



THE TEMPO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026
SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30AM INFORMAL

11AM TRADITIONAL

ONE WORSHIP SUNDAY
MAY 17TH AT 10AM

“To nurture Christ-centered lives that reflect God’s love and grace in our local and global communities.”



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



California
Interfaith
Power
& Light

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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MAY

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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**One
Worship Sunday**

MAY 17, 2026 | 10AM

followed by the
Annual Congregational Meeting
at 11:15AM

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

**DEADLINE FOR TEMPO SUBMISSION IS
MAY 22 FOR THE JUNE 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.



MAY EVENTS AT A GLANCE

- 5/3** - Hearts and Hands Worship at 9:30am
- 5/3** - New Member Welcome at both services
- 5/3** - GATHER (Young Adult Group) Summer Planning Meeting
- 5/5, 12, 19, 26** - Tuesday Bible Study
- 5/7** - Zoom Meditation
- 5/14, 21, & 28** - Meditation in the Church Library
- 5/21** - DORCAS Quilting Circle

- 5/17** - One Worship Sunday + Annual Congregational Meeting & Pupusa Sale
- 5/20** - Lutheran Lobby Day
- 5/20** - *Is this the Apocalypse* follow up class w/ Pastor Emily
- 5/23 - 5/25** - LRCC Memorial Day Family Camp
- 5/30** - Women's Bible Study
- 6/1** - Thea Book Circle

CYF Information is on page 11

PASTOR'S NOTE FROM PASTOR ERIK

WAR AND THE NAME OF JESUS

When I hear people in the news talk about God or when I hear the name of Jesus being used by pundits or political leaders my ears perk up. I'm always curious how it is they are describing the Christian faith or what claims they are making about God. I'm interested in hearing if they genuinely seem to be wrestling with the call of Scripture to love our neighbor and what that means in our lives or if they are using the Bible to justify some action they wish to take for their own agenda. I listen for which passages of the Bible they are choosing to emphasize and whether or not they are being quoted out of context in ways that could cause harm and bring a negative witness to the faith.

In recent weeks there has been a lot to ponder in regards to how God is getting used to try a justify the war in Iran. There have been worship services where Pentagon officials are being asked to pray for "...overwhelming violence of action against those who deserve no mercy," and for "justice to be delivered without remorse" all in the name of Jesus Christ". Then there was a chaplain's prayer that was shared at the highest levels which said, "I pursued my enemies and overtook them. I did not turn back 'til they were consumed. I thrust them through so that they were not able to rise. They fell under my feet". Most recently the Secretary of Defense made reference to a prayer a combat search and rescue team apparently used before a mission. It references Ezekiel 25:17 which says, "I will execute great vengeance on them with wrathful punishments."

To be clear, there are plenty of verses in the Bible that one could quote that talk about enemies being slaughtered or vengeance being taken.

There are definitely times when God's people pray for calamity to fall upon those who are persecuting them. It is important that Christians are honest about the violent passages that exist in Scripture. It is important that we also acknowledge how such passages have been used throughout the centuries to drum up support for wars and horrific actions towards other people. They have been used to by leaders who claim to have God on their side which gives them the license to perpetrate harm onto others as if they were the judge of who deserves mercy or not.

Most times in Scripture, however, whenever there is judgment to be given, it comes from God, not from human beings. For example, the second part of Ezekiel 25:17 says, "Then they shall know that I am the Lord, when I lay my vengeance on them." Here we see that the "I" in the passage is not the prophet himself or one of his tribe. Rather it is God who is in charge of when vengeance might come. That authority belongs to God alone, not a particular person or a particular group of people.

Another verse that gets quoted by religious folk who want to justify violence is from Romans 12:19 where it says, "Vengeance is mine says the Lord". But again, notice that it is God who is to be the judge, not human beings. It is also important to read the whole passage from which this verse comes. Here is what the rest of Romans chapter twelve says about how Christians are to act, "Beloved, never avenge yourselves...No, if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing so you will heap burning coals on their heads. Do not overcome evil with evil, but overcome evil with good." It also says let love be genuine, bless those who persecute you, and extend hospitality to strangers, among other things.

Looking at the Gospels, one can clearly see as well

PASTOR'S ARTICLE CONT.

that violence in the name of Jesus is the very antithesis of what Jesus ministry is about. Jesus said "Blessed are the peacemakers, Love your neighbor and even your enemies, and those who live by the sword shall die by the sword." But even as clear as it seems Jesus was about violence not being the answer, even his name gets invoked for war as some leaders look to use religion as a cover for inflicting harm upon others.

