

Sunday, July 19, 2020 — Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

## Trinity's Weekly Connection

*Join us for live streaming of our "Virtual Worship" service for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost from Centennial Hall on Sunday, July 19 at 9:15 a.m. If you are unable to join us at that time, be welcome to access the service at your convenience via Trinity's YouTube channel. Instructions for that access are below.*

### Trinity is live streaming worship — how do I find it?

We are streaming our 9:15 a.m. "Virtual Worship" service on YouTube. To find it, do the following:

- Follow the home page link to "Virtual Worship" on Trinity's website, select "video" and you will be connected to the stream.

OR

- Go to YouTube, either by opening the app on your phone or by visiting the webpage on your computer.
- Search for 'Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids.' The first option should be one with a picture of our cross tower (that is our channel).
- When you click on it you will be brought to our channel. If the service is live (from about 9:10 to 10:20 a.m. on Sunday morning) there will be a video with 'Live Now' on it.
- Simply click on the video and you will be connected to the stream.
- We also save past services in a play list called 'Rejoice Worship,' so you can view a past worship service at any time. It takes a couple of hours for the video to download on YouTube after worship ends.

*If you have a YouTube account please subscribe to the channel. This will allow our videos to show up in your video feed and when we reach enough subscriptions allow us to change our YouTube url.*

### Prayer of the Day for Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### A prayer for health care providers

Merciful God, your healing power is everywhere about us. Strengthen those who work among the sick; give them courage and confidence in all they do. Encourage them when their efforts seem futile or when death prevails. Increase their trust in your power even to overcome death and pain and crying. May they be thankful for every sign of health you give, and humble before the mystery of your healing grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Trinity Members in Our Prayers

We pray for Trinity members George Bauer and family, Krysta Billock, Mike and Amy Bishop and family, Kathy Bush, Captain Karl Crist, Jack Danielson, Riley Day, Samantha DeBoer, John Derbin, Bill and Deb DeWitt's preemie granddaughters Joanna and Evelyn, Awilda Diaz, Lois Engel, Beth Engstrom, Ruth Ann Evans, Jeff Fischer and family, Mary Frick, Richard and Phyllis Gehl, Adam Guigue, Craig Gunderson, Carol Welz-Gustafson, Mark Hahn, Steve and Brenda Heacock and family, Bob and Linda Heine and family, Jerry Hendricks, David and Sarah Huckstep and family, Callan Hughes, Christopher Humphrey, Marge Jeltema and the Bolthuis family, Austin, Meredith and Theodore Johnson, Christopher Keller, Susan Knoll, Jen Knowles, Susan Kwast, Logan Landon, Geoff Larsen and family, Marilyn Leese, Bob and Cathy Luders, Dan and Yvonne Lynn and family, Judy Mallen, Roger Marks, Joyce McKenzie, Marilyn Mellema, Johnny Mielock, Jim Miller and family, Benita Tshiswaka Muganza and family, Tim Neilson, Maddie Nojos, Karen Palaszek and family, Roger Perham, Mae Preston and family, Valeriano Ramirez, Jacqueline Riegling, Mark and Gayle Rohde and family, Lynn Rose, Marian Schaible, Carolyn Schaner, Chas Schaner, Chris Schomberg, Schuen Family, Ilene Seadal, Karen Selle, Joan Sellman, Jim Searfoss, Michael Smith, Joyce Snyder, Courtney Steketee and family, Dennis Tanis and family, Linda Taffs and family, Shirley Tedford, Jeremiah (JD) Thamban, Ted Turnage, Sheryl VanderBaan and family, Dale Volkerding, Joan Walls, John Walls, Meghan Walls, Eric Wollen, Peyton Wollen, Rick and Michelle Wolner, Dave and Kathy Young, Susan Youngren, and Kathryn Zielinski.

## Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2020

*It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.*

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

*There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.*

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:  
I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.  
<sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,  
let them declare and set it forth before me.  
Who has announced from of old the things to come?  
Let them tell us what is yet to be.  
<sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!  
Is there any god besides me?  
There is no other rock; I know not one.

### SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

*For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.*

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation

was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

*Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.*

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup>He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' <sup>29</sup>But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." <sup>37</sup>He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>42</sup>Then the righteous in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of the harvest, you sow the good seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ into your field. Help your church throughout the world to be both diligent and patient, full of resolve and gentleness, that our witness may be faithful to your intentions. We pray this morning for those who share in our ministry, including Pastor Julie Bailey and the people of Ascension Lutheran Church in Saginaw, synod partners with us in mission and ministry. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of all, we pray for those who worship you in different ways. Guide us to a spirit of unity and harmony so that we may come to respect and cherish our commonalities. Bless our three "Standing Together" partner congregations here in Grand Rapids, Masjid At-Tawheed, Westminster Presbyterian Church and Temple Emanuel. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of all space and time, your whole creation groans in labor pains, awaiting the gift of new birth. Renew the earth, sky, and sea, so that all your creation experiences freedom from the bondage of decay. Bless the people of Trinity Lutheran Church in initiatives of earth keeping. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, teach us your ways, that we may walk in your truth. Mend the fabric of the human family, now torn apart by our fearful and warring ways and deep political divides. Guide us by your mercy, grace, and steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of hope, you accompany those who suffer and are near to the brokenhearted. In this time of pandemic, economic uncertainty, and the struggle for justice, open our hearts to your children who are lonely and abandoned, who feel trapped by despair, and all who suffer in any way, including those we name now in our hearts (*a brief silence*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of the seasons, in the midst of summer, give us refreshment, renewal, and new opportunities. We pray for the safety of those who travel. We pray for those who cannot take the rest they need. And we pray for those who will gather on the church lawn this morning to receive the gift of Holy Communion. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of life, those who have died in you shine like the sun in your endless kingdom. We remember with thanksgiving the saints of all times and places and saints close to us. Gather us with them on the day of salvation. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God**

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer for this time of closure and distancing**

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

JULY 19, 2020  
SEVENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*Christians are people of hope.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds
Monday	Isaiah 44:6-8	The Lord's promise to Israel
Tuesday	Romans 8:12-25	Future glory for God's people
Wednesday	Genesis 28:10-19a	Jacob's dream at Bethel
Thursday	Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24	The inescapable God
Friday	1 Peter 1:3-9	A living hope
Saturday	Psalms 86:11-17	Save me, Lord
Sunday	Matthew 13:31-32, 41-52	Parables of the kingdom

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. **Romans 8:24-25 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, may the hope you have given us take away our fear and strengthen us for each new day through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord God, we thank you for your goodness and for the good seed that falls into the soil to give us bread. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord be gracious to you, and give you strength. (Psalm 86:16)



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JULY 19, 2020

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Goodness Is  
Stronger than Evil*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about something you want to see happen in the near future.
- What gives you hope?
- How does faith in God give you hope?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Romans 8:12-25.

The Apostle Paul speaks about our death “by the Spirit” that we may live (v. 13). It is a baptismal theme he mentioned in Romans 6:4: “. . . we have been buried with [Christ] by baptism into death . . . so we too might walk in newness of life.” Paul speaks of living “according to the flesh” (v. 13). It is the life lived without hope in God. We live by the power of the Holy Spirit and are adopted as children of God (vv. 14-15). As children who can say, “Abba! Father!” we are heirs of God’s future in Christ. Being an heir does not mean we avoid disappointments and hurts. In fact, Paul reminds us that we “suffer with [Christ] so that we may also be glorified with him” (v. 17). We are people of hope as we suffer—just as Christ suffered and died—that we may rise with Christ to a new life. We wait for Christ’s final victory with hope and patience (v. 25). How does knowing you are an heir of God’s future in Christ help you have patience and hope?

*Pray:* **Lord Jesus Christ, you give us a living hope; help us to have faith in you and trust in your saving work now and always. Amen.**

### SERVICE

“The good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one” (Matthew 13:38). We are planted by God as seeds on the earth. Though there may be “weeds” among us, good “seeds” make good decisions and reflect God’s love through acts of service. In what ways have you or someone you know been a “good seed” in your community?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships. Who has influenced your life of faith? Make a list of Christian rituals and traditions the person you named has taught you, like prayer and scripture reading. Have you taught some of these rituals and traditions to someone else? Pray using Psalm 86:11, “**Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.**” Amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)