

***Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
of South Newstead***

*August 30th, 2026
14th Sunday after Pentecost*



The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

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

Please stand as you are able

GATHERING SONG:

Lift High the Cross

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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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 the 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:



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.

① Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O God of the u-ni-verse;
just and true are your ways, O Rul-er of all the na-tions.
Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and sing the glo-ry of your name?

☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.

② For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One. All
na-tions will draw near and wor-ship be-fore you,
for your just and ho-ly works have been re-vealed.

☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

L: Let us pray,

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.

ALL: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

L: ¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

L: ¹ Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

ALL: ² Test me, O Lord, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

L: ³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

ALL: ⁴ I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.

L: ⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

**ALL: ⁶ I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

L: ⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

ALL: ⁸ Lord, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

L: ⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to

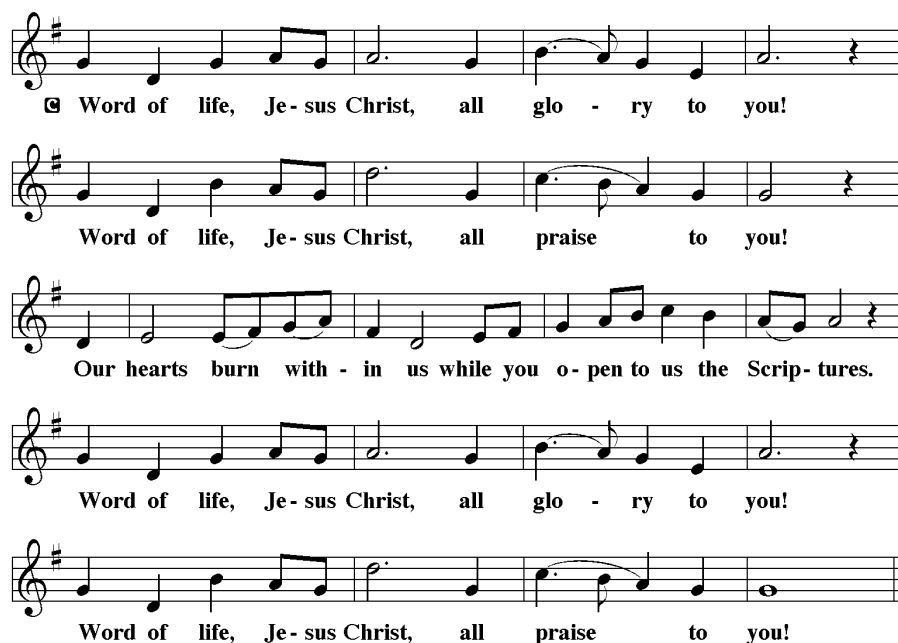
the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ 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." ²⁰ 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." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Please stand if you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The musical notation consists of five staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a square icon. The lyrics for the first four staves are: "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.", and "Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!". The fifth staff has the lyrics: "Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!".

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 16:21-28

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

L: ²¹ 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. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ 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."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ 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?"

²⁷ “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. ²⁸ 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.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON: Rev. Randy Milleville

HYMN OF THE DAY: Spirit, Open My Heart

Please stand as you are able

Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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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.*



SCAN ME

Please be seated

OFFERING

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: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

L: For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. We pray for our NOEL cluster siblings of First English, Lockport; St. John's, Lyndonville; St. Peter, Medina; Trinity, Wolcottville; and Zion, Gasport. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

L: For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters (*especially...*). Merciful God,
ALL: receive our prayer.

L: For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God,
ALL: receive our prayer.

L: For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit (*especially those who are sick, injured or otherwise suffering...*). Merciful God,
ALL: receive our prayer.

L: For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God,
ALL: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. Merciful God,
ALL: receive our prayer.

L: And for anyone who has need to share with you sighs that are too deep for words to express, please hear us now as we share our deepest needs in this time of silent prayer.

A moment for silent prayer.

L: Merciful God,
ALL: receive our prayer.

L: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
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

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, grant us peace.

