



THE TEMPO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

9:30AM

INFORMAL SERVICE

11AM

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

ONE SERVICE AT 10AM ON 1/25

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



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



California
Interfaith
Power
& Light

1 West Avenida de los Arboles, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360-2939
805-492-1234 office churchoffice@htlcto.org www.htlcto.org
PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCY - 805-492-1234, press 1

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*Happy
New Year*

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



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@htlcto.bsky.social

**One
Worship Sunday**

JANUARY 25, 2026 | 10AM

followed by a Congregational Budget
Approval Meeting at 11:15AM

**SEND FUTURE NEWSLETTER & SOCIAL
MEDIA SUBMISSIONS TO
COMMUNICATIONS@HTLCTO.ORG
DEADLINE FOR TEMPO SUBMISSIONS IS THE
THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH
(JANUARY 16 FOR FEBRUARY 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.



JANUARY EVENTS AT A GLANCE

1/4 - GATHER (Young Adult Group)
1/6, 13, 20, & 27 - Tuesday Bible Study
1/8 - Zoom Meditation
1/10 - Women's Bible Study
1/11 - Film Screening & Discussion
1/15 - Dorcas Quilting Circle
1/15, 22, & 29 - Meditation in the Church Library

1/17 - 1/19 - MS/HS Winter Retreat
1/19 - Office Closed for MLK Day
1/25 - RIC Sunday
1/25 - One Worship at 10am
1/25 - Congregational Meeting
1/26 - THEA Book Circle

CYF Schedule on page 6

PASTOR'S NOTE FROM PASTOR ERIK

BAPTISM AND THE NEW YEAR

As we turn the page on another year (or change the screen, if you use a digital calendar), we might reflect on where we have been in the previous year and where we might be going in the new one. Because of this I think it is very fitting that in the liturgical church calendar we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus early in January. This year it will be on Sunday January 11.

The reason I like the connection with baptism is because the sacrament of baptism is partly about getting a fresh start. It involves a symbolic dying and rising again, and in remembering our baptism we are reminded that we do not have to let the past define us. We can get a second chance and begin anew. As Paul writes in Romans 6:4: "We were therefore buried with Christ through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

Inspired by this verse Martin Luther wrote that "baptism signifies that the old creature in us . . . is to be drowned and die through daily . . . repentance, and . . . that daily a new person is to come forth and arise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever."

Notice that Luther did not say that the significance of baptism is to be remembered just once a year when you might make some new resolutions. No. For Luther it was a daily remembrance because we can so easily get dragged down by the ways we messed up the day before. We need a constant reminder that we can get back up and rise again just as we rise out of bed in the morning.

May we remember the power of our baptism to

give us a fresh start not just on New Year's Day, but on every day as we enter into 2026.

REFRESHING THE PRAYER LIST

Our prayer request list will be refreshed every three months. If you would like a prayer request added to the list, please complete a Prayer Request card (found in the sanctuary) and place it in the offering plate or email your request to:
churchoffice@htlcto.org.

If you would like to join the Holy Trinity Prayer Chain, let Kathleen Sands know at churchoffice@htlcto.org. We email requests to the Team anytime a church member asks us to pray for themselves or for a loved one and then our faithful Prayer Warriors pray.

ONE WORSHIP SUNDAY ON JANUARY 25TH

One Worship Sunday at 10am on January 25th, followed by a Congregational Budget Approval Meeting at 11:15am. Note the following dates regarding the budget:

January 11: The draft budget will be published & printed.

January 21: Congregants are invited to a review of the budget – a time to dig in and ask any questions you might have before the Congregational Budget Approval meeting on January 25th.

January 25: Congregational Meeting/Budget approval at 11:15am, in person and a Zoom option will be made available.



