

16th Sunday after Pentecost September 13, 2026

Welcome

P This is the day that the Lord has made!

C Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

Greeting

P 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.**

Praise Songs

Change My Heart, O God

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true;
Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.

You are the Potter, I am the clay;
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true;
Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.

My Life is in You, Lord

Chorus:

My life is in You, Lord, my strength is in You, Lord,
My hope is in You, Lord, in You, it's in You.
My life is in You, Lord, my strength is in You, Lord,
My hope is in You, Lord, in You, it's in You.

I will praise You with all my life,
I will praise You with all of my strength;
With all of my life, with all of my strength,
All of my hope is in You.

Repeat Chorus

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. **O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

First Reading ***Genesis 50:15-21***

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

...This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm ***103:8-13***

⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

⁹**you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.**

¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

Second Reading *Romans 14:1-12*

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

... This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

Please stand as you are able

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel *Matthew 18:21-35*

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his

fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

...*The Gospel of the Lord.*

(sung) Praise to you, O Christ.

Youth Time

Choir Anthem

Joyful Psalm of Praise

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

The Apostles' Creed

A Let us profess our faith through the words of the Apostles Creed.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the Church

A Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those impacted by war and violence, for our men and women in the armed forces, and for all first responders. We also ask for your blessing on Glenda and Arlen, and for those for whom we now pray, either in our hearts or aloud:

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ground this congregation, and the congregations of Augustana, Good Shepherd, and Pr. Sohail's South Asian Community, in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able

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 God thanks and praise.

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. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn (*sung*):

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray. **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.**

*{P Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!}*

Communion Song

Please be seated

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion: Please be seated until the usher directs your row to the communion rail. Please come to the communion rail and stand or kneel. If you do not wish to receive communion, please come for a blessing. All who share our confession that Christ is present in the Sacrament are welcome to join us at the Lord's table. White grape juice is available in the center of the communion cup tray. If you would like a gluten free wafer, please let Pastor know.

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Post-Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-fend you;
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a-dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus-tain - ing.
sure - ly his good-ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at-tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

Dismissal

A Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C Thanks be to God.

MINISTERS: All the Members of Our Congregation
Leading Worship Today: Rev. Devie Ellis
Church Office: 716-836-4868 Office Email:
trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com
Website: www.trinityoldlutheran.com
Music Minister: Don Grabau Media Minister: Jeff Ward
Worship Assistant: Barb Edwards
Prayer Partner: Don Grabau

Prayers and Announcements

Prayers

Welcome: We extend a very warm welcome to everyone worshipping with us today. If you are visiting, we are delighted to have you here, and we hope you enjoy your worship time here with us.

Thank you: To Rev. Devie Ellis, for leading us in worship today. We look forward to hearing your message, Pr. Devie!

Prayer Partner Ministry: If you are in need of additional prayer, please come to the Parents' Room in the back of church following worship. Prayers are confidential. Today's prayer partner is Don Grabau.

Today's Altar Flowers: The flowers on the altar are given anonymously to the Glory of God.

Offering: Thank you for your gifts to TOL. There is an offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. If you send your offering through the US mail, please use checks only-please don't mail cash. We also have online giving through tithe.ly, which can be accessed through TOL's website (www.trinityoldlutheran.com) or on your smartphone.

Mission for September: The mission for September is Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service), who provides resources and guidance to help forge a way forward for new Americans. Please see the full article in the September Tidings. Please use the marked envelopes in the narthex, or mail your donations to the church office (indicate on your check that it is designated for Global Refuge). Donations can also be made through tithe.ly. Thank you.

4th Annual Harvest House Baby Shower: Now through the end of October, we are joining with other local Lutheran churches in collecting diapers, baby wipes, new children's socks, bottles and feeding supplies. Please place your items in the marked container in the donation basket in the hallway. Thank you for your continued support.

IMPORTANT: Worship at Good Shepherd: Next **Sunday, September 20**, there will **NOT** be a worship here at TOL. We will worship with Good Shepherd and Augustana at 11 am at Good Shepherd. Pr. Adam, as our transition pastor, will lead the service that day. Good Shepherd will have coffee hour before the service starting at 10am, and all are welcome.

Sprucing up the Fellowship Hall: Thank you to everyone who showed up yesterday to help with the clean up! Your help is appreciated!

Adult Education Fall 2026 through Spring 2027: The classes begin **tomorrow at 1 pm**, in person and on Zoom. The focus will be on religious leaders, led by Charlie Schmidtke. The first two classes are as follows.

