Trinity's Weekly Connection

Sunday, August 23, 2026 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

This Week at Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday, August 23
School Supplies - Congress Elem. Appeal continues
Backpack Blessing
Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.
Combined Outdoor Worship, 10 a.m.
Picnic on the West Lawn, 11 a.m.

Monday, August 24
Finance, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, August 25
LWR Quilters, 9:30 a.m.
Scout Troop 290, 6:30 p.m.
Stephen Ministry Summer Supper, 6:30 p.m.
Stephen Ministry Peer Support, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 26
Scholarship Committee, 2 p.m.

Thursday, August 27
DVAN Community Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
Standing Together Partner's Tea, 2 p.m.
Young Adult Women's Bible Study, 6 p.m.
Choosing Peace & Serenity AFG, 7 p.m.

Friday, August 28

Saturday, August 29

Sunday, August 30
School Supplies - Congress Elem. Appeal concludes
Traditional Worship, 8 a.m.
Children's Ministry Volunteer, 9 a.m.
Rejoice Worship, 9:15 a.m.
Live Streaming of Worship, 9:15 and 10:45 a.m.
Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m.
All Congregation Potluck, noon

Baptism Today

Today at 8 a.m. we welcome Arthur Louis Mencarelli into the Body of Christ by the waters of Holy Baptism. Arthur's parents are Chad and Jenna Mencarelli, and his sponsors are Eric and Ashley Mencarelli.



Assisting in Worship This Morning

8 a.m.
Sacristan: Carrie Wygmans
Lector: Chas Schaner
Communion Assistants: Dale Barkema,
Carrie Wygmans
Ushers: Bob Carwell, Jack Reichert

10 a.m. Combined Outdoor Worship
Sacristan: Lisa Mead
Lector: Dan Butler
Communion Assistants: Carol Butler, Eric Larson
Ushers: Bill Bush, Steve & Kristy Bennett

Bread Baker: Sandra Sudak

Trinity Members in Our Prayers

We pray for **Trinity members in times of illness, hospitalization, rehabilitation and recovery**:
Barb Crossman, Jon Ferguson, Joe Fisher, Denny Helzer, Marla Klap, Steve Korb, Marilyn Leese, Tess Lundgren, Tim Lundgren, Chris Straw, and Becca Tellinghuisen.

We also lift up **Trinity families mourning the loss of loved ones**: Steven and Diane Ardolino, Bill Bailey, Kim and Bill Brock, Joanne and Don Brouse, Deb Freeberg, Nanci and Bob Guigue, Karen Krummel, Eric and Marcy Larson, Cheryl Rosen, Dave and Sheila Talsma, and Bill and Dawn Thorsen.

Contact the church office to be added to the prayer list. Names remain on the list for 3 months unless otherwise requested.

We also lift up in prayer this week Pastor Doug Ogden and the people of Lebanon Lutheran Church in Whitehall, partners with us in mission and ministry in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA.

Readings & Hymns for August 23

Isaiah 51:1-6	Romans 12:1-8
Psalm 138	Matthew 16:13-20

#866	We Are Marching in the Light (red book)
#596	My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (red book)
#471	Let Us Break Bread Together (red book)
#631	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (red book)

AUGUST 23, 2026
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	**Matthew 16:13-20**	**Peter's confession of Christ**
Monday	**Isaiah 51:1-6**	**The LORD will bring comfort**
Tuesday	**Romans 12:1-8**	**Christ brings new life**
Wednesday	**Exodus 1:8—2:10**	**Israelites are oppressed**
Thursday	**Ephesians 3:14-21**	**Prayer for the readers**
Friday	**Ephesians 6:10-20**	**The whole armor of God**
Saturday	**Psalm 138**	**Praise God with all your heart**
Sunday	**Matthew 16:21-28**	**Take up your cross and follow**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I [Jesus] will give you [Peter] the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven." **Matthew 16:19 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Almighty God, in a world that can divide us from one another, we pray for your rule of mercy and grace that binds us together in faith and love through Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Dear God, we thank you for this meal and pray for all to have food to eat through your abundant and fruitful creation. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May Jesus, the Son of God, give you new life.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

© 2025 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

AUGUST 23, 2026

HYMN OF THE WEEK

We Sing to You, O God

taking faith home

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:

- What motivates someone to break the law or do something wrong?
- How is Jesus' power different from other powers in the world?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 16:13-20.
Jesus and his disciples were in Caesarea Philippi, an important center for the Roman government and a place where many gods of the ancient world were recognized and worshiped. They were fickle gods that ruled over human life rather harshly and arbitrarily. You could not trust them. This was very similar to the rule of the Roman authorities. In contrast to such untrustworthy and unkind gods and powers, Jesus as the *"the Messiah, the Son of the living God"* (v. 16) showed compassion and positively transformed lives like the Canaanite woman and her daughter in Matthew 15. Jesus has the power to bind and to loosen lives. Jesus as our Messiah intends to transform our lives from despair to hope, from broken relationships to a life of mutual forgiveness, from lives that are judged and condemned to lives that receive mercy. Jesus gave Peter and the church that power and way of life. Yes, Jesus has the authority to restrict and to free lives, but Jesus' intent is to free, to forgive, and to give new life where suffering and death had once reigned. Now, that message and life-giving power will be Peter's and the church's to do the same.
Discuss: How does knowing Jesus as the Messiah inspire you to serve others?
Pray: **Almighty God, your ways are not our ways; give us hearts and minds to grasp that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God for the sake of the world you love. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you encourage someone who is in despair or losing hope?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise: *"I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart"* (v. 1a). Draw a heart on a piece of paper. Inside the heart write a list of things you thank God for in your life. Place the heart in a visible place in your home as a reminder to give thanks and praise for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.
Pray: **I give you thanks, O Lord, for all you do to protect me with your steadfast love and faithfulness through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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