



In God's economy,
people matter
more than profits.
Mercy reigns.

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost

SEPTEMBER 20—21, 2025



213 N PENNSYLVANIA AVE, MASON CITY, IA | 641-423-0536 | TRINITY-MC.ORG

SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

Pastors

Dan Gerrietts, Beverly Butler

Preacher

Pastor Dan Gerrietts

Organist

Mark W. McClellan

Cantor

Saturday: Molly Gerrietts Sunday: Sam Pang

Acolytes

Noah Koob, Addison Koob

Scripture Readers

Saturday: The Barrons Sunday: Danny Miller

Communion Assistants

Saturday: The Barrons Sunday: Danny and Judy Miller, Dan Clarke

Ushers

Saturday: Chris Suntken, Jace Suntken and Family
Sunday: Daryl Erickson, Phil Lee, Craig Miller, Burton TeKippe

Technical Support

Evelynn Hunt, Madie Powell, Brian Koob

Greeters

Saturday: Dan and Millie Godfrey, Roger Rossum Sunday: Ken and Paula Zimmerman

Coffee Fellowship

Cynthia Zach, Mike and Colleen Last

Worship Transportation

Dean Graven, Linda Olson

Building Host

Sunday: Randy Elsbernd

The 15^h Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

Saturday, September 20, 2025 - 5:00 PM

Sunday, September 21, 2025 - 9:00 AM with Livestream / KCMR 97.9

ALTAR FLOWERS

are given in honor of *Ray and Betty Gogel's 63rd Wedding Anniversary*

COLOR BULLETINS

are given by Terry and Sue Oetken

in honor of Arlene Roberts' 95th Birthday on September 15th

SPECIAL BOUQUET

is given by Karen and Matthew Morant

in memory of Loved Ones and the gift of Grace

Today's Message: Love or Money?

A rich landowner tells his unsatisfactory manager he's going to fire him. Before cleaning out his desk, the manager calls in those who owed his boss and reduced their debt. When the boss hears about it, he doesn't call his lawyer, but sits back and laughs in admiration. How could Jesus tell a story where the main character is a crook? Why doesn't the boss punish the bad manager? What is Jesus trying to tell us? This weekend we look at this difficult parable with a surprise ending. The takeaway: in God's economy, people matter more than profits. Mercy reigns.

Welcome to Trinity! We are glad you're here. If you are new to Trinity Lutheran, please complete an informational card which can be found in the pews.

We love having small children in worship! Those needing a space to change or feed little ones are welcome to use the **Child Care Room** located next to the nursery. An **unstaffed nursery** is also available, located on the 2nd floor just outside the north sanctuary door (the door under the stained glass window door).

Seating for People with Limited Mobility is reserved in several places throughout the Sanctuary. Just look for the blue accessibility signs.

Large print bulletins and listening devices are available from the ushers.

Activity Bags are available for children during worship. They are located in the narthex and at the front of the church. Please return them at the end of services.

GATHERING

Prelude

Trumpet Tune

David German

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C Amen.

P Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.
Merciful and loving God,

C we are your stiff-necked people.

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.**

Amen.

P Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.

In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

Son of God, Eternal Savior

ELW 655

***Greeting**

P Holy people of God, called through the gospel of Christ,
Enlightened by the Spirit; grace, mercy and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

P Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works,
begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by
your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

Psalm 113:1-8

L ¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

C ² **Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
from this time forth forevermore.**

L ³ From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the LORD be praised.

C ⁴ **The LORD is high above all nations;
God's glory above the heavens. R**

L ⁵ Who is like the LORD our God,
who sits enthroned on high,

C ⁶ **but stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth?**

L ⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

C ⁸ **enthroning them with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people.**

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time.⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation

ELW pg. 142



P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the fourteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* ELW 588

***Apostles' Creed**

C 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 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.

***Prayers of Intercession**

P God of grace,
C receive our prayer.

***Peace**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

Announcements

MEAL

Offering

Text to Give is available at Trinity!
Simply text the amount you wish to give to 833-412-0093.
Or scan the QR code with your smartphone.
Please note where your gifts should be directed towards.



