



TRINITY TOPICS

Let us continually pray for Bishop Jeff Johnson. Who was installed December 9th as the Bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod.

Picture below is fellow Bishops praying for him.



Trinity Topics is published seasonally

The next issue will be released
March 31, 2024

Please submit articles by March 1st

Pastor Message



This year I've been using an app on my phone called Bible Tracker. Every time I read scripture devotionally I will check off what I've read. This year I have read 12% of the Bible. I've read 120 out of the 150 Psalms and 10 New Testament books out of 27.

I am telling you this because there are days...even weeks were I don't open the bible except to find out what I'm preaching on. I don't think I've ever read the entire Bible in 1 year. It's just not in my spiritual nature.

But I do love reading it. I love the drama, wisdom, and the thread of God's persistent desire to be in relationship with humanity.

I resolve to read more in the next year. How about you? Do you have any goals in your spiritual life that you want to work on?

Peace,

Pr. Josh

President's Message



Church Council

The Church Council is a governing body in charge of overseeing the spiritual and administrative aspects of a church. This group is made up of elected members who work together to make important decisions and ensure that the church is running smoothly. The council typically meets on a regular basis to discuss and vote on issues related to budget, staff, property, and programming. The council members also serve as leaders and representatives of the congregation.

President

Lori Friedman

Vice President

John Schornstein

Secretary

Anita Reimann

Other Council Members

Erin Andrews
Greg Bolhmann
Gaby Knauth
John McDowell

November Council Highlights

- Council members discussed the 2024 proposed budget, for recommendation to vote at the congregational meeting Jan. 28
- At November council meeting, accepted the October Treasurer's report, with year-to-date donations of \$181,756 received against expenses of \$187,753 (not including roof)
- Approved renewing the \$20,000 CD of contingency fund, as donations to the capital campaign for the roof replacements are likely to be sufficient, along with existing funds to put towards the roof
- Finalized the language of proposed Constitutional amendment to allow for phone or video participation in annual congregational meetings. Congregational vote will be Jan. 28 at annual meeting
- Approved benevolence distributions to Rwanda School Project, Navajo Christian Prep Academy, New Creation Home Ministries, SF Night Ministry, Street Life Ministries, Lutheran Disaster Relief, Second Harvest Food Bank
- Appreciation for the generosity of our congregation!

In the beginning of October we had the pleasure of serving San Carlos at the Art and Wine Faire. We encouraged kids to make Pet Rocks by painting animals on rocks to take home. We also invited everyone to our Blessing of the Animals service that takes place the first week of October every year.

A special thanks to everyone who volunteered!



Our adult forum has been going strong!



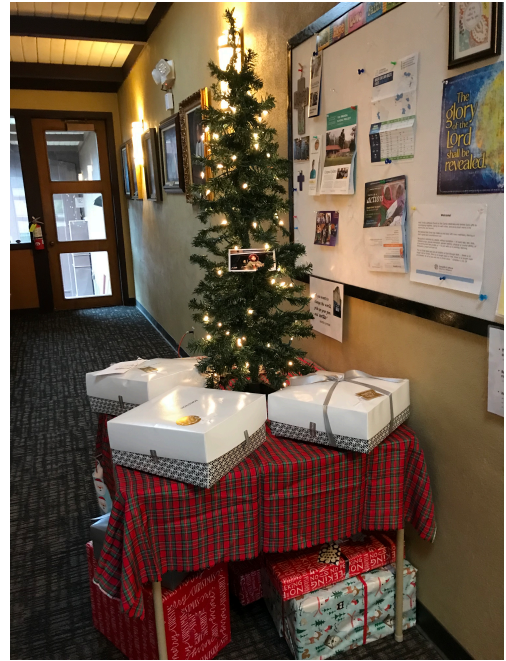
A special thanks to Peter Schmuckal for arranging a concert by Terry Waldo!



Kristoffer Vinther has been helping social concerns with various projects like food for Samaritan house and Family Sharing!



A special thanks to all who have contributed to Family Sharing. Many gifts were gathered and shared with families in need!



