

THE TEMPO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30AM INFORMAL

11AM TRADITIONAL



“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](tel:805-492-1234) office churchoffice@htlcto.org www.htlcto.org
PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCY – [805-492-1234](tel:805-492-1234), press 1

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MARCH

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)

Are you ready to
move toward
transformation?

—Dr. Mindy McGarrah Sharp, comm. on Luke 9:51-62
A Sanctified Art | @sanctifiedart

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

**DEADLINE FOR APRIL
TEMPO IS MARCH 20**

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.



MARCH EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Young Adult Group - March 2 - 12:15pm

Ash Wednesday - March 5 - 7pm

Meditation - March 6 - 4pm on Zoom, March 13, 20, 27, in the church library at 4pm.

Grant Applications Due - March 10

Midweek Lent Services - Thursdays, March 13, 20, 27 - 6pm

Faith Explorers - March 2, 16 at 10:45am

Youth Group - March 2, 9 at 3pm, March 16 at 1pm.

Dorcas Quilting and Crafting Circle - March 20 - 9am - 12noon in Fellowship Hall

Women's Bible Study - March 22 - 2pm

Crop Hunger Walk 2025 - March 23 - 1pm

Thea Book Circle - March 31 - 7pm

AN ARTICLE FROM AUTHENTIC DIVERSITY

In his Inaugural Address, the president pledged to “end the government policy of trying to socially engineer race and gender into every aspect of public and private life,” and in his first week in office proceeded to issue executive orders that dismantle diversity, equity and inclusion programs across the federal government and target such programs in the private sector and declare that the federal government would recognize only two sexes, male and female, that were assigned at birth. We, as people of faith, choose a different path.

The Authentic Diversity Team strives to live up to our HTLC Welcome Statement of welcoming everyone “regardless of race, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or any other category that divides us, by examining systems and practices through an anti-racist, anti-transphobic lens, actively engaging diverse voices and educating members and others in our community on these matters. This ministry, and our commitment to it, feels more important now than ever before.

Authentic Diversity entered the New Year with some dynamic events that were well attended by Holy Trinity members and four other Lutheran churches in this area! On January 12th , Stephanie Dykes, a transgender woman, sang at the 11:00 am service and gave a talk about her journey as well as explained some basic terms relating to gender identity. Stephanie was entertaining as well as educational. Her personal story and outgoing personality helped us understand better what it is like to be transgender in the United States, particularly given the current political environment.

**TRANS RIGHTS
are
HUMAN RIGHTS**



Stephanie Dykes speaking

On February 2nd, we had the privilege of having Pastor Albert Starr preach at both services as well as give a reading and sign books later that afternoon for his poetry book Late Night Offerings & Morning Prayers. We sold more than 40 books at the event! Pastor Starr’s poems and stories are powerful and majestic. He conveys his lived experience as a black man to his readers in such a poignant way. Angela Abalo, currently a student at CLU (and a member of our Praise Band!), started the program by reading her spoken word poem “Lift Every Voice,” inspired by the African American anthem.



Angela Abalo and Pastor Albert Starr

Authentic Diversity Continued

Both events were thought-provoking experiences and well-received by those who attended, which is what Authentic Diversity hopes to continue to provide to Holy Trinity members.

Miriam Nakayama and Joan Eggert



Another great crowd!

ATTENTION HTLC WOMEN

Join us for the third Bible Study session on Faithfulness on Saturday, March 22 at 2:00 in the Fellowship Hall. This session is titled "Faith Adventures: Peter and Cornelius. We do not always see eye-to-eye with our neighbor, and yet, we are called to love our neighbor. Peter's experience with someone different gives the Holy Spirit an opportunity to teach Peter, the church and us to see others as God sees them." We look forward to a faith filled study and discussion with you!

Dixie Hanson



What is the significance of the three leaves on a shamrock??

answer on page 11

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Four Gospels as a Path to Transformation.

For our Tuesday morning Bible study in March we will begin to look at a book called "Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes" to help us reflect on some of the cultural biases we bring when we interpret scripture and how other cultures may interpret passages differently.

