

THE TEMPO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

9:30AM

INFORMAL SERVICE

11AM

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

"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

WHAT'S INSIDE

Altar Flowers.....	16
Black History Month Spotlight.....	15
Brian's Book Review.....	9-10
Calling All Realtors.....	8
CYF Schedule.....	6
Dorcas Quilting and Crafting Circle.....	11
Events at a Glance.....	3
Fair Trade.....	10
February Fun Fact.....	16
Gather Young Adult Group.....	12
Hearts and Hands Worship.....	11
Honey Tree.....	7
Interfaith Community Event.....	14
Lenten Lunches.....	5
Lenten Worship Opportunities.....	5
Library News.....	8
Light Changes Everything Event.....	14
Manna Food Bank.....	10
Meditation Group.....	8
New Parking Lot Lights.....	12
Office Closed - President's Day.....	4
Pastor's Note.....	4
Prayer Requests.....	13
Thank You From Graceful Diapers.....	7
Thank You Holy Trinity.....	12
THEA Book Group.....	8
Thrivent Choice Dollars.....	7
Tuesday AM Bible Study.....	6
Valentine's Care Packages.....	11
Valentine's Party.....	11
Women's Bible Study.....	6



OFFICE HOURS

9:00 AM-2:30 PM

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

805-492-1234
churchoffice@htlcto.org

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**SEND FUTURE NEWSLETTER & SOCIAL
MEDIA SUBMISSIONS TO
COMMUNICATIONS@HTLCTO.ORG
DEADLINE FOR TEMPO SUBMISSIONS IS THE
THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH
(FEBRUARY 20TH FOR MARCH 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 Mitsuqanaqan 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.



FEBRUARY EVENTS AT A GLANCE

2/1, 8, 15, & 22 - GATHER (Young Adult Group)
2/3 - Artistic Depictions of the Last Supper presentation (*During Tuesday Morning Bible Study*)
10:30am
2/5 - Zoom Meditation
2/8 - Hearts and Hands Service, 9:30am
2/10, 17, & 24 - Tuesday Bible Study
2/12, 19, & 26 - Meditation in the Church Library
2/15 - Lenten Lunch #1

2/16 - Office Closed for Presidents Day
2/18 - Ash Wednesday Service
2/19 - Dorcas Quilting Circle
2/21 - Women's Bible Study
2/22 - Lenten Lunch #2
2/23 - THEA Book Circle
2/26 - Holden Evening Prayer

CYF Schedule on page 6

PASTOR'S NOTE FROM PASTOR ERIK

A GOD WHO IS OVER THE CHAOS

As I am writing this, the news of the world can seem chaotic. There are widespread protests happening in Iran with a violent response cracking down on any dissent. There are protests in Minneapolis as the city reacts to the shock of federal ICE officers roaming their streets and the killing of local citizens. There is uncertainty of what will happen in Venezuela and Greenland. There is also uncertainty among many non-profits across the country who help people with addiction and mental health as to what will happen next as they have just heard that federal funding they have previously received is now being drastically cut. I'm not sure what kind of new chaos will emerge between now and the time you read this newsletter, but there are sure to be some difficulties happening that may cause many of us to feel uncertain or anxious.

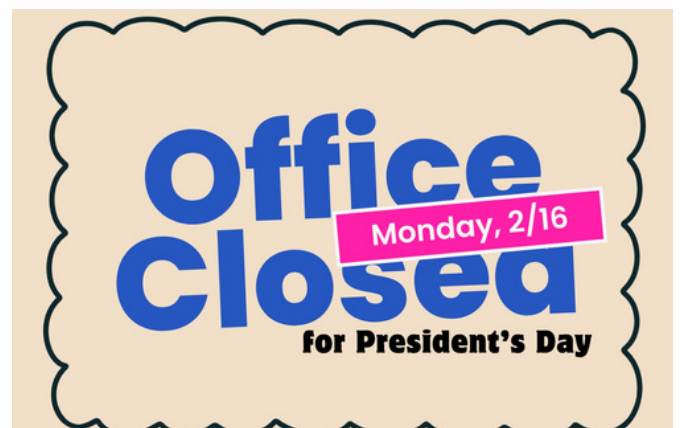
In the ancient world of the Hebrews there was a symbol for the chaos that so often surrounded people. The symbol was the deep water of an ocean or lake. You can understand why this was the case when you think about how quickly a storm could come up and enlarge the wind and the waves to the extent that it could swamp a small boat. You can understand why deep water became such a symbol when you realize that people of the ancient world had very little understanding about what was under the water, especially once you got past 20 feet or so. The depths were mysterious and dangerous and full of the unknown.

