to them. It was when they were in a different physical space or a different head space that there was room for the Spirit to show up in ways they often didn't expect.

This is why we have chosen our theme for this summer to be "Permission to Pause." We will be looking at a variety of Scripture stories where folks are called to rest. We will be exploring the various ways that rest can occur and why it is important. The different ways that God encounters Biblical characters in the midst of a pause is also something we will reflect on, as well as how at times God might be a part of bringing to a halt in someone's routine in order to get their attention.

Continued on page 7



TEMPO NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION & DEADLINE

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

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

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

SUBMISSION requirements

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

DEADLINES for 2023

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

Due dates...

June 22 for the July issue

July 20 for the August issue

August 24 for the September issue

September 21 for the October issue

October 19 for the November issue

November 16 for the December issue

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

1 West Avenida de los Arboles
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-2939

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

PASTORAL EMERGENCY – 805 492-1234, press 1

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Erik Goehner
pastorerik@htlcto.org

Pastor Emily Ebert
pastoremary@htlcto.org

Church Office and Campus
Operations Manager
Kathleen Sands
churchoffice@htlcto.org

Income Recorder
Lisa Caestecker
incomerecorder@htlcto.org

Bookkeeper
Heather Edwards
bookkeeper@htlcto.org

Holy Trinity Choir Director
Dr Elmer Heerema
eh eerema3@gmail.com

Organist
Virginia Walters

Informal Service Music Leaders
Richard and Wanda Ferrin
rwferrin@earthlink.net

Audio Visual Technical Team
Jasmine Chang
Lars Engstrom
Dryden Goehner
Jessica Kreman
Serena Rinehart

Tempo Newsletter
Lynn Youngren
youngrenpro@gmail.com

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Executive Committee

Steve Hanke, Co-president

Krister Swanson, Co-president

Brewster King, Secretary

Grace Nelson, Treasurer
treasurer@htlcto.org

Church Council

David Althoff

Bernie Bauer

Joan Eggert

Marty Kreman

Dietmar Wagenknecht

SCHOOL STAFF

Honey Tree Early Childhood Center
1 W. Avenida de los Arboles
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-2939

School office

805 492-1232

honeytreeecc@gmail.com

www.myhoneytree.com

Director

Julie Riedel

honeytreeecc@gmail.com

WHAT'S INSIDE

2023 Summer Concerts in the Park ... 9

A farewell note from Peggy Rothring..... 4

A message from Dr. Elmer Heerema.. 3

Contact us 2

Deadline & submission requirements for Tempo Newsletter 2, 6

Dorcas Quilting & Crafting Circle 4

Fair Trade:
Having a fair summer with Miriam 7

Honey Tree Early Childhood Center 11

Lutheran Lobby Days bills 5

Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank 6

Meditation Group 4

Pastor's note:
Permission to Pause 1, 7

Thank you notes..... 6, 10

Thea Circle Book Club 7

Tuesday Bible study in June 12

Welcome Statement 3

Women's Bible study..... 7

Worship leaders for June 10

Youth News 6



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.

A message from Dr. Elmer Heerema

It is with mixed feelings that I announced my retirement to the staff, the choir, and the congregation effective June 11, 2023. Although this was not an easy decision as I find directing the Holy Trinity Choir both musically stimulating and spiritually rewarding, the decision came about after months of prayer and discussions with my wife Denna and my family. I will certainly be available to actively assist the music committee in selecting a new director of God's choosing to lead the choir in the fall.

I heartily thank the staff and choir for their weekly commitment to enhance the Sunday worship service through music. May God richly bless HTLC as it continues its tradition of honoring God through meaningful, sacred choral music.

...Through the church the song goes on...



Dorcas Quilting & Crafting Circle

We are glad to hear Peggy Rothring has successfully relocated to Portland. She left us with a quote from a little quilting book.

"I'm glad I never threw them away;
My scraps of yore are my quilts today."

Our quilts are crafted from the fabric donated to us. We are so thankful to have a supply of finished quilts that can be lovingly given to folks struggling with illness.