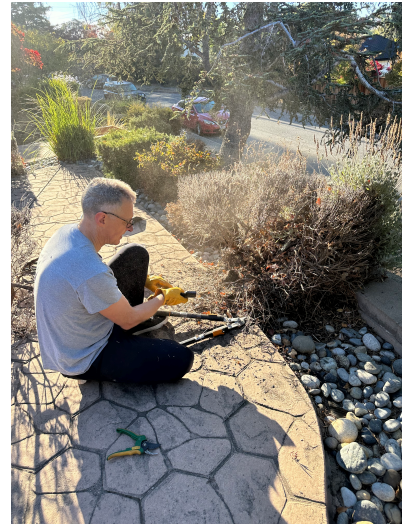
We currently have 3 middle school kids in Confirmation. We are having a good time learning about why we worship in the way we do.



Blessing of the animals took place on October 8th! We had 12 pets in attendance!



FALL FRESHEN



Thanks to everyone who participated in preparing the sanctuary for Christmas Eve!



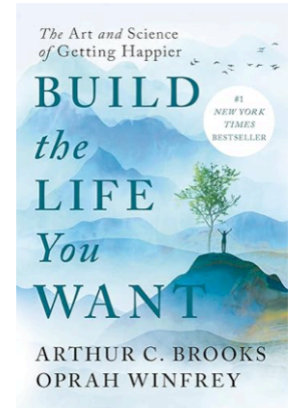
Pictures of the roof being worked on!



Book Club is starting in 2024!

You may have heard the whisperings around HTLC campus lately: Book Club is starting in 2024! We will meet in Beilstein Hall for potluck brunch and discussion on the **third Saturdays of the month at 10:30am**. Our first book is “Build the Life You Want” by Brooks and Winfrey, and for January, we will start with reading the introduction and chapter 1 (a very good place to start). In order to support local, we have ordered some copies at a bulk price through Reach and Teach here by Laurel Street. Please email Pr. Josh to reserve your household’s copy or copies!

PS - We have a special plan for any books that may be donated after we finish them for book club so do not be shy about snagging one per person so you can peruse at your own pace.



Congregational Meeting



Save the Date!

Budget Meeting: January 21, 2024

Congregational Meeting: January 28, 2024

Both meetings will take place after worship. Zoom link will also be provided in January.

During our Congregational Meeting we will be voting on this Constitutional Amendment.

Current HTLC Constitution

C10.04. Twenty-five voting members shall constitute a quorum.

Propose to add into C10.04, directly following “Twenty-five voting members shall constitute a quorum.”

“This quorum includes congregation members participating in meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication or its equivalent. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.”

Pancake Tuesday

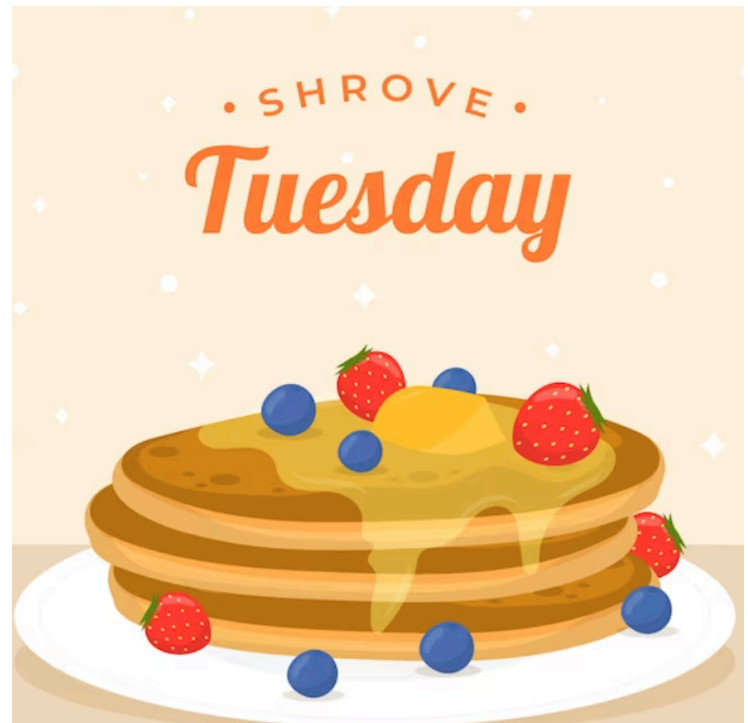
Save the date for our Pancake Tuesday

February 13, 2024

6:30pm

Donations will be collected for our Youth Fund sending our kids to the National Youth Gathering in July!

Contact Pr. Josh if you'd like to help out!



Community Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt

Sun. March 31 • 9 am Breakfast • 10 am Egg Hunt • 10:30 am Worship •

Gather with friends, family and neighbors for our annual Easter celebration.