This is why it is so crucial that when the name of God is getting thrown around, we stop and think for a moment of the ramifications. Religion can be a powerful tool to shape perception for good or for ill. What is the agenda behind how the Bible is being quoted? Is it getting quoted out of context? Is it being misconstrued?

It is important we don't just take a quote from a leader about the Bible as the only interpretation. We need dig a little deeper into the actual Scripture. We can ask why a certain passage is being emphasized. Another option is to read the entire passage, chapter or book of the Bible the quote is from and research what the historical situation was at the time it was written. We can examine it through the lens of what the teachings and ministry of Jesus were about. The agenda of the speaker can also be tested in how the name of God is being used by seeing if it produces the fruits of the Spirit, (love, joy, peace, patience, etc.) or if it is being used to create results that are hurtful and destructive.

Listening to other how other religious authorities or leaders interpret a passage can also be helpful. Here is something Pope Leo XIV recently said in his Palm Sunday sermon in regards to Christianity and conflict, "This is our God: Jesus, King of Peace, who rejects war, whom no one can use to justify war". All of these methods can assist us as people of faith in

discerning the guidance of the Spirit on important issues and how we invoke the name of God. They can also give us insights and confidence so that we can be a voice giving witness to a version of Christianity that focuses on healing and peace rather than harm and hatred.

2026 JAN - MARCH FINANCE SNAPSHOT

Better 2026 financial results than expected so far are driven by a surge of early-year income, especially strong pledged & nonpledged giving. Actual income is likely to balance closer to budgeted in the next few months because some of these income sources won't recur later in the year, such as heavy February facilities use rental and a large March Benevity donation. Expenses are underspent so far but will also increase over the course of the year, contributing to a net closer to budget. Click the button below to see the detailed report.



MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN DAY

On **May 5**, the ELCA joins with other faith traditions, civic communities and concerned individuals across North America in recognizing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Day and encouraging education and action on behalf of MMIWG/R. Click the button below to learn what this day is about.



HTLC WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join us on **Saturday, May 30** at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall for the third session of our Bible study theme God's name, God's promise. This session is "God who leads us: Resurrection and life.'

"God, whose name is I AM, promises to lead all creation into abundant life—not by avoiding our struggles, but by entering them and transforming them into something new."

Join us in this conversation using our stories and the Bible stories of God's people.

-Dixie Hanson

THANK YOU NOTE FROM DAVE NONNEMACHER

Susan Salmore shared a thank you note from Dave Nonnemacher for our donatoins to the Ray of Life program for Ukraine. The actual handwritten note is in the narthex, but here are his words:

Susan and Holy Trinity family-

Thank you for the donation for more Ray of Life kits. I have a build event at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Duluth on 4/11. I'll add 10 more kits to that, 40 total.

Bless you! Just back from Ukraine on Monday.

Thanks, Dave

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

During May we will be taking a deep dive into the **Book of Ezekiel** found in the Hebrew Scriptures or what Christians sometimes call the Old Testament. Our plan is to do two chapters a week as we work our way through the book.

While in captivity in Babylon, Ezekiel, the son of Buzi, and an Israelite priest, possibly a descendant of Zadok, prophesied to his fellow exiles. Little is known of the details of his life other than that his wife died while in exile. His prophetic activity began in 593 BCE, and extended at least to 571. Like Jeremiah, Ezekiel prophesied before and after the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 587 BCE. While there is editing of his material, much of the book in its present form was most likely written by Ezekiel himself.

Join us **Tuesdays at 10:30am** in the church Fellowship Hall as we reflect on the words of one of the major prophets in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Here's the reading guide for May :

- May 5 - Ezekiel chapters 3 & 4
- May 12 - Ezekiel chapters 5 & 6
- May 19 - Ezekiel chapters 7 & 8
- May 26 - Ezekiel chapters 9 & 10



MAY 3RD

Save the Date for a
Hearts and Hands
Service on May 3rd at
our 9:30am service.



IS THIS THE APOCALYPSE FOLLOW UP CLASS OFFERED BY PASTOR EMILY

After our Civic Life and Faith convos during Lent, some of you expressed interest in the book of Revelation.

And you're not alone.