The group will meet on Thursday, June 15 at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

—Sally Johnson

Meditation Group

A loving quote from John Main to ponder this June:

The Christian life is the ever deeper exploration of the truth that God loves us and that Jesus dwells in our hearts, in the deep centre of our being. Even more astonishing is to know that we dwell in His heart....The mind cannot comprehend this. Only the heart can know it because it is the knowledge that arises only in love. Word Made Flesh

Come explore this truth every Thursday at 4:00 PM. On the first Thursday, June 1, we have a Zoom meditation. Email Miriam at miriamnakayama@gmail.com for an invite. On June 8, 15, 22 and 29, we meet in the church library in person. It's the room with the double doors in the same building as the church office.

Yours in Christ's love,
Miriam Nakayama

PAGE 4

A farewell note from Peggy Rothring

I came to HTLC the same year as Pastor Frank Nausin. Alyce Schuldt invited me to join the Bible study group led by him. It was engaging in content and lively discussions. Cal Olsen and Norm Lueck were instrumental in challenging the various topics. This was truly stimulating, I was hooked.

From that point on, HTLC continued to inspire spiritual and educational growth. Some high points were, in no particular order:

- **The Forum**—This met between services and offered a variety of topics including Health issues from Carol Mack, social issues from the Soderquists, political issues from a variety of views, to just name a few. And then, there were the awesome muffins made by Dixie.
- **Dorcas**—Meeting with a group of terrific women, designing, sewing, pinning, taping etc. future quilts for Pastor Erik to take to those in need of a colorful hug, as well as a gift to those on hospice.
- **Thea**—Sharing books of many topics. We really dug into issues of current interest, as well as something for fun to lighten our choices.
- **The Mens Club**—Each Christmas I looked forward to the breakfast they prepared. Pancakes, sausages, juice and a sharing of Christmas songs to begin the season.
- **The Women Bible Study**—A comfortable place to share thoughts without being judged. And then, awesome scones made by Dixie
- **The Women Annual Breakfast**—This year the topic is Bold Women, Ladies, you must attend, sadly I'll miss it.
- **The Life Groups on Zoom**—This turned out to be connecting with those who attend different services. What a great bridge. Miriam leads the one I attend, she always uses the previous Sunday's sermon as a discussion point. I hope I can continue from Portland.
- **The Holy Trinity Choir**—I appreciate the hours of practice that their wonderful performance brings to us. Are we not lucky?
- **Virginia**—What wonderful music she brings each Sunday. Always a superb musical offering at the close. Are we not lucky?

There is really so much more. Pastor Erik and Pastor Emily are now spiritually guiding us into another phase of worship. Their very thoughtful, erudite sermons give us much to ponder. A lot of effort goes into those writings. Are we not lucky?

Thank you all for contributing to my positive experience at HTLC. When the white parament is used on the altar, think of me, I made it with some fabric from Joyce Schiable. Now on to a new adventure in Portland, Oregon, sharing more time with my family.

God Bless you all, Peggy Rothring

4030 S.E. Tenino Street, Portland, Oregon 97202-8046
PeggyQ222@gmail.com



LUTHERAN OFFICE of PUBLIC POLICY -CALIFORNIA

Lutheran Lobby Day bills

These are the proposed bills that the Lutheran Office of Public Policy is currently working on based on ELCA social statements on care of creation and a just economy.

SB 4 Affordable Housing on Faith & Higher Education Lands Act of 2023

This bill would provide a streamlined process for religious institutions and nonprofit colleges to develop affordable housing on their properties, regardless of local zoning restrictions. This bill also would guarantee by-right approval of projects as long as they are consistent with all objective standards of the jurisdiction and comply with listed environmental protections.

AB 249 Clean Drinking Water in Schools

This bill increases the testing and disclosure requirements of school drinking water lead levels. It would additionally allocate funding for testing filters and infrastructure improvements to reduce and ultimately, eliminate, lead in water at schools. Furthermore, the bill establishes the limit on lead levels that the drinking water cannot exceed.

