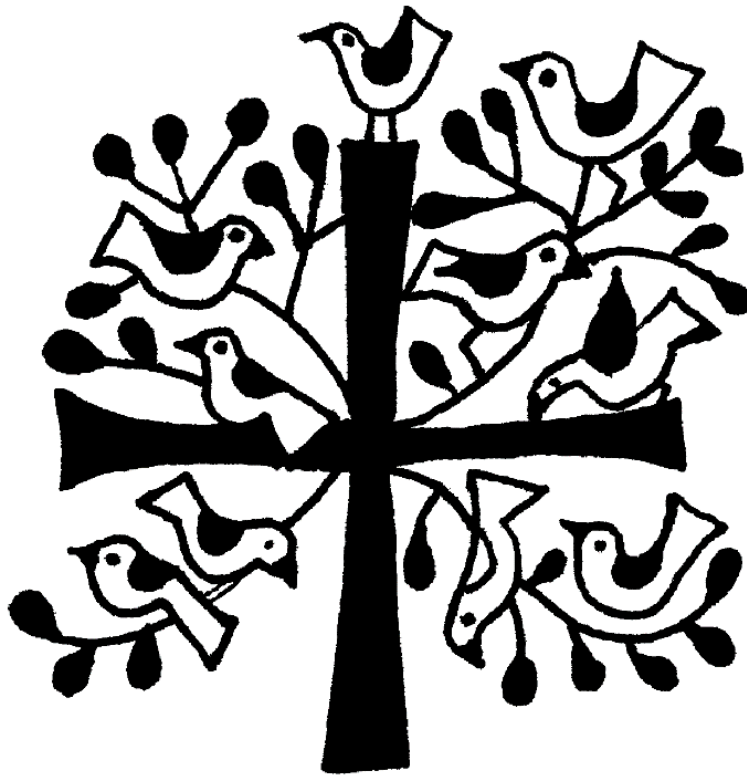


***Trinity Lutheran Ev. Lutheran Church
of South Newstead
July 26th, 2026
9th Sunday after Pentecost***



As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

**PRELUDE – WELCOME –
ANNOUNCEMENTS – PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please stand as you are able

**GATHERING SONG:
Be Thou My Vision**

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish 8th–10th cent.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.
 Music: SLANE, Irish tune

GREETING:

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

ALL: And also with you.

L: You are treasured people of the Lord,

ALL: a people holy to the Lord our God.

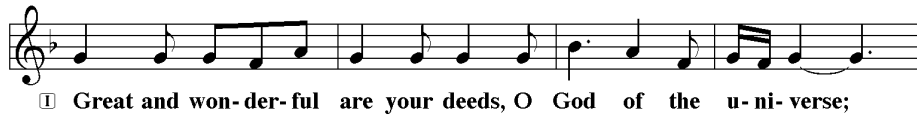
L: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

ALL: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

L: One does not live by bread alone,

ALL: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

SCRIPTURE SONG:



PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

L: Let us pray,

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **ALL: Amen.**

Please be seated

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

L: ⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

L: The word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God**

PSALM: 119:129-136

L:¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

**ALL:¹³⁰ When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

L:¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

ALL:¹³² Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.

L:¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

ALL:¹³⁴ Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.

L:¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

ALL:¹³⁶ My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

L: ²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called

according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

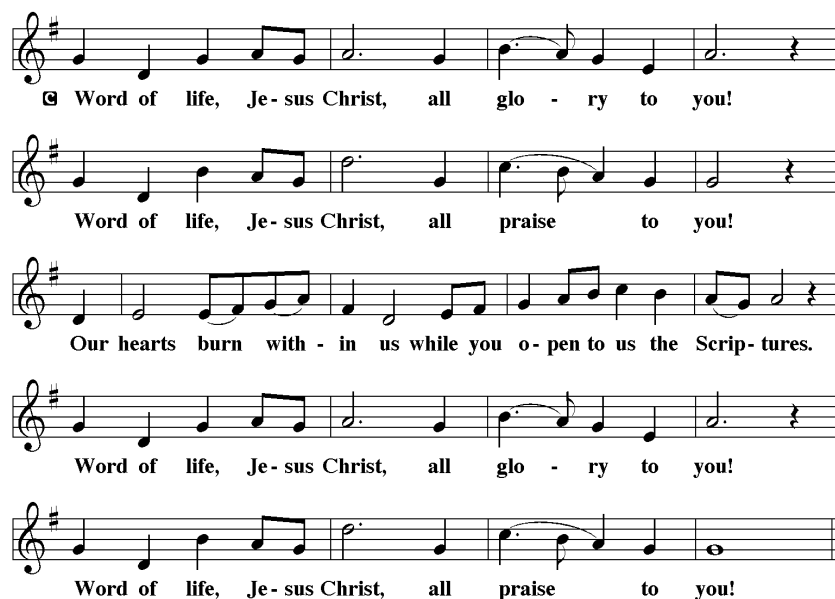
“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: The word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip- tures.

