

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

10:00 AM Combined Worship Service • September 13, 2020

ELW Setting 3 • Facebook

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost



*In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.*

**Thank you for joining us online as a new way of connecting to God's word as we transition during this time of social distancing to protect ourselves and others.**

**Please feel free to contact Pastor Tina if you need help in any way during this time. Her phone number is listed below. Just know that she is only a phone call away.**



The Reverend Tina Melusky, Pastor

Pastor Melusky's office hours:

Monday: 9 - 2; Tuesday: 9 -10:30, 11:30 - 12:15

Wednesday 9:30 - 12; Thursday 9 - 12

(Times are sometimes flexible with monthly meetings,  
but feel free to call for an appointment or drop in)

William C. Solomon, Interim Organist

Congregation of Trinity Lutheran, Ministers of the Word

6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607

Church office: (757) 245-7861; Pastor's cell: (734) 239-4013

[www.trinitylutheran-nn.com](http://www.trinitylutheran-nn.com)

Trinity Lutheran is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center.

Cover image by JoAnne Rawls

## **Prelude**

## **Announcements**

## **Gathering**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace  
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another  
before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,  
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness  
to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Hymn of Praise



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 (read responsively)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—**

who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;

**who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**O Lord, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.

**Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**  
you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.

**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

**As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

### **Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12**

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, “ says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35**

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God. .*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children’s Chat**

Pastor Tina

**Sermon**

Pastor Tina





- 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
- 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
- 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

## Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **Thanksgiving for the Word**

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

## Blessing

Mothering God,  
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

*Rise, Shine, You People!*

ELW 665



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to  
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and  
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the  
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to Trinity!:** Dinah Balthis has been worshipping with us online for a number of months now and loves Pastor Tina's sermons. She comes to us from Resurrection Lutheran Church. We heartily welcome you to our Trinity family, Dinah!

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study:** The next Bible Study will be on Tuesday, September 15 at 10:30 a.m. A Zoom invitation will be emailed. If you would like to join this group, please let Pastor Tina or Anne know (245-7861). All are welcome!

**Church Council meeting:** Our church council meeting for the month of September will be held this Tuesday, September 15. A Zoom invitation will be sent out soon.

**Open, But Hard Conversations:** Our next group discussion, we may continue the book *Dear Church* on Thursday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**Drive-Up Communion:** We plan to continue our drive-up communion on the last Sunday of the month and first Sunday of the following month. So, our next drive up communion will be on Sunday, September 27, from 12-2 pm (Area Groups 1 - 7) and Sunday, October 4 from 12-2 pm (Area Groups 8-14 plus our Friends of the Congregation). If you need to know which area group you are in, look inside the church directory that was sent out about a month ago. At the bottom of your information, the word "Area" is listed with your group number. If you cannot find the directory that Anne emailed to you, please contact the church office and I will either send you another directory or tell you your area group number. Let's show Pastor Tina our love and have WAY more than 20 people show up per Sunday. It is our feast of victory!

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR . . .

**Walking Worship Wednesdays:** With any luck, the weather will be cooler when we attempt to do WWW this time. On **Wednesday, September 23**, we will meet in the Mariner's Museum parking lot for a short walk through the Noland Trail at **5:30 p.m.** with an abbreviated worship service along the way. The time will be announced later. Anyone is welcome to come.

**Theology on Tap:** Yep! It is that time of year again. We will resume our Theology on Tap discussion time via Zoom starting on Thursday, September 24 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Tina usually picks a topic and we think about and discuss our feelings about the topic. If you have not joined our group before or have not done so in a long time, please notify the church office or Pastor Tina so that she can send a Zoom invitation to include all who wish to participate. All welcome!

### **VANCO Online giving: An Important Note For Congregation Members and Friends -**

For your convenience, the Church Council and Finance Committee have arranged to provide an optional online donation service for congregation members, friends and visitors with Vanco Payment Services, the ELCA-recommended electronic donation service. Through this service,

you may donate from your checking or savings account or with a credit or debit card. Of course, you may also continue to donate through whatever other methods work best for you. The procedure is very user-friendly. Just go to Trinity's website, <http://www.trinitylutheran-nn.com> (see below), and click on the green "online giving" link on the homepage.

Being able to send your offering donations electronically is especially important during the current pandemic, and we hope that this will be an opportunity for members, friends and visitors to support the ongoing work of the church easily and from the comfort of home.

If you have questions about the donation site or how to make your donation, please don't hesitate to contact the church office, 245-7861.

**Procedure for online giving:**

Go to <http://trinitylutheran-nn.com/>

Press the green "online giving" link.

**Hilton Churches Outreach Project– Food for THRIVE:** As you can imagine, the daily request for food has skyrocketed since March. Therefore, as our Hilton Churches September Outreach Project, we are doing a food drive. Your food items can be dropped off in St. Nicholas Chapel at St. Andrew's in Hilton or in the lobby at Trinity during the month of September and we will deliver everything to THRIVE in September.

**To date, we have only received THREE bags of collected items. Anne will be taking the bags to St. Andrew's this month. If you wish to contribute, please bring your item(s) to the basket at the double glass doors.**

Here is the list of items we will be collecting. Some of them are specific as to the need:

- \* small jars of peanut butter
- \* small plastic jars of jelly
- \* small pop-top cans of pasta, such as Ravioli
- \* cans of soup, black-eyed peas, and mixed vegetables
- \* regular size boxes of cereal (not the "giant" sizes)
- \* pouches of instant potatoes
- \* boxes with individual packets of oatmeal
- \* boxes of crackers, such as Ritz which has individual wrapped rolls
- \* "bowl" food items, such as Mac and Cheese, meat products, etc., that only need water to be added to them.

**Bus Driver needed:** If you or someone you know needs a part-time job and can drive a school bus for Trinity Lutheran School as a substitute driver, please let the church office or the school office know. The school is also looking for a substitute teacher and an extended care aide. Here is the link to their website: <https://trinitynn.com/our-story/employment-at-tls/>

## YOUTH NEWS

**Kickoff Virtual Lock-In and Parent Info Session:** Friday, September 18, from 7:00—9:30 p.m. We will hold the parent info session from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. and the Lock-in will run from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

**Welcome to our newest youth group members:** Brianna Beauvais, Samantha Harry, Michaela Moye, Karina Stevens and Andrew Rummel.

## PRAYER LIST

**ILLNESS, SURGERY, RECOVERY, SHUT-INS:** **Pending Surgery:** Rick Daggy (Tuesday, September 15); **Rehabilitation:** Doris Moeser (St. Francis Nursing Center, Mary Immaculate Hosp., 4 Ridgewood Pkwy, Rm. 11, Newport News, VA, 23602); **Retirement Home:** Alan Bobbe (Warwick Forest, Apt. 30); Peggy and Hardy Cash (2022 Executive Dr., Apt 318, Hampton, VA, 23666), Jeanette Cantrell (The Chesapeake, 955 Harpersville Road, AL302, Newport News, VA, 23601); Millie Christensen (Morningside: Rm. 131); Betty Hasel (The Newport, Rm 14); Charles Kessler (The Chesapeake - Assisted Living, Rm.206); Lucille Lebold (Williamsburg Landing, Memory Care Unit); Barbara Olson, (The Chesapeake, Rm. 3013); Buddy Schultz (Commonwealth Senior Living at Hampton, Rm. 503 Memory Care Unit, 1030 Topping Lane, Hampton, VA, 23666); **Shut-in at Home:** Janet Edwards, Gerda Hudgens, Joan Johnston and Doris and Ernie Moeser.

**SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS:** **The Ahlen Family, Paige Ahlen, and Maria Goldsby** requested by Kathy Stevens; **Bill Nuckols (father), Carolyn Patterson, Shirley Skinner, and Oxana Sidor (friend), Mike Muskalla (former member) and the friends and family of Mr. Kim Lassiter (special friend),** requested by Patricia Fielding; **Charlotte Rogers and Tina McManama,** requested by Richard and Sandra Anderson; **Hannelore Voss (Karoline's mother),** requested by the Ardis family; **Sharon (Sherry) Johnston,** requested by Grant and Donna Owens; **Bonnie Carlson,** requested by Dave Carlson; **Rlou Baum (mother of Wendy Kowalski),** requested by Jessica Moye; **Jacque and Harry Hartman,** requested by Nancy Lindfors; **Nancy Sumpter (mother), June Geyer (grandmother) and Molly Chartrand (Jacob's co-worker),** requested by Patricia Wessler; **Paul St. Amand (former co-worker) and Autumn (granddaughter of former co-worker),** requested by Dee Klapperich; **George Kingston,** requested by Sandy and John Lunsford; **Michael May,** requested by Jon May; **Bobbie Morgan,** requested by Anne Obara **and the friends and family of Ruth Varn,** requested by Laura Davis.

**Those Who Serve, Military and Civilian Duty:** James Fielding, Marine Corps; Georgia; Bryan Hunt, State Dept., Washington, D. C.; Eric Lindfors, Deputy Commander US Naval Forces - Korea; Tyler Obara, Air Force National Guard, LAFB and Ashby Owens, Operation Smile.