AB 660 Food Labeling Date Reform


This bill requires the use of uniform terms for food product date labels, i.e., removing 'sell by' dates visible to consumers and making 'best by' or 'use by' dates clearer for consumers. The streamlined phrasing will help consumers understand peak quality and freshness of their food, which will play a role in addressing hunger as well as methane emissions and climate change.

AB 1534 Methane Emissions Monitoring

Methane emissions are a large contributor to continued climate change. AB 1534 would require the utilization of remote sensing technologies to better identify methane emissions with the goal of improved regulations on those emissions from landfills.



On May 17 Holy Trinity members Dixie Hanson, Pastor Erik and Maya Goehner joined ELCA Lutherans from around California for Lutheran Lobby Day at the state capital in Sacramento. This event was sponsored by our Lutheran Office of Public Policy whose offices are located at St. John Lutheran Church just blocks away from the Capital building. The church was our host and base of operations. We heard speakers linking advocacy to the Bible and Lutheran tradition then had some quick training before we were sent out to meet with various legislators from around the state. It was inspiring to put our faith into action in this way! —Pastor Erik



**TEMPO
DEADLINE
THURSDAY**

newsletter

**June 22
11:00 AM**

SEE PAGE 2 FOR SUBMISSION
DETAILS

Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank

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

Top Priority List

1. Cold Cereal
2. Flavored Rice
3. Hamburger Helper / Instant Potatoes
4. Canned Fruit
5. Canned Tuna / Meat
6. Baked / Refried Beans
7. Cookies and Crackers
8. "Cream of" Soups / Soup Broths
9. Drinks (Hot / Shelf-Stable)
10. Condiments

Simply leave your donations on the wooden table by the windows inside the narthex.

Blessings, Karen and Marty Kreman



**Thank
you**

*Dear members & friends of
Holy Trinity E LCA,
Thank you for your ongoing
support of the Conejo Interfaith
Refuge Team. It is because of
your congregation and other faith
based communities and individuals
that the needs of refugee families
receive the support that is necessary
as they find their way in Southern
California. Together we are making a
difference! Sincerely, Nancy McCreave
for the CIRT.*

Pastor's note— continued from page 1

Throughout the summer we will also be asking the congregation to share pictures and short stories of where they might have felt the Spirit during a time when they have paused. It could be as simple as pausing after breakfast to notice the robin that likes to visit your bird feeder, and feeling uplifted by such a sign of life outside of yourself. It might be something bigger like the sense of awe in your spirit while looking out over a view on a trip to the Grand Canyon. Whether it is on a vacation to somewhere new or just taking a fresh look at something in your own neighborhood, we hope you will join us in sharing where you have found some spiritual rest or spiritual engagement with God's presence because you paused to notice.

—Pastor Erik

Pictures or videos with a brief reflection can be mailed or emailed to the church office at 1 W. Avenida de los Arboles, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 or at churchoffice@gmail.com. We will be sharing the pictures and stories in the church newsletter and Connection email.

Fair trade—Having a fair summer with Miriam

Please check out the Fair Trade counter on the second and fourth Sundays each month. This month's dates are June 11 and 25.

Nancy had a hip replacement so that is why she has been missing, but she should be back in the near future.

When I ordered chocolate this last time, I had to pay extra to have it shipped in the summer because they have to ship it with an ice gel pack. So I bought a lot of chocolate to make the extra fee worthwhile. It's only \$10 for all the chocolate I ordered. So please check out our fresh chocolate! Panama Dark, Milk Chocolate, and Dark Chocolate Caramel Crunch. Still \$3 a bar!

I have good news to report that the chocolate made it to the 10 year old boy in Bodi, Ghana, that Kiyo and I sponsor through World Vision. I received a joyful letter from him. He also reported that so far the harvest of cacao beans looks good!

Hope to see you at the fair trade counter right outside the entrance doors of the sanctuary between services and after the 11 AM service.

