

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026



PRELUDE

We arrive from many places as music gathers us into one shared moment in the Spirit.

WELCOME STATEMENT

Everyone is invited into God's story and the life of this community.

GATHERING SONG

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of the living, we confess that we have not lived as the risen body of Christ in the world. We have failed to abide in your love, and have not loved one another as you love us. Strengthen us with your Spirit, that we may draw our life from you, the vine, and bear fruits of your grace and mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our ✠ risen Lord, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON

Blue Book, Page 2

SONG OF PRAISE

Blue Book, Page 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Cantique de Jean Racine"

Gabriel Faure/arr. Sondra Tucker

Flutists: Donna Martin and Amy Boyles

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 15: 15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

A reading from Jeremiah.

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalms 26: 1-8

Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.
Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.
I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.

I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.
I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,
singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.

SECOND READING

Romans 12: 9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

A reading from Romans.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Help Us O Lord"

Blue Book, Page 4

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16: 21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

The gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

From that time on, after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Phillip Potaczek

STATEMENT OF FAITH *(from 'Dakota Road: Remembering the Promise' edition)*

We believe God is our creator and has promised to love us always. We believe Jesus Christ, fully God and fully human, is God's promise living among us. He experienced all the pain and joy and challenges of human life. God's forgiving love was revealed to us when Jesus suffered death on the cross. He came back to new life and has promised us new life in unity with God. We believe the Holy Spirit is God's promise touching our spirits and animating our lives, guiding us - even through our most difficult moments. We believe God is among us in community. Mysterious, yet very real, God promises to be with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition, Song Response: *"The Spirit intercedes for us..."*

Receive our prayers... in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PEACE

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

OFFERING**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS**

Blue Book, Page 7

OFFERING PRAYER

In response to your promise of life, we offer our life. In response to your promise of love, we offer our love. In response to all of your promises, we offer our gifts. Amen.

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION/EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth...Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to God's table of grace, receiving Christ's presence as nourishment for the journey.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to know the love of God in Jesus Christ are invited to Holy Communion. Inform a communion assistant if you need a gluten-free host. Grape juice is located in the center ring of the tray. If you are not receiving the sacrament today, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Lamb of God"

Blue Book, Page 8

COMMUNION HYMN**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Compassionate God,...through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“Let’s Go Out”

Blue Book, Page 9

SENDING

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**



*****Trinity at a Glance*****

August 30, 2026

- **SHARE YOUR LOVE FOR JESUS TO THE NEXT GENERATION**

Teach a Sunday Session lesson! You can lead on already designed and prepared for you or you may create your own. Session themes are listed next to each date on the sign up sheet on the information Kiosk. Put your name on the line next to the date you want to lead a lesson, and the Christian Education Committee will prepare everything you need (a member of the Committee will accompany you, also). Thank you for helping to speak the good news of God's love for all people to our youth. Sharing your faith makes a difference!

- **Help Us Open the Community Clothing Closet!**

In collaboration with **Partners in Pride**, Trinity is creating a **free, gender-affirming community clothing closet** in the former Rummage Sale room off Fellowship Hall. We have lots of great clothing ready to go-and we're hoping to open the closet by October! Now we just need a few volunteers to help organize the space, arrange the clothing, and make it welcoming and easy to use. Would you be willing to lend a hand one **Sunday morning after worship or sometime during the week?** Even a few hours would make a big difference. **Sign up at the back of the church with a day and time that works for you.** With a little help, we can get this important ministry and community outreach up and running!

- **Fall Book Club: The Divine Art of Dying**

How do we prepare to live well all the way to life's end? What does our Christian faith have to say about hope, letting go, reconciliation, gratitude, and the promise that nothing can separate us from the love of God? This Fall, TLC Book Club invites you into a thoughtful and compassionate conversation as we read *The Divine Art of Dying* by Herbert Anderson and Karen Speerstra. Written by a pastoral theologian and a hospice patient, the book explores the spiritual journey of preparing for our own deaths-not with fear, but with honesty, faith, and grace. Pick up your copy from

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9781506478876/The-Divine-Art-of-Dying-Second-Edition>

Please note: this is not a class about dying; it is a conversation about living faithfully in light of God's promise. This will be a welcoming space for conversation, reflection, and prayer. *All are welcome!*