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

L: ³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

CHILDREN’S BACKPACK CHALLENGE

SERMON: Pastor Serena Mollenkopf-Grill

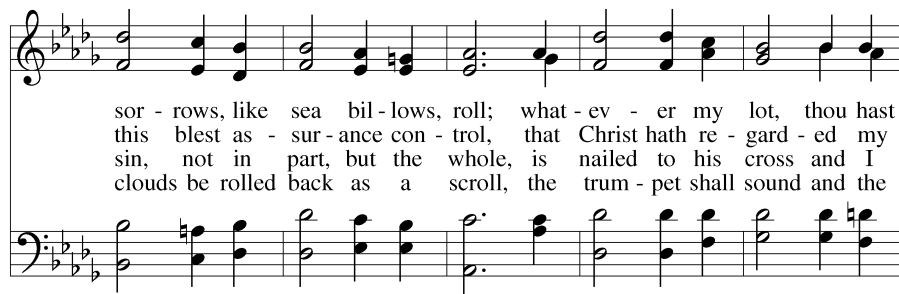
HYMN OF THE DAY: When Peace Like a River

Please stand as you are able

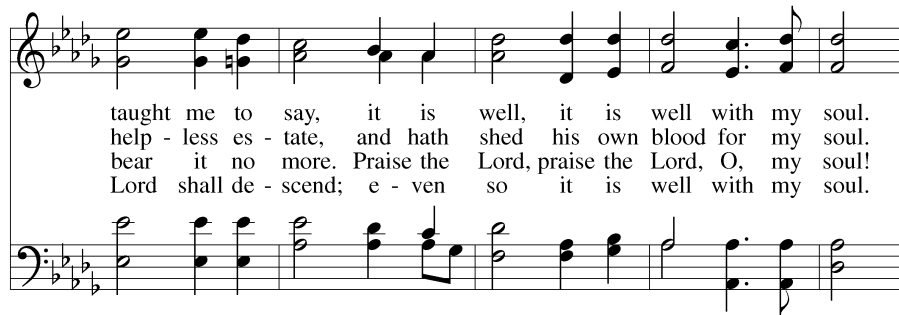
When Peace, like a River



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 And Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O, my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 it is well with my soul,

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888
 Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

L: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

ALL: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

ALL: 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 power of 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.

L: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

ALL: pray in the Holy Spirit.

L: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

ALL: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ

L: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

ALL: Everything old has been passed away; behold, everything has become new!

L: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

A moment for silent prayer.

Gracious God,

ALL: Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

L: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

ALL: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

*You are invited to greet your neighbors
with a sign of Christ's peace.*

Please be seated

OFFERING



SCAN ME

Any financial gifts you wish to give towards the ministry of Trinity may be placed in the offering plate as it is passed around or at the rear of the sanctuary. You may also give your offering online using the QR code provided or go to trinitysouthnewstead.org/give. We give thanks for your sharing of your offerings this and every day.

Please stand as you are able

OFFERTORY



Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;
ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.
Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray together, Loving God,

ALL: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L: God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. We pray for our NOEL cluster siblings of First English, Lockport; St. John's, Lyndonville; St. Peter, Medina; Trinity, Wolcottsville; and Zion, Gasport. God of grace,

ALL: hear our prayer.

L: God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,
ALL: hear our prayer.

L: God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace,
ALL: hear our prayer.

L: God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. (*We pray especially for...*) God of grace,
ALL: hear our prayer.

L: God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace,
ALL: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace,
ALL: hear our prayer.

