

**Welcome  
new  
Members!**

MEET OUR NEW  
MEMBERS IN THIS  
ISSUE OF THE TEMPO!

# THE TEMPO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**OCTOBER 2025**

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30AM INFORMAL

11AM TRADITIONAL

***OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup> IS ONE  
WORSHIP SUNDAY AT 10AM***

**"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

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805-492-1234 office    churchoffice@htlcto.org    www.htlcto.org  
PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCY - 805-492-1234, press 1

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hello  
OCTOBER

## 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](https://facebook.com/HTLCTO)



[instagram.com/htlcto/](https://instagram.com/htlcto/)



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



**OCTOBER 12**  
**10AM**  
**ONE WORSHIP SUNDAY**  
Followed by lunch!

**SEND FUTURE NEWSLETTER & SOCIAL  
MEDIA SUBMISSIONS TO  
[COMMUNICATIONS@HTLCTO.ORG](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS@HTLCTO.ORG)**

**DEADLINE FOR TEMPO SUBMISSIONS  
IS THE THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH  
(OCTOBER 17 FOR NOVEMBER 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.



## OCTOBER EVENTS AT A GLANCE

**10/2** – Zoom Meditation  
**10/5** – Young Adult Group  
**10/7, 14, 21 & 28** – Tuesday Bible Study  
**10/11 & 12** – WELCA Fall Convention  
**10/12** – One Worship at 10am + Lunch  
**10/12** – Manna Event #1  
**10/9, 16, 23, & 30** – Meditation in the Church Library  
**10/16** – DORCAS Quilting Group  
**10/18** – Women's Bible Study

**10/19** – Mystery Library Event  
**10/19** – Fair Trade Event  
**10/20 - 11/12** – Manna Event #2  
**10/25** – Beaman/Lehmann Wedding  
**10/26** – Trunk – Or – Treat  
**10/27** – THEA Book Circle  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
**11/16** – Silver Jubilee Celebration  
See page 11 for Children, Youth, & Family Events



## MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We were thrilled to welcome seven new members to our congregation on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Please read a bit more about each new member below:

### STACEY BEAMAN & RYAN LEHMANN



Ryan and Stacey are proud Conejo Valley natives who both graduated from Newbury Park High School in the late '90s. Though they only knew each other in passing back then, fate brought them back together just over three years ago. Now, they are thrilled to be getting married at Holy Trinity on October 25, 2025!

Stacey is a multi-passionate entrepreneur who owns a dance fitness company and provides marketing and website support for small businesses. She also serves as the Digital Communications Specialist at Holy Trinity. Ryan works at AT&T, and together they share a love for traveling, live music, trivia nights, and spending time with their two beloved dogs.

Since joining the Holy Trinity community in December 2024, Ryan and Stacey have fallen in love with its mission, its message, and its people, and they feel so grateful to celebrate their

marriage and become members at a place that has quickly become so meaningful to them.

### JAYE DEPEW



I was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and baptized at Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church when I was a baby. After living in New Jersey and Connecticut, I now reside in Carpinteria, California, working as a document specialist for an environmental engineering firm. My previous experience includes administrative support, cashiering and customer service. I enjoy crafting and reading. My sister, Dona Pugh, introduced me to Holy Trinity and your YouTube services, which is fulfilling my spiritual needs.

### ROB HATHAWAY



Born in Binghamton, NY, I spent my growing-up years in Centerville, OH, near Dayton. I went to

## ROB HATHAWAY CONT.

college at The Ohio State University and graduated with a degree in Accounting. I spent most of my professional years in Denver, CO, but also lived in St. Louis, MO and then Thousand Oaks, CA. I left the corporate world about seven years ago. I now operate an estate sale and senior relocation business, helping seniors and/or their families through times of transition. I have four sisters back in Ohio, a brother in Denver, and a brother in Seattle, WA.

My family includes 3 siblings, 7 nieces and nephews (one who died from ALS at 40), and 13 great- nieces and great-nephews. All, except for one niece and her daughter in NJ, live in either the Fresno or Minneapolis areas.

I'm pleased to join Holy Trinity which is in close proximity to University Village and where I know several members.