MUSIC POSITION SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thank you for your continued patience in our process to fill the position of the church choir director. The search committee heard your responses to the music survey, and here is what we learned:

Some priorities that appeared are as follows:

- The choir director should, of course, have a good understanding and knowledge of music. The congregation would like to see someone who is approachable, a good communicator and teacher, someone who plans ahead, and someone with a good understanding of Lutheran theology. The team expressed needing someone who is sensitive to the needs of a volunteer church choir versus a large community choir.
- During the course of our multiple meetings, it appears that there is an importance to Holy Trinity hiring someone who can help bring people along in new initiatives while also recognizing when to use historical and traditional elements. This will require thinking creatively, having a good theological understanding, and being able to work well with other music and worship leaders.
- As suspected, through the survey we can see that relationships are one of the strongest reasons that people come to Holy Trinity. We have different styles of music that appeal to different people, often a variety of instrumentation, and folks who appreciate traditional hymns. Along with these elements, "seeing friends" was ranked within the top four reasons as to why people come to church on Sunday.
- People participate in worship for inspiration, a growing experience, because it is joyful, healing and, of course, to sing!

- The portion of the congregation who responded to the survey expressed that the music ministry should enhance spiritual experiences, incorporate Lutheran theology, have a range of musical styles, a variety of instrumentation was noted as being a historically good thing in the life of the congregation, and there were some concerns raised around the complexity of some musical pieces making it less accessible to a wide range of singers.

After reviewing current job descriptions, discussing the history of the music programs at Holy Trinity, and thinking about the importance of the music ministries of Holy Trinity for the future of the congregation, the team took a proposal to the church council. The team dreamed up some big ideas, and must balance those dreams with that of the church budget. The team will take the feedback from the most recent church council meeting and adjust the job description as needed to fit within our current budget guidelines.

Questions? Our team members: Darin Erickson, Marty McCambridge, Tim Wagenknecht, Richard Ferrin, and Pastor Emily



HTLC WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join us on **Saturday, January 10** (note the earlier in the month Saturday) at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall for the first of a two part Bible study titled **Embodied Prayer** by Rev. Liv Larson Andrews.

"Prayer is an important part of our relationship with God, and one of the ways we respond to God speaking in our lives. At the same time, we may carry all kinds of baggage or heavy questions about prayer: Am I doing it right? Do I pray enough? Is prayer always done with words? This two-part Bible study looks to Scripture as a guide to explore some different ways we can pray with our bodies—and with the body of the earth." (Gather, January, 2026)

Our first session is "Praying with our bodies." Join us as we ponder what the Bible has to say to us and as we share our stories.

—Dixie Hanson

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

As we enter into the New Year we continue our deep dive into the Gospel of Luke.

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 January we will cover chapters 16 to 23 which follows Jesus as he journeys to Jerusalem to his climatic confrontation with Judean and Roman authorities.

Join us **Tuesdays at 10:30am in the church Fellowship Hall** to explore more about how Luke presents the Jesus story.

Here's the reading guide for January:

January 6 – Chapter 14 & 15

January 13 – Chapter 16 & 17

January 20 – Chapter 18 & 19

January 27 – Chapter 20 & 21

JANUARY CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY CALENDAR

JANUARY YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, Jan 4: 10:45–11:30, Youth Room

Saturday, Jan 17 – Monday, Jan 19: MS/HS Youth Retreat MLK weekend in Laguna Beach! – *there's still time to sign up!*

Sunday, Jan 25: One Service Sunday

JANUARY FAITH EXPLORERS

Sunday, Jan 4: 10:45–11:30, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Jan 18: 10:45–11:30, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Jan 25: One Service Sunday



GATHER (YOUNG ADULT GROUP)

GATHER (our Young Adult Group) meets on **January 4th at 12:15pm** on church campus. Sign up for regular updates by emailing pastoremily@htlcto.org.





*A New Year is God's gift.
In the joyful moments - thank Him.
In the busy moments - bless Him.
In the trying moments - trust Him.
In the quiet moments - praise Him.*

Upon returning from Christmas break you will find joyful and rested teachers and students ready to take on 2026! Our Holiday Singing Programs were so joyful to experience, bringing families and Honey Tree together to celebrate the blessings of Christmas. It is truly a special time at Honey Tree for all.

