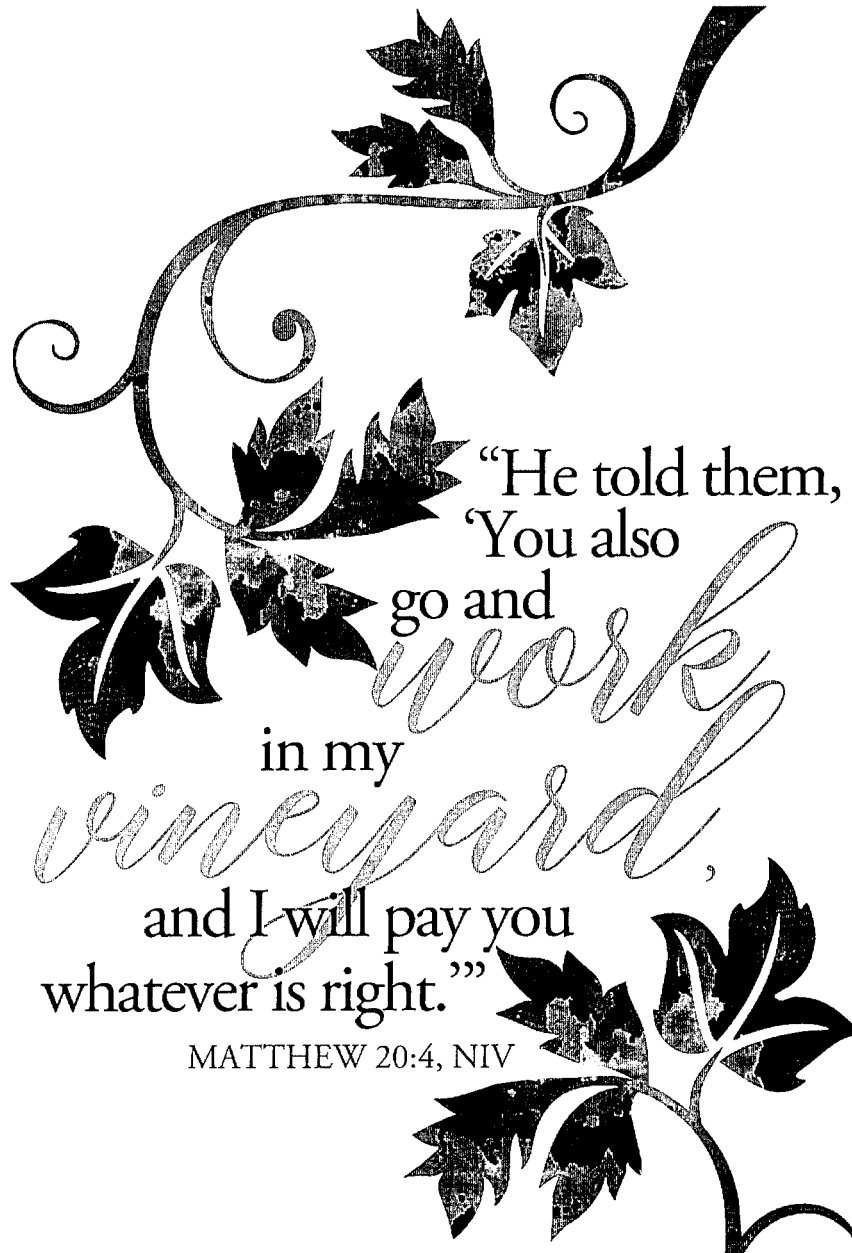


17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026



“He told them,
‘You also
go and
work
in my
vineyard,
and I will pay you
whatever is right.’”

MATTHEW 20:4, NIV

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity

Holy Communion 9:00 AM

Sunday School 10:30 AM

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Welcome in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Our worship follows a traditional order inspired by scripture and rooted in ancient patterns. The full order for worship (liturgy) is found in this bulletin.

*Please stand as you are able. Spoken congregational responses are in **Bold**.