—Miriam Nakayama and Nancy Truex



Women's Bible study

Join us on Saturday, June 24 at 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall as we begin a new three-part study titled *Salvation Now*. Session one is "Promised salvation now: Jesus brings wellness." "This Bible study focuses on 'now,' a small word that packs a significant punch and suffuses John's gospel... Together we'll see how the notion of "now," rounds out a deeper, more robust understanding of our Christian calling and our Christian hope." (p. 32-33, Gather magazine)

Come for study and fellowship! Contact Dixie Hanson if you have any questions.

—Dixie Hanson

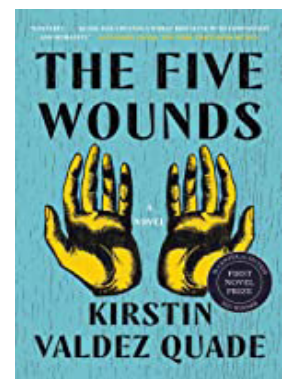
Thea Circle Book Club

The June read is a favorite book

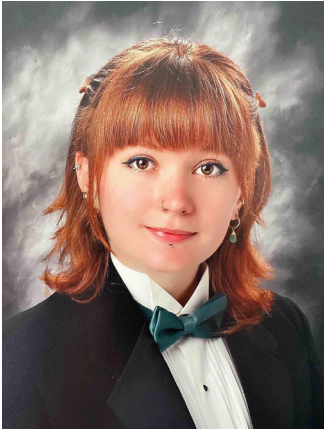
recommended by Terri Kelly. It is Five Wounds by Kirstin Valdez Quade and deals with a New Mexico family's year of love and sacrifice beginning with Holy Week.

Thea will meet on Monday, June 26 at 7:00 PM in the church library.

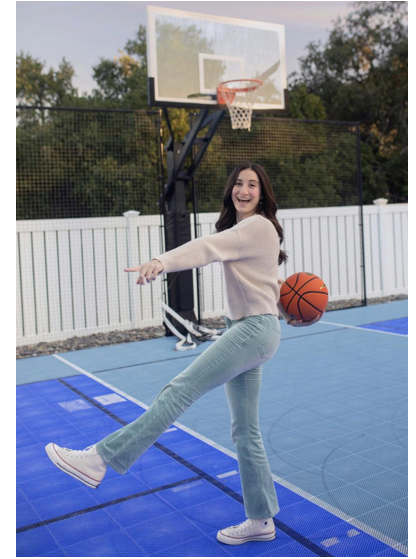
—Sally Johnson



Congratulations Graduates



Andy Lynch will spend the summer working at a camp in the Santa Cruz mountains and will return to Thousand Oaks to attend Moorpark College in the fall where they will begin their collegiate studies with an emphasis on environmental sciences.

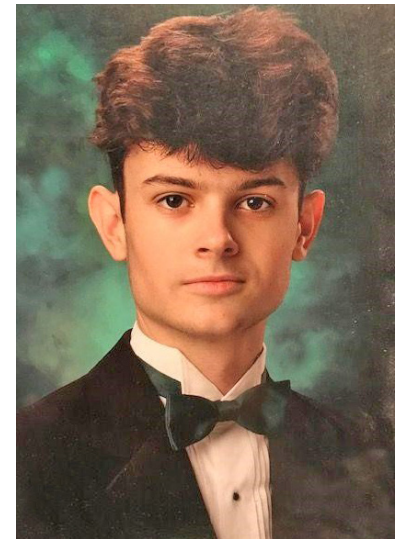


Madilyn Palosi is graduating from Viewpoint. She will study Media and Rhetoric at Lewis and Clark in Portland, while also playing basketball for the University.



Caitlin Wilson is graduating from Granada Hills Charter High School. She will be attending CSU- Monterey Bay in the fall.

Dryden Allen Goehner graduates this year from Thousand Oaks High School. Dryden is the son of Pastor Erik and Desta Goehner. He currently works at Vons and will most likely continue there over the summer, saving money for a car and future college classes. Dryden has been accepted to Moorpark College for the fall. Possible areas he would like to pursue would either be film studies or something in IT. Dryden also works in the audio visual booth at Holy Trinity. Stop by sometime and wish him congratulations on his graduation!