In January our curricular themes will focus on the season of winter, ice and snow, planet Earth, arctic animals, the New Year, and more. Students will learn about how water changes properties from liquid to solid, make snow, paint with ice, compare and contrast cold and hot, and enjoy other scientific experiments.

Honey Tree registration begins in February. Current Honey Tree students and Church members receive priority registration before we open enrollment to Alumni and the outside community. If anyone is interested in attending Honey Tree, please ask them to call our office or send an email. We can answer any questions and schedule a tour of the school. They can also check out our website for more information. Thank You!
(805)492-1232 honeytreeecc@gmail.com
myhoneytree.com

Upcoming Honey Tree events:

Jan. 5 - School resumes
Jan. 9 - Faculty Meeting
Jan. 14 & 15 - Chapel time 11:30

Jan. 19 - MLK Jr. Holiday - NO SCHOOL
Jan. 27-30 - P2's Field Trip to Library

We wish you a wonderful New Year!

Vickie Cass, Honey Tree Director

FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION



ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINEE
BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

A TIME FOR BURNING

A FILM BY BILL JERSEY

"A GLOWING BEAUTY" — THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sunday, January 11
3-5pm

Film Screening & Discussion

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church – Sanctuary
1 W. Avenida de los Arboles, Thousand Oaks
htlcto.org | [@htlcto](https://twitter.com/htlcto)
Refreshments provided.
Film Screening begins promptly at 3pm and will be followed by reflection and discussion of next steps

"We're fighting ignorance in the place where there should be the most enlightenment."

So says Ernest Chambers, an African-American barber who sums up one of the central issues of "A Time for Burning," a faith-based documentary focusing on the efforts of the all white Augustana Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska to embrace

SCREENING & DISCUSSION CONTINUED...

racial understanding. The film reveals both the institutional and personal racism of church leaders and parishioners who profess to love their neighbors as themselves, while illustrating the difficulty of change within firmly entrenched belief systems.

Lutheran Film Associates (LFA), a media company established in 1952 as a joint venture between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, was assigned by the church to produce a film that would address the era's social and political changes and offer guidance to church members wrestling with these changes. The film aired on public television and was nominated for the Best Documentary Picture Academy Award in 1967.

LIBRARY NEWS

The biggest news is that Brian has a new review this month! Come in and check out more Bonhoeffer books. Bonhoeffer's message is pertinent for today's world. After reading the Advent devotional about fear, Bonhoeffer truly feared but went forward to do what he thought was following Jesus' teachings.

When we add new books to the library, we are hoping to have a brief review of each book to entice you to at least look at the book! There are more free books on the cart to give a good home to. Look for books displayed on the shelves and counters and guess my theme!!!!

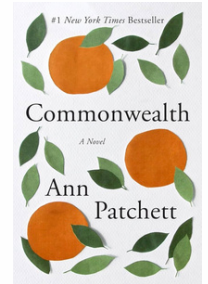
If you have any library questions, contact me at miriamnakayama@gmail.com.

Blessings,

Miriam Nakayama and Laurel Engstrom

THEA BOOK CIRCLE

Commonwealth, by Ann Patchett, is the January read for Thea Book Group. The book intertwines lives of two families spanning five decades by exploring themes of family love through shared experiences of the six children who grew up together. The book is available through TO Library Book Club in a Box. See Sally Johnson for a copy. We will meet **Monday, January 26 at 7pm** in the Church Library.



JANUARY MEDITATION GROUP

May Your New Year Be Blessed with Peace and Inner Calm

This January we will meet by **Zoom on January 8th** at 4pm, since the first Thursday of the month is January 1st. Contact Miriam at miriamnakayama@gmail.com for a Zoom invite.