Few questions have haunted human beings more persistently than this one: *are we living in the last days?* From the early church to the medieval plague years, from the World Wars to the Cold War, every generation has had its reasons to suspect the end was near. Our own moment — with its wars, pandemics, environmental crisis, and fracturing political order — feels no different.

FOLLOW UP CLASS

On **Wednesday, May 20th at 6:30pm**, Pastor Emily will host a conversation as a follow up to Robyn Whitaker's class on "Is this the Apocalypse?" You can take the class yourself if you'd like. It is a pay-what-you-can class offered online on April 30th, or if you need the recorded video after, I can help you with that. ***Our follow-up convo will be in the fellowship hall, and will have a virtual option.***

"In this class, Robyn Whitaker takes a candid look at scripture's apocalyptic texts and how they have been interpreted within American Christianity. We'll explore what texts like the Book of Revelation and Daniel meant in their ancient context and ask how that should shape the way we read them today. We'll also reckon with the history of apocalyptic prediction in the USA, and why dispensationalism has proven so persistently popular due to the influence of the Scofield Bible and the Left Behind novels. We'll see how the theologies of Rapture, Tribulation, the Antichrist, and Armageddon have hijacked our thinking and

quietly shaped foreign policy and popular culture.

But this isn't just a history lesson. We'll wrestle seriously with the unsettling feeling that our own moment somehow feels like the end of something. What do the Bible's apocalypses have to say to people living in genuinely frightening times? And what does it mean to live faithfully when the world seems to be unravelling?"

Link to Class:

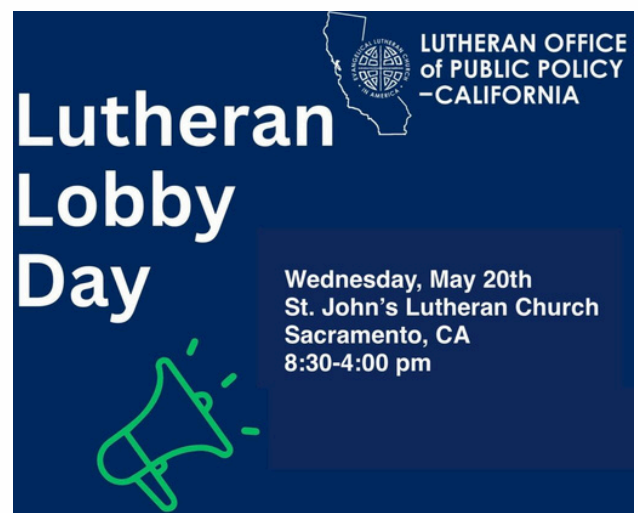
<https://thebiblefornormalpeople.com/classes/is-this-the-apocalypse>

Link to Follow Up Convo:

<https://htlcto.breezechms.com/form/0398f3>



LUTHERAN LOBBY DAY IN SACRAMENTO



Lutheran Lobby Day, hosted by the Lutheran Office of Public Policy, will take place on **May 20** from

8am-4pm. The day includes an orientation followed by small group visits with legislators to advocate for key bills aligned with ELCA social priorities. This is a powerful opportunity to share stories from our communities and help shape how representatives understand the issues. Participants often find it inspiring to see democracy in action firsthand. Travel support may be available for those under 36, and both same-day and overnight options are offered.

 REGISTER NOW



Easter Joy: Easter is a special season here at Honey Tree Early Childhood Center. Children delight in learning about rabbits, insects, birds, and new life. Easter egg hunts and parties are super fun and engaging activities reflected in the glorious smiles of our students. Chicks will be hatching shortly and families of butterflies have been raised and set free. Our teachers do a wonderful job creating the magic of the season both within and outside of the classroom. I am so proud of our staff for continually keeping the activities fun, positive, and enriching.

Enrollment: Honey Tree classes are filling for the 2026-2027 school year. Parents interested in signing up their child should contact the school as soon as possible in order to secure a spot in a class. (805)492-1232. Office@myhoneytree.com

Teacher Appreciation Week: We will celebrate our wonderful teachers at the beginning of May. Students will bring a homemade card and bring a flower from their yard for their teachers. Honey Tree teachers work very hard to create interesting and engaging lesson plans for their classrooms. They put a lot of effort into ensuring that each student

feels valued as “unique individuals created by God, and to develop a joyful curiosity in knowing and learning about God’s world.” We are so happy to have them celebrated!

Mother’s Day Teas: Honey Tree Moms are invited to come to the Fellowship Hall for a large celebration befitting all the continued love and care they provide to their families. Honey Tree will provide a special snack with their children and handmade cards and gifts will be presented. This is a special time for mother and child which all of HoneyTree looks forward to each year.