Offertory Music (Sat)

Toccata Brevis

Daniel Gawthrop

Offertory Music (Sun) *Praise God, Ye Servants of the Lord* **Trinity Choir**

Thomas Tallis
arr. Robert A.. Roesch

*Offertory

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Offering Prayer

P Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provide for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ELW pg. 144

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Communion

All who desire the presence and forgiveness of Christ that come in the sharing of this bread and wine are welcome to commune with us today. Ushers will direct you from the outside aisles to one of the stations in the front of the sanctuary, where you may kneel at the rail. You will return to your seat by the center aisle. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available. If for any reason you are not comfortable participating in communion today, we invite you to come forward with your arms crossed over your chest to receive a blessing.

Lamb of God

ELW pg. 146

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.

Communion Hymns

We Are an Offering
Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW 692

ELW 710

***Prayer after Communion**

P O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen

SENDING

Fairwell and Godspeed (Sunday) Leman and Tana Olson

***Blessing**

P The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

ELW 669

***Sending**

P Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Sortie

S. de Roulers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME RECEPTION FOR COLBY GOCHANOUR—*Today! Sunday, September 21* Join us in the Gathering Space between Services from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM as we officially welcome Colby, our new Director of Music Ministries! Refreshments will be served.

LABYRINTH WALK FOR PEACE—*Today, Sunday, September 21* | Trinity Courtyard
Celebrate International Day of Peace by walking the labyrinth in the Courtyard. A facilitator will be there from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM to guide you if needed. Join us as we walk with the intention of peace for ourselves, our community and our world.. Weather permitting.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS—*Today, Sunday, September 21* | Gathering Space
Blood Pressure Checks are offered today and will be available the third Saturday of every month. Stop by and take advantage of this opportunity for a quick check-in on your health.

JOIN US FOR COFFEE WITH BISHOP TAMAS FABINY—Wednesday, October 1
9:30 - 11:00AM | Fellowship Hall
Engage in conversation with Bishiop Fabiny of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary.

KYLIE HANSEN, SOPRANO AND NATHAN ELSBERND, ORGAN/PIANO—SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, October 5, 2025 | 4:00 - 5:00 PM | Trinity Sanctuary & Reception Following
A recital featuring Soprano Kylie Hansen and Organist/Pianist Nathan Elsbernd will include works by Bernstein, Copeland, Novello, Schubert, Stanford, Strauss, Thea Musgrave, and Rodgers & Hammerstein. "How Can I Keep From Dreaming?" explores the relationship between dreams and hope. We encourage the audience to dream with us and enjoy an afternoon of eclectic music with a Reception to follow. They each recently completed their degrees; Kylie from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Nathan from the Yale School of Music.

TRINITY HANDBELL CHOIRS ARE OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS—Coffee & Clappers meet Thursdays at 10:30 AM for coffee and practice in the Fellowship Hall. The Trinity Bronze bell choir practices Mondays at 6pm in the Sanctuary. Feel free to join us at an upcoming Practice to try it out! Practices are listed on the Calendar in the Bulletin.

HIGH SCHOOL TOILETRY DRIVE—September 21 - October 5 | Trinity Lutheran Church
Trinity's Servant Cabinet is collecting items requested by the MCHS Staff to fill their toiletry closet, The toiletry closet provides personal hygiene/care items to students in need. You can place in the designated cabinet under the office windows. Cash donations are also welcomed, simply note your check or online donation for the High School Toiletry Drive. Thank you in advance for your participation!

*Deodorant, stick type

*Shampoo & Conditioner

*Laundry Pods

*Lip Balm

*Feminine Hygiene

Maxi + Pads

*Hair Oil

*Hair Bonnets

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR MONEY STORY— GENEROSITY SERIES 2025

The weekend of October 4-5 will be the beginning of an all-church worship and study series called *Our Money Story*. We all carry a money story - experiences and beliefs that shape how we think and how we live. This October at Trinity, we're exploring those stories through the lens of God's story—a story of freedom, justice, and hope. Together, we'll reflect, reimagine, and open ourselves to the transformation God longs to bring into our lives. At the end of our series, we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of giving for the coming year. These commitments will be dedicated in worship on Nov. 1-2 & Nov. 8-9. Watch for more information in the October Connection and on our website: www.trinity-mc.org

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE (WNA) - Wednesday, September 24 | 6:00 PM

Dinner is served from 6:00pm to 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall for a free-will offering. This week's menu: Chicken Alfredo Bake, Breadsticks, Salad, Cookies

ADULT PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES

***Body as Temple: Caring for God's Image | Gathering Space | 6:30pm—7:30pm**

Come and hear how North Iowa medical professionals spend their days, practice their health care specialties, and integrate their medical vocations with their faith journeys as members of Trinity Lutheran Church. Q & A will follow each presentation. *September 24: When God's plan for your life is different than what you ever thought you wanted*, presented by Beth Shaw, LPN, Surgical Tech.