L: And God our alpha and omega, we know your Spirit intercedes for us even when our sighs are too deep for words to express. Hear us as we share our deepest needs in this time of silent prayer.

A moment for silent prayer.

L: God of grace,
ALL: hear our prayer.

L: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
ALL: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

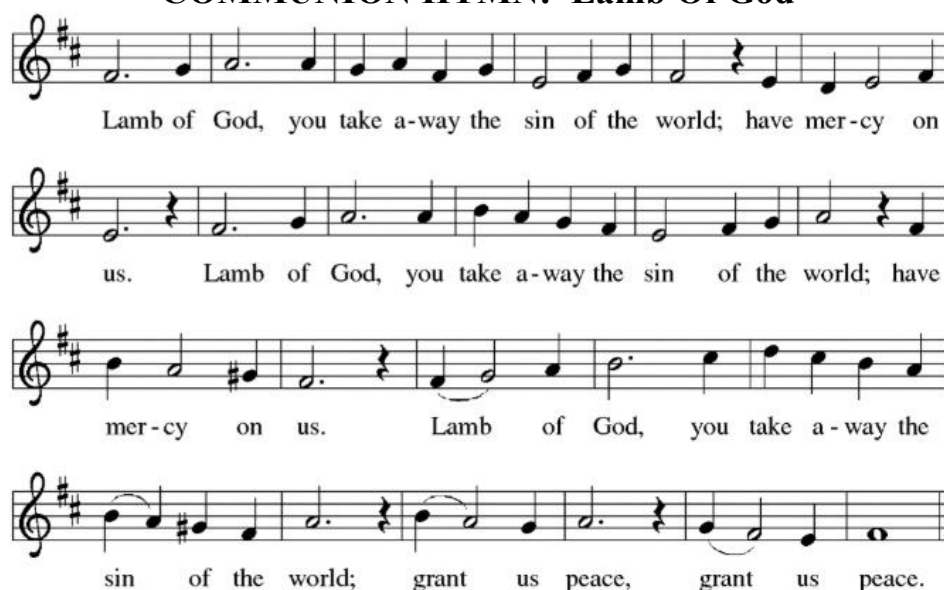
L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: **ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead 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 DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The minister will give instruction on the distribution of communion.

Please be seated

COMMUNION HYMN: Lamb Of God



COMMUNION HYMN: Seek Ye First –

Blue Book: 783

To be sung during the distribution of communion

COMMUNION HYMN: *by request as needed*

Please stand as you are able

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

L: The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace. **ALL: Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray together, Compassionate God,

ALL: 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.

BLESSING

L: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✠ one God,

bles, heal, and hold you

today and always.

ALL: Amen

SENDING HYMN: God of Grace and God of Glory:

God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

DISMISSAL

L: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

ALL: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

About Today's Readings:

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

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WI-FI: To access our community wifi, go to 'Trinity Guest' on your device, and then when prompted, enter the password:
BeABeacon

Trinity Lutheran Evangelical Church of South Newstead
4809 S. Newstead Rd.
Akron, NY 14001
716-542-9828

Trinitysouthnewstead.org

[*trinitysouthnewstead@gmail.com*](mailto:trinitysouthnewstead@gmail.com)

***Thank you, Pastor Serena, for leading us in
worship today!***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Hold in Prayer:

To add someone to the prayer list in the bulletin/beacon, add them to the list at the back of the Sanctuary or contact the church office. You can call or email in a prayer at any time. 716-542-9828. Or text Tracy directly at 716-579-3612.

Now you can also go on the website and email in a prayer through there, too, whenever you'd like!
trinitysouthnewstead@gmail.com

If you would like your prayer concern to be shared through our One Call phone system, please call Sue Kidder at 716-542-2095. Prayers are printed on Tuesdays and will be verbally announced in church if submitted after that.

We pray for healing, strength and patience for those we love going through difficult times:

Archie Ausberger

Sandy Kreher

Amy and Daisy Richter

We give thanks for Tony Kaminski's successful surgery and Sandy Bruning's successful knee replacement!

We pray for patience, strength and support for the families and friends of:

Nancy Peters

Mary

Lester Francis

June Dombrowski

James Walters

We pray for safe travel for the Morgans and the Kittels to North Carolina and South Carolina, respectively.