End of Year: The end of the school year is upon us so seemingly quickly. The year has flown by with fall festivities, the season of giving, Christmas holiday programs, Science Night, Grandparent’s Day, Easter celebrations, pastor visits, and so much more. Joy abounds at Honey Tree all year long! It has been a blessing to see all the students grow and develop with the loving, kind, and patient guidance and care provided by our phenomenal staff to each and every child. Honey Tree remains such a happy and vibrant little school for our community’s families.

Thank you for all your continued support for our special school program. We love our Honey Tree and Holy Trinity families!

Upcoming Campus Improvements

- Convert enclosed garden as a mud kitchen.
- Convert small plot into classroom garden.
- Add security buzzer to front office door.

Upcoming Dates:

Teacher Appreciation week May 4-8
(from parents)

Pastor Visits May 5 & 6

Mother’s Day Tea May 7 & 8

Memorial Day/No school May 25

Closing singing programs May 27 & 28

HOW MIGHT YOU GIVE OF YOUR TIME?

In the Fall we have a pattern at Holy Trinity of talking about Stewardship and what it means to see what we have as gift from God to be managed for the good of both ourselves and our community. We generally focus on giving of our financial resources at that time and ask members if they are willing to make a pledge for the next year.

Financial stewardship is important, but so is stewardship of our time and talents. To help us think about this, the Stewardship team at Holy Trinity is lifting up a three week emphasis on opportunities to volunteer at the church. The first Sunday, May 3, will be focused on worship assisting and helping in ways like ushering, reading, or being a communion assistant. On the following Sunday, May 10, we will be lifting up what it means to serve in a leadership role on a ministry team such as council or a committee. The last Sunday, May 17, will emphasize service to the wider community through the church such as volunteering with Harbor House.

Each Sunday we will have a video testimony from someone who is currently serving in one of these areas as well as an opportunity to sign up on the church patio. We hope you will seriously consider how you might be a steward of God's gift of time by getting involved as a volunteer in some capacity. If you have questions you can stop by the stewardship table on any of the three focus Sundays or contact me at: 805-492-1234 or pastorerik@htlcto.org.



UPDATE ON 2026 CONEJO VALLEY CROP HUNGER WALK

We had a beautiful day for the Crop Walk this year. With sixteen walkers (plus two dogs) and lots of donors, it was a great day! **Holy Trinity raised almost \$4,500** and that is \$300 more than last year. In total the walk raised \$39,000 for Church World Services and four local nonprofits. Thank you to everyone who walked and donated, the help is very much needed as federal aid to Church World Services has been cut.

A big thank you to Karen Kreman who did all of the organizing for the walk again this year!

- Community Outreach Team



DORCAS QUILTING CIRCLE

Dorcas has been busy crafting hospice and shut-in comforters. In April a series of robes were completed to cover lap and legs while sitting daily in a wheelchair.

Susan and Elsa were proud of the Earth day they quilted called "Explore Everywhere." Thanks to all who donate the colorful fabric so the quilts can be created. We were gifted funds from the Thrivent Action Teams so will be purchasing additional batting and light flannel.

We will meet **Thursday May 21 at 9am** in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to help.

DORCAS QUILTING CIRCLE CONT.

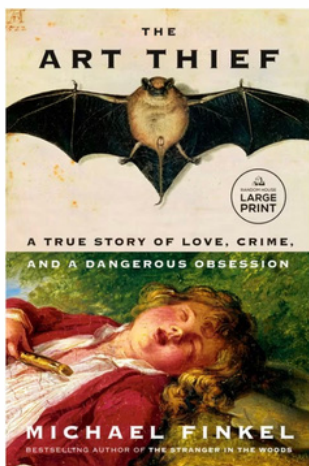


Susan and Elsa's Explore Everywhere quilt!

THEA BOOK CIRCLE

Ventura County : One Country One Read book for this year is The Art Thief by Michael Finkel. The true story of the world's most prolific art thief and a portrait of an obsessed and flawed genius, it will be the May Thea Book Circle pick for May.

This riveting story of art and crime will be discussed on **Monday, June 1, at 7pm** in the Church Library. There are copies available at the Thousand Oaks Library.



MAY MEDITATION GROUP

Meditation can seem to be a mysterious, complicated process but I found a simple quote from John Main in his book *The Way of Unknowing* :

This what meditation leads us to: the understanding from our own experience simply that God is.