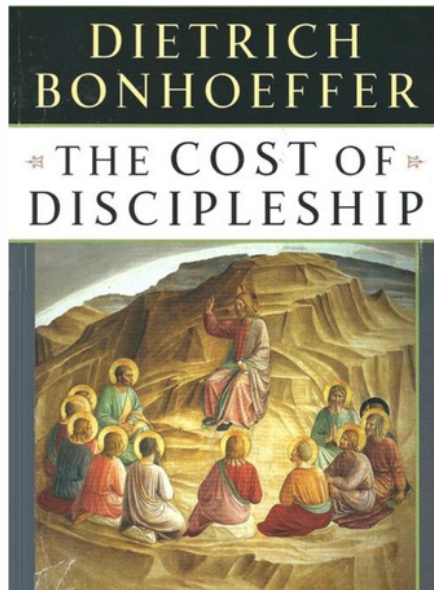
On **January 15, 22 and 29** we will meet in person in the church library, which is next to the office, enter through the double doors. We start at 4pm and have 30 minutes of prayer and discussion, followed by 30 minutes of silence. All are welcome whether you are experienced or have never meditated, but would like to try.

John Main, the founder of the World Community of Christian Meditation, the organization we are a member of, has this to tell us (I thought of my New Year's Resolutions when I read this):

Silence is really absolutely necessary for the human spirit if it really is to thrive, and not only to thrive, but to be creative, to have a creative response to life, to our environment, to friends. Because the silence gives our spirit room to breathe, room to be. From Word Into Silence

HTLC LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

by Brian McGuire



Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "**The Cost of Discipleship**" was published in 1937 and is in our HTLC Library. This work was written after his two years of pastoring in England and during the period he directed the Finkenwalde Seminary, but before he joined the Resistance. The political situation had made him a firm pacifist and he was struggling to formulate a path forward for the German Protestant Church.

Bonhoeffer had always been fascinated by Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and he devotes an entire section of the book to its dissection. One of the Beatitudes in particular stands out as particularly relevant in Bonhoeffer's life: *Blessed are they that have been persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*. He comments: "This does not refer to the righteousness of God but to suffering in a just cause . . . suffering for one's own just judgments and actions." This comment was prophetic to Bonhoeffer's own ultimate trajectory. One Beatitude not so relevant to him: *Blessed are the meek*—something he certainly wasn't.

Bonhoeffer was haunted by the simplicity and directness of Jesus' teaching and became obsessed with the concept of a "new monasticism" or "a life of uncompromising discipleship according to the Sermon on the Mount." While in England he had visited several Anglican monastic communities and seminaries. In 1935 he was given an opportunity to direct a theological seminary training young Lutheran pastors for the Confessing Church, the splinter church that rejected the Nazi's "Reich Church" synthesis. As the Nazi grip grew tighter and tighter in Germany, a community secluded from the world dedicated to discipleship for like-minded individuals was sounding more and more appealing to him. At Finkenwalde, a remote locale in Northern Germany far from Nazi scrutiny, he put his vision into practice. Bonhoeffer jolts the reader with his condemnation of what he terms **cheap grace**, which he defines as "grace without cost or price . . . grace without discipleship. . . the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession . . . justification of the sin without the justification of the sinner." The individual is led to infer that the "account" with God has been paid in advance, no contrition is required, and everything can remain as it was—for salvation is a given.

Costly grace on the other hand "must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. . . It is costly because it cost God the life of his Son . . . and what has cost God so much cannot be cheap for us." Luther had maintained that grace alone can save, but not without its invariable corollary: the obligation of *discipleship*, which means "*Follow me*."

Not being a theologian, I had difficulty

Book Review continued...

navigating this section. But I do know that maintaining a Christ-like life is not effortless, and I don't think we can live in heedless complaisance knowing that God will automatically forgive us for the same sins over and over again. According to Bonhoeffer, that is not discipleship.

