

Trinity's Weekly Connection

Sunday, September 24, 2023 — Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

This Week at Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday, September 24

Coats & Blankets Appeal Continues

IHN Week Concludes

Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.

Flu & Covid Immunization Clinic, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Listening Sessions, 9:15 a.m.

Rejoice Worship (Rejoice band), 9:15 a.m.

Live Streaming of Worship, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Listening Sessions, 10:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Listening Sessions, noon

Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

Celebration of Music Concert — Brass and Organ, 3 p.m.

High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, September 25

Stroller Barre, 9 a.m.

Beyond Belief Band Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Schubert Male Chorus Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, September 26

Council on Aging, 8 a.m.

LWR Quilters, 10:30 a.m.

Stephen Ministry Continuing Education, 6:30 p.m.

Fit4Baby, 7 p.m.

Stephen Ministry Peer Support Groups, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 27

Fitness Class, 9 a.m.

Coffee & Donuts, 10:15 a.m.

Pastor Bob's Adult Forum, 10:30 a.m.

Joyful Days Lunch & Speaker, 11:30 a.m.

Pack 3015 Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 28

Resound Bell Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

Choosing Peace & Serenity AFG, 7 p.m.

Trinity Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, September 29

Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, October 1

Coats & Blankets Appeal Continues

Wreath Sales

Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.

Congregation Ministry Fair, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Rejoice Worship (Beyond Belief band), 9:15 a.m.

High School Bible Study, 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.

Middle School Youth Group, 2 p.m.

Confirmation Class, 3 p.m.

High School Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.

Assisting in Worship This Morning

8:00 a.m.

Sacristan: Chris & Beth Van Meter

Lector: Bill Leidel

Communion Assistants: Elaine Rongey, Cindy Zientarski

Ushers: Bob Carwell, Bill & Meri Leidel

Acolyte: Helena Phillips, Isaac Johnson,
Edmund VanMeter

9:15 a.m.

Rejoice band leading worship

Sacristan: Vince Schumacher

Lector: David Fast

Communion Assistants: Dave & Chris Straw

Ushers: Steve and Nate Bennett, Brad & Pam Burkle,
Bill Bush, Tim Lundgren, Karen Nagle

Acolytes: Sam Bishop

10:45 a.m.

Cantor: John Fox

Sacristan: Vince Schumacher

Lector: Tim Lundgren

Communion Assistants: Doug & Melissa Haneline

Ushers: Kara Day, Gene Gunderson, Carol Hendricks,
David Kuecherer, Jordan Wiseman

Acolytes:

Bread Baker: Marcia Schaner

Trinity Members in Our Prayers

We pray for **Trinity members in times of illness, hospitalization, rehabilitation and recovery:** Nancy Anderson, Dan Babin, Sue Bailey, Dale and Lisa Barkema, Ben Battreall, Bob Beaudry, David Benkert, Jim and Sue Boyse, Bryan Bredwell, Pat Bruin, Ellie Buggeln, Angela Davis, Gordy Engstrom, Donna Erickson, Joyce Fick, Diane Field, Diane Flatt, Richard Gehl, Elena Griewahn, Elwyn Griewahn, Mark Hahn, Beth Hall, Bob Heine, Callan Hughes, Carol Huttenga, Patricia Johnson, Beth Krueger, Roy Lamprich, John and Marilyn Leese, Jane Legault, Kristin Linkfield, Ken Lown, Tess Lundgren, Judy Mallen, Tom Mannisto, Rebecca Mattison, Jill and Peter McKinney, Stephanie McLeod, Marilyn Mellema, Charmayne Mulligan, Craig Mutch, Laura Norton, Toni Peterson, Julia Pfeiffle, Jesse Platt, Dorothy Postema, Rick Radke, Jacqueline Riegling, Denny Rosen, Marian Schaible, Chas Schaner, Chris Schomberg, Lee Schomberg, Pam Sellers, Bob Sielaff, Michael Smith, Rebecca Ulrich, Joanna Waite, John Walls, Fred and Kathy Wilcox, Robert Williams, Rick and Michelle Wolner, David Young, Kay Zeaman, and Kathryn Zielinski.

We also lift up **Trinity families mourning the loss of loved ones:** Greg and Rachele Battreall, Jack Danielson, Julie Earhart, David and Pastor Kari Fast, Jon Ferguson, Diane Field, Josh and Katie Gardner, Brad and Gayl Kessel, Beth Krueger, Kent and Kristin Linkfield, Dave and Julie Murray, Patrick and Jacquie Murray, Craig and Patti Mutch, Debbie and John Potter, Sylvia and Bill Stouten, Linda Taffs, Wollen/Billings families and Natalie Yeager.

We also lift up in prayer this week Pastor Betsy Kamphuis and the people of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Greenville, partners with us in ministry North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA.

Readings & Hymns for September 24

Jonah 3:10—4:11
Psalm 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

#618	Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer (red book)
#638	Blessed Assurance (red book)
#733	Great Is Thy Faithfulness (red book)

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

Responding to God's generosity with gratitude.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers
Monday	Jonah 3:10–4:11	Jonah goes to Nineveh
Tuesday	Philippians 1:21-30	What life means to Paul
Wednesday	Psalms 136	God's love never fails
Thursday	Matthew 5:3-12	The Beatitudes
Friday	Acts 20:32-38	Paul says goodbye
Saturday	Psalms 145:1-8	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last. Matthew 20:15-16 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, you are more generous than we can imagine or deserve. Thank you for your love and mercy that has no end through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food and all that you give, for you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Amen. (Psalm 145:8)

A Blessing to Give:

May you be reminded of God's love and generosity each day.



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SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*To God Our Thanks
We Give*

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:

- When is a time you feel you were treated unfairly?
- How would you describe God's generosity? Give an example.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 20:1-16.

Fairness is in the eyes of the beholder. Most of us have experienced a time when we felt we were treated unfairly. It gets all the more frustrating when the sense of fairness is decided by God's grace. Who or what we see that should be last, may end up being first and a privileged recipient of God's generosity. There are times when the apparent unfairness of this parable can sound like good news when we are hurting, needing any help we can get, and can only take what is offered. This parable points to what God offers us—grace upon grace—something that is so much more than we deserve. As a result, our lives are able to respond with overwhelming gratitude. If gratitude is not our response to Jesus' parable, it may lead us to the observation that our sense of being first has missed the point; we may need to review the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-13) for God's sense of fairness and living rightly before God.

Discuss: When have you experienced God's generosity? How did you respond?

Pray: God of justice and mercy, help us to see as you see and to live with compassion for all and with gratitude for what we receive through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you show an act of undeserved kindness to someone this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 145:4 tells us: *"One generation shall extol your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts."* Think or talk about people from older or younger generations who have shown and taught you about God's love and generosity through Jesus. Consider drawing a picture, writing a note, or calling them to say thank you. As a reminder of God's generosity, prayerfully recite: *"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."* (Psalm 145:8)



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