We will meet on **Tuesdays at 6pm, in the Education Building Community Room:**

September 8: Read Part 1

September 22: Read Part 3

September 15: Ready Part 2

September 29: Read Part 4

- **Rotary Club** will be hosting a **Culver's Night** on **Wednesday, September 16th, 5-8pm.** *Come out and join the fun!*
- **Rally Day** will be Sunday, **September 13th, 9am.** **Volunteers are needed for Rally Day!** The Volunteer Sign Up Sheet is in the back of the Sanctuary by Java Junction. Come sign up! Have fun and help us make this a successful event!
- The next **Trinity Lutheran Blood Drive** is happening **Wednesday, September 16th, 12pm to 5pm.** For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org. Appointments are preferred but not necessary. Contact Carol Wahlstrom for more information, carolwahlstrom@gmail.com , and to volunteer.
- **Affirmation class** and first **Sunday Session** will begin at **9am September 20th.**
- **Sunday, September 20th is Quilt Sunday** this year. Quilt Sunday is a beautiful display of the Trinity Stitchers' work laid out on the pews in the Sanctuary. You don't want to miss this!
- **German Dinner Tickets** are on sale now at \$20 each. Tickets can be purchased at the Office during regular business hours, from any Rotary member or by calling 815-343-7655. Save the date in your calendar; **Friday, September 25th 5-7pm** at Trinity Lutheran Church. Proceeds support Rotary's scholarships for Marquette Academy, Ottawa High School Opportunity School, IVCC, and Trinity Rose Montessori School.
- The **Objectives of the Growing Hope Globally Project** are many. Among them are the strengthening of community councils. It will increase production and consumption of healthy foods as well as income-generating opportunities by increasing the productive capacity of rural households through agroecological practices. It will facilitate the recovery and use of native seeds and the diversification of crops and livestock species. They are forming 7 groups to establish productive plots and will establish 3 community seed reserves. **Please consider donating to this worthy cause!**



- As announced at worship on Sunday, **Trinity's Church Council and Pastor Phil are prayerfully exploring a potential partnership with Open Table United Church of Christ.** Open Table's leadership has approached Trinity about using available space on the main floor of the Education Building as they consider their future facility needs.

No decision has been made. If an agreement is reached, the arrangement could provide additional opportunities for shared worship, fellowship, and community ministry, while generating at least \$1,000 per month in additional income for Trinity. The Council recognizes that there are practical questions to consider, including scheduling, building use, responsibilities, liability, and finances. Just as importantly, the congregation is invited to consider what sharing its building might say about Trinity's commitment to hospitality, welcome, and making room for its neighbors.

Congregational conversations will be scheduled for after worship on Sunday, September 6th and Sunday, September 13th (Rally Day). This will be an opportunity for Trinity members to ask questions, share concerns, and listen together. Questions may be submitted in advance to Pastor Phil or Council Officers Mike Matteson and Carol Wahlstrom. Please join the Council in prayerful discernment as Trinity considers how God may be calling our congregation to use the space entrusted to it. Thank you!

- **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Please pray for AJ Stahr and family, and please pray for Martha.

- **CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- July Income = \$14,835.35 (Income YTD = \$137,137.67)
- July Expense = \$17,706.93 (Expense YTD = \$139,181.49)
- Income Less Expense = -\$2,871.58 (Income Less Expense YTD = -\$2,043.82)

THIS WEEK @ TRINITY:

- **Monday (8/31):**
 - 9a Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)
 - 10a Drum Fit (Community Room)
 - 10a Staff Meeting (Office)
 - 6p Boy Scouts
- **Tuesday (9/1):**
 - 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
- **Wednesday (9/2)**
 - 1p Bible Study (Community Room)
 - 5p Cub Scouts
 - 6:30 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- **Thursday (9/3):**
 - 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
 - 6p N.A. Meeting (Education Building)
- **Friday (9/4):**
- **Saturday (9/5):** *International Day of Charity*
- **Sunday (9/6):**
 - 10a Holy Communion (Sanctuary)



WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -

Please sign up using the binder at the back of the aisle.

<u>Sunday, August 30, 2026</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: Ushers: Lector: <i>Jane Goetz</i> Communion Assistants: <i>Jane Goetz</i> Altar Guild: <i>Cindy and Jay Komater</i> Video Tech: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers:	<u>Sunday, September 6, 2026</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: Ushers: Lector: Communion Assistants: Altar Guild: <i>Jan Beckman, Kari Castelli</i> Video Tech: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers: