

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:00 AM Worship Service September 21, 2025

Now the Feast and Celebration



As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, ... gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing – we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

Welcome members and guests to our worship service today. If you are visiting, we encourage you to sign the guest register located in the narthex. Please include your home address, email address and phone number. In each pew, there is a card that you can fill out if you wish to have a consult with the pastor and/or leave us more information.

The nursery is available, however since there are no attendants at this time, feel free to use it as needed.



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607

(757) 245-7861 — <http://trinitylutheran-nn.com>

Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

REV. TINA MELUSKY — Pastor (tina.melusky@gmail.com)

GEOFFREY BELL — Director of Music Ministries (music@trinitynn.org)

SHARON MATHISON — Administrative Assistant (admin@trinitynn.org)

CAROL BESSOM — Treasurer (cbessom@trinitynn.com)

THE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN — Ministers of the Word

FACEBOOK & WORSHIP LIVESTREAMS: <http://facebook.com/TrinityNN>

TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEBSITE: <http://trinitynn.org>

PASTOR MELUSKY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9am-12pm; Tuesday 9-10:30am, 11:30am-12:15pm.

Wednesday 9:30am-12pm; Thursday 9am-12pm

Pastor's Cell: (734) 239-4013

Trinity is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center,
LINK, THRIVE, and The Simple Sunflower.

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Augsburg Fortress

We are a reconciling in Christ community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Trinity Lutheran wishes to acknowledge and honor the Kec peoples upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship this morning, as well as all of our Indigenous siblings who have cared and who continue to care for this place – this land – and call it their home.

We understand the importance and necessity of our acknowledging the land and the original, Indigenous peoples whose creation stories are rooted in these places and who have lived on these lands throughout Turtle Island since time immemorial.

We also understand that all land is Indigenous land. They were the first to love, pray, grow, celebrate, cry, drum, and sing upon the lands and places where we are. We know that Indigenous peoples are not historical subjects but are part of our communities, churches, schools and leadership, and that they offer invaluable wisdom for how we exist, today and into the future, in relationship with Mother Earth and our human and nonhuman neighbors.

Also, we understand that protocol is only a first step and that as we venture into the world, we must learn more, do more, and realize healing and justice for the Indigenous peoples whose lands we now occupy. Let us begin this work for healing and justice by entering into a place of peace and prayer together...

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord make me an instrument of your peace:

Where there is hatred let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon

Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light; And where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Creator grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console **to be understood as to understand, To be loved as to love.**

For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR CREATION

Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon

St. Francis of Assisi

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord, All praise is Yours, all glory, all honor and all blessings. **To you alone, Most High, do they belong, and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.**

Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, **Who is the day through whom You give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor, of You Most High, he bears the likeness.**

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
In the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
And fair and stormy, all weather's moods, by which You cherish all that You have made.

Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water,
So useful, humble, precious and pure.

Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You my Lord through our Sister, Mother Earth
who sustains and governs us, producing varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Praise be You my Lord through those who grant pardon for love of You and bear sickness and trial. **Blessed are those who endure in peace, By You Most High, they will be crowned.**

Praised be You, my Lord through Sister Death,
from whom no-one living can escape. Blessed are they She finds doing Your Will. No second death can do them harm. Praise and bless my Lord and give God thanks, And serve God with great humility. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High (sung twice)

Lord, I lift your name on high
Lord, I love to sing your praises
I'm so glad you're in my life
I'm so glad you came to save me.

You came from Heaven to Earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,
From the cross to the grave,
From the grave to the sky,
Lord I lift your name on high.

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.**

KYRIE

Now the Feast booklet page 3

HYMN OF PRAISE

Now the Feast booklet pages 4-5

PRAYER OF THE DAY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Thy Word

Chorus

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

Verse 1

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,

Still, you're there right beside me

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near

Please be near me to the end. (Chorus)

I will not forget your love for me and yet

My heart forever is wandering

Jesus be my guide, hold me to your side

And I will love you to the end (Chorus)

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The assembly is seated

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So, he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that, when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then,

you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

SERMON

Cael Edwards

Silence is kept for reflection after the sermon.

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Shout to the Lord

My Jesus, my savior, Lord there is none like you,
All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength.
Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands;
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

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AFFIRMATION OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Siblings in Christ,

This morning, we are called to a time of spiritual renewal. Through Word and prayer, you are called, with all the baptized, to continuing renewal, to die daily to sin, and to walk in newness of life. Therefore, I ask you: Will you continue to hear the word of God and receive it as a

pattern for your life?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you continue to deepen your life of prayer for all God's people in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you continue to join with the church in worship and service, both in the community of faith and in the world, by walking in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God; you have called your people to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you. Bless us and all of your holy people as we journey together in faith. Guide us to true repentance and renewal, that we may follow in the way of the cross of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace, which enables people to live in unity and in the spirit of mutual forgiveness, comes from Christ, whose word has been proclaimed.

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

The assembly is seated.

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see you, I want to see you (Repeat)

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory

Pour out your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy

I want to see you.

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The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY HYMN *As the Grains of Wheat Now the Feast booklet page 10*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING Now the Feast booklet page 11

PROPER PREFACE

It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and
always offer thanks and praise to you..
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS Now the Feast booklet page 11

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

The assembly is seated.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God

Now the Feast booklet page 14

COMMUNION

You are welcome to come forward and receive the bread from the pastor and then take a glass of wine or grape juice from the tray held by the communion assistant.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION *Sanctuary*

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving

I'll be a living sanctuary for you

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Amazing Grace (alternate)

Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost but now am found;

Was blind but now I see.

Alleluia!

Verse 2

Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so,
Little ones to him belong,
They are weak, but he is strong,
Alleluia!

Verse 3

A mighty fortress is our God,
A sword and shield victorious,
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod,
And wins salvation glorious.
Alleluia!

Verse 4

O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home
Alleluia!

Verse 5

In Christ there is no east or west,
In him no south or north
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth,
Alleluia!

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I Will Call Upon the Lord

I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised
So shall I be saved from my enemies.

The Lord liveth and blessed be the rock
And may the God of our salvation be exalted.
The Lord liveth, and blessed be the rock
And may the God of our salvation be exalted.

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The assembly stands.

SENDING

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thanks Be to You Now the Feast booklet page 15

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BLESSING

Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.

Where there is apathy, let me provoke; Where there is compliance, let me bring questioning.

Where there is silence, may I be a voice. Where there is too much comfort

and too little action, grant disruption.

Where there are doors closed and hearts locked, grant the willingness to listen.

When laws dictate and pain is overlooked, when tradition speaks louder than need, grant that I may seek rather to do justice than to talk about it.

Disturb us, O Lord. To be with, as well as for, the alienated; To love the unlovable as well as the lovely.

Lord, make me a channel of disturbance. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Blessed be the Lord*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel

From everlasting to everlasting.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel

From everlasting to everlasting.

Let all God's people say amen (Amen!)

Let all God's people say amen (Amen!)

Let all God's people say amen and praise the Lord.

(words and music by The Rev. Dave Delaney, Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Virginia Synod, ELCA)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY

Erik and Kelly Rummel

Misty Prussia

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAN YOU HELP!

We are looking for a couple of volunteers who would be willing to serve in our nursery, providing care for our tiniest members during the service. Youth are welcome, but if you are under 16 you will need an adult present with you as well. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Tina or a member of the Worship and Music committee.

RED FOOD BOX

Thank you so much to all who are so faithfully donating items for the Red Food Box!

SAVE THE DATE! NEW DIRECTORY!

Mark your calendars! We are going to have photographers here to build our new photo directory on Thursday, October 9 and Friday, October 10. Time slots will go live next month, but for now save the date!

TREASURER'S NOTE!

Dear Trinity Family,
Just a reminder that, since we just voted to approve the 2025 - 2026 budget and have just begun the new fiscal this month, this is a great time to prayerfully consider increasing your offering, especially if you haven't done so in a few years. It's easy to forget that our church family needs not just your time and talent but your treasure, too!
Thanks to all the members of our family all you do!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the Pearson Family on the arrival of their baby, Nathan! If you'd like to help us welcome Baby Nathan to our Trinity church family delivering a ready-to-cook meal for Bryan and Stephanie, please use the online sign-up by scanning the QR code to choose a date(s). If you have any questions or need help signing up, please contact Tricia Wessler (patricia@thewesslers.com).

PRAYER LIST

ILLNESS, SURGERY, RECOVERY, SHUT-INS — Nursing Homes/ Assisted Living: Millie Christensen, Barbara Olson; At Home: Tony Flores, Shirley Anderson, and Bonnie Carlson; Jerry Cobb, Williams Landing; Virginia Hamby, Harmony on Peninsula, Room 121. Bob Sumpter, Tricia Wessler's Stepfather, *requested by Tricia Wessler*. David Hunt, Sentara Heart Hospital, *requested by Pastor Tina*.

PRAYER REQUESTS — Butch Klapperich *requested by Dee Klapperich*; David Hunt, *requested by Judy Hunt*; Michele and Tom Leonard, *requested by Dottie Self*; The family and friends of Phyllis Harrison Philpot, *requested by Bill Solomon*; Warren, Maddie Walker's family; *requested by Nancy Lindfors*; Lilly Petty, *requested by Carol Bessom*; Eddie Bateman & Karen Vodenichar, *requested by the Sniady Family*; Bonnie Carlson, *requested by Pastor Tina*; Blaine Pearsall, *requested by Lina Valdez*; Family and friends of Scott Campbell, *requested by Todd Recupero*; Stephanie Beauvais, *requested by Jarvis Edwards*; Larry and Linda Jones, *requested by Judy Hunt*; Sarah Miller, *requested by John and Sandy Lunsford*; Wayne Skinner, Carroll Emerson, and Judy Wagner St. Pierre, *requested by the Dail family*; The family of Carole Knopp, *requested by Wendy Mynoymany*; Scully, Pastor Tina's dog, *requested by Tricia Wessler*; Ahlen family, *requested by Kathy Stevens*. Izzy Perez, *requested by Pastor Tina*.

THOSE WHO SERVE, MILITARY AND CIVILIAN DUTY — James Fielding, Tokyo, Japan; Bryan Hunt, State Dept., Sierra Leone; Tyler Obara, Virginia Air National Guard, LAFB.