## JOYCE JOHNSON



Although originally from northern Minnesota, when I was 8 my family moved to Santee and then Rancho Cordova, California where my father served as a Lutheran pastor and my mother a teacher. After graduating from Augustana in Sioux Falls, I taught elementary and deaf/hard of hearing students in Omaha Public Schools for 4 years before moving to Northridge where I taught at First Lutheran School and completed an MA at CSUN. From 1984 on I worked for Los Angeles Unified as a teacher and administrator while completing my doctoral studies at USC. After the Northridge earthquake, I moved to Glendale followed by 25 years in Pasadena. From then to the present, I've been a member of Salem Lutheran in Glendale. Recently my little dog Tillie and I moved to University Village.

## NELIUS & NADA RONNING



Nada was born in LA County and has been a lifelong Lutheran. After studying at Pasadena schools, Pasadena City College, and Concordia College in Minnesota, she served as a parish worker in Santa Barbara before volunteering with the Mekane Yesus Lutheran Church in Ethiopia. She later worked as Parish Administrator at Messiah Lutheran in Pasadena.

Nelius was born in Tacoma, WA, and moved to Pasadena in high school. He studied at Pasadena City College, Pacific Lutheran University, and pursued graduate work at USC. He spent 40 years with Monrovia Unified School District as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and adult school director.

Nada and Nelius reconnected through Luther League and married in 1971. They raised two daughters, Desta (Erik) Goehner and Rachel (Brian) Lindgren, and are proud grandparents to

## NELIUS & NADA RONNING CONT.

Maya, Dryden, and Piper Goehner, and Hazel and Solveij Lindgren.

After nearly 50 years in Sierra Madre, they recently moved to Thousand Oaks to be closer to family. They are thrilled to finally join Holy Trinity after visiting here for the past 10 years.

## DIAPER COLLECTION

Diaper Collection for Graceful Diapers in Oxnard. Please bring your diapers to church by **October 26th** and the youth will deliver them!



## VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED

Tutoring will start Wednesday, October 8 from 6:00 to 7:30 for our Conejo district families at Bridges Charter School off Arboles at Calle Bouganvilla. You can join us this year as a tutor or as a substitute tutor. I will have an orientation the week before on Wednesday, Oct. 1 at 6:00 on the Bridges campus, Room 18. This will be an opportunity to talk about materials, schedule and our process. If you are interested in volunteering. but can't make the orientation, let me know and we can set up another time to connect. We always allow for flexibility in attendance! Contact me at [dixhanson@gmail.com](mailto:dixhanson@gmail.com) or by telephone (805) 368-5709 for questions and to volunteer.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS 2025-2026

President\*: Steve Hanke

Vice President\*: Ellen Feigal

Treasurer\*: Thomas Harris (*non-voting member of council*)

Secretary\*: Brewster King

### Other Members:

Pastor Erik Goehner

Pastor Emily Ebert

Bernie Bauer

Joan Eggert

Marty Kreman

Yolanda Mosley

Tim Wagenknecht

\*Executive Team

## ONE WORSHIP + LUNCH ON OCTOBER 12TH

Please mark your calendars for a One worship service on Oct. 12 at 10:00am followed by a free brunch at 11:15am. We are doing this special worship because it will be the last Sunday of our annual stewardship drive and the committee would like to use the time to thank the congregation and celebrate all the response forms that will have come in. The hope is that having the luncheon right after a one worship will make it easier for many people to attend. All are encouraged to join us!



**RSVP**

## THANK YOU FROM NEW HORIZONS

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Family,

Many thanks for your generous donation to The Ray of Life project. Your donation will provide 8 "Ray of Life" kits for Ukrainians in need of light. The kits will be assembled here in Minnesota and shipped to Ukraine.

Bless you,  
Dave Nonnemacher





## GRACE IN ACTION STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

This year's Stewardship theme is around celebrating ways that we can take God's free gift of grace towards us and turn it into acts of service for others. At worship, in our weekly e-newsletter and on our social media platforms we will be hearing from a variety of members who will be sharing stories of how they have seen Grace in Action at Holy Trinity.

One way that grace can be put into action is through the stewardship or management of our financial resources and how we might use those resources to share a message of God's love with others. It is particularly helpful when folks pledge their support in advance so that the church knows what it might expect for its finances for the coming year and can plan accordingly.

