



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 N. State St. Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-5482 | trinitymerrill.com

Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

August 23, 2026 – 8:00AM & 6:00PM D.S. 1

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

“Hey, God, What about LUTHERAN WORSHIP?”

Pastor Jonathan Chapa will be our Preacher today with Ken Van De Zande as our Lector. Eileen Hass is our organist.

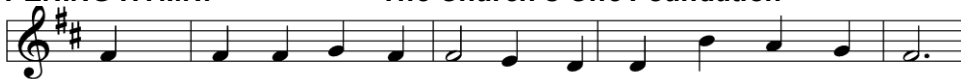
AS WE GATHER: The word *doxology* encompasses words of praise that are addressed to the triune God. It comes from the Greek word *doxa*, which is used in the New Testament to express the splendor of God and also serves to describe the outpouring of honor and praise to God from His faithful people. When we sing or say “Glory be to God on high,” we are joining the praises spoken by the angels of God in eternity: “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen” (Revelation 7:12). Such an honor it is for us to join in that praise!

WELCOME AND GREETING

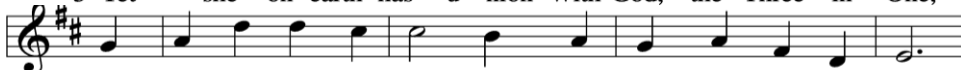
OPENING HYMN:

“The Church’s One Foundation”

LSB 644



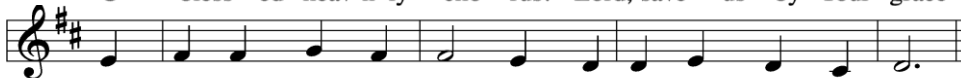
1 The Church's one foun-da-tion Is Je-sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E-lect from ev-'ry na-tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn-ful won-der The world sees her op-pressed,
4 Through toil and trib-u-la-tion And tu-mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u-nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre-a-tion By wa-ter and the Word.
Her char-ter of sal-va-tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a-sun-der, By her-e-sies dis-tressed,
She waits the con-sum-ma-tion Of peace for-ev-er more
And mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho-ly bride;
One ho-ly name she bless-es, Par-takes one ho-ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep-ing; Their cry goes up, “How long?”
Till with the vi-sion glo-rious Her long-ing eyes are blest,
O bless-ed heav'n-ly cho-rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press-es With ev-'ry grace en-dued.
And soon the night of weep-ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic-to-rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be-fore us, May see You face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt. Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–76 Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

KYRIE

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast"



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and
 4 Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al-le-lu-ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Psalm 138

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; ²I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. ³On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased. ⁴All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth, ⁵and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord. ⁶For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar. ⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me. ⁸The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Romans 11:33-12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” ³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on

earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN

“Built on the Rock”

LSB 645



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when
 2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most
 3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His
 4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how
 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the
 stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
 High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His
 own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
 God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's
 church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing
 ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
 tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
 grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -
 sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives
 faith may come Where Christ His mes - sage is bring -
 ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
 ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove
 tion. Were we but His name to tell,
 us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim
 ing: "I know My own; My own know Me.
 But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,
 Choos - es to live with us in love,
 Yet He would deign with us to dwell
 Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,
 You, not the world, My face shall see.
 Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
 Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.
 With all His grace and His fa - vor.
 And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.
 My peace I leave with you. A - men."

Text: Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundtvig, 1783–1872, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt. Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–87 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON “Hey, God! What about LUTHERAN WORSHIP?”

NICENE CREED

- C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

ATTENDANCE / CONNECT TIME & OFFERING *During this time, please sign the attendance book found in the pew or use your mobile device to fill out the Connect Card or submit prayer requests on our app or online at www.trinitymerrill.com/live. You can also visit our app or www.trinitymerrill.com/give to learn more about other ways to support the ministries at Trinity. (When filling out the attendance book, please include your last names and list the names of everyone in attendance in your family.) If you are a visitor who is interested in becoming a member, please add your email and phone number to the attendance book.*

OFFERTORY

LSB 159



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE & PROPER PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