If you are interested in finding that God is, join us on Thursdays, at 4 pm. The first Thursday in May , **May 7**, is our **Zoom meditation**. Contact Miriam at miriamnakayama@gmail.com for a Zoom invite.

May 14, 21 and 28 are **in-person** meditations in the church library in the office building. Enter through the double doors.

The Lord is Risen and God Is!

In Christ's name,
Miriam Nakayama

LIBRARY NEWS!

Soon we hope to have a library event! In the meantime, Brian McGuire is finding treasures to share with you. This month it is Paul. Please read *Paul* by Walter Wangerin, a Lutheran pastor. It's a fictional biography. That inspired us to feature biographies we have in the library; look for books featured on shelves and on the cabinets. Pick one up and skim through it, check it out by signing your name and email on the clipboard. Return it when you are done, and place it by the clipboard. It's on a file cabinet near the double door.

You might find a treasure too!

Miriam Nakayama and Laurel Engstrom



MAY CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY CALENDAR

May 3

10:45-11:30 Faith Explorers & Youth Group

May 10

None. Mother's Day

May 17

ONE SERVICE SUNDAY at 10am
Congregational Meeting after worship

May 24

Family Camp at El Camino Pines



DO YOU HAVE A SOON-TO-BE GRADUATE IN YOUR FAMILY?

That time of year is here!

Do you have a graduate in your family?

If you'd like us to celebrate your graduate, please fill out this form which includes name, photo, from where they are graduating, and any post-grad plans if they want to share:

<https://htlcto.breezechms.com/form/31a38d7291>

For graduates who are active members of our congregation, we will celebrate them on June 7th during worship. All others will be included in the

prayers and in the June newsletter. Please submit information by **May 17th**.



MEMORIAL DAY FAMILY CAMP

There is still time to register for Memorial Day Family Camp at El Camino Pines! Sign up today!

<https://lrcchome.com/memorial-day-family-camp>

Join other families at Memorial Day Family Camp at El Camino Pines this year! Just a 1.5 hour drive from Holy Trinity, stay in a cabin, play games, programming for kids and adults, and the pool might even be open! Event starts Saturday after lunch and ends Monday morning. We have kids from Holy Trinity as young as 3.5 up to grade 8 attending so far with parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles joining in for the fun. Hope you can make it!

Families of all shapes and sizes are welcome to attend.

2026 Prices:

\$185 ages 12 and up

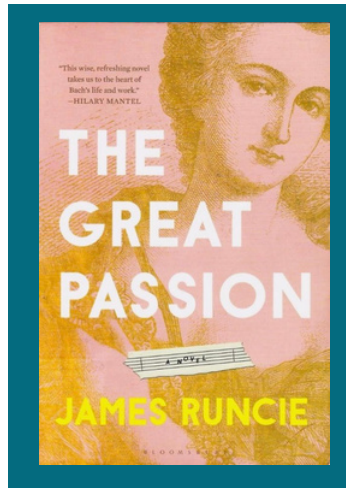
\$125 ages 4-11 (3 and younger are free)

\$525 Family Max (for members of the same household only)



HTLC LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

by Brian McGuire



"The Great Passion" by James Runcie was recently donated to the HTLC Library by Dixie Hanson. This is a fictional account of the creation of Johann Sebastian Bach's famous oratorio "The Passion According to Saint Matthew" written for, and first performed on, Good Friday in 1727.

The word "passion" derives from the deponent Latin verb *patior, pati, passus sum* meaning to endure or suffer—rather than today's connotation of intense emotional or sexual love. Passion oratorios are musical renditions of the period of Jesus' life through the Passover, Last Supper, arrest, trial, crucifixion, and burial. "Oratorio" is unstaged opera: it contains the orchestra and the choir minus scenery, costumes, and acting. It might be secular or sacred. Opera houses of the time were generally forced to close during Holy Weeks; however sacred oratorios were made an exception; these kept the musicians fully employed year-round. One complication: as oratorios performed in church were not allowed to include female performers, the soprano/ female parts were supplied by prepubescent boys. And special music schools in Germany trained them.