GATHERING

*Worship begins with the organ prelude. It's a time for
silent meditation as we turn our hearts and minds to God.*

PRELUDE -

Tranquility Gilbert M. Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God, we come to you open and willing to be in relationship with you again. You know our hearts and our innermost secrets. We call on you now to make us whole, refresh us, and bless us so that we may do your holy work in the world by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, and through our Savior Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

God of Grace, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We humbly repent and we desire your will for our lives. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Restore our relationship with you. Uphold us and strengthen us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may live and serve you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved through faith. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, all of your sins are forgiven. May God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that you may know Jesus' great mercy and love for you. **Amen.**

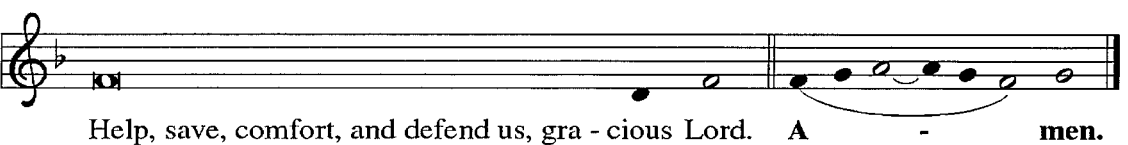
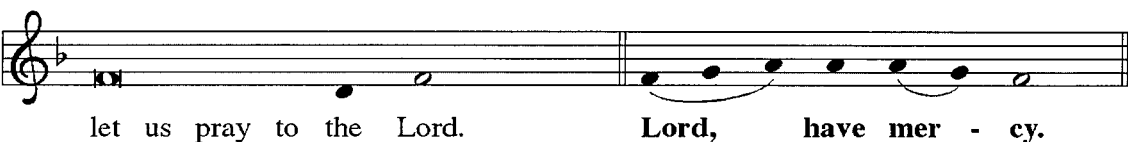
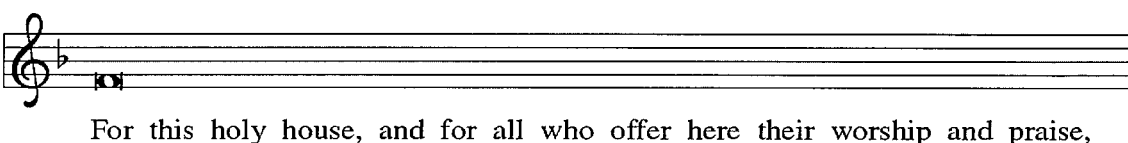
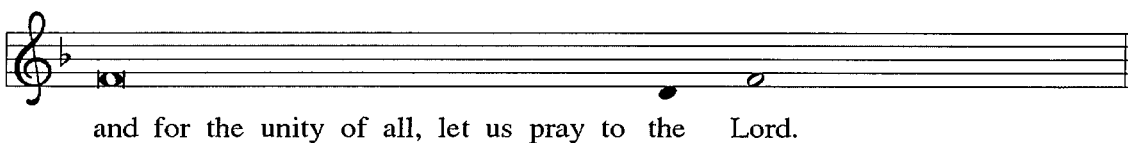
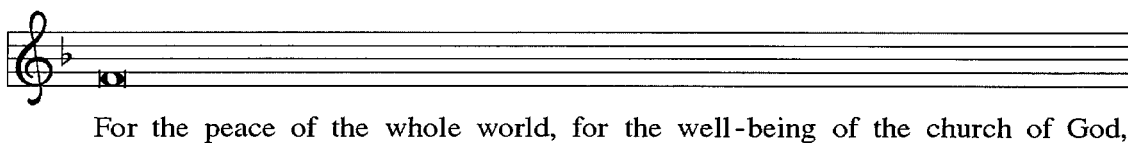
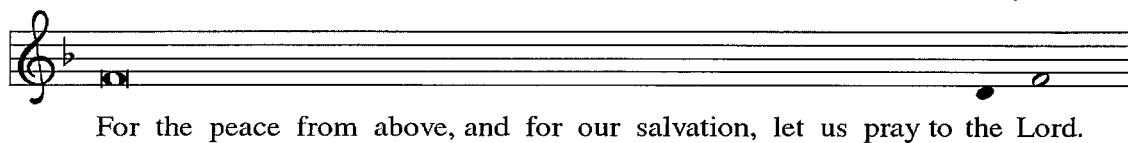
*PROCESSIONAL HYMN -

