



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

October 4, 2026 - 10:30 AM

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – “Connect”

Sharing the message with us today is Pastor Scott Gustafson. Pastor Jon Chapa will be our Liturgist.

AS WE GATHER: We begin our three-week journey down the *Road to Discipleship* by considering where discipleship begins: **connection to Christ and His people**. The Law reminds us how easily we can become disconnected—from God, from His Word, and from one another. Yet Jesus calls us to abide in Him, the True Vine. The Good News we hear this morning assures us that through Christ, we are no longer strangers, but members of God’s household, called to live connected to Him and to one another.

PRE-SERVICE: “*I Am*” (Praise Team) #69 Key of E
 “*All This In A Name*” (Praise Team) #88 Key of A

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG “*Battle Belongs*” #56 Key of D

Vs.1 *When all I see is the battle
 You see my victory
 When all I see is a mountain
 You see a mountain moved
 And as I walk through the shadow
 Your love surrounds me
 There's nothing to fear now
 For I am safe with You*

Chorus *So when I fight I'll fight on my knees
 With my hands lifted high
 O God the battle belongs to You
 And every fear I lay at Your feet
 I'll sing through the night
 O God the battle belongs to You*

Vs.2 *And if You are for me
 Who can be against me
 For Jesus there's nothing
 Impossible for You
 When all I see are the ashes
 You see the beauty
 When all I see is a cross
 God You see the empty tomb*

(Chorus)

Bridge *(An) Almighty Fortress You go before us
 Nothing can stand against
 The power of our God
 You shine in the shadows
 You win every battle
 Nothing can stand against
 The power of our God
 (Repeat Twice)*

(Chorus)

Tag *O God the battle belongs to You*

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 43:4; 124:8; John 3:16

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: to God my exceeding joy.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,

People: that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION 2 Corinthians 5:14–15, adapted from KJV

Pastor: Beloved, “the love of Christ constrains us,” because “He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.” For the sake of the miraculous love of God, let us draw near to Him with a true heart and confess our sins and our need for God’s love.

People: Lord God, heavenly Father, we confess to You that we have sinned against You through our fears and failure to live according to Your will and design. Because our love for You has faltered, so also have we not loved those whom You would have us call our neighbor. So certain are we of our sin that we have even wondered at times how You could still love us. Because of Your merciful invitation alone, we come before You, begging Your forgiveness solely and alone for the sake of the sacrifice of Your Son. O Lord, have mercy on us.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

MONTHLY VERSE ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,
²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward.
You are serving the Lord Christ. (Colossians 3:23-24)

SONG

“Holy Water” #63 Key of D

Vs.1 *God I'm on my knees again
God I'm begging please again
I need You
Oh I need You
Walking down these desert roads
Water for my thirsty soul
I need You
Oh I need You*

Chorus *Your forgiveness
Is like sweet sweet honey on my lips
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears
Like holy water (on my skin)*

Vs.2 *Dead man walking slave to sin
I wanna know about being born again
I need You
Oh God I need You
So take me to the riverside
Take me under baptize
I need You
Oh God I need You oh*

Chorus *Your forgiveness
Is like sweet sweet honey on my lips
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears
Like holy water (on my skin)*

Bridge *I don't wanna abuse Your grace
God I need it ev'ry day
It's the only thing that ever really
Makes me wanna change
(Repeat 2X)*

(Chorus 2x)

Ending *Yeah it's like holy water on my skin
Oh it's like holy water*

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APOSTLES' CREED

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

FIRST READING Psalm 100

¹Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! ²Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! ³Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! ⁵For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND READING Ephesians 2:14-22

¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

GOSPEL READING John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me

and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

SONG OF THE DAY

“Cornerstone”

#19 Key of D

Vs.1 *My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name*

Chorus *Christ alone Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all*

Vs.2 *When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil*

(Chorus)

Vs.3 *When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless to stand before the throne*

(Chorus 2x)

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MESSAGE “Connect”

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.)