Bonhoeffer ironically remarked "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die" meaning that one's old self dies in order to live anew in discipleship. When Bonhoeffer wrote this book, he had no idea that he would end up dying for the Resistance. But he did firmly believe that to sit on the sidelines of others' evil is to be complicit. According to Gerhard Leibholz, Bonhoeffer's Jewish brother-in-law, "God heard his prayer and granted him costly grace—that is, the privilege of taking the cross for others and of affirming his faith by martyrdom."

I have found Dietrich Bonhoeffer's story to be "the gift that keeps on giving" and urge readers to visit our library and become acquainted with his works, which are becoming more and more relevant today

FAIR TRADE

FAIR TRADE

Wishing for a Fair Year with Miriam

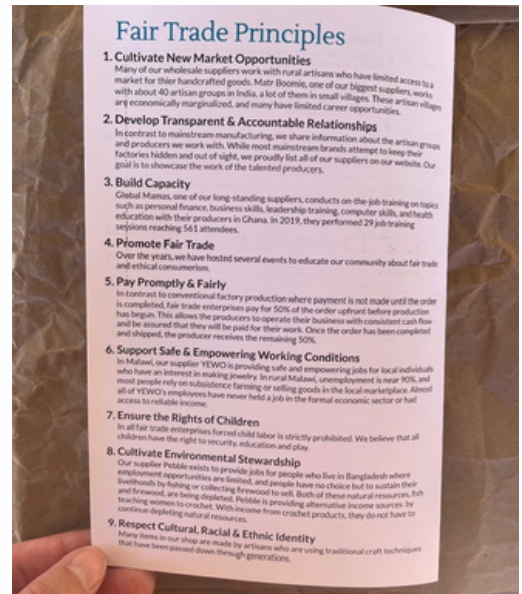
Thank you for all your support last year. I don't have a figure yet about how much we purchased at our monthly sales, but I do know we set a record at our Fair Trade Christmas Sale! **\$5311!** Those artisans thank you! HumanKind thanks you! And I thank you!

It is fun for me to sell fair trade items twice a month. This month Nancy, Terri and I will be out by the counter by the double doors on January 11th and 25th, between services and after the 11am service. I am ordering more chocolate bars and I will continue taking cheese orders. \$6 for both the 3 and 5

year white cheddar. Happy New Year!

Blessings,

Miriam Nakayama, Nancy Truex and Terri Kelly



MANNA CONEJO VALLEY FOOD BANK

In December, Holy Trinity donated 124 pounds of groceries to Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank, for a grand total of **2,044 pounds given in 2025!** So amazing!

The current Most Needed Items are:

1. Canned Meat - Chicken, Spam, or Ham
2. Canned Pasta Sauce
3. Broth - Canned or Soft Sided Carton
4. Canned Pasta - Raviolis or SpaghettiOs
5. Coffee, Tea, or Hot Chocolate
6. Canned Soup - Any Kind
7. Boxed Hamburger Helper
8. Instant Ramen
9. Canned Baked Beans, Refried Beans, or Chili
10. Canned Beans - Red, Navy, White, Kidney, or Garbanzo



Please place your donations on the designated table in the narthex. Coming in February is the annual Souper Bowl of Caring.

Happy New Year! - Karen and Marty Kreman

DORCAS QUILTING CIRCLE

Recently we received a call from 95-year-old Mary Jo who was so thankful for the warm cuddly quilt she got from Dorcas. She said she needed a new Christmas quilt because the one she had was too old and faded. She was so happy her prayers were answered.

We will continue to make warm winter quilts on the **15th of January at 9am** in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcomed to come and help.



VENTURA COUNTY INTERFAITH COMMUNITY

Do all dogs go to heaven? Inquiring minds want to know! But seriously, what do our faith traditions have to say about our relationship to the animal kingdom? Come join the Ventura County Interfaith Community as it revisits this topic with participation from three additional faiths (Hinduism, Judaism, and Islam). The forum will begin at 7:00 PM on January 13th and will take place at AlmaVia Senior Living Center ([2500 N Ponderosa Dr, Camarillo, CA 93010](#)). The event is free and all are welcome!