Lord of Light Hymn #688

*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 - *Lord, have mercy* page 138



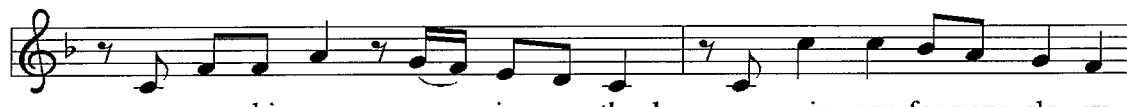
* HYMN OF PRAISE - *Glory to God* page 139



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**

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading: Jonah 3:10—4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God

prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?" The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 145:1-8 (*spoken responsively*)

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

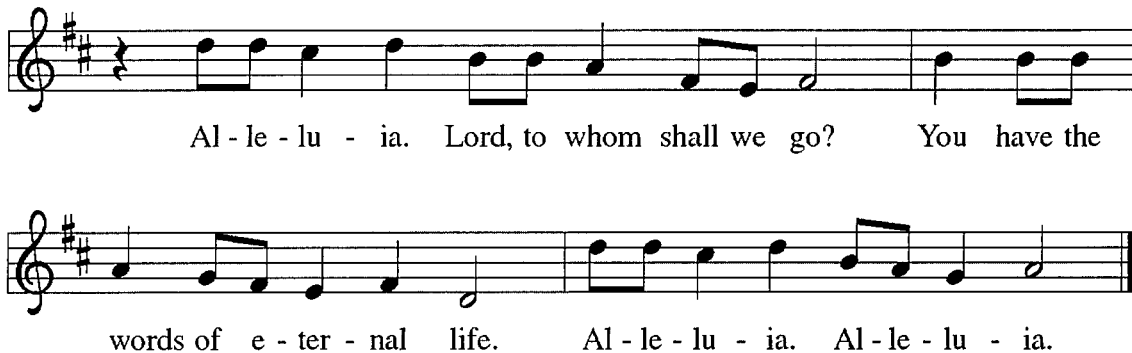
SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - Page 142



*GOSPEL - Matthew 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 20th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord. *(spoken)*

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON The Rev. Althea Seidel

*HYMN OF THE DAY -

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here Hymn #358

***APOSTLES' 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

Response: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** (After each prayer)

Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

OFFERING - (Offering plates are located in the narthex as you exit the sanctuary.)

***OFFERTORY HYMN -**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Hymn #182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. You are our Creator and bless us with all that we have. We are thankful for many things in our lives. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need. Bless our time, our talents, and all the offerings we give back to you for your holy work, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

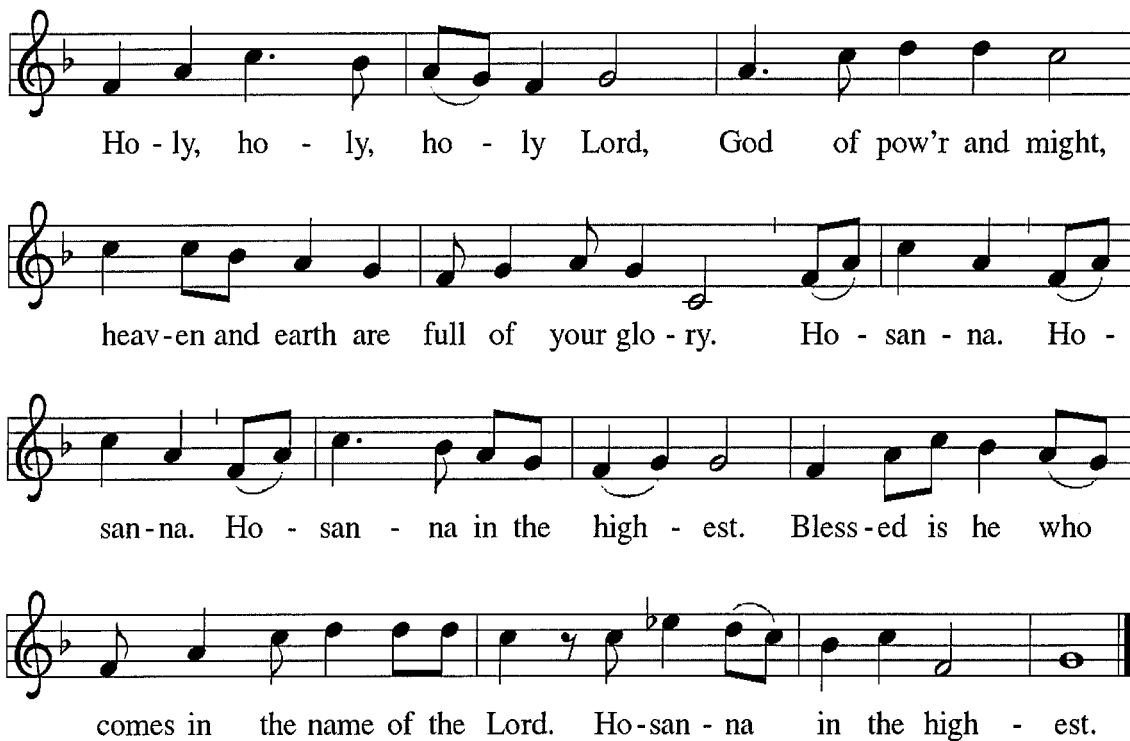
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who overcame death and the grave, and by his resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. So, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***SANCTUS** - *Holy, holy, holy* Page 144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again.