This is why it is so significant when at the beginning of the book of Genesis it says that the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. When the primordial waters of creation were stirring the Spirit of God is over them. The Spirit of God is

more powerful than the chaos and ready to bring about new order and new life. Many scholars think that the book of Genesis may have been written down shortly after the Israelites had been dragged off to Babylon to be in exile after the destruction of Jerusalem. For a people who had experienced their city being violently destroyed the image of the Spirit of God hovering over the waters of uncertainty in order to bring about new life would have been good news. It would have been reassuring.

In the Gospel of Mark we see this same reassuring image in the figure of Jesus. The disciples have gone out in their boat into the deep water of the Sea of Galilee when a storm begins to come up. The waves and wind get stronger and stronger and all the while Jesus is asleep in the bow. When they wake him up, however, he rebukes the wind and the waves and says, "Peace, be still." The disciples are amazed that he has authority over the storm. He has power over the chaos.

As we get buffeted by the stormy news that comes at us and threatens to overwhelm us let us then remember that the Spirit of God "hovers over the waters." The Spirit of God hovers over the unknown and the uncertainty ready to bring about life again. Let us remember that even though it may seem that Jesus is asleep at the wheel sometimes, when our small boats are about to be swamped he still has the power and authority to bring peace to our souls.



LENTEN LUNCHES

Starting **February 15th at 12:15pm**, we are hosting Lenten Lunches in the Fellowship Hall to discuss the ELCA's social statement on Civic Life and Faith. The task force for the social statement released a study curriculum for use throughout our church in 2023. Their work is now finished and the statement on Faith and Civic Life was approved at the ELCA churchwide assembly in 2025.

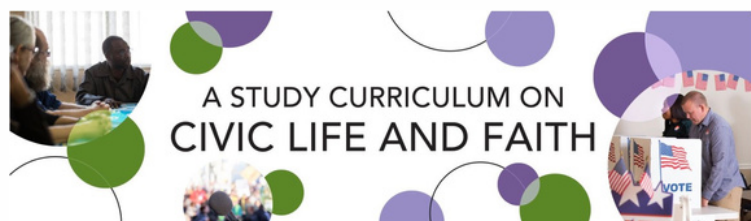
Originally, this Study included surveys for public feedback on the content. It was a way for the task force to hear from the wider church what a social statement draft might say on civic life and faith. The period for feedback on the study ended in 2023.

However, many church leaders encouraged the Churchwide Organization to keep the study online as a fine resource to help people engage with these issues.

The curriculum has six sessions, so we will engage with the study from February 15th through March 22nd. Each session comes with a teaching video, prayers, Scripture reading, group discussion questions, suggested resources, and case studies taken from everyday life.

For those interested, a Spanish version will also be made available.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday from Feb 15th - March 22nd at 12:15pm for lunch provided by one of our volunteer or small groups at Holy Trinity, and to engage in conversation, study, and growing together!



SPECIAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR LENT

Jesus' ministry can be described as "radical" which comes from the Latin word "radicalis," meaning "root" or "ground." Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots. Emulating Jesus and embodying his teachings should ground us in who God created us to be. Can we be "good news" people in a world too often burdened by bad news?

This Lent, our theme will be ***"Tell Me Something Good."*** We will be reminded that the Gospel message is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world.

We hope this series will provide fertile ground for conversation and worship, rooting our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God. During February we will begin this theme on Ash Wednesday and the following Sundays. We will also be offering a 30 minute Vespers service on Thursdays. This year we will be using the original version written by Marty Haugen.

Opportunities for Worship this Lenten Season:

Wednesday, Feb. 18 – Ash Wednesday, 7pm in the Church Sanctuary

Thursday, Feb. 26 – Holden Evening Prayer (*original Haugen version*), 6:30pm in the Church Sanctuary

Note: The Holden Evening Prayer will continue every **Thursday** through March at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.



HTLC WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join us on **Saturday, February 21st**, at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall for our second session under the theme How Let Us Pray. Session 2 is titled *"Praying with the body of the Earth."* Dr. Linda Ritterbush, Emerita Professor of Geology at Cal Lutheran, will lead the study, as we explore ways we can pray not only for the earth, but with the earth.