Would you consider pledging this year? In this issue of the Tempo there is a copy of the pledge form which you may fill out, detach and send back to the church. You can also use an online form to respond if you prefer that. We hope you will keep supporting Holy Trinity this year or perhaps support the church for the first time by filling out a response form. Thanks!

online  
form

GRACE  
IN  
ACTION

GRACE

IN

ACTION

2026  
**PLEDGE FORM**  
DUE OCT 12

<https://bit.ly/2026HTLC>  


### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(cell) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

### 2026 FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

☐ I/We plan to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each ☐ week ☐ month ☐ year  
for an annual total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ towards our mission and ministry.

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

☐ My partner/spouse already submitted our pledge information

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

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

### I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- ☐ Reader during worship at ☐ 9:30 am ☐ 11 AM ☐ Either Service  
☐ Communion Assistant at ☐ 9:30 am ☐ 11 AM ☐ Either Service  
☐ Usher at ☐ 9:30 am ☐ 11 AM ☐ Either Service  
☐ Communion Set up/Clean up  
☐ Join a Life Group--A small gathering of people (6-12) who meet together for encouragement, connection, and spiritual growth.

## REFRESHING THE PRAYER LIST

You may have seen in a previous article that we are going to be refreshing the prayer list once a quarter as a way of keeping it more updated and not too long. This means that we will be starting a new list in October. We realize that many people may need on-going prayer so if you would like to have someone put back on the list, please contact the church office at: [churchoffice@htlcto.org](mailto:churchoffice@htlcto.org) or put your prayer request in the offering plate on Sunday. We will then make sure your request gets back on the Prayer List for the new quarter. Thanks!



## HTLC WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join us on **Saturday, October 18** at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall for Session 2, "*Stewardship: How do we tend our treasure?*"

"In this second part of our Gather Bible study series on Money, Stewardship, and Generosity, we will try to demystify the 'churchy' concept of stewardship and recover it as a helpful spiritual and real-world practice." Join us for conversation on what the Bible tells us about stewardship of time, talent and material resources.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Mystery Library Event on **October 19th** Between Services. What is a "Mystery Library Event"? It's a mystery, but you will have to come to the library for cookies and coffee and see what books are featured! The double library doors will be opened between services. Come and check it out!

Also check out Brian's review of *Bethlehem Besieged*. It was written in 2006, but unfortunately, is similar to what is happening today. Makes you think! Hope to see you on the 19th!



**SIGN UP**

## TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible Study for October .... The Gospel of Luke

The Gospel of Luke invites us to explore the story of Jesus and his mission as God's Chosen One (Messiah). From the joyous accounts of Jesus' birth in a stable in Bethlehem to the stark images of Golgotha to the eye-opening meal at Emmaus, we are invited into a remarkable story. This course invites participants into rich discovery as they explore key stories and events of this Gospel with author David Tiede as our guide.

Join us Tuesdays at 10:30am in the church Fellowship Hall to explore more about how this shift in Christianity could happen. Learner books can be purchased through the church office for \$15.00.

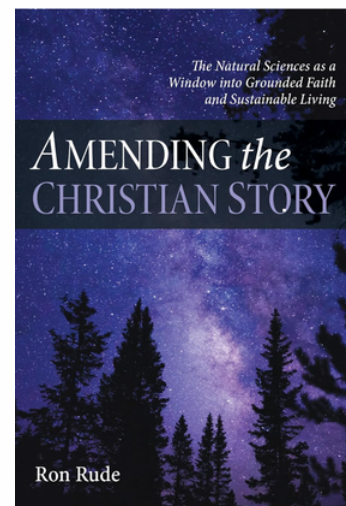
Here's the reading guide for October:

**Oct. 7** - Chapter 14 and 15 and Epilogue of *Amending the Christian Story*

**Oct. 14** - Gospel of Luke...Why was Jesus Born? (Luke 2:1-20)

**Oct. 21** - Gospel of Luke....What Will Become of This Child? (Luke 2:21-40)

**Oct. 28** - Gospel of Luke .... Let God Be God! (Luke 4:14-30)







### Curriculum:

We have aligned our TK class curriculum. We will be meeting monthly to exchange ideas and make changes to the curriculum if needed. This new process will provide fluidity of instruction between TK teachers, as well as best preparing TK students for Kindergarten.

