

# THE TEMPO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



**JULY 2026**

ONE WORSHIP  
SUNDAY ALL  
MONTH LONG  
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

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

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**JULY**

## OFFICE HOURS

9:00 AM-2:30 PM

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

805-492-1234  
churchoffice@htlcto.org

## GET SOCIAL WITH US



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



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



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

**One Worship  
Sunday**

**THE ENTIRE MONTH OF  
JULY AT 10AM**

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

**DEADLINE FOR TEMPO SUBMISSION IS  
JULY 24 FOR THE AUGUST 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.



## JULY EVENTS AT A GLANCE

**7/2** - Zoom Meditation

**7/5** - One Worship Sunday 10am

**7/5** - Book of Revelations Bible Study

**7/7, 14, 21, 28** - Tuesday Bible Study

**7/9, 16, 23 & 30** - Meditation at Church

**7/11** - Gather Beach Trip

**7/12 & 26** - Fair Trade Sales

**7/12** - One Worship Sunday 10am

**7/12** - Book of Revelations Bible Study

**7/18** - Gather Hurricane Harbor Trip

**7/19** - One Worship Sunday 10am

**7/19** - Church BBQ & Congregational Meeting

**7/21** - Interfaith Community Event

**7/23** - WIN Summer Picnic

**7/25** - Women's Bible Study

**7/26** - One Worship Sunday 10am

**7/26** - Book of Revelations Bible Study

## PASTOR'S NOTE FROM PASTOR ERIK

# UNALIENABLE RIGHTS FROM A HIGHER POWER

One of my earliest memories of the Declaration of Independence is purchasing a copy of it from a tourist shop in Boston. I was around eight or nine years old and we had gone back to Massachusetts to visit our relatives on my Mom's side of the family. Part of that visit included visiting historical sites related to the American Revolution. After learning about what happened and having heard about it in school, I was excited to see a replica of the Declaration of Independence for sale in a store with the original script and the big signature of John Hancock, just as I had heard about. My mom purchased the copy for me and when I felt the parchment paper it was written on I felt like I was touching a piece of history. Even though I couldn't quite make out the small, fancy writing, I knew it was important.

This year we are celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Since that time in the Boston curio shop, I have actually read the Declaration of Independence, not just marveling at the elegant script and signatures, but thinking about their meaning as well. As we as a country enter this 250th year since our founding we need to think deeply about those words more than ever as there are growing voices in our nation whose pronouncements and policies would undermine the very ideals of our founding document. One way I see this happening are voices being amplified who would argue that the US was founded as a Christian nation and should therefore be a Christian nation today, which means other religions and people of faith should be subordinated to a particular kind of version of Christianity, even if it means those people's rights are violated.

It is important then, not just to take the interpretation of these pastors and leaders as the only perspective, but to read what the document actually says. The website "Legal Clarity" gives a summary of the way God or references to a higher power are talked about in the Declaration of Independence:

- **"Laws of Nature and of Nature's God"**: The very first sentence invokes this phrase to justify the colonies' right to separate from Britain. It frames independence not as an act of rebellion but as something the natural and divine order entitles them to.
- **"Endowed by their Creator"**: The famous second paragraph declares that all people "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." By placing the source of rights in a Creator rather than in government, the authors made those rights impossible for any government to legitimately revoke.
- **"Supreme Judge of the world"**: Near the closing, the signers appeal "to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions," essentially calling on a divine authority to witness that their motives are just.
- **"Divine Providence"**: The final sentence pledges "a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence," expressing trust that a higher power would sustain their cause.

