

THE TEMPO

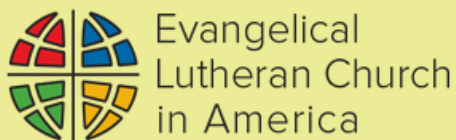
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:30AM INFORMAL
11AM TRADITIONAL

*ONE SERVICE AT
10AM ON 12/28*

“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 CARE EMERGENCY - 805-492-1234, press 1

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DECEMBER

OFFICE HOURS

9:00 AM-2:30 PM

For assistance, please contact
Kathleen Sands
Church Office & Campus Operations Manager

805-492-1234
churchoffice@htlcto.org

GET SOCIAL WITH US



facebook.com/HTLCTO



instagram.com/htlcto/



youtube.com/HTLCTO/



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

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:

Thursday 12/25 &
Friday 12/26

ONE WORSHIP SUNDAY:

Sunday, 12/28
10am Service

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

**DEADLINE FOR TEMPO SUBMISSIONS IS
THE THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH
(DECEMBER 19 FOR JANUARY 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.



DECEMBER EVENTS AT A GLANCE

- 12/2, 9, 16 & 23** - Tuesday Bible Study
- 12/4** - Zoom Meditation
- 12/7** - Angel Tree Books Due
- 12/7, 14, 21 & 28** - GATHER (YAG) meets at 12:15pm
- 12/11** - Meditation in the Church Library
- 12/14 & 12/28** - Fair Trade Sales
- 12/17** - Longest Night Service at 7pm

- 12/18** - Meditation and Potluck at the home of Jim and Randi Oines
- 12/20** - Women's Annual Christmas Gathering
- 12/21** - The Glory of Christmas presentation at 11am
- 12/24** - Christmas Eve Services at 4pm 7pm & 9pm
- 12/28** - One Worship Service at 10am

...
See page 9 for Children, Youth, & Family Events

PASTOR'S NOTE FROM PASTOR ERIK SPEAK A BLESSING

One of my favorite stories around the birth of Jesus that you will rarely hear on Christmas Eve, is one that takes place when Mary has just discovered she is pregnant and she goes to visit her relative Elizabeth in a town away from her own. The story is found in Luke chapter One:

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, **40** where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. **41** When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. **42** In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" **43** But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? **44** As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. **45** Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

Part of the reason that I love this encounter between Mary and Elizabeth is because of the way that Elizabeth speaks a word of blessing into the life of her younger relative. She does it not just once, but three different times: "Blessed are you among women...blessed is the child you will bear...and blessed is she who has believed.." Why so many times? Perhaps Elizabeth sensed that she needed to repeat this word of blessing multiple times to make sure that Mary would really hear it. Perhaps she knew that one of the reasons Mary was coming to her was because the younger woman was not doing well and really needed some help.

I can imagine that Mary was indeed anxious when she went to visit Elizabeth. This was her first pregnancy, and she would have been dealing with all the physiological issues that come along with that including things like morning sickness. She could have most certainly used some

physical support and advice from an older woman. Mary also would have been wrestling with the social stigma she was anticipating as she dealt with becoming pregnant before her marriage to Joseph. She would also have been struggling with what it would mean spiritually and emotionally as she thought about how to tell Joseph what was going on, and as she pondered what God had meant by choosing her to bear this child. I wonder if she actually felt that she was fortunate to be in the situation she was in, or rather had her doubts that being "chosen" was that good of a thing after all.

Yet in that moment when Mary may have been at her wit's end, her relative Elizabeth says she is blessed. Elizabeth speaks a word of affirmation into Mary. She gives a word of encouragement. She reminds Mary that despite how difficult things seemed, God is still with her and God is with this child growing inside her. By speaking this word of blessing, Elizabeth reminds Mary to hang on because she has a higher purpose. She is part of a divine story that will impact the lives of many and if she keeps on believing she will experience the reality of God's promises coming true.