"As we read Scripture, including the glorious vision in Revelation 22 of a restored world and the river of life, can we see the trees and rivers God made as our prayer partners?"

Join us as *"scripture inspires us to regard the natural world as both a sacred space and our neighbor calling us to be in relationship with the Earth and to notice God's presence in this relationship."* Also bring your stories of being in nature.

Dixie Hanson

FEBRUARY CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, Feb 1: 10:45-11:30, Youth Room

Sunday, Feb. 8: Hearts and Hands Worship

Friday, Feb. 13: Make Valentine's Care Packages, 5:30-7:30pm

Sunday, Feb 15: 10:45-11:30, Youth Room

FEBRUARY FAITH EXPLORERS

Sunday, Feb 1: 10:45-11:30, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Feb. 8: Hearts and Hands Worship

Friday, Feb. 13: Make Valentine's Care Packages, 5:30-7:30pm

Sunday, Feb 15: 10:45-11:30, Fellowship Hall



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

During February we will be completing our close look into the Gospel of Luke. As we come to end of the Jesus story our plan is to slow down a little and instead of doing two chapters each week we will be covering one chapter. We take our cue from the Gospel writer in doing this as Luke takes care to give us more detail as we come to the climatic arrest, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

Join us **Tuesdays at 10:30am** in the church Fellowship Hall as we reflect on the last days of Jesus and what they mean for the Christian faith. Please note we will also be taking a break from our usual format on Feb. 3 for a look at how the Last Supper has been portrayed in art. This will be a special presentation by Holy Trinity member Brian McGuire who has a special interest in Biblical art, particularly from the Medieval Ages. If you are not a regular at Bible Study, but are interested in art, please feel free to join us on Feb. 3 at 10:30am as we explore visual interpretations of the Biblical text.

Here's the reading guide for February:

February 3 - "Artistic Depictions of the Last Supper" ... presented by Brian McGuire

February 10 - Luke 22

February 17 - Luke 23

February 24 - Luke 24





The New Year brings new and exciting experiences and much growth for our Honey Tree students. Classrooms reflect the splendor of winter...polar bears & penguins, ice and snow, water in its varied forms and more. Students particularly enjoy the sensory experience of playing with our homemade "snow". Enrollment surveys have gone out and we are working to create our classes for the 2026-2027 school year.

Honey Tree Registration Info 2026/2027

Who	When	Where/How
Current Honey Tree Siblings Entering Parent/Two's Classes	Anytime on or after February 2nd or when enrolling older sibling	Honey Tree Office
Current Honey Tree Students in Parent/2s entering Three-Year-Old Classes or DO 2's	February 2-6, 9:15am	During Parent/2s Classes, outside on the Play Yard.
Current students in Drop Off 2s entering Three-Year-Old Classes	February 2-6, 11:15am	Table outside next to Honey Tree Office
Current Honey Tree Students Entering Four-Year-Old TK Classes	February 11-12, 9:15am	Table Outside Next To Honey Tree Office
Current Honey Tree Students entering Kindergarten/TK class	Wednesday February 18, 9:15am	Table Outside Next To Honey Tree Office
Honey Tree Alumni Families	Friday, February 20, 9:15am	Call Honey Tree Office
New Students	Monday, February 23, 9:00am	Call Honey Tree Office at 9:00am or any time/day after that to sign up or be placed on a waiting list.

Upcoming events:

Feb 4-5

Pastor Visits

February 9-12

Teacher Appreciation Week (From Honey Tree)

February 13-16

President's Weekend – NO SCHOOL

Vickie Cass, Honey Tree Director, honeytreeecc@gmail.com

A THANK YOU FROM GRACEFUL DIAPERS

Thank you to all who contributed to the diaper drive for Graceful Diapers! We received a thank you card



THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

As a reminder to all Thrivent members, please note that your Choice Dollars must be directed each year. Grace Nelson looked into the Thrivent Choice Dollars deadline and found out that it has changed to an **Annual Deadline of March 31** – so any "choice dollars" must be designated to charities by March 31. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend where Thrivent gives back!


DEADLINE IS MARCH 31!

Thrivent Choice Dollars®

As a reminder to all Thrivent members, please note that your Choice Dollars must be directed each year. Log on to your account to be sure those dollars are used and please consider selecting Holy Trinity Lutheran Church as recipient of your dollars.