Enter the protagonist Stefan Silbermann, a 13-year-old whose mother had recently died. His father, an organ maker, sent him away to school to help him get over the loss of his mother. He found himself at St. Thomas' School in Leipzig Germany, the Cantor of which was none other than Johann Sebastian

Bach. Stefan grew close to Bach and his family (who lived in private quarters at the school) working as a music copyist and developing his singing and organ skills. Subplots include Stefan's crush on one of Bach's daughters, the bullying he endured at the school because of his red hair (go figure), and the race against time between the Good Friday performance and the possibility of Stefan's voice changing, after which he would be useless. Stefan worked closely with Bach and the lyricist Picander, copying reams of music score, as well as practicing his own solo parts.

Death held a continual grip on Europe at this time and recent losses gave certain characters an emotional investment in the Passion. Besides Stefan's mother, the wife of the bass soloist had suddenly died and he almost dropped out of the performance. Bach had just lost an infant daughter. His current wife, Anna Magdalena, was his second; both marriages produced twenty (20!) children, only nine of whom were living at his death in 1750. These personal tragedies made Jesus' story of life triumphing over death extraordinarily compelling.

Stefan performed first the soprano aria *Ich will Dir mein Herze Schenken*, or

Jesus, Saviour, I am Thine, come and dwell my heart within;
All things else I count but loss, glory only in Thy Cross.
Dearer than the world beside is the Saviour who hath died. (etc)

Later in the Passion he sang the aria *Aus Liebe will mein Heiland sterben*, or

For love my Saviour now is dying,
Of sin and guilt He knowest nought,
So eternal desolation
And the sinners' righteous doom
Shall not rest upon my spirit. (etc)

And toward the end, *Ruhe sanfte, sanfte ruh* or "Rest

Book Review continued...

gently, gently rest."

Bach was thought to have written five passions. Those based on Matthew and John exist in their entirety, the Luke passion is of debatable attribution, only fragments of Mark survive, and regarding the lost fifth passion nothing is known. St Matthew's Passion was one of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's favorite works of music and he considered it Bach's best, feeling that it personified "costly grace" and discipleship. Bonhoeffer wrote that discipleship is the creative participation in the glory of Christ and his suffering and that "the music here only comes to itself through Jesus Christ and does not desire to be anything for itself but everything for Jesus Christ."

This book would be an enjoyable read for fans of Bach, classical music enthusiasts, German history buffs, and the general fiction reader. And listen to the Oratorio.

FAIR TRADE



Noticing the Fair Higher Prices and Fresh Products with Miriam

Because I recently placed a new order, I need to report some updated prices. As expected (and as you may have seen in the news), coffee and chocolate costs have risen. New harvest dates are now \$15 per box for large, meaty dates. Divine Chocolate Bars are \$4, with flavors including Dark Chocolate with Toffee, Milk Chocolate with Toffee, Dark Chocolate with Raspberries, and Dark Chocolate with Pink Himalayan Sea Salt. Equal Exchange Chocolate Bars remain \$3.50.

At the May library event (possibly May 3), we will serve samples of Red Barn 5-year white cheddar with crackers and take orders. Both 3-

year and 5-year white cheddar are still \$6 per package.

In Annual Report news, Holy Trinity spent \$4,279.85 on fair trade products from 1/05/2025-1/05/2026 ...an increase from last year. Thank you, Holy Trinity Fair Trade shoppers! We will be selling fair trade chocolate, tea, coffee, cocoa, olive oil, and chocolate chips at our table inside by the outside doors on **Sundays, May 10 and 24.**

Blessings,
Miriam Nakayama, Nancy Truex, and Terri Kelly

MANNA CONEJO VALLEY

In April, HTLC donated an incredible 154 pounds of groceries to Manna, thank you for your generosity! As a reminder, all food should be unopened, properly labeled, and preferably before the sell-by date. *You can find the most needed items on page 16.*

In honor of Memorial Day, Holy Trinity is once again partnering with **Gold Coast Veterans Foundation** for a special Manna food drive supporting local veterans. Following the incredible response last November (nearly 900 pounds collected) we're invited to come together again for this meaningful effort.

This drive will run from **Monday, May 11 through Friday, May 29.** Simply bring your donations to the narthex and place them in or near the Gold Coast Veterans bin. Many veterans served through this program face homelessness or are elderly or disabled, making every contribution, big or small, deeply impactful.

May the 4th be with you, Feliz Cinco de Mayo, and Happy Mother's Day!

Karen and Marty Kreman



VBS SIGN UPS ARE OPEN



Our VBS this year is all about kids connecting with God, each other, and the community.

July 6 - 10th, 2026 from 9am-12pm

Theme: #KidsConnect

Cost: Free (donations are always welcome!)