Authors and Biblical scholars Randy Richards and Brandon O'Brien shed light on the ways that Western readers often misunderstand the cultural dynamics of the Bible. They identify nine key areas where modern Westerners have significantly different assumptions about what might be going on in a text. Drawing upon their own cross-cultural experience in global mission, Richard and O'Brien show how better self-awareness and understanding of cultural differences in language, time, and social mores allow us to see the Bible in fresh and unexpected ways.

Below is the reading guide for March. We hope you can join us at 10:30am on Tuesday mornings. If you would like to join on zoom let the church office know so we can put you on the list to receive the link.

- March 4** - Finish the Book of Matthew Bible study
- March 11** - No Bible Study this Tuesday (Pastor Erik is gone)
- March 18** - Begin the "Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes". Introduction and Chapter one: Serving Two Masters
- March 25** - Chapter Two: The Bible in Color. Race and Ethnicity

GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Grant applications are now open for the Endowment Fund.

At the beginning of each new year, the Endowment Committee collects grant applications and distributes funds based on the amount of earnings the Endowment Fund received by the previous year's end. By December 31, 2024, the HTLC Endowment Fund has approximately \$10,000 of earnings to distribute.

Requests are due by March 10th, 2025.

To learn more and apply, visit:

<https://www.htlcto.org/resources>

LIVING LUTHERAN IS BACK!

Each issue (spring, summer, winter and fall) will feature the stories you know and love, along with updates on the church and your ELCA community. The cost for one year will be \$19.95 for an individual subscription.

Questions, please contact the publishers at livinglutheran@elca.org or call [800-638-3522](tel:800-638-3522).

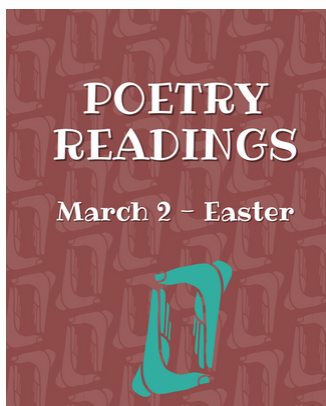


Subscribe to Living Lutheran at <https://www.livinglutheran.org/>

LENT POETRY READINGS

During Advent worship, Mike and Marty McCambridge read various poems that contributed to the meaning of the season. We have poems to read again this Lent and Easter season, and we'd love to have your creative and expressive talents. Sign up and Mike or Pastor Emily will reach out you to coordinate the week and poem you'd like to read. Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044DAAA72DA4FC1-54996479-poetry#/>



CARE PACKAGE SUCCESS!

Valentine's Day Parents Night out was a great success! Our Youth came to church for dinner, activities and games. AND - we put together care packages for our college students. Twenty Valentine's care packages are getting delivered over the next week. We hope they feel so special and excited to receive them. Thank you for the donations and the many hands that made them extra special!



A LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Lent begins March 5 (Ash Wednesday). Pick up your printed copy of “A Lenten Devotional – everything [in] between” in the narthex today. Or, use the online version.

Our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided a special e-reader version of this year’s Lenten devotional, which you can access on your computer and mobile devices:

online.flippingbook.com/view/676218946/

In order to protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.

Our theme, “Everything in Between,” invites us to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. You will see that each weekly sub-theme explores two supposed binaries, life “faith & works” or “rest & growth,” or “grief & hope.” We often consider these ideas to be opposing. However, as we explore these concepts within the scriptures, we find nuance and complexity. We find that these dichotomies are false. We might begin to see a full spectrum instead of black and white. We might find that God is present in between.



LENTEN SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday

March 5 at 7 PM

Midweek Lent Services

Thursdays

March 13, 20, 27 & April 3, & 10

6:00 PM · Discussion Time

6:30 PM · Evening Prayer

*Note: We are also excited to try a new Evening Prayer service published by Holden Village. Holden Evening Prayer, which we have used in previous years, was originally written in the winter of 1986, and it has been a part of the history here at Holy Trinity.