Directing Choice Dollars online is fast and easy. Simply visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice and click the "Get Started" link to begin. If you are already registered then select "My Thrivent" from the top menu and then "Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars" from the drop down menu. If you have any questions about directing Choice Dollars you can contact the Member Connection Center at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt.

Don't miss this opportunity to recommend where Thrivent gives back!



THRIVENT®
Be Wise With Money™

CALLING ALL REALTORS

The Southwest California Synod is seeking Lutherans with commercial real estate experience to serve as advisors to the synod as part of a Relocation Taskforce.

This group will provide guidance and insight to support synod level discernment related to property matters. Volunteers will help the synod navigate decisions with care, wisdom, and faithful stewardship.



Who should consider serving

- Individuals with commercial real estate experience
- Those with professional expertise in property related fields
- Parishioners who feel called to share their skills in service to the wider church

What to expect

- Meetings will take place primarily via Zoom
- Occasional site visits will be required
- Meetings are expected to begin early 2026



We encourage you to prayerfully consider this opportunity and reach out for more information.

To express interest or ask questions, please contact:
Pr. Keith Banwart: stmatthewspastor@hotmail.com

LIBRARY NEWS

Did you figure out the theme for January? Authentic Diversity! To go along with the educational event this past month about the documentary Time for Burning, about a Lutheran congregation in Omaha, Nebraska, in the 60's dealing with racism, there was also Martin Luther King Day. February is Black History month so we will keep the featured books up.

In looking over our shelves, Brian noticed that we do not have a biography of Martin Luther King for adults. We do have several children's book about MLK. So we are looking to obtain one or more authoritative biographies of Martin Luther King. If you have one in your home collection and are willing to part with it, please contact me (miriamnakayama@gmail.com), Brian or Pastor

Emily. It should be in reasonably good condition, preferably hardcover, with no marks or underlining.

This month's book review is about the Japanese internment at Manzanar. There is so much diversity in authentic diversity! Become more educated. Check out our library! Our children's books are beautiful and interesting to learn about racism. Many of them are in the Wiggle Room in the back of the church.

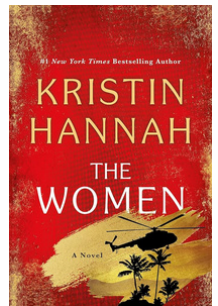
Miriam Nakayama and Laurel Engstrom



THEA BOOK CIRCLE

The Women by Kristin Hannah is the February read for the Thea Book Group. The book shows how women can be heroes namely by serving in the Army Nurse Corp in 1965 Vietnam. The trauma of the war is emphasized along with politically divided America.

There are copies available at TO Library. The group will meet **Monday, February 23 at 7pm** in the Church Library.



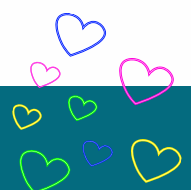
FEBRUARY MEDITATION GROUP

In this month of **LOVE**, John Main, the founder of our international meditation community, says that, "we know meditation as a journey of faith, of expanding capacity to love and to be loved, and so also as an expanding vision of reality." The Present Christ.

So, to help you expand your capacity to love, you are invited to join us on **Thursday, February 5**, via Zoom at 4 pm. Contact miriamnakayama@gmail.com for a Zoom invite. For in-person meditation, come to the church library on **February 12, 19 and 26** at 4 pm.

May your month of February be a month full of love!

Miriam Nakayama



HTLC LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

by Brian McGuire



A few years ago on the way up to Mammoth, out of curiosity I stopped at the Manzanar site north of Lone Pine CA off of Highway 395. The setting was isolated and empty with few visitors: a grid of deserted roads leading nowhere amongst overgrown orchards. A couple barrack dwellings had recently been restored. There was a guard tower and the main permanent building that had functioned as a school, community center, and gymnasium, and is now a museum. Reading **"Farewell to Manzanar"** by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and her husband James Houston allowed me to populate Manzanar with people in my imagination and picture how it was during its operation from 1942 to 1945.