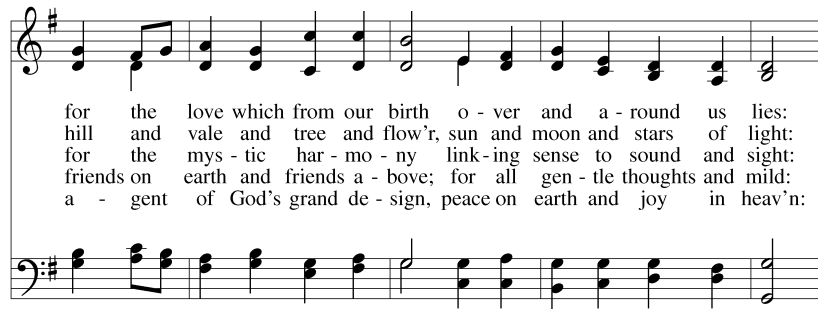
COMMUNION HYMN: For the Beauty of the Earth

To be sung during the distribution of communion

For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For your - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly giv'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 a - gent of God's grand de - sign, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:



Refrain
 Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

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,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

ALL: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: Blest be the Tie that Binds

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains three lines. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a focus on the lyrics. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment.

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

DISMISSAL

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

About Today's Readings:

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."

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.

Gospel: 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."

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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

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716-542-9828***

Trinitysouthnewstead.org

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

THANK YOU!

Rev. Milleville 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.

Harold Gardner
Sharon Ferraro
Bruce Albands (Chris Anderson) & family
Charles Berlinger
Sharon Ferraro
Mike Ferraro
Jordan Ertel & family
Pastor Robert Dean and his wife, Nancy
Elaine Koch and Family (transferred to Greenfield, room B107)

We pray for patience, strength and support for the families and friends of:
Virginia Doak
Betsy Goulette

Safe return home for Pastor Rick and family!

Weekly:

Choir is off for the summer!
Sunday School resumes 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! **The first evening meeting is September 20th from 6-8pm.**

If you were unable to attend the parent's meeting on August 6th, please be sure to mark your calendar for a parents' meeting after worship in the adult study room on **September 6th**.

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.

Registration form is now online on our website. Please be sure to fill it out before the first day. Any questions, send Pastor Rick a message.

Food Pantry:

Setup Aug 31st @ 8am

Distribution Tues Sept 1st @ 8:30am

Council: September 8th @ 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.

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:

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

9/10- Here at Trinity!

9/17 – St. Peter – 1355 West Ave, Medina 14103

9/24 - Trinity Wolcottsville – 6369 Wolcottsville Rd, Akron 14001

10/1- Zion - 4447 Central Ave, Gasport 14067

10/8 - St. John's - 10213 Roosevelt Hwy, Lyndonville, 14098

10/15 – Here at Trinity!

10/22- St. Peter – 1355 West Ave, Medina 14103

10/29- Trinity Wolcottsville – 6369 Wolcottsville Rd, Akron 14001

Sunday School

We are excited for Sunday School to start on **September 13th!** Sunday School this year will run from 10:45-11:45 am for a full hour. New this year: registration forms are online, and we'll

be requiring parents to sign in and sign out their children. Registration forms are needed for all children, and can be found on the Sunday School page of our website at trinitysouthnewstead.org.

Note: there will be no Sunday School on September 20th.

Synod CaSTLE recap

Thank you for a great turnout at our CaSTLE Listening Session with the Synod on August 3rd. This is just the beginning though, as this program shifts to Learning Cohorts. These will involve teaching, learning, coaching and conversation based on the priorities we noted during our sharing. The first Learning Cohort will be Saturday, September 26 from 9-11:30 am online, for which we'll meet here at church to participate in. See Pastor Rick for any questions.