We’d like to try their new vespers service, “Bless this Night” written in 2023. “Created in the Holden Village community, this service seeks to honor night and darkness as times of blessing and renewal in our lives. It also has themes of creation, embodiment, and justice.”

To give it a listen, go here:

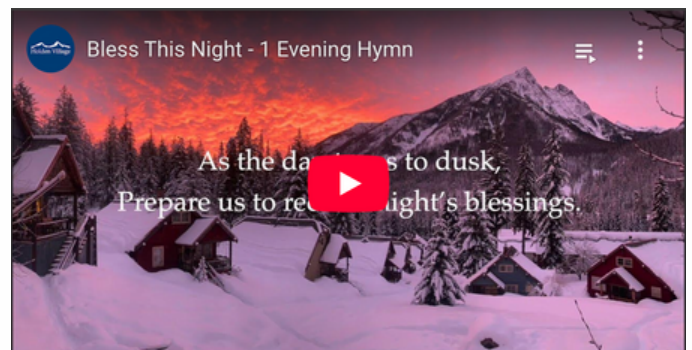
<https://fireweedliturgies.com/listen>

Palm Sunday: April 13 at 9:30 and 11:00

Maundy Thursday: April 17 at 6 PM, with dinner

Good Friday: April 18 at 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday: April 20 at 9:30 and 11:00



LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you all who visited the library in February. The fair trade cheese was a big hit! I did sell some tea and I did talk about books!

This month of March we will feature Lenten-type books and books about Jesus. Please check out the free book cart which will be outside of the library (if I remember to put it out).

Brian has another excellent book review on Romans. Those little gray books that cover every book of the Bible, are on the top shelf to the left of the double doors as you enter the library.

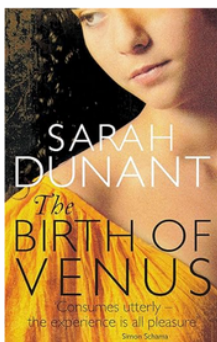
Thank you for your support of the library! It is growing! To check out a book, just write your name and the title of the book you are checking out!

Miriam Nakayama and Laurel Engstrom



THEA BOOK CIRCLE

The read for March will be The Birth of Venus, by Sarah Dunant. It brings alive the history of Florence in its most dramatic period and is a story of love, art, power and religion. It is a TO Book in a Box so 10 copies are available. We will meet Monday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Library.



MEDITATION GROUP

The peace of the Lord be with you all! In this time of chaos and fear, I found this quote from John Main in the book *Silence and Stillness in Every Season*:

My advice is to see your times of meditation not as times that are at your disposition at all. See your meditation, your prayer, not as your own but as the prayer of Jesus..... The miracle is that His prayer is ours, and the miracle is worked by simply bringing us to that total and unshakable confidence in the Father which the Gospel describes as hope.

So come and meditate and strengthen your hope! Our Zoom Meditation meeting will be **March 6**. Email Miriam at miriamnakayama@gmail.com for a Zoom invite.

In-person meditation will be on **Thursdays, March 13, 20, and 27th**, in the church library in the church office building, through the double doors at 4pm.

Meditate and then go to the Lenten Gatherings.

Yours in Christ's hope and love,

Miriam Nakayama

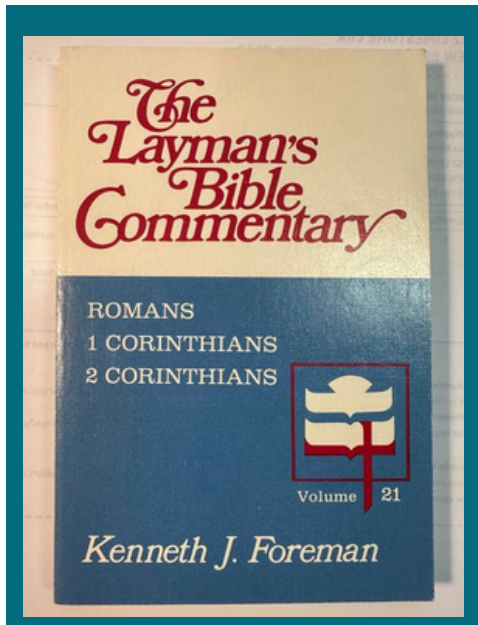
DORCAS QUILTING AND CRAFTING CIRCLE

Dorca's QUILTING AND CRAFTING will meet Thursday, March 20 at 9: a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will complete colorful spring comfort quilts. No experience is necessary in order to come and help in so many ways.