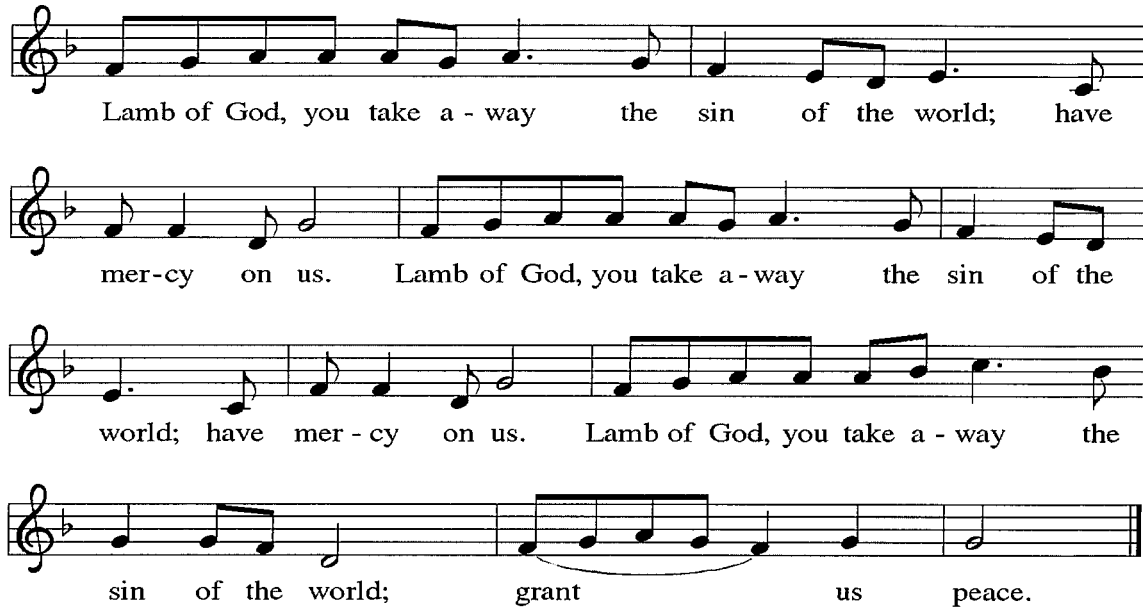
***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good. **Amen.**

***AGNUS DEI - (Lamb of God)** Page 146



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

After receiving Communion, please do not hesitate to come forward to the altar for a time of prayer.