The article goes on to point out: "The phrase "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights" does something politically radical that's easy to miss. This was a direct attack on the prevailing political theory of the day, the divine right of kings, which held that a monarch's authority came from God and therefore could not be questioned. The Declaration flipped the logic: God gave rights to people, not to kings. If a government

## PASTOR'S NOTE CONT....

fails to protect those rights, the people have the right "to alter or to abolish it." The divine references serve this argument. They are not decorative or ceremonial; they are the philosophical foundation for revolution." (<https://legalclarity.org/is-god-mentioned-in-the-declaration-of-independence/>)

Note that there are no references to Jesus Christ or to the Christian faith in the Declaration of Independence. The Constitution also makes no reference to Jesus or Christianity. Instead, the Constitution creates a structure where the government cannot prefer one religion over another or religion over nonreligion. Those who want to make it sound like the US is a Christian nation therefore have to read into references like "Nature's God" and "Creator" and try and argue that these are specific references to a Christian God.

I also find it ironic that Christian Nationalists would seek to limit the rights of other people of faith, including other Christians they don't agree with. They would put themselves in the role of the King of England, claiming to have the divine right of who deserves better treatment than others, which is the very opposite of the spirit of the founding documents of the US.

Perhaps one way we can celebrate this 250th anniversary on the Fourth of July is to take a moment to read and reflect on the Declaration of Independence for ourselves. We might also take a moment to read the Gospels and see what kind of community Jesus describes when he talks about the "kingdom of God." Spoiler alert: a lot of it can be summed up in one quote from Jesus. "Love your neighbor as yourself."

## VENTURA COUNTY INTERFAITH COMMUNITY

At **7PM on July 21st**, a leader from a local Seventh-day Adventist Church will offer an engaging introduction to the denomination, including a brief look at its history and the distinctive beliefs and practices that set it apart within the Christian tradition.

This is a great opportunity to learn about a faith community that many people have heard of but few truly understand. The presentation will take place at Congregation Am Ha Yam, 4839 Market St., Ventura.

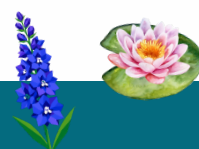
## END OF LIFE WORKSHOP

You are invited to save the date for an "End of Life" workshop facilitated by a representative from Reardon funeral homes. The workshop will take place on **Wednesday, August 19 at 12:00pm.**

A free lunch will be served. The presentation will talk about end of life decisions that can be helpful for friends and family if they are made in advance. It will also cover what to expect when a loved one dies and how having conversations and making a plan ahead of time can help those who are grieving with the acute loss period. If you are interested in attending, an RSVP is helpful to know how much food to prepare. You can RSVP by calling the church office or emailing at [pastorerik@htlcto.org](mailto:pastorerik@htlcto.org).

## DID YOU KNOW

July's birth flowers are the larkspur and water lily. The Larkspur, especially white forms, generally indicates lightheartedness; pink, fickleness; purple, first love. The water lily symbolizes purity of heart.



## HTLC WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join us on **Saturday, July 25 at 2pm** for our Women's Bible Study with the theme I Am Worthy.

This second session is titled "I am more than one thing."

"In this session. . . we'll look to women in scripture and discover that they are so much more than what we've been taught. . . We'll see not only Biblical women, but hopefully others and ourselves in a new light, beyond stereotypes . . .beyond a single story." (Gather, p. 41)

- Dixie Hanson

## ANNUAL WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

"Faith Connections: What is your story?"

Our annual Women's Breakfast event will be **Saturday morning, August 15, from 9am to 11:30am** in the Fellowship Hall.

What was your faith journey to Holy Trinity? We will also share a favorite Bible verse, favorite Bible story, and/or a special Bible.

Sign up for this event on the church patio after worship, beginning Sunday, July 19.

-Dixie Hanson

## TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

In July our deep dive into the Book of Ezekiel continues verse by verse. Our plan is to do three chapters a week as we work our way through the book.

Ezekiel's prophecies take a wide variety of forms, from poetry to visions to dramatic, symbolic

physical actions. His words of judgment are biting and often troubling and violent. At the same time Ezekiel will offer glimpses of hope that God will promise to restore God's people.