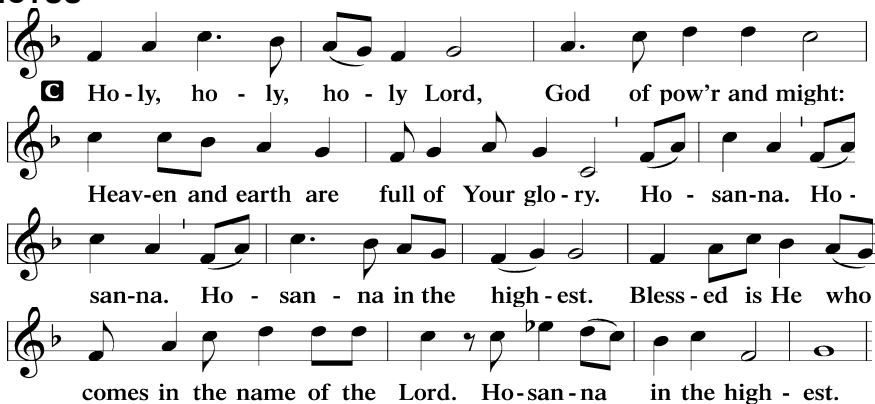
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

LSB 161



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve

us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

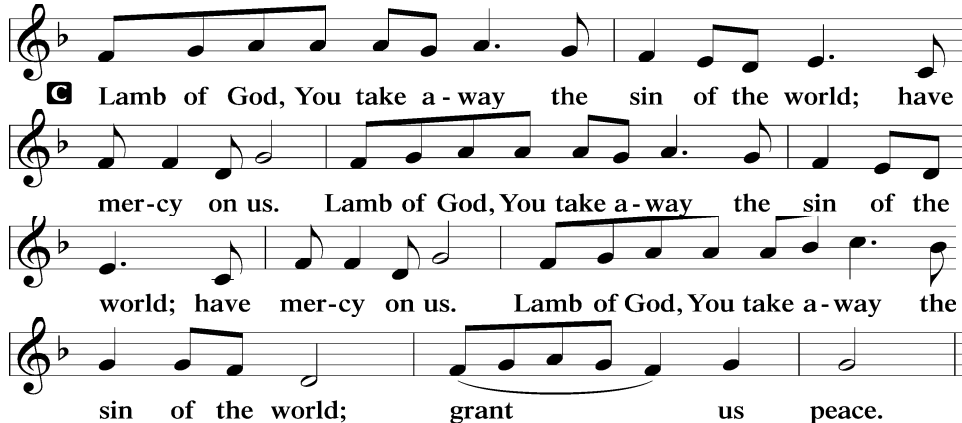
PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163



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

DISTRIBUTION

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

LSB 575



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I
blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -
own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

Text and tune: Public domain

LSB 783

“Take My Life and Let It Be”



1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on - ly for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo-ments and my days, Let them flow in cease-less praise.
 Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
 Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
 Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will and make it Thine,
 It shall be no longer mine;
 Take my heart, it is Thine own,
 It shall be Thy royal throne.

6. Take my love, my Lord, I pour
 At Thy feet its treasure store;
 Take myself, and I will be
 Ever, only, all for Thee.

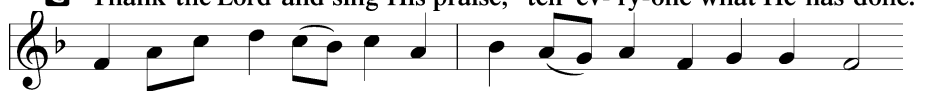
Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79 Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870 Text and tune: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *“Thank the Lord”*

LSB 164



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith

toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

LSB 166

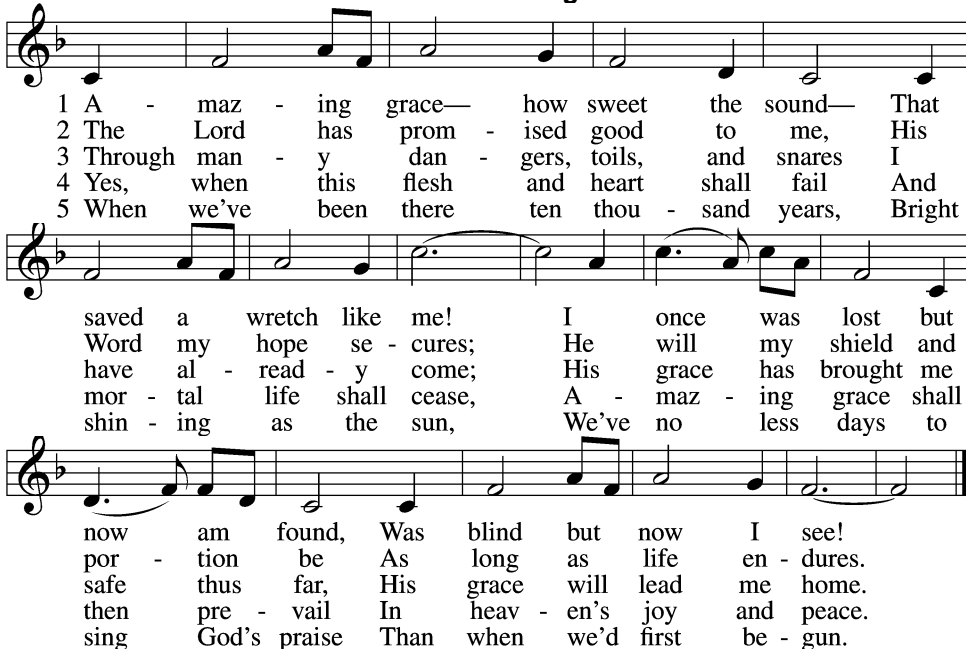
P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