This book is an interesting depiction of an era bookended by Pearl Harbor on one side and Hiroshima on the other. It was not strictly chronological and the author meanders through recollections which are matter-of-fact, often poignant, but seldom bitter. In 1942 President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 mandating the relocation of approximately

110,000 west-coast residents of Japanese descent to one of ten internment camps. The author was only seven when her family was forcibly relocated to Manzanar from their home in the LA area where her father operated a fishing boat. Many of her remembrances were more a consequence of her large complicated family (she was the youngest of ten children) and her sometimes-abusive father. Manzanar itself seemed to have had little impact on her life trajectory—she was too young—but her ethnicity in wartime and postwar America was a determinant. However I certainly would not categorize this book as a "victimhood" chronicle.

Paradoxically one of her saddest descriptions was the winding down and closure of Manzanar. In December 1944 the Supreme Court ruled that detaining loyal citizens against their will was unconstitutional. It had been pointed out that Americans of German or Italian origin had not been so treated. By the end of 1944 the population at Manzanar had already dwindled from the maximum of 10,046 to about 2,000 due to some obtaining work permits for essential wartime jobs (mostly on the east coast where the Japanese were more welcome), young men enlisting in the military, or families transferring to another facility. But many feared to leave Manzanar due to the anti-Japanese sentiment prevalent on the west coast. The war was still ongoing. Hate groups had proliferated (sound familiar?) thanks in part to anti-Japanese wartime propaganda. Manzanar was safe, many had no homes to return to, and residents had built a new life there. The author's family did not vacate until the absolute closure in late 1945.

I never knew that there was a 1913 Alien Land Bill in California precluding Japanese immigrants from owning property. Nor did I know that these first-generation Japanese could not become

Book Review continued...

naturalized citizens until Public Law 414 was enacted in 1952 (presumably children born here were automatically citizens). I had always been taught that the US was a pluralistic society and welcomed everyone. There is an inscription on the Statue of Liberty that says:

...give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

The treatment of Japanese during WWII is not an isolated phenomenon—indeed we have a legacy of intolerance that not only continues today but seems to be worsening. Bigotry will always be part of our history, but we should have been able to leave it behind. I think we need to decide what the US is really about, start telling the truth—whatever that is—to the world, and most of all stop lying to ourselves. Or reread the Statue of Liberty.

Brian McGuire

FAIR TRADE

FAIR TRADE

Getting Ready for Valentine's Day with Miriam

If you need chocolate for your valentine, remember to buy fair trade chocolate and show love to your valentine and to the cacao fair trade farmers. Fair Trade Co-op Cacao farmers get a fair market price plus premiums for their co-op and village. Plus child labor is not used. Plus the chocolate is delicious! Mini-chocolates are \$.25 each. Chocolate bars are \$3.50. If it's cold in February, we have delicious hot cocoa mix for \$6.50. You can buy the kind to just add hot water or the dark chocolate kind you have to add milk. We also have chocolate chips in case you want

to bake chocolate chip cookies for your valentines. A bag is \$7.

We have moved our fair trade table to inside the entrance doors on the right hand side if you are entering the church or on the left if you are leaving the church. The wind forced us inside, but since it was a nice spot, even more visible, we are going to stay there. We will be selling fair trade on Sunday February 8th and 22nd between services and after the 11:00.

Happy Valentines Day!



Miriam Nakayama, Nancy Truex and Terri Kelly

MANNA CONEJO VALLEY FOOD BANK

The annual Souper Bowl of Caring is here! It's once again time to vote for which team you hope will be the Super Bowl Champion. Or, if you prefer, cast your vote for the Puppy Bowl. To vote, just put your Manna donations in the labeled basket of your choice. Each basket will also have a large envelope attached to it, for checks or cash. Checks should be made out to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, noted for "Manna." In January, HTLC donated 72 pounds of groceries to Manna. Here's the list of Most Needed Items:

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



So bring soup, or any grocery items, and vote for your favorite team - or puppies!

Karen and Marty Kreman



DORCAS QUILTING CIRCLE

On **Thursday, February 19 at 9am** Dorcas Circle will meet again.

New quilts will be sown,
warm and taking shape where love is grown.
Each stitch a shape wrapped in colors,
with warmth and care.
From Dorcas Quilting Group stitched just right,
comfort quilts will be made to soften winter's bite.

All are welcomed to help!



VALENTINE'S DAY EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Valentine's PARTY

**FRI, FEBRUARY 13
5:30-7:30PM**

An evening for kids of all ages, PreK-12th grade.
Drop your child off in the Holy Trinity Fellowship Hall for games, dinner, and activities. Our main activity is making Valentine care packages for college students!
Drop off: 5:30pm
Pick up by 7:30pm.