Nate Swanson & Dane Swanson

The Swanson family is so very proud to celebrate TWO graduations this year. Nate received his bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in communications and Dane received his master's degree in Educational Leadership—both from California Lutheran University on May 12. Photo: Dane Swanson on the left and Nate Swanson on the right.

—Pastor Emily

Worship Leaders - June

06/04/2023 (Sun. 9:30AM)

Ushers: Jeanne Balsley and Dave Balsley
Reader: Dietmar Wagenknecht

06/04/2023 (Sun. 11:00AM)

Ushers: Sandra Samuels and Yvonne Bernschneider
Reader: Ginny Connell

06/11/2023 (Sun. 9:30AM)

Ushers: Ron Klassen and Colleen Windham-Hughes
Communion Assistants: Dale Adrion and Steve Hanke
Reader: Dale Adrion

06/11/2023 (Sun. 11:00AM)

Ushers: Sandy Samuels and Dixie Hanson
Communion Assistants: Miriam Nakayama and Nina Wong
Reader: Miriam Nakayama

06/18/2023 (Sun. 9:30AM)

Ushers:
Reader: Dietmar Wagenknecht

06/18/2023 (Sun. 11:00AM)

Ushers: Sandy Samuels and Dixie Hanson
Reader: Nina Wong

06/25/2023 (Sun. 9:30AM)

Ushers: Angela and Brian Carr
Communion Assistants: Dale Adrion and Steve Hanke
Reader: Dale Adrion

06/25/2023 (Sun. 11:00AM)

Ushers: Yvonne Bernschneider and George Williams
Communion Assistants: Denna Heerema and Ginny Connell
Reader: Dietmar Wagenknecht

EMAIL OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO HELP!

Thank you for all your support at the Blessing of the Bikes. We had at least 10 non-members stop by who saw the signs and thought it was a pretty cool thing we were doing.

The total hasn't been tallied just yet, but we think we made about \$1000 for our sister church in El Salvador. We also made cards to send to them.

Thanks to the team who helped make it all happen:

- Laurel Engstrom - put together raffle prizes (donations from Mike & Laurel Engstrom, Mike Sadowski, Miriam Nakayama, and Kim Bantle)
- Miriam Nakayama, Serena Rinehart (high schooler) - set up and ticket table
- Lauren Graf (Young Adult), Thomas Harris (Young Adult), Karen Kreman - set up and assistance during event
- Mike Sadowski, Joan Eggert - handled all the food
- Robin Slattum, Nina Wong - Card making table
- Dixie Hanson - activities related to bicycle safety awareness
- Yolanda Mosley and Ingrid Slattum (Young Adults) - Made mocktails

If you couldn't make it this year, we hope to see you next time!

—Pastor Emily



Our "Being Bold Together" women's breakfast was on May 20.

Denise Cortez, Director of Harbor House, spoke at our breakfast.

—Dixie Hanson



1 W. AVENIDA DE LOS ARBOLES
2023
BLESSING OF THE BIKES AND THEIR RIDERS!
MAY 13 / 2-4PM
AN EVENT FOR ALL AGES!
RAFFLE & KIDS BICYCLE DECORATING CONTEST
PUPUSAS FOR SALE!
ALL PRIZES DRAWN/ AWARDED AT 3:30PM
All proceeds go towards a teacher's salary supported by our sister church, Espirito de Casa, in El Salvador.
May: Bicycle and Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month
LOOK TWICE Save a Life

Honey Tree Early Childhood Center



End Of Year

It's hard to believe the end of the school year is upon us. Honey Tree closing programs are scheduled for Wednesday, May 31, and Thursday, June 1 at 11:00 AM, in the church sanctuary. Students will sing songs for parents, then we will all gather on the patio to say goodbye and enjoy some cookies. Our kindergarten class will follow in the tradition of wearing graduation caps and marching to *Pomp and Circumstance*. Classes have been going to the church every day to practice their songs and prepare for the program.