HTLC LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

by Brian McGuire



A biography of Martin Luther by Richard Marius quotes Luther as saying that Paul's Epistle to the Romans is "the high point of the New Testament . . . that can never be read too much, the more it is considered, the more precious it becomes." A strong statement. It made me wonder when I last read Romans . . . have I ever read Romans? Oops. So I turned to Volume 21 of "The Layman's Bible Commentary" in the HTLC Library: The Letter of Paul to the Romans written by Kenneth Foreman.

Some interesting factoids: the Book of Romans was written circa AD 57-58 while Paul was in Corinth and before he had ever been to Rome, there seems to be no dispute among biblical historians as to its authorship.

It is the longest of Paul's epistles and was written as kind of a "handbook" to Roman Christians since no Gospel—not even Mark—had yet been written. This community was important to Christianity by virtue of its presence in the Roman Empire's capital city.

Paul seems to use the words "Gentile" and "Greek"

It is the longest of Paul's epistles and was written as kind of a "handbook" to Roman Christians since no Gospel—not even Mark—had yet been written. This community was important to Christianity by virtue of its presence in the Roman Empire's capital city.

Paul seems to use the words "Gentile" and "Greek" interchangeably, which can be confusing. Nevertheless he makes it very clear up-front that "There is no favoritism with God." Whether he is talking in an encouraging or admonishing context, he repeats this phrase at least three times: "Jews first, but Greeks as well". Early on in the letter he just spews about the naughty goings-on in the Corinthian community (here it is definitely the Greeks) as a warning to the Romans to behave themselves.

Paul makes an interesting analogy between Adam and Christ: each represented the beginning of a new race. Adam was the father of all sinners who fled from God and who brought death and condemnation to humanity, while Christ as the "second Adam" reflected God and brought life and acquittal to the new humanity.

Foreman writes that Chapters 9-11 are the most difficult in Romans and among the most difficult in the entire New Testament: "One can skip from the end of Chapter 8 to the beginning of Chapter 12 and feel no particular break." I almost took him up on that but shame prevented me. These chapters contain Paul's meandering thoughts on the dilemma of nonconverting Jews. As Romans was Martin Luther's fave, this might have contributed to his conflicted feelings toward the Jews.

So why was the book of Romans so special to Martin Luther? Chapter 3 contains some of the central dogma of the Lutheran Church: "God's

Book Review continued...

saving justice given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe . . . All are justified by the free gift of his grace through being set free in Christ. . . A person is justified by faith and not by doing what the Law tells him to do.” Foreman equates “keeping the Law” with trying to build a ladder to heaven out of good deeds: it is not enough. However, this invokes the inevitable: “If good deeds yield nothing, why be good? Grace is free.” Indeed, Paul cites “free grace” repetitively, reminding me of Bonhoeffer’s criticism of what he calls “cheap grace”. (For more on that, read Bonhoeffer’s *The Cost of Discipleship*.) Foreman offers this: that although we cannot earn the mercy of God, we can through good works express our gratitude to God—who gives us both the willingness and the power to do good.

If you desire a companion in exploring the Bible, the HTLC Bible Study on Tuesday is best, but if that doesn’t fit your schedule, “The Layman’s Bible Commentary” series works too.



Honey Tree Registration has begun for the 2025/2026 school year for current Honey Tree students and Holy Trinity Church members, who receive priority registration, as well as a 10% discount. Open registration begins on February 25th. Anyone can register for classes after that time, or be placed on a waiting list. Parents of prospective students should contact the office if interested in scheduling a tour, and can also refer to our website for more information.