Donations will go towards the cost of care packages dinner.



Games



Dinner



Valentine's

TO ATTEND, PLEASE FILL OUT THE
HTLC YOUTH REGISTRATION FORM:
[HTTPS://WWW.HTLCTO.ORG/REGISTRATION/](https://www.htlcto.org/registration/)



REGISTER NOW

- Valentine's

Care Packages

Sponsor a Care Package: \$30
Give at htlcto.org/give and pick fund "Miscellaneous."
Put in the notes/memo section "Care Package"

OR DONATE
chocolate, chips, or a homemade treat to put in the boxes by February 7th. Drop off in narthex.
If you have a person in your household who is now in college and you have not already sent Pastor Emily the address of your young adult, please do so by February 7th.

SPONSOR

HEARTS & HANDS WORSHIP SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 9:30AM

Our service element for Hearts and Hands Worship will be making Valentine cards that will be delivered to homebound members, nursing homes, and college students. We want to reach out to our community and remind people just how loved they are! Our text for the day is Matthew 5, thinking about how we are and can be the salt of the earth – helping to bring out the flavors of goodness.

We also invite you to bring any small, individually wrapped snacks or treats to put in the college care packages. We will have 21 packages to mail! You can bring something to put in a box, or sponsor a box for \$30. Give online at htlcto.org/give to the College Care Package fund.



Hearts & Hands



**February 8
9:30 am**

Worshipping Together, Serving Together

NEW LED PARKING LOT LIGHTS

Our sincere thanks to the Property Committee and all who worked together to upgrade all our church parking lot lights to bright, high quality color rendering energy-efficient LED lights - making the parking lots safer and more welcoming for everyone. The light poles were freshly painted, and all the surrounding trees were trimmed, giving the entire area a clean, refreshed look. A very special thank you to Ron Klassen for his generous donation, which made this project possible. We are truly grateful!



GATHER (YOUNG ADULT GROUP 20S & 30S)

GATHER (our Young Adult Group) meets on **Sundays at 12:15pm** on church campus. Sign up for regular updates by emailing pastoremily@htlcto.org. Here are some fun events we have coming up.

Every Sunday at 12:15pm Bible Study (Book of John)

Feb. 7 - 3pm Rock Climbing at Boulderdash (Ventura)

Lars will be leading a climbing afternoon at Boulderdash! We'll grab dinner together afterward. More details are coming soon, but mark your calendar now.

Feb. 16 - Strategicon Board Game Convention
Craig has invited us to join him at Strategicon! A group from our community will be going together. Cost: \$20 More info to come as we get closer.

March 1 - HTLC Lent Luncheon (Service Opportunity)

Our group has been asked to help with one of the church's Lenten luncheons focused on the Lutheran Social Statements. We'll prepare a meal, help with setup, and assist with cleanup. If you'd like to help serve, cook, or coordinate, let me know! We'd love to have you involved.

Looking forward to growing, laughing, and gathering with you in the months ahead. Please don't ever hesitate to reach out with questions!

THANK YOU HOLY TRINITY

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Angel Tree. Your generosity provided 20 wrapped books for children in the Harbor House Adopt-a-Family program and 76 Target and grocery gift cards for families in our tutoring program. Your kindness brings hope to some of the most vulnerable in our community.

— Community Outreach Team



FEBRUARY PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep these people in your prayers:

For all those who lost homes, including our Bishop, and who were affected by the fires in Altadena and Pacific Palisades as we remember the tragedy from one year ago

For all those affected by the violence connected with immigration enforcement in recent months, especially those affected by the shooting of Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis

For all those fleeing Aleppo in Syria as civil war has once again erupted there

For Monica Roscoe, as she and her family deal with a recent diagnosis of cancer

For Helen Shughart, sister to Jean Kammerer, for healing from side effects of chemo

For Dave Marrotta, a friend of Tim Wagenknecht and Yvonne Bernschneider, who battles recurring cancer and consequent treatment

For Bob Wilber, Jim Wilber's brother, who has Lupus among other Autoimmune disorders

For Janet Witt, for complete healing after a fall

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

For Madilyn Palosi for healing

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

For the family of Roger Stephenson, upon his recent death

For the family of Fred Fiske, 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

A prayer of thanksgiving for Jo(Anne) (extended family and friend of Dennis Hardy) who is thankful for good results from AFib heart condition testing

A prayer of thanksgiving for Adam (extended family friend of Dennis Hardy) who is thankful for good results after gallbladder struggles

Dennis Hardy would like to give thanks & gratitude for cancer treatment; he is now cancer free



VENTURA COUNTY INTERFAITH COMMUNITY

On February 10th at 7:00 PM at Temple Ner Ami (515 Temple Ave, Camarillo, CA), the Ventura County Interfaith Community will present an introduction to Judaism led by Rabbi Michael Lotker, the Community Rabbi for the Jewish Federation for Ventura County.