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and bring you peace. **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Compassionate God, **through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

THE SENDING

***BLESSING**

May God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer ✠, bless you and hold you close today and always. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN -**

Rise Up, O Saints of God! Hymn #669

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, Christ is with you! Share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE - *Praeludium und Fuge in D-dur* JS Bach

PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Althea Seidel

Paul Copenhaver - Minister of Music

Dan Shuman - Organist

Heather Buffington - Bell Choir Director

Scott Hower - Lay Assistant

Nancy Brightbill - Lector

James Engle - Acolyte

George Dodson & Denise Rhoades - Greeters

♿ *Elevator access to upper and lower levels is located at rear entrance of church.*

📵 *Remember to silence cell phones & other electronic device*

A GIFT HAS BEEN PRESENTED IN LOVING † MEMORY OF:

In memory of my mother, Linda Wolford, who passed on September 18, 2025 by daughter, Deb Wolford

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY:

Sunday, September 20 - Christian Education (all ages) 10:30 a.m.

Monday, September 21 - Praise Ringers 6 p.m.; Psalm Ringers 7 p.m.

Tuesday, September 22 - Staff Meeting 10 a.m.; Christian Education
Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.; Senior Choir 7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 23 - Archives & Artifacts Committee 9:30 a.m.;
Quittapahilla Audubon Society Meeting 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 26 - Bingo 11 a.m.

PRAYER UPDATE: We have been asked to keep Anne, The Family of Ashley, Barb Atwood, Terry Clearwater, Monique Derfler, Deb Dobson, Donna, George & Susie Eckert, Dan, Dan Fox, Moe Gockley, Mike and Nancy Hentz, Patty Hess, Jennifer, Jane, Joan, Joe & Fran, Jane Kalbach, Joe Kalbach, Bart Keip, Donna Kullman, Jim & Judi Light, Ann Mark, Robert Moore, Janice Peiffer, Rachel, Robert, Margaret Reese, Pastor Althea, Betty Schriver, Sam & Marie Smith, Tim, Betty Troxell, Rick Warner, and Mary Yeagley.

PRAYER CONCERNS: If you no longer wish to be included in the prayer update list, please let the Church Office know to remove your name.

GREETERS & LECTORS NEEDED: This is a simple way to help out! Arrive on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and greet anyone who enters the Narthex door. Lectors are also needed. The text is given ahead of time for you to get comfortable. Sign-up sheet is located at the parking lot Welcome Table. Questions? Please contact either Denise Rhoades or Stephanie Kaylor.

HELP NEEDED: Do you have some spare time to give of your talents? We are in need of help with our Archives & Artifacts database. If you can type, this is an opportunity for you! We are also in need of help putting together a giveaway. Both jobs are sitting and flexible. If you have questions or are interested, please contact the Church Office. Thank you!

CAN YOU SPARE A SUNDAY?: Help is needed with the Youth Sunday School Class. There is a sign-up sheet in Luther's Place. Sign-up when it works best for you. Only want to teach once a year? That's ok. This is extremely flexible. Clearances do need to be on file in the Church Office. If you need help with that or if you have any questions, please contact Stephanie. All materials will be prepped and ready for you. You simply need to follow the instructions. Please prayerfully consider helping out. Thank you!

COUNTRY STORE GOODIES: All the goodies are ready! Peach & Strawberry Jam are \$3 for an 8 oz. jar and \$5.50 for a 16 oz. jar. Chow Chow is \$4 for a 16 oz. jar, \$6 for a 24 oz. jar, and \$8 for a 32 oz. jar. If interested, Linda and Louise will be available Sunday mornings or contact the Church Office.

EGG CARTONS: Cartons are needed for various non-profits. Please bring them in and place them in the bin in The Giving Place.

CLOTHING DONATIONS: Did you know that we open up the Church once a month for a community clothing giveaway to those in need? Donations of clothing, blankets, shoes, towels, you name it are accepted year round. Please bring your items and place them in the cart located in the Giving Place. If you would like to help with the distribution or have questions, please contact the Church Office,