SECRET PRAYER PALS

Plans are underway for the SECRET PRAYER PAL REVEAL GET TOGETHER on **Sunday, October 11th** (NOT a BILLS Sunday), at the home of Sue Kidder, at Noon. **ALL LADIES OF THE CONGREGATION ARE INVITED WHETHER YOU PARTICIPATED IN THE PRAYER PAL GROUP OR NOT!** We're hoping you will participate when the new season begins in October! Just let Sue know that you will be coming so that a place may be set for you! Please plan on bringing an Appetizer, Salad, or Dessert. I will provide hotdogs, rolls, paper products and drinks.

Even if you have no inclination of being a prayer pal, please come! There will be Fun, Food, and Fellowship.... AND, most importantly, you will find out who your Secret Prayer Pal for this last season has been! Hope to see you there!



Women's Meeting

Our women's social group will resume meeting again on **September 3rd at 1pm**. Please weigh in on what you'd like to see then or in the future; would you like to continue with snacks? Would you prefer it be a lunch? Or no snacks at all? Crafts? Please let Ronda know what you'd like to see and our group will keep evolving to be what you'd like it to be!

Congregational Listening Session: **Sunday Sept. 20th following worship**

What is Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Newstead? Who is Trinity? Why is Trinity?

These questions come up from time to time as we evaluate ourselves as a congregation. From within that framework and understanding, we can better identify the people, the mission and the direction of the congregation of Trinity.

We have done this in the past. Through our period of intentional internship, to the congregational merger with St John's, to our development of our ministry site profile for the purpose of calling and retaining pastoral leadership. We have asked ourselves these questions, as a council and as a congregation. The means to do this have varied. Focused collaborative stakeholder groups, to council committees, to surveys and now, a conversation.

Over the past few months, Trinity has been engaged in a shared ministry with Zion Lutheran Church of Gasport. Pastor Rick, through the direction of Synod and the understanding with council and Trinity, has been sharing pastoral leadership and care part time with Zion. The intent was to assist Zion in completing their ministry site profile and to organize to find new pastoral leadership. It was made into a formal agreement, along with a term, that has since expired. The question that Synod, Zion and Trinity now face is, what's next?

After discussion at council, it was decided to hold a listening session later this year. The listening session will be held on *September 20th following worship*. Deacon Rachel Sosebee will be joining us for this session to field any questions she can help with as well.

The purpose of the session is to ask and engage our congregation to review the past, the current and the future needs of our congregation's pastoral leadership. What does it look like? What do we need? This is the basis for the conversation. It will be open to the entire congregation as the council seeks your input for consideration. This is not a congregational meeting, so no actions are planned to be made. But with the conversation, the council will have a better understanding of Trinity to make decisions on next steps and direction.

As always, if you have questions, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Rick or myself. Thank you for your understanding, cooperation and hopefully, your participation.

Yours in Christ,

Erik Polkowski

Conversation Facilitator, Council VP 2026

Save the date: Chowda' Time!

Our Chowder sale will be **Saturday, September 26th**, mark your calendars! Corn shucking will happen between now and then, and of course there's lots of need for volunteering throughout the process.

Niagara Frontier Conference Assembly

Trinity will host the Niagara Frontier Conference Assembly from **6-8 pm on Wednesday, Oct. 21st**. This is a twice-annual gathering of clergy and lay leaders from across WNY for making connections, devotions and conducting the business of the conference. Bishop Lee Miller will have a presentation as well. We'll need some coordination to offer snacks and drinks for attendees (of which there may be upwards of 50-75 people).

Rummage Sale

Mark your calendars! All-day set-up Wednesday, Nov. 11; the Sale itself is Fri. Nov. 13th from 5-7 pm and Sat. Nov. 14th from 9-11 am.

Quilt Raffle

In the back of the sanctuary you'll notice the Crittenden Quilter's beautiful quilt on display. You can win it! Tickets are **\$3 ea or 2 for \$5.00**. You can drop your money in the box below the quilt with your ticket(s) (*but be sure to write down your name and number*) or, give it to Ronda Lauridsen and she will get you're your ticket.

Tickets are on sale now 'til the Chowder sale, and the winning ticket will be drawn with the basket raffle names. If you're interested in selling tickets in the community to help, please see Ronda and she'll set you up.