Has anyone ever spoken a word of blessing into your life? Maybe that person didn't use a churchy word like "blessing", but did they give you a word of affirmation? Did they give you a word of encouragement? Did they remind you that you had a purpose when you may have been feeling at your wit's end?

Could we also speak a word of blessing into those around us? Perhaps the biggest gift you could give someone this Christmas is not another material thing they don't really need, but rather a word of affirmation and encouragement. How might you bless the store

PASTOR'S NOTE CONTINUED

clerk checking out your groceries or the retail sales person ringing up your purchase? How might you bless the server, housekeeper, or caregiver who helps you? How might you bless your spouse, child or friend with the words you use?

Just as Elizabeth was filled with the Spirit as she greeted Mary, you might be surprised how someone else is filled with a spirit of joy when you greet them with a word of blessing.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SHIRLEE STONE

A DEVOUT MEMBER OF HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THOUSAND OAKS

A heartfelt thank you to Pastor Emily, our Choir Director Jim Wilber, and the HTLCTO Choir for celebrating Shirlee in such a beautiful way.

On the morning of October 26, Shirlee called my mobile to say her entire family was with her celebrating her birthday and that I shouldn't come—no time for communion and worship that day! Little did she know that her son Greg and I had been planning a surprise. Just after noon, when the whole family was gathered, the door to her apartment opened. Pastor Emily and Jim Wilber entered with 12 choir members. They sang her favorite hymn, Beautiful Savior, followed by Happy Birthday. Pastor Emily then offered a special Birthday Blessing to Shirlee. It was simply remarkable—unique, heartfelt, and deeply touching.

Thank you, Pastor Emily. Thank you, Jim and the choir: Ann, Cody, Joey, Koby, Maggie and Friend, Marty, Mike, Nancy, Nina, Susie, and Tim.

~ Yvonne Bernschneider



On the sofa: Shirlee with her son Greg and daughter Cindy

COMMUNION MINISTRY – BEYOND THE CHURCH'S WALL

Often, the simplest actions and the presence of caring company speak volumes. That is the heart of our Communion Ministry.

"It is overwhelming," said Shirlee when she received the personalized note on the bulletin from Bishop Bos. She listened intently to the sermon, nodding many times as she deeply absorbed the message.

Although Shirlee regrets that she can no longer come to church, our Communion Ministry keeps the connection alive—extending love and meaning beyond the church walls.

A special thank you to Bishop Bos for writing such a thoughtful note for Shirlee. It meant more than words can describe.

~ Yvonne Bernschneider



go to children for the Harbor House Adopt a Family program.

We also have stars to take, and each star represents a \$25 Target or grocery store card that will go to needy families in our local tutoring program. Please purchase and return to the sign & holder next to the tree, the church office or the fair-trade table. The gift cards will be delivered in early January.

If you have any questions, please ask anyone from our Community Outreach team- Pastor Emily Ebert, Sheri Groenveld, Dixie Hanson, Karen Kreman, Miriam Nakayama, Mike Sadowski and Susan Salmore

POINSETTIAS TO DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS



If you would like to donate a poinsettia to honor someone or in memory of someone, please put \$15.00 in one of the flower envelopes found in the back of the chairs and place it in the offering or send it to the church office. OR - use the link below.

ORDER 

HOLY TRINITY ANGEL TREE

Please look for our Angel Tree in the narthex of the church and take an angel or star to give back during this time of Advent. Each Angel taken means you will buy a book for the age written.

Please wrap the book and tape the angel on the book, then bring back to the Angel Tree and place underneath by **Sunday, December 7**. All books will

JOIN IN THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS

The HTLC Choir would like to invite anyone who enjoys singing to join us in our presentation of **The Glory of Christmas** at the 11am Service on December 21st. We will be rehearsing the music in the Sanctuary from 7:00-7:30pm each Thursday night leading up to the presentation. Please take some time and consider the joy it will bring to your Holiday Season along with the Joy it will bring to those listening on December 21st.