***Choir Rehearsal | Choir Room | 6:30 - 7:30 PM**

Trinity's Choir is open to all vocalists, high school age & older. Please join us!

YOUTH PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES

***Nursery | 6:30 - 7:30 PM** | The Nursery is located on 2nd floor just outside the north sanctuary door. The Nursery is UNSTAFFED but is available for preschoolers and their parents during this time.

***Campfire Kids, Grades 1-6 | Rm 208 | 6:30 - 7:30 PM**

We're kicking off our Wednesday Night Alive programming in some new, fun and exciting ways! Join us in the Education Wing for energetic and creative explorations of faith. Collect a badge for each adventure. This Fall, Nate Ruge will be our fearless guide as we embark into the unknown!

***Confirmation, Grades 7 and 8 | Fellowship Hall | 6:30 - 7:30pm**

Confirmation Students will gather to experience both small and large group learning as they study for Confirmation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP—Tuesday, September 23 | 9:30 AM and on Zoom

Individuals providing care for loved ones in any capacity— at home, in a care facility, or from a distance— are welcome to attend. This group meets monthly to receive support and information. Please contact the church office for the Zoom link.

PRAYER SHAWL JAMBOREE— Thursday, September 25 | Fellowship Hall

Do you knit or crochet? If you have made Prayer Shawls, Prayer Squares, Prayer Bears or are you interested in learning, then this event is for you! We will join with groups and individuals from area churches to enjoy games, win prizes, share ideas, and enjoy delicious ice cream. Invite a friend! Please call the church office 641-423-0536 by September 22 to reserve your spot.

VISIO DIVINA—Tuesday, September 30 | 10:00 AM | MacNider Art Museum

Visio Divina or “sacred seeing” is an ancient form of Christian prayer in which we allow our hearts and imaginations to enter into an image, in silence, to see what God might have to say to us. Join us and encounter the Divine through visual art.

MEMORY CAFÉ—Thursday, October 9 | 10:00 AM | The Gathering Space

Memory Café is for individuals living with various forms of dementia or memory impairment and their caregivers. It supports leisure, fun and fellowship. In October, our topic is “hobbies”. Please bring stories of items to share about your favorite hobby. Refreshments provided.

LEGACY APPRECIATION LUNCHEON—Thursday, October 16

12:00 PM | Commerce Center at 9 N. Federal Ave in Mason City

Have you named Trinity in your will or estate plans? Have you made a gift the TLC Legacy Fund or want to learn more about this opportunity? Then you are invited to a catered Luncheon at 12:00 Noon at the North Iowa Regional Commerce Center. We want to thank you and share stories of how your gifts to the Legacy Fund are helping Trinity live out its mission. The meal is prepared by caterer Cynthia Lewerke. To register, go to www.trinity-mc.org/events/legacy-appreciation-lunch-2025/

PRAIRIE LAND TRAIL BIKE RIDE—Thursday, October 16 | 3:00 PM | Trail Head

Join us on a fall bike ride on the Prairie Land Trail! The Trail runs along an abandoned railroad bed from Nettle Ave SW of Mason City to Apple Ave SW in Meservey. We will meet at the trailhead at **13773 240th St.** It is a down and back trail so riders can do as many miles as they wish. The surface is compacted lime chip. Weather permitting.

BOOK DISCUSSION—Monday, November 10 | 1:00 PM | The Gathering Space

Our next book, *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr, tells the story of a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of WW II. Some copies are available to check out from the office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOUL SPA—Friday, October 17 | 9:00 – 11:30 AM | Trinity Lutheran Church

Soul Spa invites participants to engage in a variety of spiritual practices to nurture body, mind, and spirit. We will start and end together with free time in the middle for you to visit as few or as many stations as you desire. Stations offered include group spiritual direction, a creative project, Visio Divina, seated healing touch sessions, and refreshments. Wear comfortable clothing and come as you are. Register by calling 641-423-0536 or just show up. A Location Sign will be placed just inside the East Entrance to show you where to go.

STEP A WAY PILGRIMAGE—October 7 Deadline for Registration

Tuesday-Thursday, November 11-13 | Peosta, Iowa

An inner pilgrimage experience to step away from your routines into a way of being that supports listening and letting go. Designed to be intentional time to connect with God through silence, prayer and scripture. We will explore spiritual practices, participate in the prayer rhythm of the monastic monks, and allow for quiet alone time. Three days and two nights at New Melleray Abbey in Peosta, Iowa from November 11-13. Facilitators are The Reverend Stephen Benitz, Regional Missioner of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa and Becky Elsbernd, Parish Nurse of Trinity Lutheran Church. The cost of \$300 includes a single room with private bathroom, transportation and meals. Partial scholarships available. Register at the office and pay a \$150 deposit to save your spot.

TRINITY BAZAAR PREPARATIONS

LEFSE MAKING CONTINUES on MONDAY MORNINGS!—Potato peelers are needed from 6:00 –7:00 AM. Lefse rollers are needed from 8:30 - 11:00 AM. We meet *every Monday* until late October. Beginners are welcome!

BOOKS AND BEYOND—The Book Nook is expanding for this year's Bazaar. We'll take your novels, puzzles with all the pieces, board and card games (Monopoly, Chutes & Ladders, Clue, Scrabble, Yahtzee, Sorry, Uno, Crazy 8's, Chess, etc). Bring to the Office on or before Monday, November 3.

CRAFT CREATIONS—We are looking for all "crafters"! Do you have any projects you would like to provide for the Craft Creations area for the upcoming Bazaar, we need you! Please contact Kris Latham (641) 425-6781, Patty Flatness (flatnesspatty@gmail.com) or Cathy Gomez at (641) 425-1077. Happy Crafting!

FOOD INGREDIENTS NEEDED—Consider donating to the effort of all the delicious food created for this annual event. Butter, Cream Cheese and Cool Whip donations are much appreciated. Just place them into the Kitchen refrigerator and label them "Bazaar". Food is accepted through November 4.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- 6:00/8:30AM** Lefse Making (Kitchen)
9:00 AM Quilting (Fellowship Hall)
9:30 AM Lectio Divina (Rm. 322 and on Zoom)
6:00 PM Bronze Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
6:30 PM Journey Group (60-70) (Gathering Space)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- 8:00 AM** BASES Exercise Class (Gathering Space)
9:30 AM Caregivers Support Group
(Rm 300 and on Zoom)
12:00 PM Staff Meeting
6:30 PM Council Meeting (Rm 300)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- 7:00 AM** Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
8:30 AM Women's Bible Study (Library)
10:00 AM Trauma Informed Care (Rm 300)
4:00 PM Trinity at Community Kitchen

Wednesday Night Alive

- 6:00 PM** Meal in the Fellowship Hall
6:30 AM Wednesday Night Alive Programs

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- 8:00 AM** BASES Exercise Class (Gathering Space)
10:30 AM Coffee & Clapper Bell Choir
(Fellowship Hall)
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Jamboree (Fellowship Hall)
6:30 PM Journey Group (50-60) (Rm 322)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- 5:00 PM** **WORSHIP SERVICE**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- 9:00 AM** **WORSHIP SERVICE** - Livestream, 97.9
10:00 AM *New Members Reception*
(Gathering Space)
10:30 AM **WORSHIP SERVICE**
11:30 AM Youth Group (Fellowship Hall)

PRAYER MENTORS NEEDED—Trinity adult members are needed to pray for our 5th and 6th graders. Each mentor will be matched with one student. The adult mentor will pray for their assigned student and then write a quick note to the student once a month to let the student know they prayed for them. Monthly notes should be sent from October to May 2026. If you are a Trinity adult member who could pray for an intermediate student, please contact Carol at carol.dettmer@trinity-mc.org or by calling the church office at 423-0536 by Sept 21.

Thank you!

TRINITY YOUTH GROUP—Our Youth Group Meets Today! Gather in the Fellowship Hall 11:45AM.

YOUTH SERVICE HOURS—Trinity has a number of volunteer opportunities available for youth looking for service hours. Contact Dani Vogel for more details about helping with Rejoicing Spirits, Campfire Kids, or special events.

JOHN ADAMS BACKPACK FOOD DRIVE **September 21-October**

The John Adams Middle School (JAMS) backpack food drive will begin September 21 and end on October 5. There will be two drop sites, one by the office and one by the stairway to the sanctuary. Lists of foods that are needed will be located in the front of the box. If you prefer, you can make out a check with JAMS in the memo line, and drop it off at the office or in the collection plate. Thank you!