Office Phone: (805)492-1232

Email: honeytreeecc@gmsil.com

Website: myhoneytree.com

FAIR TRADE

Finding Out What Fair Trade Items Are For Sale with Miriam

I was asked a question about our list of items for sale at the Library Fair Trade Sampling Event, so I decided to include a list this month with updated prices.

Coffee:

\$9 – Breakfast Blend, Love Buzz, French Roast, Sister’s Blend

\$10 – Decaffeinated, French Roast Decaffeinated

Tea:

\$4 – English Breakfast, Green Tea, Chai, Peppermint, Rooibos, Rooibos Chai, Ginger, Turmeric and Ginger, Lemongrass and Ginger, Chamomile

Chocolate:

\$3.50 – Panama Dark (80%), Milk Chocolate, Milk Chocolate with Toffee, Dark Chocolate with Toffee (60%), Dark Chocolate with Almonds (55%), Dark Chocolate with Almonds (55%), Dark Chocolate with Caramel Crunch (43%), Dark Chocolate with Himalayan Sea Salt (60%), Dark Chocolate with Raspberries (70%), Dark Chocolate with Peppermint Crunch (60%)

\$.25 – Mini Dark Chocolates (55%)

Baking Supplies:

\$6.50 – Baking Cocoa

\$7 – Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips

\$14 – Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Hot Cocoa:

\$6.50 – Regular

\$6.50 – Dark Chocolate (Add milk)

Fair Trade Continued...

Aged White Cheddar:

\$6 - 3 years

Dates:

Not available at this time.

We are still taking Red Barn Cheese orders. \$6 for 3 year aged white cheddar. The farms making the 1 year aged white cheddar are not available anymore. One was foreclosed and the other had a tragic death.

Sign up at the Fair Trade Counter.

Nancy, Terri and I will be selling fair trade on March 9th and 23rd. When it's too cold or windy, look for us inside where the MANNA food is collected. Otherwise, we are outside on the counter at the church entrance.

Love,

Miriam Nakayama, Nancy Truex and Terri Kelly



Top needed items for March:

1. Canned or Jarred Pasta Sauce
2. Canned Baked Beans
3. Canned Tomato Products - Sauce, Diced, Crushed, Etc.
4. Canned Vegetables - Any Kind
5. Cold Cereal
6. Canned Fruit - Any Kind
7. Canned Pasta - Raviolis or Spaghetlios
8. Canned Chili
9. Peanut Butter
10. Hot Cocoa, Coffee and/or Tea

MANNA CONEJO VALLEY FOOD BANK

In February, our SOUPer Bowl of Caring Food Drive yielded incredible results! Check it out:

Eagles:	\$30	81 items	86 pounds
Chiefs:	\$0	89 items	74 pounds
Puppies:	\$120	117 items	106 pounds

Additionally, there were 14 pounds, 10 items, that were donated before the Souper bowl.

Grand Total:

\$150 296 items 280 pounds

Way to go Holy Trinity!

—Karen and Marty Kreman

CYF SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

March 2

10:45-11:30 Faith Explorers
12:15 pm - 1:30 pm YAG Table Talks
3-4:30 MS/HS Youth Group

March 9

3-4:30 MS/HS Youth Group

March 16

10:45-11:30 Faith Explorers
1-3pm Special Event for MS/HS at CLU

March 23

CROP Hunger Walk





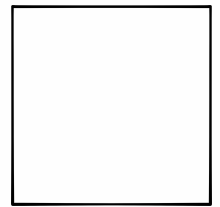
Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

1 West Avenida de Los Arboles

Thousand Oaks CA 91360-2939

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

Return service requested



MARCH 2025

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

If you would like to purchase and donate flowers for the church altar, please follow these steps.

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 \$45. 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.



Trivia Answer:

According to Christian tradition, the three leaves of a shamrock symbolize the Holy Trinity - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, with St. Patrick using the shamrock to explain this concept to Irish converts while spreading Christianity, each leaf representing one part of the Trinity.