Monday, Sept. 14	Moses – Mt. Sinai / The Law
Monday, Sept. 28	Maimonides - Andalusia

Tri-Congregation Team Meeting: This **Tuesday, Sept. 15**, there will be a meeting of the three teams to begin working to merge our three congregations: Liturgy and Communication, Mission and Ministry, Legal and Finance. We will continue to keep you informed with our progress.

Calling all Crafters and Bakers: We need your help! **This Saturday, September 19 from 10 am -4 pm**, we will hold our 3rd Annual Craft show/Basket Raffle/Baked Goods sale. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet posted on the main bulletin board to help with the various tasks. If you have an idea for a craft, please share with us. If you have a basket or items for a basket, or a gift card, to donate for the basket raffle, please drop them off at church. If you can help with set-up, please join us this **Friday evening, Sept. 18, starting at about 6 pm.**

2026 Walk to End Alzheimers: Walkers from “Team TOL” are making plans to walk in this event on **Saturday, Sept. 26**. All are invited to join the 2 mile walk or make a donation – you can sign up online for “TEAM TOL” at www.alz.org/WNY. For further details, please see the September Tidings or talk to Earlene Crocker.

Book Club at Augustana: All are invited to discuss the book *The Calamity Club* written by Kathryn Stockett, on **Thursday, Oct. 1 at 6:30 pm.**

Adult Retreat: Please see the article in the August Tidings about the upcoming Adult Retreat which will take place at beautiful Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center the weekend of **October 2 - 4**. There is a signup sheet on the main bulletin board.

Grief Support Meeting at TOL: For those who have experienced the death of a child or grandchild. We meet the first Tuesday of each month, next on **Tuesday, Oct. 6**. Please see Charlie or Diane Schmidtke for a Zoom link. The meetings begin at 10 am.

TOL Fall Chicken Chowder: Volunteers are needed for soup prep on **Friday, Oct. 23** and the day of the sale, which is **Saturday, Oct. 24**. See the chart in the narthex for how you can help with donations of soup ingredients. If you have any questions, please speak to Matt Grabau.

Curtains Up: On **Saturday, Nov. 7**, please join us at Ellicott Creek Playhouse for a live performance of “Man of LaMancha.” There is a sign up sheet on the main bulletin board. We have 30 seats available.

Friends of Night People: Thanks to our volunteer teams who continue to prepare and deliver 100 sandwiches each week! We also collect clothing, sleeping bags, blankets, warm clothing, hygiene items, lip balm & mugs. Please place donations in the blue barrel in the hallway. Thanks!

Book and Puzzle Sale: Please visit our Book Sale in the Resource Library, which is the first room in the hallway near the main bulletin board. Books and puzzles are always being added and are available for a fraction of the cost at retail. No cost for the greeting cards available. Proceeds are used for church building interior improvements.

Thank You for your Continuing Support of these ministries:

- Non-perishable food items for the food pantry at Good Shepherd.
- Aluminum can pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House – bin in hallway.
- Dash’s Tapes for the Niagara Lutheran Health System – bin in hallway.
- Cans and bottles to be recycled – barrel in hallway.
- Clothing and hygiene items for Friends of Night People– blue barrel.
- Items or cash donations for Operation Christmas Child boxes – bin in hallway.

This week's calendar

<i>Please notify the Church Office of any schedule changes, member illness, prayer request, etc., so church staff can respond accordingly.</i> <i>Office hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 am–12 noon.</i>	Sun	9/13	9:30 am 11 am 3:30 pm 7 pm	Worship Service at Augustana Worship Service at TOL Abiding Faith Worship GA Meeting
	Mon	9/14	10 am 1 pm 5:00 pm 5:45 pm 6:30 pm	OA Meeting Adult Ed Sandwich Team #4 Yoga AA
	Tues	9/15	5:45 pm 7 pm 7:30 pm	Chair Yoga Tri-Congregation Meeting at Good Shepherd CoDA
	Wed	9/16	5:45 pm	Yoga Flow
	Thur	9/17	9:30 am 5 pm 5:45 pm 7 pm	Yoga Weavers' Guild Yoga GA Meeting
	Fri	9/18	10 am 6 pm	South Asian Lutheran Community Set up for Craft Fair
	Sat	9/19	9 – 4 4 pm	Craft Fair/Basket Raffle So. Asian Worship Service
	Sun	9/20	10 am 11 am 3:30 pm 7 pm	Coffee Hour at Good Shepherd Worship at Good Shepherd Abiding Faith Worship GA Meeting

TOL's Free WiFi and Password:

N7W7y; Password = limp82hewer43dig