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 July :

**July 7**... Chapters 21, 22, & 23

(\*meet in church library on July 7)

**July 14**....Chapters 24, 25, & 26

**July 21** ...Chapters 27, 28, & 29

**July 28**...Chapters 30, 31, & 32

## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY IN JULY

On **July 5, 12, and 26**, at 11:15am, Pastor Emily is hosting a Bible study on the book of Revelation. The study will take place in Fellowship Hall.

Interest began with a class called "Is this the Apocalypse." Attendees expressed curiosity in the imagery and metaphors used throughout the book, hence this Summer study on Revelation. We'll use resources like N.T. Wright's "Revelation for Everyone" and videos/commentary from The Bible Project.

**July 5**...Chapters 1-7

**July 12**...Chapters 8-14

**July 26**...Chapters 15-22

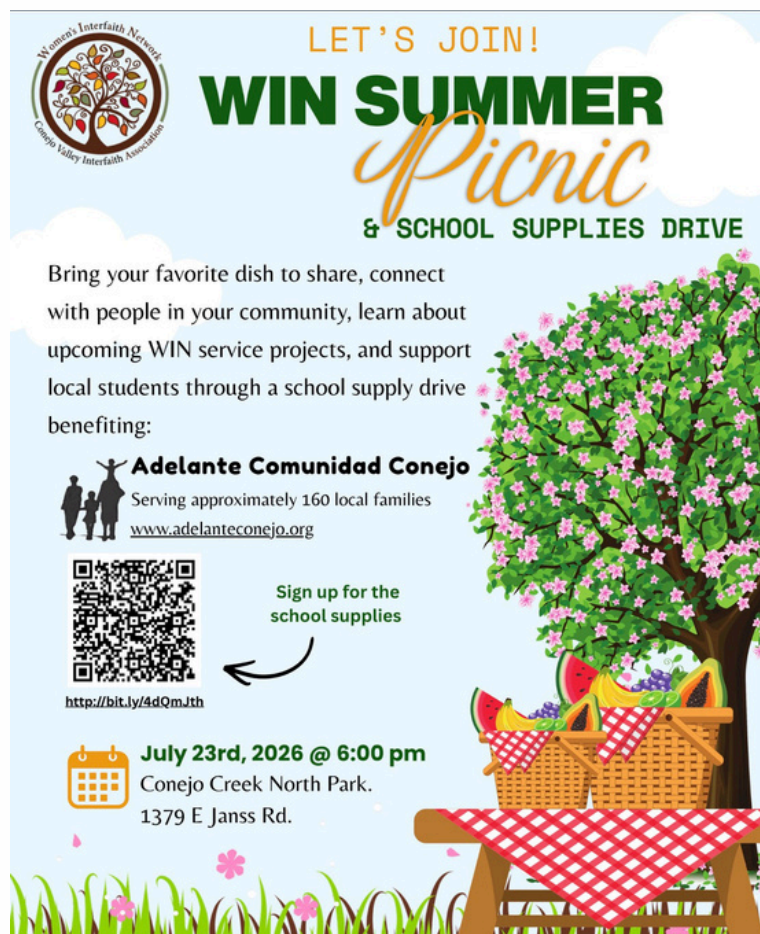
Consider reading the chapters ahead of time and highlighting words/imagery of which you are curious. You do not need to purchase the "Revelation is for Everyone" book to participate in the study.



## JOIN THE WOMEN'S INTERFAITH NETWORK SUMMER PICNIC AND SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Please join us, the Conejo Valley Women's Interfaith Network (WIN), at our annual community picnic at **6pm on July 23rd** at the Conejo Creek North Park. Families are invited and bring a friend. Our aim is to spread awareness of our mission to work together in the community as friends and neighbors in support of our non profits and invite all interested members of the community to join our efforts.

As part of our picnic, we invite all attendees to bring school supplies to the July 23rd picnic in support of Adelante Comunidad Conejo.