As children learn and create together, they will find a place of belonging, relate to trusted adults, make new friends, and follow Jesus' example of making room for all and loving one another. Each day includes worship and drama, Bible study, art and science explorations, brain-building challenges, and active games. Daily take-home activities encourage families to grow faith and build community with people of all ages. Let's build a better world filled with the love and peace of God! Lead counselors are adult volunteers who are background checked and trained. Junior counselors include youth ages 6th-12th grade.

Registration for kids and volunteers:

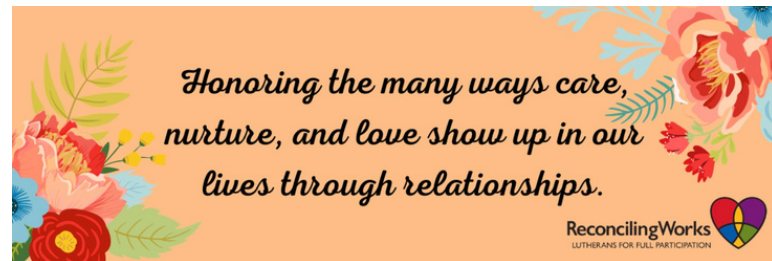
<https://www.htlcto.org/vbs>

MUSIC MINISTER UPDATE

At the time of the newsletter creation, council had voted to offer the positions of "Praise Band Minister of Music" and "Choral Minister of Music" to two separate individuals. We had two wonderful auditions. The praise band position is still open - the candidate had other job offers on the table. We are waiting to hear back on the choir director. More to come at the annual meeting.

IN MAY WE HONOR

In May we honor Mother's Day and we honor the many ways care, nurture and love show up in our lives through relationships.



God of love and expansive care,

*We give you thanks for all who nurture life—
for those who mother, mentor, guide, and hold
others with tenderness and strength.*

*We celebrate the many ways care is given in this
world, across all genders, identities, and
relationships.*

*We are grateful for the people in our lives who
show up with compassion,
who listen deeply, who advocate boldly,
and who create spaces where others can grow
and belong.*

*In the spirit of ReconcilingWorks and the
Reconciling in Christ program,
we give thanks for those who embody a love that
is inclusive, affirming, and just — a love that
reflects your boundless welcome.*

*Help us to honor and uplift all forms of nurturing,
to see the sacred in caregiving of every kind,
and to continue building a church and world
where every person is cherished and free to be
fully themselves.*

*With grateful hearts, we pray.
Amen.*

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

We are thrilled to welcome twelve new members to the Holy Trinity family this month. We will do a formal welcome of new members at our May 3rd services. Be sure to give them each a warm welcome. We'd like to introduce some of our new members here:

Al and Beth Breems



We moved to California from Michigan in 1989. We raised our three sons in Moreno Valley where we lived until we both retired from education several years ago. We moved to Newbury Park to be near our oldest son, his wife and two grandkids. Our other two sons are married and live in the DC area with their spouses and our youngest grandson. We attended a UCC church prior to moving and wanted to find a church that affirms and advocates for the LGBTQ community and a church that seeks justice, loves mercy and reminds us to walk humbly with our God. We feel very blessed to have found Holy Trinity.

Jean Beaman



My name is Jean Beaman and I am happy and pleased to become a new member of HTLC. Just a little information to introduce myself.

I was born in New Orleans, La. and came to California as a child. I graduated from Santa Monica High School and completed college at Cal State University, Northridge where I met my husband, Max. We have now been married for 55 years and have had a wonderful life together.

I started going to church on my own when I was sixteen years old. I have been a member of Mt Olive Lutheran Church in Santa Monica, Trinity Lutheran Church in Manhattan Beach, and King of Glory Lutheran Church in Newbury Park. My daughter, Stacey, introduced me last year to HTLC and I have been very impressed with the loving atmosphere here.

I am a retired sixth grade teacher having worked at Walnut Elementary and Sequoia Middle School, both in Newbury Park. I loved my career and have continued my involvement with schools by being a member of DKG (Delta Kappa Gamma) an educational organization helping children, teachers, and our community.

NEW MEMBERS CONT.

Max and I have two amazing daughters. Melissa Beaman is a Nurse Practitioner living in Arvada, Colorado near Denver. Stacey Beaman is the Digital Communications Specialist here at Holy Trinity and she and her husband, Ryan Lehmann, are members of Holy Trinity. They live in Oak Park.