149 Manzanita Ave, San Carlos
additional information: sancarloshtlc.org



Ecclesiastes Chapter 1 – A Reflection by Peter Meier

"One generation passes away, another generation comes, but the earth still remains and the sun also rises."

Those words from Ecclesiastes were burned into a large woodcut that my father Michael made one summer, when we were visiting the farm in Wisconsin where he grew up. The woodcut had an image of a sunrise over mountains. He brought the woodcut back from Wisconsin and it hung for years in his office in Corvallis, Oregon, where I grew up. And then it traveled with him as he and my stepmother moved to Alaska, Seattle, Chicago, and finally back to Wisconsin, where he retired.

As a teenager I recall reading those words and asking my Dad about their significance to him. I don't recall our conversation exactly, but I think it can be captured by the words of Solomon from verses 2-9 in Ecclesiastes, chapter 1, which include the passage quoted on the woodcut:

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What do people gain from all the toil at which they toil under the sun. A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises and the sun goes down, and it hurries to the place where it rises. The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; round and round goes the wind and on its circuits the wind returns. All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they continue to flow. All things are wearisome; more than one can express; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, or the ear filled with hearing. What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun.

"There is nothing new under the sun." I remember this part of our conversation about the woodcut and Ecclesiastes. In his middle-age years, Dad would comment that each new generation looks at the older generation and wonders, "why are they in charge of things when we can do better?" And the older generation looks at the younger generation and wonders, "what is wrong with them – do they not understand how the world works?" This is not new he said. It has always been this way, with each new generation. "There is nothing new under the sun."

I admit that as a young man I did not find this reassuring. I am sure that I found this viewpoint to be frustrating. The notion that we – “our generation” – do not have any ideas that truly are new, but instead, our ideas – like the ideas of those who came before us – are like the wind, blowing to the south, and then to the north and round and round until it returns. Or that our lives are like the streams that run to the sea, but the sea never fills. I chafed at these notions and I wondered, “why is the older generation in charge when we can do better?” The words from Ecclesiastes – that “all is vanity” – did not offer hope or an answer to me.

But as I got older, I came to understand the short bible passage on the woodcut and what it meant to Dad. He came of age and became a pastor in a turbulent time in our society and in the church, and he heard the questions and doubts of the generation before his, the generation that grew up during the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression. That older generation asked: “What is wrong with this new generation – do they not understand how the world works”?

I came to understand that the message of that passage from Ecclesiastes is not one of hopelessness. Solomon, the Teacher, tells us that no matter how we might chase after the wind, there are things that we cannot and will not change. But to know this is to have wisdom, not despair, for he also teaches us that God is steadfast, in Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3:

*I know that whatever God does endures forever;
nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it;
God has done this, so that all should stand in awe
before him. That which is, already has been; that
which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has
gone by.*

Therefore, enjoy your life, banish anxiety from your mind, and put away pain from your body. Take life as it comes. And remember your creator. The earth will remain, and the sun will also rise.

My Dad passed away in September. In remembering him in the weeks that followed his passing, I recalled these lessons from Ecclesiastes, which he did his best to keep in mind, and to teach to others, in words and by his example. I give thanks today for his life and gifts.



STAFF and COUNCIL OFFICERS/MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRS

Pastor	The Rev. Joshua Serrano
Organist/Pianist	Kai Lin
President.....	Lori Friedman
Worship & Music	Anita Reimann
Evangelism & Outreach	Gary Wiessinger
Vice President	John Schornstein
Stewardship	
Secretary.....	Anita Reimann
Social Concerns.....	Barbara Padilla
Buildings & Grounds.....	Rick Gilmore
Youth	Lori Friedman
Financial Secretary	Mary Webb
Endowment.....	John McDowell
Treasurer	Petra Gilmore
Education/Sunday School.....	

All are Welcome!

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in San Carlos celebrates and shares God's gifts by worshipping together, caring for each other, and doing God's work in the community and beyond.

We believe that Christ has made us one body with many members, sharing in God's grace and unconditional love.

We joyfully welcome ALL people, without exception — of every age, sex, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, or anything else that divides us — to join with us in worship, learning, fellowship, prayer and service.

"For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith...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 3:26, 28

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

149 Manzanita Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070
Phone 650.593.0325
Sunday Worship 10:30 am



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.