LET'S JOIN!  
**WIN SUMMER Picnic**  
& SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

Bring your favorite dish to share, connect with people in your community, learn about upcoming WIN service projects, and support local students through a school supply drive benefiting:

**Adelante Comunidad Conejo**  
Serving approximately 160 local families  
[www.adelanteconejo.org](http://www.adelanteconejo.org)

Sign up for the school supplies  
  
<http://bit.ly/4dQmJth>

**July 23rd, 2026 @ 6:00 pm**  
Conejo Creek North Park.  
1379 E Janss Rd.

 **LEARN MORE**

## CHURCH BBQ AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Join us on **July 19th**, following our One Worship Sunday, for fun, fellowship, food, and conversation! Enjoy grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, ice-cold lemonade, and time together as a church community before our Congregational Meeting in the Fellowship Hall to vote on the updated church constitution. Please **RSVP before July 10** so we can plan for food and seating.

We need volunteers to help make the event a success! Opportunities include:

- Setting up tables and chairs on Friday, June 17
- Grilling hamburgers and hot dogs
- Preparing and serving coffee
- Food prep
- Setting up tablecloths, plates, napkins, and serving areas
- Cleaning up after the meeting

**RSVP**

A team has been working hard to update our Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions to align with the model constitution and the practices of Holy Trinity. These documents have been available digitally in the Friday Connection email, and we will have two copies in the office and library if you would like to review them before the meeting on July 19th. You may request a hard copy from our church office administrator - Kathleen - as well. The constitution must be approved by a majority of voting members present at the meeting on July 19th. Then, the document will be ratified at our next annual budget meeting in January. It took a lot of hard work to get this up to date! Let's get it approved!!!



### Summer Camp

Summer camp was a HUGE hit! For students and families!. The children enjoyed water play, science experiments and much more! We are so pleased with its success.

### Mud Garden/Kitchen

Our mudgarden/kitchen conversion is an exciting experience for students to enjoy in the fall. We will have 2 mud kitchen tables, a raised planter and more! Nature exploration is an integral part of young children’s learning and discovery.

**Enrollment:** Honey Tree classes are filling for the 2026–2027 school year. It has been a joy to give tours and sign up new families. 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](mailto:Office@myhoneytree.com)

We wish everyone a safe and joyous summer!

## Summer Prayer



Great Creator,

This summer we give thanks for new seasonal rhythms, more sunshine, and abundant beauty.

Please give respite to those in extreme heat and send healing waters to those experiencing drought.

May our summer work and play bring us closer to your vision of the Kingdom of God.  
Amen.



## MANNA CONEJO VALLEY

June food donations for Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank were 32 pounds. Thank you!

We also received the total of the Gold Coast Veterans Foundation Manna Food Drive. HTLC donated 166 pounds during the food drive, plus had donated 14 pounds before the drive officially began. So **180 pounds** of groceries were donated by HTLC, to Manna, **in May**.

Here is the current list of Most Needed Items:

1. Cereal
2. Instant Oatmeal Packets
3. Canned Pasta Sauce
4. Boxed Hamburger Helper or Instant Potatoes
5. Condiments (Mayonnaise, Ketchup, Mustard, etc.)
6. Canned Soup (Any Variety)
7. Broth (Canned or Shelf-Stable Cartons)
8. Canned Meat (Chicken, Spam, or Ham)
9. Canned Chili
10. Personal Care Items (Sanitary Pads, Tampons, Soap, Underarm Deodorant, etc.)

Please place your donations on the designated table in the narthex. Happy 4th of July!