### Registration:

Our enrollment numbers are slowly rising as I continue to give tours to new prospective parents. We are hopeful that we will enroll more families into Honey Tree.

### Donations:

Honey Tree has been so blessed to have large donations making it possible to complete and/or purchase the following:

- Our new Honey Tree mural. It looks so beautiful and inviting.
- A new playground equipment has arrived and will be installed October 3 & 4
- Purchase necessary storage sheds, and more

We are so very thankful to the Lindgren family and others. A big Thank you to all volunteers who installed our new light. It takes a village!

### Conferences:

Parent-Teacher Conference will be held in October. Families will share information about their child and teachers will provide feedback on a student's success. These early conferences are very helpful to compare progress throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vickie Cass, Director

### Upcoming Dates:

October 3rd & 4th: Community Build play yard equipment installation.

October 16th – 24th: School pictures

October 26th: Holy Trinity Trunk or Treat, 4pm – 6pm

October 30th & 31<sup>st</sup>: Honey Tree Halloween Parade, 9:15 am

## WELCA CONVENTION

The Biennial Convention of the Synodical Women's Organization will be held Friday and Saturday, October 10–11 at California Lutheran University. Our theme is *All Are Welcome: Celebrating Diverse Voices*. The program includes music, Bible study, workshops, elections and the opportunity for renewal and connection. Registration is \$80 and includes dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday. Registration on Friday begins at 12noon with program beginning at 1pm and Saturday registration is at 8am with the program ending at 3pm. Registration forms are in the church office. Questions: Dixie Hanson [dixhanson@gmail.com](mailto:dixhanson@gmail.com)



2025 SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA  
WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION  
**WELCA FALL  
CONVENTION**  
ALL ARE WELCOME:  
*Celebrating Diverse Voices*

Prism Garden  
Hotel  
Newbury Park

**REGISTRATION**  
Registration – \$80 pp  
HOTEL: Single Occupancy  
– \$155 pp per night  
Double Occupancy –  
\$85 pp pr night

**OCTOBER 10–11,  
2025**

- Inspiring Bible study & plenary sessions
- Music, worship, and meaningful workshops
- Opportunities for renewal and connection

SCAN TO REGISTER

California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks

QUESTIONS? Julie Jensen | Convention Registrar  
(805) 218-8416 | [jujujnsn21@gmail.com](mailto:jujujnsn21@gmail.com)

## PASTOR EMILY AT GATHERING AT THE GATE IN WASHINGTON D.C.

On September 15-17, I went to Washington D.C. alongside other members of the ELCA to advocate for SNAP and Medicaid. Bishop Bos and Desta Goehner were also in attendance. We attended a California Constituents Coffee with Senators Padilla and Schiff and met with some of their staff to discuss SNAP, Medicaid, and Housing. Then, we met with Representatives Julia Brownley and staff from Representative Judy Chu's office. At the end of the day, I attended a meeting alongside my mom who came from Ohio to meet with Senator Husted. What did we learn?

- We need to find resources and help educate our community on how to access healthcare in the future. Requirements are changing and extensive paperwork will make it more difficult.
- The Big Beautiful Bill doubles the infrastructure budget for detainment centers and prisons
- 2.4 million will lose their SNAP benefits at the end of 2026
- 10 million will be uninsured by the end of 2027 due to the cuts to Medicare (this information comes from the congressional budget office)
- We will not see a lot of the changes until after midterm elections based on when they are planned to roll out.
- There is a bipartisan bill gaining steam in the house called the "Road to Housing Act."

Many of our congresspeople expressed that it is becoming ever more difficult to meet in the middle or make any substantial moves. After all the meetings were said and done, it was saddening to hear about the weight of greed and fear that is preventing democratic process. However, I still heard hope in the voices of some who expressed they will not give up. And they can't do it alone.

We are the ones here in our communities day in and day who will see the effects of decisions being made by those in power. We are the ones who need to share our stories, serve as witnesses, and name the hard truths. We can make intentional choices that express who we are and what we are about as Christ-followers: that we seek freedom for the oppressed (not more prisons), food for the hungry (not 2.4 million people losing their SNAP benefits), healing for those who are hurting (not 10 million people going uninsured and not having access to good healthcare). As Christ followers, we seek communities being made whole, and this work is becoming increasingly urgent.