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

“All This In A Name”

#88 Key of A

Intro *There's healing in the name
Freedom in the name
Power in the name*

Vs.1 *I know a name that makes the darkness
shake
The enemy runs and hides
I know a name the wind and waves obey
He speaks and it all goes quiet*

Pre-Chorus *King Jesus my Savior
Your name be lifted high*

Chorus 1 *We sing the name that opens the
prison doors
We sing the name that everything
bows before
No other name can save our lives
Jesus (be lifted) be lifted high*

Vs.2 *I know a name that always makes a way
Just go ask the Israelites
I know a name even the stone obeys
He speaks and it rolls aside*

Pre-Chorus *King Jesus my Savior
Your name be lifted high*

Chorus 1 *We sing the name that opens the
prison doors
We sing the name that everything
bows before
No other name can save our lives
Jesus (be lifted) be lifted high*

Chorus 2 *We sing the name who's worthy of
all our praise
We sing the name and it changes
everything
No other name can save our lives
Jesus be lifted be lifted high*

Bridge *Grave shaker storm tamer my Savior
All this in a name
Heart healer joy giver soul winner
All this in a name
(Repeat)*

Tag *All this in Your name
(Chorus 1 & 2)*

Ending *Be lifted be lifted high
Be lifted be lifted high
No other name can save our lives
Jesus be lifted be lifted high*

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Today's radio broadcast and the altar flowers are sponsored in celebration of the 58th Wedding Anniversary (Oct. 12) of Gerald & Eileen Voigt.

Join the Choir- Use your talents for the Lord!!! The Trinity Choir meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM in the Choir room. If you enjoy singing... join us.

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.

The Fall Congregational Meeting is October 25 (12:45 PM) after the Ministry Fair.

Trinity Lutheran Church's fall congregational meeting will follow the Ministry Fair. We will elect three members to serve three-year terms on the Church Council. If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor G.

Donate diapers and wipes in the provided box in the Narthex to help the Community Baby Shower.

OPEN HEARTS FOOD SHELF — VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Our Open Hearts Food Shelf is open every Wednesday and Friday from 2:00–4:00 PM, providing food to individuals and families in our community. We are looking for a few volunteers who can help pick up food on Thursday or Friday mornings and bring it to Trinity. If you can help on a regular or occasional basis, please contact the church office or speak with Pastor G. Your helping hands can be an Open Heart to someone in need!



SOCKTOBER

OCTOBER 1st - OCTOBER 31st

Trinity Dorcas will be collecting new and gently used socks for people in need during the month of October. There will be a clothes hamper in the narthex for any size sock donations. "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." – Hebrews 13:16

MARK YOUR CALENDARS... Men's Club Chili Luncheon

The Trinity Men's Club is hosting a Chili Luncheon in the church basement **following the 8:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, October 18th, 2026**. The meal will feature 9 varieties of chili. We will also have macaroni & cheese (for non chili-lovers). Beverages (milk, juice and coffee) are included in the price. Shredded cheese, raw onions, crackers, bread and desserts will be offered at no additional cost. Serving will take place between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Carry-outs will also be available. Ticket prices are \$8.00 for adults, \$3.00 for kids 5 through 12. The meal is free for kids under 5.



Trunk or Treat — October 31, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 (Noon) Bring your children, costumes, and Fall excitement for a fun-filled morning of treats, activities, and community. We look forward to welcoming children and families from throughout our community for this special day. Want to help? We are looking for volunteers to host a trunk, assist with activities, and distribute snacks. **We also welcome and would appreciate donations of candy.** We look forward to welcoming many children from our community for this special day.



OCTOBER IS...



PASTOR
Appreciation
MONTH

Trinity Family Hayride! October 2th at Wilke's

Bring your family to an evening of Fall Family Fun. Families of all ages are invited. Bring a sweatshirt and chair. This event is sponsored by the new Faith and Family Ministry Team. Use the QR code for updates and to register.



Please join us for our **FREE**
Lincoln County
Community
Baby Shower

For pregnant and parenting families with children 0 to 18 months
Bring a friend or family! Kids welcomed..
No registration needed..

Tuesday, October 6, 2026
3 PM to 6 PM

New Location!
Merrill Enrichment Center
(303 N Sales St, Merrill)

Each family will receive a care package
(includes diapers, wipes and more).
Available while supplies last.

- Connect with community resources
- Learn about child safety and milestones
- And MUCH MORE!!

LINCOLN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

'FAN THE FLAME' retreat
for Women of all Ages
Sat, Nov 14th: 9-1 @ Trinity Lutheran, Merrill

Stoke your faith
fire! Deep dive into
2 Timothy 1:6-7 with
musical speaker *Wendy Sue*
www.wendysue.com

Register: Trinity office: **715-536-5482**

Women are invited to gather for worship, fellowship, lunch, and connection with one another. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. Volunteers are also needed to help plan this meaningful event. Call the church 715-536-5482.