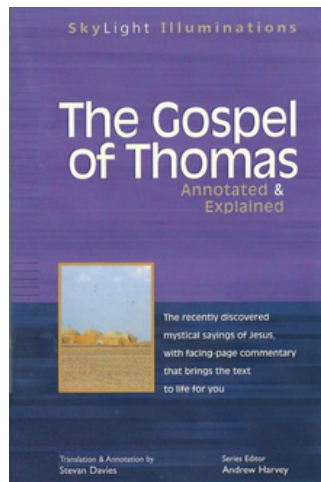
– Karen and Marty Kreman

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS – ONE WORSHIP SUNDAYS IN JULY



## HTLC LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

by Brian McGuire



One day in 1945 two Egyptian peasant brothers Mohammad Ali and Mohammad Khalifa Al-Samman (we will call them both "Mo" for short) unearthed a pottery jar in a field. Inside were numerous manuscripts which eventually found their way to biblical experts. Written in Coptic (Egyptian language using the Greek alphabet), the contents consisted of fifty-two texts (forty of which were previously unknown) and came to be known as the "Nag Hammadi" library. In this collection were The Gospel of Philip, The Gospel of Truth, The Gospel of the Egyptians, the Secret Book of James, the Secret Book of John, and much more, with manuscript age (but not necessarily composition) dating from AD 100–350.

**"The Gospel of Thomas"** by Stevan Davies (in our HTLC Library) presents a translation and commentary of one of these manuscripts. It had been originally written in Greek (fragments from other sources had been previously found) and later translated into Coptic. The gospel is attributed to Didymus Judas Thomas, one of the original twelve apostles (aka "Doubting Thomas") and is not to be confused with the other apocrypha "Acts of Thomas" or "Book of Thomas".



Several points of interest:

- this gospel appears to have been compiled around the same time as the Canon gospels, and may even precede Matthew and Luke
- the gospel is an unorganized list of 150 sayings of Jesus unframed by narrative or chronology, and often confounded by lack of context; approximately half of these resemble sayings found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke
- the unstructured and nonsequential aspect of the sayings implies recall by an individual familiar with Jesus (or perhaps recitation from word-of-mouth recall) and written down by a scribe
- there is no mention of many of the central points of Christian doctrine, such as the virgin birth, miracles, crucifixion, or resurrection

The various sayings are typical of Jesus' previously known statements: heavy on paradox, often cryptic, sometimes harsh, and occasionally funny: "If (circumcision) were useful, then they would be born already circumcised."

The major philosophical difference centers around the timing of the achievement of the Kingdom of God. Conventional Christianity holds that God's perfect Kingdom is a future world to be attained after death. Thomas' quotes of Jesus imply a more immediate Kingdom that is present now if you only look, ie, seek and you shall find. "Rather, the Kingdom of the Father is already spread out on the earth, and people aren't aware of it. . . . That which you are waiting for has come, but you don't recognize it. . . . The Kingdom is within you and it is outside of you. . . . Recognize what is right in front of you, and that which is hidden from you will be revealed to you. . . . Split wood, I am there. Lift up a rock, you will find me there."

*continued on page 10*

## Book Review continued...

It is unknown why this Gospel was excluded from Canon, despite being in existence at the time the Canon was finalized in AD 367 by Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria. As early as AD 180, there was pressure—particularly from Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyon—to limit the Canon to four Gospels. The incipient banning of all the others might explain why this and other apocrypha were squirreled away by the Gnostic monks in Egypt and buried close to their monastery, only to be discovered more than 1600 years later by the Mo brothers.

Does this gospel represent dependency upon the Canon gospels (ie, mere restatement) or an independent source of information? Scholars hypothesize the latter, mostly because the areas of overlap show little evidence of having been borrowed or copied from a Canon gospel. If so, the Gospel of Thomas gives us the first novel source of Jesus' teachings in nearly two thousand years, and for that reason alone is worth picking up and reading. Jesus even includes a lawyer joke.

## DORCAS QUILTING CIRCLE

The quilting group is looking forward to meeting again on **September 17**. We were able to purchase batting and new supplies through Thrivent Social Action so our cupboards are full. Special hugs go to Angela's 6 year old granddaughter Margot who did such a beautiful job on coloring the beautiful flowers on the calendar quilt. A caring and special work of art. Our quilts are crafted with love. Come and join us in September.



## YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

**YAG (Young Adult Group)** Our Young Adult group meets the First Sunday of every month. This is a time for fellowship, and discussion. We usually meet in the church library but the location changes sometimes based on what we are up to. This group is for members of Holy Trinity, but all are welcome to join! We also help and host many Church events throughout the year including VBS, Luncheons, Trunk or Treat and Trivia

**GATHER** Thousand Oaks is a Young Adult Ministry part of the greater ELCA Gather Network. Members of Gather Thousand Oaks call Holy Trinity home; however this group goes beyond the church building and includes young adults from all walks of life. We gather for Bible studies, worship, discussions, and other social outings and connect with our community.

Gather is a space for anyone who identifies as a young adult and...

- Who doesn't have other young adults at their church
- Isn't closely tied to their church
- Who is involved in their church and wants to meet new people and connect their young adult community to other young adults throughout Ventura County.
- Who might not jive with traditional church
- Who want to ask questions and dive deeper together
- Who may have had a hard time finding a church to connect with.

If you want more info about Gather Events and how to get involved, check here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/gatherthousandoaks/home>

# Gather Thousand Oaks SUMMER EVENTS



## Kick off BBQ and Pool Parties

Kick off BBQ and Pool Party: May 29<sup>th</sup> 5-8pm  
Pool party #2: June 28<sup>th</sup> 4-7pm

## Beach Trips

Beach Trip #1: June 20<sup>th</sup> 1-5pm  
Beach Trip #2 July 11<sup>th</sup> 1-5pm  
Silver Strand Beach Oxnard

## Young Adult Hike and Retreat

June 14<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm  
Satwiwa Hiking Trail + Lunch TBD

## Hurricane Harbor

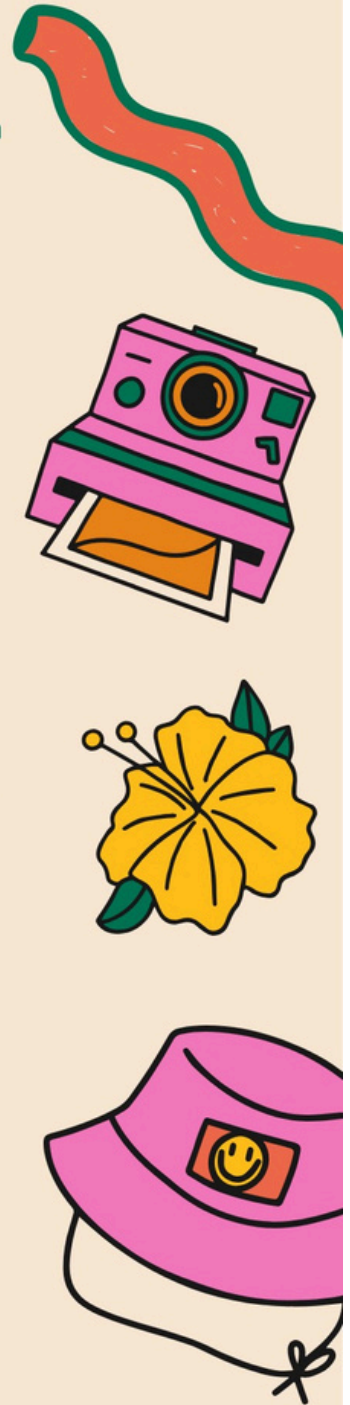
July 18<sup>th</sup> 10am-7pm  
We will meet at HTLC at 10am and carpool.

## Summer Bible Study

June 7<sup>th</sup>, July 5<sup>th</sup>, August 2nd  
12:15pm in the Library

## FOR MORE INFO...

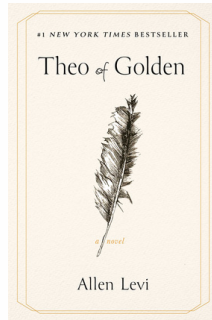
Send an email to  
[gatherthousandoaks@gmail.com](mailto:gatherthousandoaks@gmail.com)  
or scan the QR code and fill out  
the form!