- Pastor Emily



## OCTOBER CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY

### Youth Group Schedule:

**Sunday, Oct. 5:** 10:45–11:30, start in Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, Oct 12:** 3–4:30, Youth Room

**Sunday, Oct. 19:** TBD

**Sunday, Oct 26:** Trunk or Treat

+ Confirmation every Wednesday through October 22nd.

### Faith Explorers Schedule:

**Sunday, Oct. 5:** 10:45–11:30, Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, Oct. 19:** 10:45–11:30, Fellowship Hall

## YOUNG ADULT GROUP



We'll be back to our monthly table talks on **October 5th** in the church library.

## FAIR TRADE

**FAIR TRADE**

### Fair Trade Baking with Miriam

Happy October! When it gets cooler and fall flavors pop up all over, I think of pumpkin chocolate chip cookies, a most wonderful recipe I got from B.J. Slattum. The recipe makes 8 dozen cookies and I can do it in less than 2 hours! And they freeze well. I plan to make some soon and have them for the October library event on **October 19th**. I use the Equal Exchange chocolate chips. A bit pricey at \$7 a bag for 10 oz. but very delicious. One customer at Holy Trinity bought 2 bags in September. I'm ordering more! We also have baking cocoa for

for \$6.50 a container.

This month we will be back to our 2nd and 4th Sunday selling schedule, October 12 and 26, between services and after the 11:00. I will try to turn in our cheese order. If you like the cheddar cheese, we have the 3 and 5 year aged white cheddar for sale at \$6 each. I order from Ascension Lutheran and their Fair Trade person brings it over to Holy Trinity. Sign up on the clipboard on our table and pay ahead of time. I will let you know when the cheese will be available to pick up. Enjoy the fall flavors and get ready for the Fair Trade Christmas Sale on November 23rd!

Your Fair Trade Team

Miriam Nakayama, Nancy Truex, Terri Kelly

## UPCOMING MANNA EVENTS

HTLC will be having a Stewardship/Pledge Drive Luncheon, **Sunday, October 12th**. The event's service project will be to provide donations for Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank. So please come to the luncheon, (we're serving authentic Greek food from Mythpoint Bistro), and bring something to give to Manna.

A second Manna event begins the following week, on **Monday, October 20th**. Gold Coast Veterans Foundation has asked us to help them with their annual Veterans Day Food Drive. Gold Coast Veterans Foundation has partnered with Manna, and they help organizations with Manna collections. (Manna works with veterans and their families to provide food assistance year round.) The GCVF will drop off special bins at HTLC on that Monday, and return to pick them up in November, shortly after Veterans Day. They ask for canned and boxed items, please no glass jars.

In September, HTLC generously gave 94 pounds in



## MANNA CONT.

donations to Manna.

The current list of Most Needed Items:

1. Broth – Chicken, Vegetable, Beef, Etc.
2. Canned Meat – Chicken or Spam
3. Boxed Mashed Potatoes
4. Canned Pasta Sauce
5. Canned Refried Beans
6. Oatmeal
7. Coffee or Tea
8. Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, or Tissue
9. Condiments – Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Mustard, Etc.
10. Canned Chili

It's going to be a busy October! 🎃

Happy Halloween!

Karen and Marty Kreman

## OCTOBER MEDITATION GROUP

The peace of the Lord be with you all!

Our Meditation group meets each Thursday at 4:00 pm. On October 2, the first Thursday of the month, we will meet by Zoom. Contact Miriam at [miriamnakayama@gmail.com](mailto:miriamnakayama@gmail.com) for an invite.

On Thursdays, Oct. 9, 16, 23 and 30 we meet at 4:00 in the church library, which is in the office building through the double doors. Come join us. A quote from John Main, our international group founder, "...when we meditate we are not trying to do anything: we are simply attending to the reality of the divine Presence and learning to be in that Presence." The Present Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Miriam Nakayama



## DORCAS QUILTING OCTOBER GATHERING

We will gather in October to continue any special projects and finish cozy lap robes for warmth and cheer. Christmas quilts will be started and completed at the November meeting.