Make a **"Joyful Noise Unto the Lord."**



WOMEN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Join us on **Saturday, December 20 at 2pm** for our annual Christmas Gathering. Bring cookies to share if you would like. (Come anyway, even without cookies.) We will have a program of singing carols and sharing stories.. Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season!

Dixie Hanson



MANNA UPDATES

The manna update is impressive this month:

896 POUNDS!!! That's how much HTLC donated to Manna Food Bank, through Gold Coast Veterans Foundation, for their Veterans Day Food Drive. 896 pounds is equivalent to 10 months of our typical donations. Amazing! The GCVF volunteer, who collected from us each week - and a veteran himself - was very impressed and appreciative. HTLC made for a very successful Veterans Day Food Drive for GCVF, and for Manna.

The Holiday Season is here. Festive packaged foods, such as cookies, would make the holidays even merrier.

Here is the current list of Most Needed Items:

1. Broth - Canned or Soft Sided Carton
2. Canned Soup - Any Kind
3. Canned Meat - Chicken or Spam
4. Canned Pasta Sauce
5. Instant Mashed Potatoes
6. Coffee, Tea, or Hot Chocolate
7. Canned Refried Beans
8. Instant Ramen
9. Cereal
10. Condiments - Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Mustard, Etc.



Please leave donations on the designated table in the narthex. Merry Christmas! - Karen and Marty

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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.

Our plan is to read through the entire Gospel of Luke, reading two chapters a week. Because Luke is twenty four chapters long it will take us a total of 12 weeks. In October & November we covered chapters 1-12. In December, we will get to chapters 13-18.

Join us **Tuesdays at 10:30am** in the church Fellowship Hall to explore more about how this shift in Christianity could happen.

Here's the reading guide for December:

- Dec. 2** - Luke chapters 10 & 11
- Dec. 9**- Luke chapters 12 & 13
- Dec. 16** - Luke chapters 14 & 15
- Dec. 23** - No Bible Study
- Dec. 30** - TBD





*Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”
Isaiah 7:14*

As the Christmas season falls upon us we feel a shift in the community towards thankfulness and giving to others. This time of year people are kinder and smiles abound. It truly is a season of joy.

Thanksgiving curriculum is always such a wonderful time of year focusing on community and sharing, and gratitude. Lessons and activities reflected those themes and the sharing of a Thanksgiving meal highlights the importance of coming together in gratitude and the rewards of community. Students enjoyed Thanksgiving feasts in classrooms covered with painted leaves, turkeys with feathers and reflections of gratitude. Honey Tree was closed for the week of Thanksgiving for families to enjoy a week of thanks with loved ones.

The Christmas season has begun at Honey Tree. Students will learn about the Nativity Story and the reason we celebrate Christmas. Lessons and activities will also include reindeers, evergreen trees, as well as the standard letters and numbers. TK teachers are providing engaging lessons focusing on pre-reading skills both through direct instruction as well as play-based activities. Classes are going to the Church to practice songs for their performances on Dec. 18th and 19th. The students are an absolute delight to see perform! Fun and engaging activities abound!

Honey Tree will be partnering with Harbor House’s

Adopt-a-Family Program providing families with holiday gifts and necessities this Christmas season. Honey Tree staff and families love to be a part of this rewarding time of giving.

Upcoming events:

Crazy Hair Days – Dec. 8 & 9

Pastor Visits – Dec. 10 & 11

Holiday Performances – Dec. 18 & 19, 11:00am

Christmas Break – Dec. 22 – Jan. 2

We wish everyone a blessed and happy Holiday Season surrounded by family, friends, and the warmth of God’s Grace.

–Vickie Cass, Honey Tree Director

A THANK YOU FROM GLOBAL REFUGE



GlobalRefuge.org
700 Light St, Baltimore, MD 21230
410-230-2858 | giving@globalrefuge.org

October 23, 2025

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1 W Avenida De Los Arboles
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Psalm 46*

Dear Friends of Global Refuge,

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$125.00 to Global Refuge. Since 1939, we’ve built a legacy of compassion by walking alongside more than 770,000 new neighbors as they rebuild their lives in the United States, restoring a sense of home for families who had to leave theirs. With a growing need of more than 100 million people displaced around the world, our work is needed more than ever.