## THEA BOOK CIRCLE

The summer read for the group is **Theo of Golden**, by Allen Levi. This popular book is a story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen and the kindness that binds us to one another. In other words, a perfect summer read. This best selling novel is on the request list at the TO Library.

The group meets again on **September 28 at 7pm** in the Church Library. Plenty of time to read about the kindness and love we share.



## JULY LIBRARY NEWS!

Look for Brian's book review about The Gospel of Thomas and look for the actual book to check out in the library. We have more books in the Free Book cart outside of the library doors. Come and browse.

## FAIR TRADING WITH MIRIAM

### Remembering Linda Nausin as a Fair Trade Seller at Holy Trinity with Miriam

Hearing that Linda Nausin had passed during the prayers of the church a few Sundays ago, brought back memories of Linda. I took over selling fair trade when she and Pastor Frank left Holy Trinity in 2015. Linda and Karla Lysdal-Moffitt took over from Donna Embry in maybe 2004. I remember buying a case of coffee from Linda every couple of months. Karla got the towel we drape on our table at a fair trade exhibit at a synod assembly. It shows coffee pickers in El Salvador. We have a history of selling fair trade at Holy Trinity! I can't believe I've been selling fair trade for 11 years!! I have to do more research, but the Fair Trade Sale we had before the Christmas Fair Trade Sale

we'd been doing for 11 years, was preceded by a sale led by Sonja Egertson and Randi Oines for 9 years. So over 20 years of fair trade sales at Holy Trinity.

Nancy, Terri, and I are always looking for people interested in helping with our sales twice a month. Let us know.

I hope you noticed our certificate in the last Tempo. Equal Exchange awarded us a certificate for our deep commitment to fair trade- 2025 Top Customer . Our sales place us on the list of the top 100 congregations and community groups that they work with around the country.

We will be selling fair trade items at our table inside, near the entrance double doors, on **July 12** and **26th**. Look for us before and after the 10:00 service.

Blessings,  
Miriam Nakayama, Nancy Truex, and Terri Kelly

## HTLC SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

Thanks to our church members who attended this year's Synod Assembly!

(Left to right: Vera Bezemer, Aslynn Bryson, Tim Wagenknecht, Nina Wong)



## JULY MEDITATION GROUP

Why meditate?

John Main, who founded the group we are a part of, World Community for Christian Meditation, says:

*In meditation you are not asked to accept someone else's experience second-hand, not even the testimony of the apostles or St. Paul. Each of us is invited to plumb these depths, to make contact with the spirit of Christ ourselves, out of our own experience, and in that process to become wholly real, wholly the person you are called to be. In the Beginning*

Plumb the depths with us every Thursday at 4 pm. The first Thursday by Zoom. Contact Miriam at [miriamnakayama@gmail.com](mailto:miriamnakayama@gmail.com) for an invite. This month we meet on **Zoom on July 2**. On **July 9, 16, 23, and 30**, we meet in the **church library at 4pm** in-person. All are welcome, not just church members, not just experienced meditators, all.



## PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

Planning for tomorrow is one of the greatest gifts you can give yourself and the people you love. The Southwest California Synod is offering this free two-part online workshop designed to make estate planning approachable and understandable. Whether you're just getting started or looking to update your plans, you'll receive practical guidance on wills, trusts, probate, charitable giving, and more—all in a welcoming, easy-to-follow format with plenty of time for questions. Click **HERE** to register.

## CHOIR DINNER PHOTOS



### PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

#### A PRACTICAL ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP



REGISTER HERE or visit [socialsynod.org/synodevents/estateplanning](https://socialsynod.org/synodevents/estateplanning)

A free two-part online workshop designed to help you plan with confidence and peace of mind.