Click [**HERE**](#) for more information.

COMMUNITY EVENT



The poster features a blue background with the title "LIGHT CHANGES EVERYTHING" in large, white, serif capital letters. Below the title are three circular images: a man's portrait, a group of people at a table, and a soldier handing supplies to a woman. The text "You Are Invited..." is in a bold, italicized serif font, followed by "to hear a current update about the continuing humanitarian needs in Ukraine." in a smaller, italicized serif font. The speaker's name and background are listed, followed by the meeting locations and times for Saturday and Sunday.

**LIGHT
CHANGES
EVERYTHING**

You Are Invited...
to hear a current update about the continuing humanitarian needs in Ukraine.

Dave Nonnemacher of New Horizons-USA returned from his eighth humanitarian trip to Ukraine in November 2025. Nonnemacher will be speaking about working with Ukrainian partners who daily are delivering essential humanitarian support to people in front line villages, facilities for Internally Displaced People (IDP) and wounded soldiers.

You can meet and hear Nonnemacher at the following locations:

Saturday, January 31, 2026 New Hope Lutheran Church, 29295 Agoura Hills Rd, Agoura Hills 10:00 AM	Sunday, February 1, 2026. Ascension Lutheran Church, 1600 E Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks 10:30 AM Ukrainian Christian Church, 29646 Agoura Rd, Agoura Hills (at Gateway Church) 2:30 PM
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BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHT



February is Black History Month, a time to honor the history, resilience, and contributions of Black leaders whose faith and courage have shaped our church and our world.

Rev. Jehu Jones Jr. (1786–1852) holds a significant place in Lutheran history as the first African American Lutheran pastor in the United States, ordained in 1832 by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania.



Artwork by Mary Button

Born in Charleston, South Carolina, Jones was raised in a free Black family and was deeply committed to education, faith, and service. Despite facing systemic racism and resistance within both society and the church, he pursued theological study and faithfully answered God's call to ministry. His ordination came at a time when Black clergy were often excluded from leadership and denied congregational support.

Rev. Jones served Lutheran congregations in Philadelphia and New York, though his ministry was frequently hindered by racial discrimination and lack of institutional backing. Even so, he remained devoted to the Gospel and to the belief that the church should reflect God's inclusive love.

His story reminds us that Black leadership has

always been part of the Lutheran Church, even when it was marginalized or overlooked, and that the work of becoming a truly welcoming church is both historic and ongoing.

In addition to honoring a pioneer of our past, Black History Month also invites us to celebrate Black leaders shaping the church today. Bishop Patricia Davenport made history in 2018 when she became the first Black woman elected bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), serving the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Known for her pastoral heart, prophetic voice, and commitment to justice, Bishop Davenport has been a strong advocate for racial equity, inclusion, and the full participation of all people in the life of the church. Her leadership reflects a deep belief that the Gospel calls us not only to faith, but to action, especially in dismantling systems of harm and exclusion.

Her ministry stands as a powerful reminder that the Lutheran Church is not only shaped by its past, but continually renewed through courageous, Spirit-led leadership today.

Together, the legacies of Rev. Jehu Jones Jr. and Bishop Patricia Davenport tell a fuller story, one of perseverance, progress, and the ongoing work of becoming a church where all are truly welcome.



Bishop Patricia Davenport



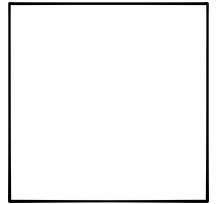
Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

1 West Avenida de Los Arboles

Thousand Oaks CA 91360-2939

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

Return service requested



FEBRUARY 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.



February Fun Fact!

February is the shortest month of the year, with 28 days (29 in a leap year!). Leap years happen every 4 years to keep our calendar aligned with the Earth's orbit—February gets the bonus day. Our next leap year will be in 2028.