DID YOU KNOW?

The Quadrantid meteors appear in the early January sky, producing up to 25 meteors per hour at their peak. They'll be at their best on the night of January 4 into January 5. For the best chance at spotting them, venture out between midnight and dawn (if you can stand the cold).

THANK YOU FROM THE HOLY TRINITY PASTORS AND STAFF

On behalf of the staff of Holy Trinity we want to thank the congregation for the generous Christmas gifts that you gave in support of our ministry team. Our pastoral staff, music staff, and administrative staff all work tirelessly throughout the year and especially during the month before the Holidays. Your gifts are a validation of their efforts and a welcome sign of gratitude. This tradition at Holy Trinity helps to make our staff feel cared for and appreciated. For all those who took the time to mail in or drop off a gift, or who donated on-line, we are very grateful for the thoughtful recognition.

–Pastor Erik, Pastor Emily, Kathleen, Virginia, Richard, Wanda, Jim, Stacey, Heather, Lisa, Serena, Jasmine, Milo, Piper, Joey, Jennifer, Maggie, Cody, Melissa & Marta (Cleaning Crew), Wilson & Felix (Landscaping Crew)

THANK YOU!

ELCA DAY OF RACIAL HEALING

When: January 20, 2026 4:00–6:00 PM Pacific

Where: Online & In-person (Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Naperville, IL)

Cost: FREE

This is good preparation for the online Assembly of ELCA Association of White Lutherans for Racial Justice Virtual Assembly. If you attend the online Assembly (Jan 23–24), this evening event will ground you in multiracial storytelling and deep listening—essential practices for our organizing work together. Story sharing highlights history, preserves language, engages culture, offers wisdom, and fosters the connections we need to build a more just and inclusive church.

REGISTER HERE



DECEMBER IN PHOTOS



IN MEMORIAM

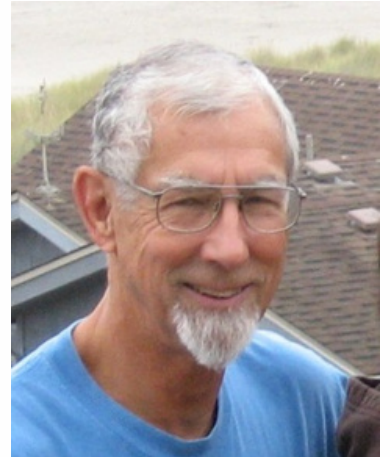
Roger Stephenson

October 1, 1932-December 17, 2025

Jesus said, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

Matthew 7:24

One of Holy Trinity's long-time members, Roger Stephenson, passed away at Los Robles Hospital on Wednesday Dec. 17. He died peacefully and was surrounded by his wife Juanita and his children, Roger Jr. and Anne.



After many years as an aerospace engineer, Roger knew something about building on a solid foundation. But he also knew as Jesus says, that a strong life is built on a foundation of following the way of God's love. Roger demonstrated this through his commitment to his wife Juanita for over 60 years of marriage, through his care for his family and his care for friends and neighbors. His children share stories of friends, family members and church interns who would stay in their house for months at a time when they were going through times of transition.

Roger believed the foundation of faith was also very important. He and his wife attended a Lutheran church in Woodland Hills for many years before they started visiting Holy Trinity when they would come up to visit Roger's aunt. Those visits turned into membership as they came to really enjoy the community at the church. In retirement Roger and Juanita lived in Newbury Park, Leisure Village, Camarillo, and the Reserve retirement home in Thousand Oaks, making it easier to attend for the 33 years they have been members.

At Holy Trinity Roger served in many capacities. He was a part of the prayer chain and the Tempo newsletter mailing team for many years. He also shared his wisdom and experience helping to guide the business of the church on the Finance committee. But probably his favorite way to serve was on the property team. During his time at Holy Trinity Roger could often be seen on the church campus doing odd jobs and repairs that need to get done. One of the favorite stories his wife tells about the Property team was when he and the other guys had to get up on a lift and go all the way to the ceiling in order to remove a hive of bees that had gotten into the church sanctuary. Roger was also a regular participant in worship, and his presence will be missed on Sunday mornings when we gather together.