On behalf of all of us at Global Refuge, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your gift. Thank you for supporting our long-term work of welcome by creating safer, more rewarding realities for those we serve.

With gratitude,



Andrew G. Steele
Chief Development and Mobilization Officer

P.S. Can your gift be matched? Matching gift opportunities are available through many employers or organizations.

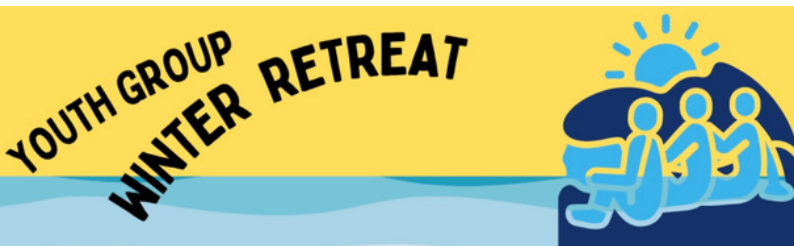
P.P.S. Make a lasting impact through legacy planning by contacting legacy@globalrefuge.org.

*This letter confirms your tax-deductible gift of \$125.00 to Global Refuge,
deposited on 10/7/2025, and assures that no goods or services
were received in response to your contribution.*

DECEMBER CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY

December Faith Explorers and Youth Group
Sunday, Dec. 7: 10:45–11:30, Youth Room and Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Dec. 21: 3–4:30, Youth Room and Fellowship Hall



REGISTER NOW for the Winter Beach Youth Retreat. Join the youth group down in Laguna Beach over MLK weekend. Mike Sadowski and Joan Eggert have offered their home to us. Leave in the morning on the 17th, return around lunch on the 19th

Sleeping arrangements: some will have beds, some will have air mattresses or the floor. We'll eat breakfast at the house, and eat out once or twice.

What will we do: With a weekend to reset for the new year, we'll talk about identity and who we want to be as faith-full youth in 2026. We will play games, go for a hike, walk the beach, the youth can swim and use the hot tub if they'd like, and we might even try to make it to the marine rescue center.

Please register by December 15th so we can plan appropriately.

All-inclusive Cost is \$75, and we have scholarships available. Please pay online at htlcto.org/give and choose "high school youth" for the fund. (Yes it says high school, but this goes to the larger youth group trip fund.)

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Click the button below to access this year's Advent devotional. Or, pick up a printed copy in the church narthex.

Our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided a special e-reader version of this year's Advent devotional, which you can access on your computer and mobile devices. In order to protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.



PASTOR EMILY'S CONTACT INFORMATION

New Phone Number: 805-910-7179

Email: pastoremily@htlcto.org

I generally work from home during the week, however, you can contact me just about anytime, especially for pastoral care needs. I am available to meet Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Thursday or Friday are for sermon writing, youth events, etc., and I try to take one of those days plus Saturday as my days off. Every week looks a little different! Thanks!

YOUNG ADULT GROUP



YAG (Young Adult Group), now known as GATHER meets weekly at 12:15 after church for a Bible study. Contact Pastor Emily to be added to the emails and text chains for information on special outings.

The Fair Trade table and counter will be open on Sundays, December 14 and 28, between services and after the 11:00. Our chocolate bars(\$3.50), mini-chocolates(\$.25), evoo(\$14.00), and medjool dates(\$14) make excellent stocking stuffers or hostess gifts.

Thank you for supporting our Fair Trade Ministry throughout this past year! May your holiday season be full of joy and contemplation, and purchases that make a difference!

Blessings from our Fair Trade Team

- Miriam Nakayama, Nancy Truex, Terri Kelly

MUSIC POSITION SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who filled out the survey regarding the music programs here at Holy Trinity. The Survey and Search Committee met on November 20th to review the survey results and start working on a job description.