LSB 744



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, Was blind but now I see!
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati Text and tune: Public domain

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Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Marlene & Joe Thomaschefskey for the blessings they have received.

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Mike and Beth Houle in celebration of their 17th Wedding Anniversary.

Bible Legacy Night – September 10 at 6:00 PM at Trinity Church

This invitation is for all Trinity third graders and their families, including students enrolled at Trinity School and public-school students who are Trinity members. This special evening celebrates an

important milestone in each child's faith journey as our third graders receive their own Bible from Trinity. Families are encouraged to attend as we gather to give thanks for God's Word and pray that these Bibles will guide, encourage and strengthen our students for years to come.

Join us for Trinity's next COMMUNITY MEAL- Wednesday, September 16th from 4:30-6:30.

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH? WE'RE HERE TO HELP! Trinity is pleased to offer **free taxi rides to and from worship services** through Blue Jay Taxi. If you or someone you know could benefit from transportation assistance, simply call **715-921-4110** by **Wednesday** before the weekend service you plan to attend. When leaving your message, please include: Which worship service you will attend, Your pick-up address, and how many people need transportation to Trinity church

Share Your Garden Harvest with Trinity Hot Lunch!

Has God blessed your garden with an abundant harvest this year? Beginning **September 1**, Trinity Lutheran School is excited to accept donations of **fresh, unprocessed garden produce** to be used in our hot lunch program. Donations may include items such as:

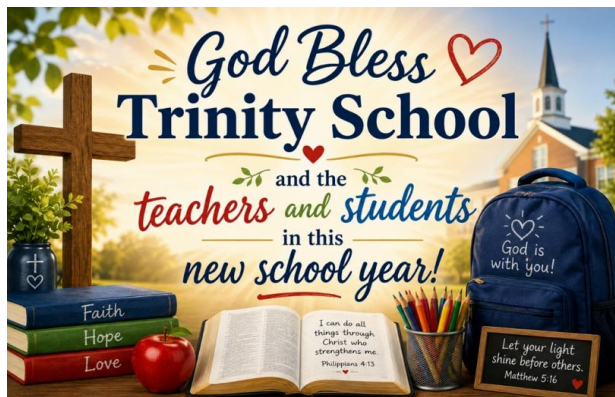
- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| ❖ Cucumbers | ❖ Carrots | ❖ Green beans |
| ❖ Cherry tomatoes | ❖ Apples | ❖ Lettuce |
| ❖ Peppers | ❖ Sweet corn | ❖ Other garden-fresh produce |
| ❖ | ❖ Zucchini | |

Your generous donations will help provide healthy, nutritious meals for our students while allowing them to enjoy the fruits and vegetables grown right here in our community. If your garden is overflowing, please consider sharing your bounty with the children at Trinity. Your gift is a wonderful way to support our hot lunch program and demonstrate God's love through service to others. **Produce donations may be dropped off at the school beginning September 1.** If you have questions about acceptable produce or donation procedures, please contact the school office at 715-536-7501 or email Principal Johnson at scott.johnson@tismerrill.com. Thank you for helping us nourish both the bodies and hearts of our Trinity students!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Diane Kreager's bible study on The book of Ruth "More than a Love Story" will begin on Wednesday, September 9th from 1:00-2:00. No need to sign up.... Just show up.

Trinity Early Learning Center (ELC) Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser – Keep the date of Friday, September 25th open to join us. More information will be available soon.

Sunday Morning Bible Class resumes on September 13th. Join us at 9:15 am each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall here at Trinity! This year, we will be going through the Augsburg Confession. Let's explore the church's foundation together. Please contact the church office to register so we are sure to have enough materials.



Trinity School Begins Tuesday, September 1st
We invite parents, and grandparents to join us for chapel at church at 8:30 AM.
Let's begin this new school year together with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, asking God to bless our students, teachers, and families throughout the year.