A memorial service will be planned for Roger at Holy Trinity on January 17, 2026.

JANUARY PRAYER REQUESTS



Please keep these people in your prayers:

For the family of Roger Stephenson, upon his recent death.

For the family of Bruce Lehmann, Ryan Lehmann's father, upon his recent death

For the family of Pedro Tamayo, friend of the Erickson family, upon his recent death

For Edie, Marty McCambridge's sister, for recovery and comfort after a heart attack

For Lennart Roxendal, Mike & Laurel Engstrom's brother-in-law, as he undergoes treatment

For David Humphrey, Maggie Becker's father, for healing through surgery



LIFE GROUPS
Living Life Together
THROUGH CONNECTION, ENCOURAGEMENT,
AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Interested in joining a life group?
Sign up **HERE**
and we'll contact you.
Learn more at:



<https://www.htlcto.org/grow-in-faith/pages/adult-ministries>

The graphic features an illustration of several hands of different skin tones holding small red hearts, symbolizing connection and community. A small tree logo is in the bottom right corner.

NEW YEARS PROMISES

A new calendar year often brings a fresh perspective with promises of a clean slate. We remember the past year and take inventory of successes and failures. We also look ahead with hope and anticipation of what will be. New Year's resolutions abound. We vow many things: to live in the moment, eat right, exercise more, learn to say "no," go back to school, quit smoking, bring back date night, write a book, travel more, finally start your own business and so on.

In the book of Romans, Paul compares us to clay and God to a potter. Perhaps this is where our successes and failures meet – in God's hands. God takes the many and varied experiences of our lives and uses them – the bitter and the sweet – to mold us, shape us, renew us and transform us. In God's hands, we are works of art still under construction.

Sometimes the promises we make to ourselves, our New Year's resolutions, fall flat. But we do not solely rely on our will power, faithfulness, or intellect. Ultimately our hope rests with our God who always keeps promises.

This message is excerpted from "Risky Transformation" by Angela T. Khabeb in the December 2020 Café online magazine.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, January 19th
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



YOUTH GROUP
WINTER RETREAT

\$75 all inclusive
Jan. 17th - 19th



REGISTER NOW for the Winter Beach Youth Retreat. Join the youth group down in Laguna Beach over MLK weekend.

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.)

One
Worship Sunday

JANUARY 25, 2026 | 10AM

followed by a Congregational Budget
Approval Meeting at 11:15AM



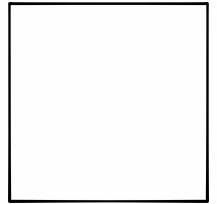
Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

1 West Avenida de Los Arboles

Thousand Oaks CA 91360-2939

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

Return service requested



JANUARY 2026

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

If you would like to purchase and donate flowers for the church altar, please fill out **THIS FORM** or follow the instructions below.

1. **Sign Up:** Visit the Flower Chart located on the kiosk in the narthex and select the date you would like the flowers to be placed on the altar.
2. **Payment:** The cost is \$65. Please write "Flowers" on the memo line of your check to ensure proper allocation or use an Altar Flower Envelope, available in the narthex. Kindly make your payment by the Wednesday prior to your selected date to allow ample time for ordering.
3. **Bulletin Note:** Email your dedication and any color preferences to churchoffice@htlcto.org by noon on Wednesday to be included in the Sunday bulletin.
4. **Pickup:** After the second service, you are welcome to take the flowers home.



January Fun Fact!

On January 3, 2026, Earth reaches perihelion, which is the point in the planet's orbit where it is closest to the Sun. At perihelion, Earth will be 91,403,637 miles from our bright star.

Don't forget your sunscreen!