FAIR TRADE



Preparing and Rejoicing in a Fair Trade Way with Miriam

Thank you to all who bought fair trade items from HumanKind at our sale on November 23rd. Every purchase matters when you shop the fair trade way! I hope you found something fun and wonderful. We passed last year's total and made **\$5311** this year!!! So much support for the artisans. On the tag of my new microwave bowl cozy, it says, "By paying a fair price for this product you are enabling Guatemalan women to pull themselves out of poverty and to care for their families."

The Holy Trinity Fair trade coupon from HumanKind is good until December 18. Free shipping with discount code CHURCH2025.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

If you get to church early on Sundays, or find yourself in a meeting in the library, check out the featured books on the shelf and counter. There will be a Christmas theme with devotional, historical and fun books featured. I have read two library books this past month and really enjoyed them. I've never enjoyed writing book reports, but maybe I'll have to do one. In the meantime, ask me about *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang and *Many Witnesses, One Lord* by William Barclay. William Barclay was one of my go-to authors when I was teaching English Bible Study in Japan. He explains things clearly and makes a lot of sense. In this book he goes over the books of the New Testament and how the authors see Jesus.

Maybe over the holidays, you'll have time to read a book! Just step in the double doors and browse our shelves. Then find the clipboard near the double door on the short file cabinet and sign your name and the book title. Happy Holiday Reading!

-Miriam Nakayama and Laurel Engstrom

PLEDGE DRIVE RESULTS

Our annual stewardship campaign and pledge drive took place this fall with a theme of **Grace in Action**. We focused our Sunday messages around this theme as well as a series of Temple Talks where our speakers shared personal stories and explored different ways of looking at how we give. This included thinking about giving as a percentage of our income, giving as a consistent dollar amount, and first fruits giving as a way of honoring God as first in our lives.

I am excited to share that members of Holy Trinity have taken the idea of stewardship to heart and received many responses in a timely manner before and on Commitment Sunday. We celebrated with a delicious meal and heard from some more folks about the impact the church has made in their lives. Many of the responses we received were in the form of pledges. To date we have heard from 101 people, for a total of over **\$454,000** worth of pledges. There were others who also responded they would give but would not be committing to a certain pledge at this time.

We are very thankful for all of these generous intentions which are very helpful in guiding the council and in putting together a ministry plan and budget to fund it for 2026. If you have not turned in a response yet it is not too late. You can go to this link and fill out the form electronically: <https://htlcto.breezechms.com/form/2026pledge>. You can also come by the office to get a hardcopy.

On behalf of myself, Pastor Emily, the Stewardship committee and church council, we are very grateful for your commitments!

-Pastor Erik

DECEMBER MEDITATION GROUP

During the holidays there are a lot of candles and flames. We use a candle during meditation to remind us that God is here....our Light. I found a quote from John Main from his book Word Made Flesh about a light, that I'm imagining as a candle:

It often seems as if we rush through life at such a high speed (Like during this holiday month) while in our heart there is the essential interior flame of being. Our rushing often brings it to the point of extinction. But when we sit down to meditate in stillness and simplicity the flame begins to burn brightly and steadily. As we abandon thinking in terms of success and self-importance, the light of the flame helps us to understand ourselves and others in terms of light, warmth and love.

If you need a structured community of stillness to help your flame "burn brightly and steadily," please join us on Zoom on Thursday, December 4, at 4pm. Contact Miriam at miriamnakayama@gmail.com for a Zoom Invite.

On Thursday, December 11, we will meet in-person at 4 pm in the church library. On Thursday, December 18 at 4 pm, we will meet at the home of Jim and Randi Oines to meditate and have a potluck. All meditators are invited, that includes wannabe meditators, contact Miriam for details. No meditation on Thursday, December 25th or January 1st.