Many people know they should have an estate plan, but aren't sure where to start. This two-part workshop offers practical, easy-to-understand guidance on **wills, trusts, probate, charitable giving, and other tools** that can help you care for your loved ones and plan for the future. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

#### SESSION 1 - BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION AUGUST 12, 2026, 2PM-4PM (ONLINE)

You will learn about: *Wills and trusts, Probate basics, Joint ownership, Common estate-planning misconceptions, Working with professional advisors*

#### SESSION 2 - STRENGTHENING YOUR PLAN AUGUST 19, 2026, 2PM-4PM (ONLINE)

You will learn about: *Trusts and asset protection, Reducing estate administration expenses, Donor-advised funds, Charitable gift annuities, Charitable remainder trusts, Legacy giving options*

**FREE TO ATTEND • REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
visit [socialsynod.org/synodevents/estateplanning](https://socialsynod.org/synodevents/estateplanning)

## THANKS AND BLESSINGS AS FORWARD WE GO...

By now most of you have heard that Richard and I retired from our music leadership position at Holy Trinity on June 14. It has been a wonderful 12 years of leading music at the informal worship service, and we thank you for the opportunity!

It began in December of 2013 when my cousin Sue and I were visiting her mom, my Aunt Pat Sladek, in the hospital. Pat had been a member of HTLC since the 1960's. Interim Pastor Jim Bessey came by her hospital room to pray with her and see how she was doing. Sue knew that Richard and I were looking for a music position, and she asked Pastor Jim if there were any openings. I had already heard that there were none, so I was surprised when Jim said that yes, they were looking for someone to lead the music at the informal worship service!

We chatted, and he suggested Richard and I apply. We subsequently interviewed and were given the job. I mention this, in part, because as I write this, HTLC continues to look for our successor. One never knows where a conversation will lead, so mention the music opening to your

friends and acquaintances...and may the Holy Spirit guide the outcome.

In parting, we want to say how much we have loved being a part of this wonderful group of musicians and Holy Trinity staff. The twelve years here have flown by, and we feel privileged to have spent each Sunday doing what we love... leading hearts and voices in worship through music with a group of talented and dedicated musicians and staff.

Informal Worship Music Leaders -  
Richard and Wanda Ferrin.



Pictured above: Robin Slattum, Wanda Ferrin, Angela Abalo, Darin Erickson, Nina Wong, Mike Engstrom, Mark Kubes, Joe Ebert, Vera Bezemer, and Richard Ferrin.

## PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

### **Please keep these people in your prayers:**

Joan Cressman, for healing after a hospital stay

Leatrice Oram and Amanda Palmquist, friends of Katie Yant, for comfort during treatment

Susie Wilber, for continued good recovery

Fred Lindberg, for good recovery

Craig Dodson, a friend of Brian & Jude Wurschum, for comfort and strength

Lori O'Neil, for continued healing

Evonne Larson, for continued healing after a fall

Pamela Baldwin, for healing

Kelly Scott, a friend of the Beaman family, for healing

### **Please hold these families in prayer as they grieve the loss of their loved one:**

The family of Susan Sanchez, friend of the Erickson family

The family of William Horbury, Beth Goodnight's brother

The family of Tom Converse, Pastor Emily's uncle

The family of Paul Sullivan, Cindy Grether's brother-in-law

The family of Mary Kathryn Davenport, Susie Wilber's sister

The family of Greg Miller, son of Jerry & Margaret Miller

The family of Elizabeth Velarde, Yolanda Mosley's mother

The family of Anne Lieberknecht

The family of Christopher Vandezande, Margie Vandezandee's grandson

The family of Hazel Dell Hansen, cousin to Margaret Schwalm and Nelius Ronning

The family of Dawn Aiken, cousin to Pamela Baldwin

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



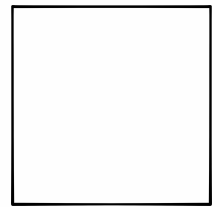


## Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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**Return service requested**

JULY  
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.