Weekly:

Choir is off for the summer!

Sunday School is off until September 13th (startup info in below and in Beacon)

Sunday Worship at 9:30

Bible Study: See list below

Confirmation at Trinity

We're excited to offer a Confirmation program for our youth starting in September!

Confirmation is a process in which junior-high youth in grades 7 and up learn what it means to

be a Lutheran Christian in our world. They will then take responsibility for their faith when they are confirmed after completing a two-year program of classes, interactions, service, relationship-building, and more.

For interested families, there will be an information meeting **after worship on Sunday, August 9th**. We'll run through the expectations that come with our Confirmation program, share what we're excited about, and answer any questions. There will be a registration form coming soon, stay tuned!

Food Pantry:

The food pantry is low on cereal and canned fruit if you're looking to donate this month.

First Monday of the Month: setup @ 8am

First Tuesday of the month: distribution @ 8:30am

Council: ~~August 11th~~ **Rescheduled to August 4th @ 7pm**

Office Info:

Pastor Rick: Tuesdays 10:00-1:00 p.m. and by appointment

Tracy: Tuesdays: 9:30-2:30, Thursdays: remote. Call, text or email any time.

Summer office hours updates:

Things change slightly in the summer. If you need to stop in the office, here are the changes:

July 28 – office is closed

August 11th and 13th – office open from 1:30-6ish

August 14-30th – Pastor is away

Buffalo Bisons Signup

For those interested in attending the Lutheran night at the Bisons on August 21st, there's a signup sheet on the red clipboard in the narthex. Please include your phone number so you guys can coordinate your plans so you can attend as a group. **The deadline to register is August 18th.**

Bible Study

Trinity is part of the NOEL (Niagara Orleans Ev. Lutherans) cluster of churches' Bible Study. Consider this your invitation to join, make new friends, and gain new insights into the Word and faith.

Pastor Rick, Pastor Craig, and Pastor Sohail lead this Bible Study, which is at 10 am Thursdays. The location rotates among the NOEL churches:

7/30 – St. John's - 10213 Roosevelt Hwy, Lyndonville, 14098

8/6 – Here at Trinity!

8/13 – St. Peter – 1355 West Ave, Medina, 14103

8/20 – Trinity Wolcottsville – 6369 Wolcottsville Rd, Akron 14001

8/27 – Zion - 4447 Central Ave, Gasport 14067

9/3 - St. John's - 10213 Roosevelt Hwy, Lyndonville, 14098

Worship in the Park

NEXT WEEK, August 2nd at 10:30am, Veteran's Park in Gasport – only one shelter in the park, you can't miss it. The address is 7992 State St. in Gasport.

Bring a dish to pass and a comfy chair if you like. The signup sheet is out in the narthex. Remember – NO worship here at Trinity.

Synod Listening Session

August 3rd

Rev. Imani Olear will be visiting Trinity on **Monday evening, August 3rd at 6:30 pm** for a listening session with us around what's called the CaSTLE Project, an opportunity being offered to rural congregations to help strengthen their ministry in their setting. Please consider coming to share your thoughts.

A detailed summary of what to expect is forthcoming in the July Beacon, but briefly summarized, it is:

Simply a conversation. We are not coming to evaluate, assess, or judge the congregation. We are coming to listen. During our time together, we will discuss:

- What you love most about your congregation
- Where you see God at work
- The strengths of your community and congregation
- Challenges facing your church and community
- Leadership and lay ministry opportunities
- Hopes and concerns for the future
- Partnerships and collaborations in your community
- Resources, training, or support that might be helpful

What This Is Not

This is not:

- A congregational assessment
- A financial review
- A strategic planning session
- A conversation about closing churches
- A meeting with right or wrong answers

Your Voice Matters

The experiences of your congregation matters. The stories, wisdom, challenges, and hopes you share will help shape future conversations, resources, and support for rural and small-town

congregations across the Upstate New York Synod and beyond. We are grateful for your willingness to participate and look forward to learning from you.

Pies in the Park

July 31st is the annual **Pies in the Park**. A signup sheet is out now, please check it out!

Meet at our stand in Russel park at **6pm** (no later than 6:30pm). For those making pies, please be sure to use a disposable container.

Pies should be at church by **5pm** Friday.