May your flame burn brightly this holiday season

-Miriam Nakayama



AS CHRISTMAS APPROACHES, MARK YOUR CALENDAR



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 7PM

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Pause. Breath. Light a candle for a loved one. And join us in singing Holden Evening Prayer. December 21st is the Winter solstice, and while we aren't gathering quite on that night, we hope you will join us on December 17th instead. Though Christmas is a time of joy and hope, we also recognize that fear and grief are often present too, weighing on us like a heavy fog. No matter what emotions we carry with us, we will pause, keep vigil, and invite God to be with us.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST, 11AM

THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS

The HTLC Choir presents The Glory of Christmas at the 11am Service on December 21st.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4pm: Playful family-oriented service with candlelight, no communion

7pm: Christmas Eve by candlelight and choir, with communion

9pm: Christmas Eve by candlelight and soloists, with communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH, 10AM

ONE WORSHIP SUNDAY

Only ONE Worship service on **December 28th - 10am**

Wear your pajamas to church! Or your favorite Christmas sweater. Come comfortable and as you are. We'll have treats and sing Christmas songs, hearing the stories of the time following Jesus' birth and holding tightly to the hope that it brings.



CELEBRATING PASTOR ERIK'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

On November 16, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church members gathered to celebrate Pastor Erik's Silver Jubilee, marking **twenty-five years of faithful service**, and commitment to God's people – a milestone he would probably not want to make a big fuss about. During the planning stage, he did say, "Keep it simple" but everyone was grateful for the chance to pause and thank him for all that he does.

Bishop Brenda Bos joined Holy Trinity for the day and was received with joy. She brought greetings, congratulations, a magnificent message, and she gave Pastor Erik a sincere, heartfelt blessing. Pastor Erik's family members led the congregation in singing a favorite hymn, which everyone loved. His family thanked the congregation for being a community that cares for and supports their pastors and said they have been blessed by all of us.



BLESSING FOR A 25th ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Gracious God, we thank you for raising up men and women of faith to preach your Word and administer your Sacraments. We especially thank you for Pastor Erik's "Yes" to God 25 years ago. As you have blessed him during 25 years of ministry, grant that he may continue to keep his ordination vows, fulfill his duties of ministry, serve your people, build up your Church, and glorify your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C. Amen.

Everyone had lunch together in the Fellowship Hall and church members took turns giving speeches, thanking Pastor Erik and expressing appreciation. Words used in the speeches to describe his leadership included wisdom, gentle, inspirational, compassionate, organized, dedicated, patient, and kind. A handcrafted quilt designed by Susan Howie was given to Pastor Erik that included individual quilt blocks with handwritten messages from all the church members. He was told with the speeches and with the quilt that the entire Holy Trinity congregation celebrates him with joy!

In gratitude for 25 years of service, Pastor Erik invited us to celebrate not with personal gifts, but by giving to a cause close to his heart. In lieu of gifts, he asked that donations be made to Friends of Fieldworkers, with the goal of raising \$2,500 – for 25 years of ministry. This offering of love will help support those who labor to feed our communities.

It was a Spirit-filled day as we celebrated together. We gave thanks as we thought about God's leading Holy Trinity in so many ways over the years. It was a great time to build community as the church packed the Fellowship Hall, various members re-connected with each other, and we reflected on the joint ministry that can be accomplished through the partnerships of pastors and congregations.



~Kathleen Sands

MORE PHOTOS FROM FALL AT HOLY TRINITY

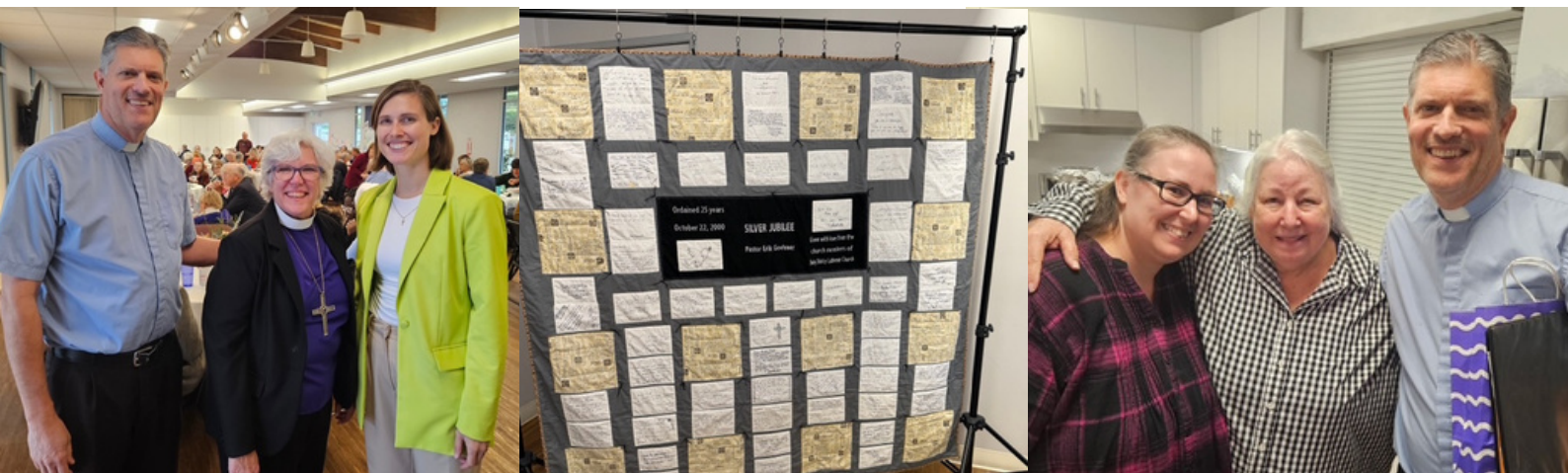
Beaman/Lehmann Wedding - October 25th



Trunk or Treat - October 26th



The Silver Jubilee - November 16th



DECEMBER PRAYER REQUESTS

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

For all those affected by gun violence

For those affected by the wildfires in Northern California

For Juanita and Roger Stephenson, for grace, mercy, peace, and strength

For Joanne Aasen, Todd Ekenstam's aunt, who is going through chemotherapy

For Pamela Baldwin, as she recovers from surgery

For Kyle and Evan, as they struggle with making a change in their lives

For Rob Hill, for recovery after surgery

For Anthony, friend of Karla Lysdal-Moffit, who is struggling with depression and lack of housing

For Nelius Ronning, for healing after knee surgery

For Anita Londgren, for healing of a broken arm

For Jess Kinnary, Chris Erickson's cousin, and her new baby who was born prematurely

For Dominic Cartum, for healing in his back

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

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

For Kristin Oliver's friend Rick Kempf for healing after surgery

For Dennis Hardy's friend Adam, for peace, comfort, and healing of digestive system problems

For Aislinn Smalling, the daughter of Ralph & Jill Smalling, who was diagnosed with breast cancer

For Monica Reza, friend of Chris Erickson who went missing while hiking in Angeles Forest

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

For the family of Ginny Connell, upon her recent death

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

For the family of Larry and Joy Goehner, upon their recent deaths

For the family of Lester McClean, upon his recent death

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



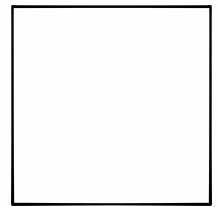


Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

1 West Avenida de Los Arboles

Thousand Oaks CA 91360-2939

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



Return service requested

December 2025

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

4PM

PLAYFUL
FAMILY-
ORIENTED,
PRAISE BAND

7PM

CHOIR & ORGAN
+ COMMUNION

9PM

SOLOISTS
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DID YOU KNOW?

December 8 is Bodhi Day in the Buddhist calendar, celebrating Buddha's enlightenment; it's celebrated in a way that's similar to how Christians celebrate Christmas to honor Jesus Christ.

December 14 marks the beginning of Hanukkah this year, the 8-day Jewish festival of lights.