Thanks to those who give a boost to our group by donating fabric and batting. We could not continue to make quilts without you.

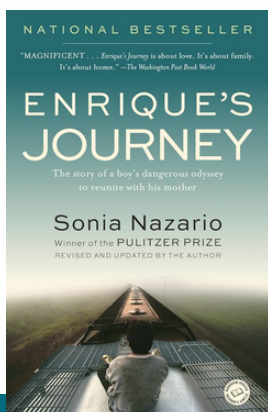
We will meet **Thursday, October 16 at 9:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Remembering every little stitch we sew adds comfort and love to someone's life.



## THEA BOOK CIRCLE

Enrique's Journey by Sonia Nazario is our October read. The author is an award winning journalist who won the Pulitzer Prize for the story of Enrique. Originally published in the L. A. Times the book tells the story of Enrique's mother leaving him at age 5 to work in the United States and the 11 year journey Enrique took to find her.

The group will meet in October on **Monday the 27th at 7:00 pm** in the church library.



## TREASURER'S NOTE

Excellent news for Holy Trinity has come through over the summer and deserves celebrating. First, our church is one of many nonprofit institutions affected by the COVID-19 pandemic that applied for an Employee Retention Credit (ERC). This tax credit is intended to help some businesses and nonprofits deal with financial ripple effects from the early pandemic. After a long wait, this approx. \$19,000 ERC was issued to Holy Trinity by the IRS in July. Second, our church's solar panel installation was eligible for a government rebate. This solar panel rebate was issued in September for a net approx. \$38,000. Claiming the ERC and the solar rebate required a great deal of work even though Holy Trinity qualified for both of them — for example, time spent organizing our church documentation and coordinating with outside institutions like the solar company and a specially certified tax preparer. Many people helped to make this happen, and in particular Grace Nelson and Mike Sadowski should be applauded for their significant & dedicated contributions to these processes. It's exciting that such hard work has paid off for the Holy Trinity community!

In more routine news, giving income for Holy Trinity and many other churches shifts seasonally and often exhibits a summer slowdown while some folks travel out of town. For example, in August 2025 non-pledged giving to Holy Trinity was approx. \$3,200 (~30%) below the monthly budget and pledged giving was approx. \$6,700 (~20%) below the monthly budget. This summer slowdown has eaten up budget surpluses from spring 2025, but it's likely things will speed up again going into the fall.

Fall is also the time of year when Holy Trinity organizes annual financial pledge requests because planning for a year of community worship, gathering, advocacy, and service is a tremendous

undertaking. Responding to the church's request for information about your intent for the 2026 calendar year – even if to say that you're not planning to pledge – is critical for planning the upcoming annual budget. Thank you for your time spent responding to this request for input, and should you choose to make a pledge please know that there is no inappropriate amount or schedule. All gifts of all kinds fuel the care that this church community weaves for one another and for the local community that depends on us.

Peace,  
Thomas Harris

## SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION • NOVEMBER 16

We are joyfully making plans to celebrate Pastor Erik's 25th Anniversary of his Ordination!

### **Save the Date: Sunday, November 16**

We are honored to welcome Bishop Brenda Bos, who will bring greetings and congratulations and will also be preaching on that Sunday. Following worship, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for tacos, warm fellowship, and a few special stories about Pastor Erik.

A freewill offering (suggested \$10–\$15 per person) will be received to cover the catered lunch and celebration.

In lieu of gifts, Pastor Erik invites us to support Friends of Fieldworkers. His hope is that our congregation can raise \$2,500.00 (For 25 years) as a collective gift in celebration of this milestone.

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us as we thank and honor Pastor Erik for his faithful service.