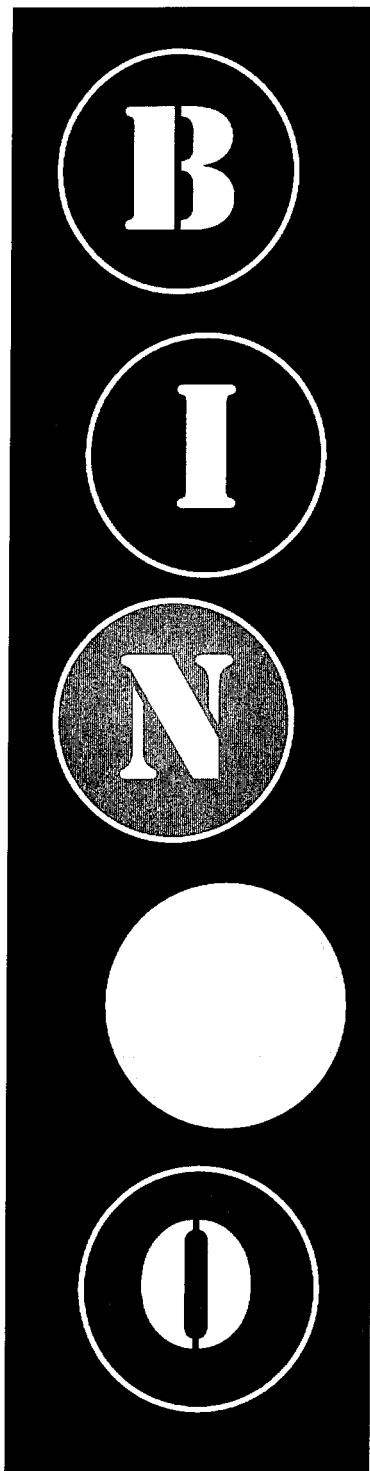
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Make plans now to join the committee on Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will take place in Luther's Place. Topics of discussion include Youth Sunday School, Adult Sunday School, Catechism Class, Bible Study, Reformation Day, and more! No expertise is needed. We just need you! Questions, please contact the Church Office.

EAGLE CEREMONY: James Engle and family invite you his Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Sunday, October 18th at 2 p.m. at the Moravian Church of Lebanon, 1115 Birch Road. Light refreshments to follow. Please let Shannon know you will attend by October 11. 717-314-8678 or daizhan1107@gmail.com.

WELCA WOMEN'S RETREAT: We are inviting all women of Holy Trinity to relax, recharge, and replenish your soul at Camp Nawakwa from Friday October 16th to Sunday October 18th for our very first Women's Retreat. Feel free to bring a female friend or family member. The cost is \$150 per person which includes lodging, dinners and supplies. Registration forms are on the table in Luther's Place and are due **TODAY** with a \$50 deposit. On September 30, there will be a meeting for all attending at 6:30PM. Contact Heather Buffington for more information or if you have questions.

CHURCH ENVELOPES: 2027 offering envelopes are here! Please stop by Luther's Place to pick your set up today! If you did not receive a box and would like to, please contact the Church Office.

CHURCH PICNIC: We are heading to Knoebel's again! Join us on Saturday, October 10 at 12 p.m. for a picnic! There is a food sign-up sheet in Luther's Place. We will meet at Pavilion C. After lunch, BINGO will be played! Please feel free to invite your friends and families! The park opens at 2 p.m.



CASH PRIZES!

*Supporting Holy Trinity Lutheran Church's
Hunger Initiative and Pastoral Care Programs.*

SEPTEMBER 26

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
723 Lehman Street: Please use parking lot entrance.

Doors Open for Food &

Drink: 11:30 a.m.

Games Start: 1 p.m.

Regular Games Payout \$50

Special Games Payout \$100

Tickets: \$20 Advance

\$25 at Door

Seating is LIMITED!

Tickets available online at:

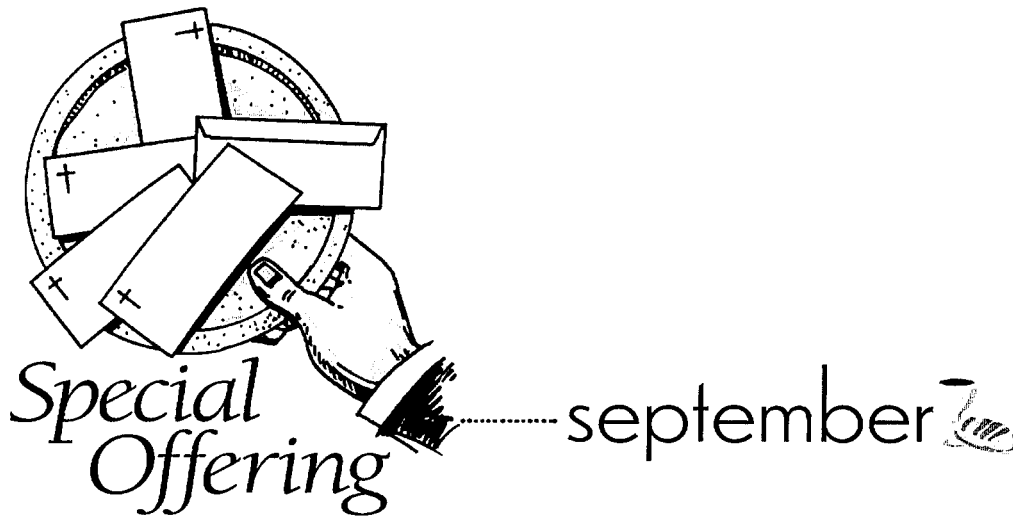
www.trinityleb.org

or by calling

717-273-8567.



Questions: stephanie@trinityleb.org



Lutheran World Relief

Faithful Lutherans have a long history of rushing aid to the front lines — near and far — when crisis strikes. From sending emergency supplies to delivering LWR Mission Quilts, your love has been reaching children, women and families in the direst situations. With your support, together, we will not abandon these neighbors now.

Your gift will deliver critically needed resources like medical care, food, water and essential supplies where they are needed most.

Special Offering envelopes can be found at either Welcome Table or in the pews (green envelopes.) You can also mark your donation “ELCA World Hunger,” “Lutheran Disaster Repsonse,” and/or “Lutheran World Relief.”

Thank you for putting your faith in action and sharing God’s love with your neighbors.



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

There are many ways that we, as a congregation and as individuals, give back to the Lord. Many of us share our gifts, talents, and money in order to have our many ministries flourish. Your support, in whatever ways it is shared, is always appreciated.

Scan to donate online:



Church Treasurer's Financial Summary - August 2026

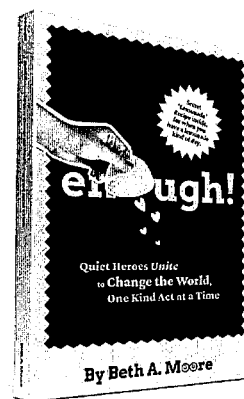
	Month of August	Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
Income	\$19,424	\$166,137	\$216,838
Expenses	(\$16,486)	(\$211,324)	(\$223,780)
Net Income	\$2,938	(\$45,187)	(\$6,942)

INGATHERING SUNDAY: St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Schaefferstown will be holding a blessing and dedication of quilts on Sunday, October 4 at 8:30 a.m. The quilts will also be on display in the church. A very special thank you to the faithful ladies who came each month for many years to knot the quilts - Janice Copenhaver, LaRue Galbraith, and Betty Schriver. The quilting group holds them in their prayers and misses them! Thank you also to current volunteers - Louise Lundquist and Nancy Brightbill. Because of the combined efforts, about 100 quilts are going to be shipped. Thank you!

HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OUR CHURCH: Holy Trinity is participating in the 2026 Aging Your Way Festival (formerly known as the Lebanon 50+ Festival.) The event is Thursday, October 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lebanon Expo Center. If you can help us at our table, please sign up in Luther's Place. All information will be provided. You just need to share your love of Holy Trinity! Questions? Please contact the Church Office.

CELEBRATION & FELLOWSHIP — BOOK LAUNCH GATHERING:

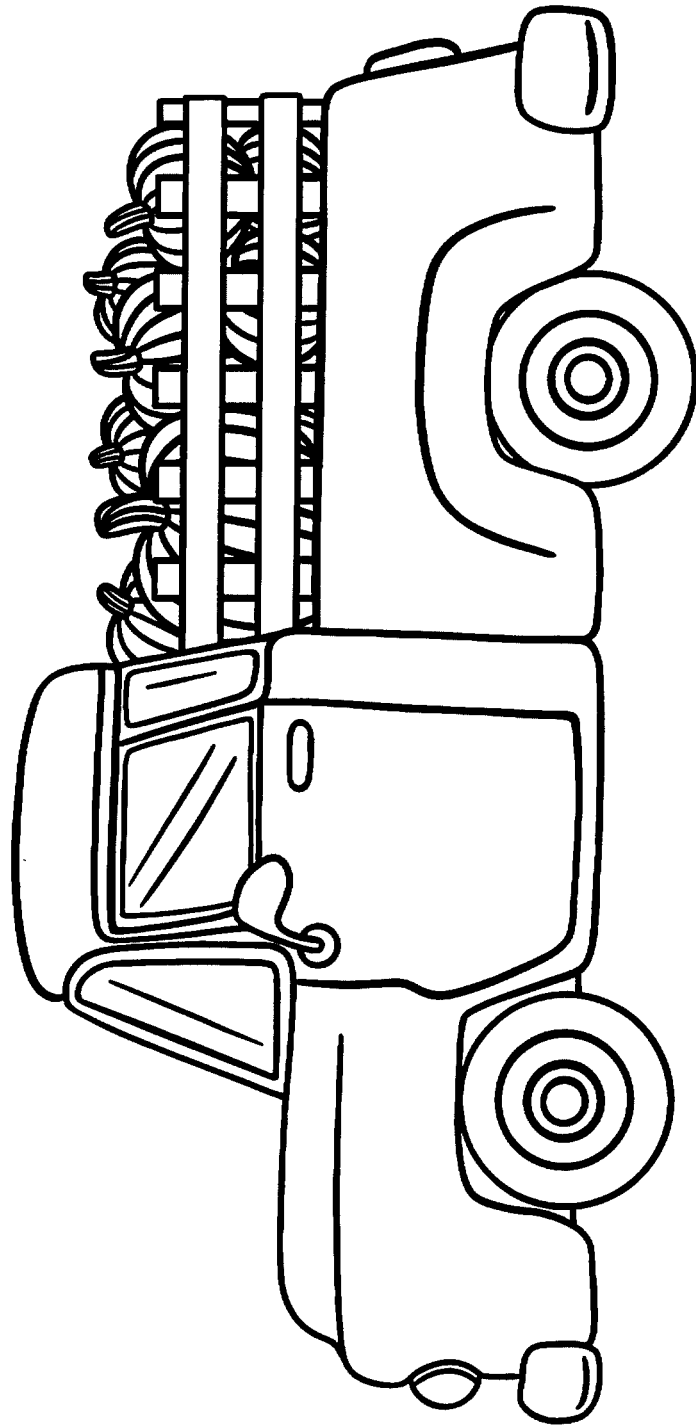
Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 11th! Beth Moore and her mom, Janice Peiffer, invite you to the Adult Sunday School Class to help celebrate the launch of Beth's book. The book is part memoir (of her dad—perhaps you knew Earl "Fritz" Peiffer) and part inspirational.



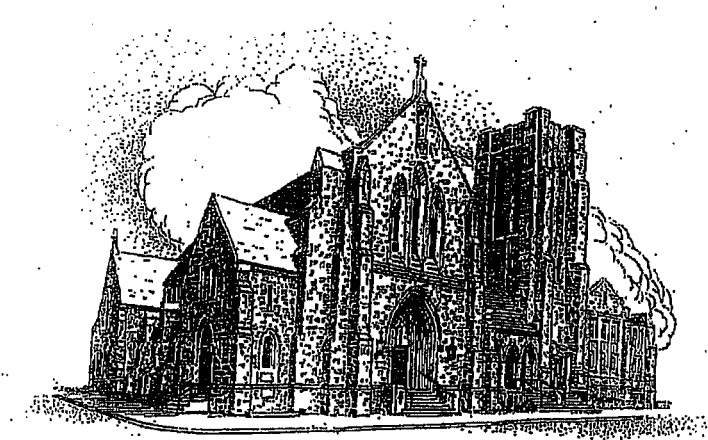
What to expect:

- Treats! Enjoy some of Janice's favorite homemade treats.
- "T-E-R-R-I-F-I-C" cupcakes from a local baker.
- Beverages
- Highlights from the book, including how the church helped to shape the book.
- A free bok for anyone who would like one!

Whether you regularly attend Sunday School or just want to stay after service because you're curious about the book, want to support the book or you want to enjoy some fellowship (and treats!), we would be honored to see you there!



God is faithful in every season.



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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