Mother's Day Tea celebrations were a success. Moms came to classrooms to enjoy a snack and participate in circle time with their students. One teacher set up blankets and a table and invited the mothers into the new Prayer Garden. The space was perfect for the event.

Pastor Erik visited students in classrooms and outside on the play yards in May. He brought his guitar and sang a fun song, with some movement. He told a story about using kind words. Students joined Pastor Erik in the sanctuary for Chapel Time during the last week of May.

Seven chicks hatched inside the kindergarten incubator on May 8 and 9! The students have enjoyed

watching the chicks grow and produce their wings. After two weeks, they went back to the farm. All students had the opportunity to hold and pet the chicks. It has been a great learning experience. One of the chickens is a "Turken!" It's a breed of chicken that originated in Transylvania. It doesn't have feathers on its neck so it looks a little bit like a turkey.

Jahna Morrow visited Honey Tree in May. Jahna is the daughter of Kathy and Jeff Lindgren, and she was a teacher at Honey Tree up until last year when she and her husband moved to Wisconsin. Jahna and husband Chris spent time at the school one day. The staff gathered at Lazy Dog one afternoon for a reunion with Jahna. We miss her!

Parent/Two-Year-Old classes went strawberry picking at Underwood Farm in Somis. A good time was had by all. The last week of May, Parent/Twos classes will enjoy Potluck Picnics at the park to celebrate their year end.

Teacher Appreciation Week was the week of May 8-12. Students brought homemade cards and flowers from their yard for the teachers. Honey Tree administration brought treats each day, to show our appreciation for all of their hard work.

Teachers not returning next year

Teri Wright will be retiring at the end of the school year, after 18 years of service to Honey Tree. She had planned to work longer but is not able to due to family obligations. Two assistant teachers, Missy Ricketts and Katie Robinson, will also not be returning. Missy is going to spend time traveling with her husband, who is retired, and Katie is looking for a full-time position, which Honey Tree is not able to offer. Teri and Missy plan to substitute teach at Honey Tree in the future. All three teachers will be greatly missed.

Honey Tree will be closed for the summertime. Administration will be in the office throughout the summer, with modified hours on some days. The new school year begins on Tuesday, September 5, the day after Labor Day. We are planning a 50th Anniversary Celebratory Event right before school begins, possibly at our Open House on Thursday, August 31. More information to follow.

—Julie Riedel, Director

<p>May 29 Memorial Day Holiday No School</p> <p>May 31, June 2 Closing Programs</p>



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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Thousand Oaks CA
PERMIT NO. 73

Join us for worship online on
our YouTube channel

Go to YouTube

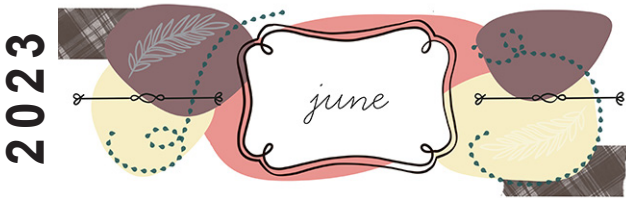
and type in:

HTLCTO

or

Visit the church website

HTLCTO.ORG



Tuesday Bible study in June — Love Wins

At the end of the month, we will start a new study based on the book Love Wins. In Love Wins, bestselling author, international teacher, and speaker Rob Bell addresses one of the most controversial issues of faith—hell and the afterlife—arguing, would a loving God send people to eternal torment forever? With searing insight, Bell puts hell on trial with a hopeful message—eternal life

doesn't start when we die; it starts right now. And ultimately, Love Wins.

We hope you can join us at 10:30 AM on Tuesday

mornings in the church library for these studies and discussions. You can attend in person or via Zoom. Just let us know if you want the Zoom link and we will email it to you. Books can be picked up in the church office for \$15 each.

—Pastor Erik

SCHEDULE

June 6Love Wins session Two
June 13Love Wins session Three
June 20Love Wins session Four
June 27Love Wins session Five