–Kathleen Sands



## OCTOBER PRAYER REQUESTS

### PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

For everyone affected by the random shootings

For Scott & Lauren Turner, Cindy Grether's friends, who lost their 5-month old son Elliot to SIDS

For Roger Stephenson, for healing after a fall

For Margaret Miller, for healing after a fall

For Nelius Ronning, for healing after knee surgery

For Anita Londgren, for healing of a broken arm

For Joe Ebert (Pastor Emily's husband) for recovery after emergency surgery

For Max Beaman, Stacey Beaman's father, for continued healing after contracting Valley Fever

For the family of Joan Baird, sister of Mary Imslund, upon her recent death

For Dominic Cartum, for healing in his back

For Kristin Oliver's friend Monica, for continued faith and strength

For Kristin Oliver's family upon the passing of her aunt, Janet Drake





## HTLC Library Book Review by Brian McGuire

When I saw this in the HTLC Library I was like "Whoa, ripped from the headlines—a book exposing the inhuman treatment of Palestinians by Israel." Then I realized that it had been written in 2004, that absolutely nothing has improved, and in fact the situation is worse than ever. If you are easily angered, I would not recommend reading this book.

"**Bethlehem Besieged**" is by Mitri Raheb, published by ELCA's Augsburg Press, and donated by former pastor Frank Nausin. The author is an Arabian Christian and a Lutheran minister who presides over the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem. Raheb and his family live within the Lutheran compound, three blocks from Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity.

As brief history, in the Six-day War of 1967 Israel invaded Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and annexed the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip, displacing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and Syrians. The First Intifada started in 1987 and lasted five years: a series of protests and riots over Israel's sustained occupation of Palestinian land. (Intifada is a verbal noun meaning "to shake or dust off" and connotes resistance against oppression.) Raheb's narrative encompasses the Second Intifada of 2000–05. He describes numerous curfews imposed by the Israelis: 24-hour, seven days per week, lasting up to four months. No school and no work. Bethlehem was filled with Israeli tanks and Apache helicopters (guess where those came from?). A forty-day siege of Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity took place where dozens of Palestinian fighters had taken refuge. Raheb witnessed and endured numerous raids and absolutely wanton vandalism by Israeli soldiers on the nearby Lutheran Compound—over and over again. I won't try to paraphrase; here are some of Raheb's remarks:

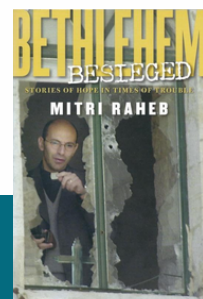
"We suffer because we have to pay the price of the sins of Europe against the Jews. . . . some Europeans deep down feel relieved that the Jewish people finally have their own state outside of Europe. . . . The Holocaust harmed not only the Jewish people but also the Palestinians who became the victims of the victims."

"We also pay for the sins of part of the Jewish Diaspora, especially in the United States. Many American Jews have their own guilt feelings. . . . So they compensate . . . by sending donations to Israel and by lobbying for extreme Israeli policies . . . subsidizing Israel's continuous occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and pressuring the US Congress to support a one-sided pro-Israeli position."

"Then we have the Christian Right in the United States. I do not find much in them that is Christian or right. Deep down they are anti-Semitic, hating Israel and the Jewish people. But in the meantime they don't mind sharing a bed with the Jewish lobby as long as it fulfills their intimate desire for power. They not only support Israel blindly but they try to back its far-right parties which call for expansion of the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories **and even ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians.**" (my italics)

And here we are in 2025.

The book ends with the story of the pipe organ which the Lutheran Christmas Church had owned for over 100 years. Built in Germany and shipped to Palestine in 1893 through the Port of Jaffa, it played for a century: surviving occupations, world wars, regional wars, bombs, and tanks. In 1993 after its 100th birthday the organ was retired due to worn-out components and deferred maintenance that the congregation could not afford. In 1997 a minister visiting from Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Minnesota noticed it in the balcony and asked if he might facilitate its restoration. Funds were raised and in 1998 the organ was dismantled and shipped to Minnesota for rebuilding. It was returned and reassembled with only days to spare. On Christmas Eve 2000 the organ was playing again in Bethlehem.





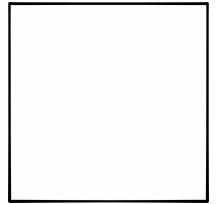
## Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

1 West Avenida de Los Arboles

Thousand Oaks CA 91360-2939

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

**Return service requested**



# OCTOBER 2025

## 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 \$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.



We have a wedding at Holy Trinity in October! Staff member and church members Stacey Beaman and Ryan Lehmann are tying the knot on **10.25.25 at 3:45pm!** Care to watch the ceremony LIVE online? Click the link below on the 25th!



**LIVE** ●

