

# Trinity

## Connections

**To Know Christ. To Share Christ.**

**July 1, 2021**

### **Pastor's Message**

Here we are in the midst of summer. Summer has its own rhythm, its own opportunities. We have even more opportunities before us as we continue to emerge from this time of pandemic and isolation.

The first that I want to be sure that you are aware of is part of our work for the transition/call process for your next pastor. I am inviting all of you to participate in a small group discussion time to discover and share a sense of direction for the mission of Trinity. This is a fun time to gather with friends of this congregation and to talk about what a difference this place has made in your life.

Another opportunity that I am excited about is our Vacation Bible School for all of you. This year VBS is for the adults, and it promises to be a faith filled, fun time. There will be Bible study, drama, arts and crafts, music, fellowship, and of course food. I always loved VBS as a child and I can't wait to share this time with all of you.

We will be exploring four of Jesus' parables. The parables are stories that Jesus told to show his followers what the Kingdom of God is. These stories invite us to engage with them. Each reader can hear a distinct message and that message may change and evolve over time. This is part of their gift to us. We can continue to come to them and glean more insights.

We are emerging from a very challenging year, and we are all changed by this experience. How we do our work together as the church will be changed. This year's Vacation Bible School is giving us a chance to pause and to reflect on how we seek and share this message of God's Kingdom.

We will be joining together with our friends from Foothill for this fun time. Join us Sunday, July 25th – Wednesday, July 28th from 3:00 – 6:00 each day. It promises to be a time we won't forget.

Pastor Jodi Golden-Lund

# Bibles, Books, and Beyond

## Trinity Lutheran's "Little Library" Now Under Construction!

Several months ago the Trinity Council decided to participate in the Porterville "Little Libraries Initiative." The goal of this initiative is to place 100 Little Libraries in the Porterville area over the next year, both to promote literacy and to commemorate the two fire fighters—Ray Figueroa and Patrick Jones—who lost their lives in the fire that burned down the Porterville Library. If you have not heard of "Little Libraries", they are typically small wooden "houses" that are stocked with books and placed curbside on a post in various neighborhoods. Local residents are asked to "take one, leave one."

Trinity's Little Library is now under construction! The builder is Don Cox of Springville, who was located for us by Richard Osborne. Richard, who has helped us with previous ministries to the homeless, is now on the board of the Central California Family Crisis Center and heads up the Crisis Center's work with the homeless.



Trinity's Little Library will be unique in several ways. First, our library is a bit larger than the typical Little Library and will look something like a church (see photograph). [Picture here?]

Second, our Little Library will be placed in front of the Porterville Welcome Center. The Welcome Center is a hub for homeless services that opened during the pandemic. It provides beds for a small number of folks, but also provides laundry facilities, and (currently) two meals a day to any homeless person who shows up. In addition, the Welcome Center is designed to be a one-stop hub for referrals to various services that might be helpful to homeless persons that are provided throughout the community.

Third, our Little Library will be stocked primarily with books requested by the homeless, though, of course, we will also include Bibles and perhaps other spiritual texts. As we work towards completion of Trinity's Little Library and prepare for its placement, I will be working with the Welcome Center to come up with a list of the books to be stocked in the Library. Once we have that list, I will be asking for your support in donating or funding the purchase of the requested used books.

When all is ready, you will all be invited to an "opening" ceremony that accompanies the placement of each of the libraries in the Porterville Little Library Initiative.

## **Bible Study At Trinity**

### **Adult Vacation Bible School: Seeking and Sharing the Kingdom of God**

Sunday July 25—Wednesday July 28, 3:00-6:00 at Foothill Presbyterian

See Pastor's message for more info.

### **Sunday Morning Bible Study**

Our weekly Sunday morning Bible study meets Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45 in the Fellowship Hall. Currently, we are discussing the Epistles of John (1,2,3 John). These short documents provide a window onto the early church that provides Christian communities deep insight into how we can strengthen faith during periods of theological disagreement within the Body of Christ.

### **Lectionary Bible Study with Pastor Jodi**

Pastor Jodi leads a Bible Study via Zoom each Monday evening at 6:30. Participants from both Trinity and Foothill have an opportunity to reflect on the next Sunday's scripture lesson. If you would like to participate, send an email to Pastor Jodi ([pastorjodi@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjodi@gmail.com)) and she will send you the Zoom link. The more participants, the more we learn and grow together!

### **Coming Soon—The Book of Job: A Witness to Suffering**

The Book of Job holds a special place in the Bible as a text that addresses the reality of human suffering in many of its forms—including catastrophe, trauma, physical pain, loss, isolation, alienation, and grief. Our study of Job will offer participants across the religious-secular spectrum an opportunity to reflect on the wisdom found in this biblical classic. This class will be offered in two formats. One class will meet face to face; the other will meet via Zoom. The dates and more information about this class will be coming soon.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

## **New Prayer Concerns**

Art and Karen Cardell - for peace and strength through difficult communication

Marcia (Nancy Chadwell) - for perseverance while enduring chemo side effects

Cee Bee (Susan Firestone) - for healing of infection

Colleen Wickeeshem (Carol Baggett) - for God's hand of protection as she deals with serious health problems

Marvin and Carolyn Sharp - for safety and good health during their travels over the next two months

## **Continuing Prayer Concern**

Cindy (Susan Firestone) - for peace and clarity as she waits on kidney test results

Laura (Susan Firestone) - for comfort in the face of a pancreatic cancer diagnosis

Pastor Paul (Susan Firestone) - for strength and healing as he fights cancer

Peggy Holt - for healing and comfort due to health problems

Julie Elston - for continued health concerns

Muriel Josten - for continued healing after knee replacement

Brian Nelson (Scott Nelson) - for continuing health concerns

La Vida Nueva UMC - for God to prosper our partnership in the gospel

The Sierra-Pacific Synod - for wisdom and a spirit of true fellowship in our shared ministries

Foothill Presbyterian - for God's blessing on our partnership with their community

## **JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Linda Peterson	July 6
Orval Brown	July 17
Carol Baggett	July 24
Jacquie Meredith	July 25
Karin Wiseman	July 30

David & Diane Kavern July 7

**June Mowles is STILL in need of 10-20 Quaker oatmeal boxes (empty) for a craft they are doing where she lives. If you are able to help her out, please give her a call at (559) 784-3223.**

## **USING VANCO FOR OFFERINGS**

Many people are preferring to use online payments with their computers or their smart phones instead of paying with a check.

We are making a service available for online giving to the church, even if you don't use online banking.

If you want to do your giving online, you may make payments with your credit/debit card or with information from your checking account through a company many churches use called VANCO.

To use Vanco online (from a computer), go to: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YJOM>

To use the Vanco app on your phone download the VANCO app called "VANCO Mobile Faith Engagement."

Once you are on the website or have downloaded the app, find our church by searching for Trinity Lutheran Church of Porterville. The rest is self-explanatory. They will ask for address information in order that you can get accurate tax documents.

There is a small fee the church will pay for the service (1% for ACH bank information, 2.75% for debit/credit cards). You will be given the choice to increase your giving by that amount in order to cover the service charges. This is only if you feel led to do so.

You are still welcome to support the church in the regular way you are accustomed to. We are just providing this service to those who prefer it.