I would like to thank Pastor Erik, Pastor Emily, Kathleen Sands, and the Holy Trinity Bible Study group for their warm welcome each time I came to church. The spirit of love that emanates from these church grounds is heartwarming.

The Bustillos Family



Hi! It's a pleasure to meet you. We are the Bustillos family—Jordan, Vanessa, Malia, and Zara.

Vanessa and I were both born and raised in Ventura. After a two-year adventure living in Seattle, we decided to plant our roots back in California and have settled into Camarillo for the long term.

In our professional lives, I work as a finance manager in the tech sector, and Vanessa is a

dental hygienist. When we aren't working, our family is almost always on the move. Our two daughters, Malia and Zara, keep us busy with their love for gymnastics and music, and as a family, we take every opportunity we can to get outdoors and enjoy the sunshine.

Our spiritual backgrounds are a bit of a mix—I grew up in the Apostolic faith, while Vanessa was raised Catholic. As we looked for a church home to raise our girls in, we were immediately drawn to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Between the uplifting messages, the genuine kindness of the community, and the emphasis on simple, direct access to a relationship with God, we knew this was where we wanted to be.

We are so excited to join this community and look forward to getting to know you all better!



Additionally, we extend a warm welcome to:

Crystal Brownlee
Kylie White

MOST NEEDED MANNA ITEMS

1. Canned Pasta Sauce
2. Instant Oatmeal Packets
3. Condiments (mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard)
4. Coffee, Tea, or Hot Chocolate
5. Canned Baked Beans
6. Canned Chili
7. Canned Meat (chicken, spam, ham)
8. Canned Soup (any variety)
9. Broth (canned or shelf-stable cartons)
10. Boxed Hamburger Helper

ONE WORSHIP SUNDAY

Reminder that on **Sunday, May 17th**, we will have just one worship service at 10am, followed by our Annual Congregational Meeting at 11:15am. Please mark your calendars!

One Worship Sunday

MAY 17, 2026 | 10AM

followed by the
Annual Congregational Meeting
at 11:15AM



Special thanks to our praise band for bringing us beautiful worship music week after week!

APRIL IN PHOTOS



Message

Pastor Emily



MAY PRAYER REQUESTS

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

The family of Mary Kathryn Davenport (Susie Wilber's sister) upon her recent death

Stephen Warkentien (Barbara Warkentien's son) for healing of his foot

David Humphrey, Maggie Becker's father, for healing following surgery

Lori O'Neil, for continued healing

Evonne Larson, for healing after a fall

Susie Wilber, for continued good recovery

Martha Buratto, for a good recovery after knee surgery

Pamela Baldwin, for healing

Helene Shughart, Jean Kammerer's sister, for healing from side effects of chemotherapy

Karen, a dear friend of Linda Ross, for healing

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

The family of Mary Kathryn Davenport (Susie Wilber's sister) upon her recent death

The family of Greg Miller, son of Jerry & Margaret Miller, upon his recent death

The family of Elizabeth Velarde, Yolanda Mosley's mother, upon her recent death

The family of Anne Lieberknecht, upon her recent death

The family of Christopher Vandezande, upon his recent death (Margie Vandezandee's grandson)

The family of Hazel Dell Hansen who recently died (Hazel is a cousin to Margaret Schwalm and Nelius Ronning)

The family of Dawn Aiken, cousin to Pamela Baldwin, upon her recent death

The family of Scott Yant, Katie Yant's brother-in-law, who recently died

Kelly Scott, dear friend of the Beaman family, who is battling breast cancer



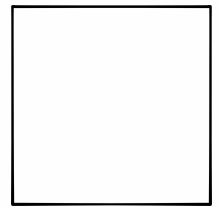


Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

1 West Avenida de Los Arboles

Thousand Oaks CA 91360-2939

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



Return service requested

MAY
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 \$45. Please write "Flowers" on the memo line of your check to ensure proper allocation or use an Altar Flower Envelope, available in the narthex. Kindly make your payment by the Wednesday prior to your selected date to allow ample time for ordering.
3. **Bulletin Note:** Email your dedication and any color preferences to churchoffice@htlcto.org by noon on Wednesday to be included in the Sunday bulletin.
4. **Pickup:** After the second service, you are welcome to take the flowers home.



May Fun Fact!

On **May 1, 1931**, the Empire State Building was officially opened and on **May 27, 1937**, the Golden Gate Bridge was opened in San Francisco.