

Trinity News

Volume MMXXIX No. 9 ✦ SEPTEMBER 2023

Reflecting on Change in a Liminal Season – Jena Hill

As the long days of summer transition into the more mellow hues of fall, we find ourselves in what is referred to as a “liminal season.” Liminality is a new word for me. I was introduced to it through a book recommendation “How to Lead When You Don’t Know Where You’re Going: Leading in a Liminal Season” by Susan Beaumont. Liminality is a concept that describes a period of transition, a space between what was and what will be. As a member of the ministry staff, it seems to me that we are in a liminal season at Trinity because we are in-between some changes.

This summer began with some profound changes at Trinity. You might be aware of some of them. Others might be surprising. Liminal seasons provide opportunities for growth, renewal and discovery. In no particular order, here are some of the changes and my own reflections on what this means for us.

Change #1: The TLC Christian Preschool officially closed on June 30th. I wasn’t prepared for how much the loss of the preschool would affect my day-to-day rhythms at Trinity. I miss interacting with the teachers and students. It’s a new way of being at Trinity without the Preschool but I’m excited for what’s next.

What’s next for Trinity with the spaces that the Preschool used? The Congregation Council has entered into a building use agreement with the Clemente program. For several years, Clemente has been using our space to provide childcare two times a week in the evenings while the parents of the children are in classes taught by local professors at the Worcester Art Museum. Clemente will be occupying the largest room on the 2nd floor to use for their programming for the coming year.

Even though the hallways where the preschool children used to be are quiet right now, there's still a lot of activity going on in the preschool spaces to prepare the rooms for the next users. Supplies, toys and educational materials are being sorted and organized. Rooms are being cleaned, prepped and painted. We are very literally making space for something new!

What will it be like to have Clemente in our building. Until now, Clemente has not had a "home" base so we are happy to be their official home which will enable them to expand their programming. I'm personally very excited to engage more with Clemente because they are the embodiment of community. They understand that each person comes to the table with their own unique needs and abilities and they strive to meet all of the individual needs of their students and families. Clemente has received much recognition for being a successful program. They are truly a gift to our community and we have so much to learn from them and there may be ways that we can partner with them to minister to those in need.

Change #2: Pastor Nathan is away for a three-month sabbatical. We knew for several months that Pastor Nathan would be gone July through September. Because of the advanced planning and well thought out work of the Sabbatical Planning Team, we are lucky to have everything laid out for us. The logistics are in place for us to be successful in Pastor Nathan's absence. Part of Pastor's sabbatical will be spent learning more about racism. The "I Have a Dream" grant from the Synod is funding some of the guest preachers at Trinity during Pastor's sabbatical and we were blessed by the residency of Elder Calvin Cummings for some of the summer. **We didn't expect to be challenged so deeply.** So far this summer, we have been confronted with the idea that we aren't quite as welcoming as we thought we were and how our underlying biases may lead to micro aggressions. Elder Calvin introduced the Adult Forum participants to black preaching and we wrestled with how different it "feels" for us Lutherans to hear/see/experience different styles of worship. **What do we do with what we've learned?** Our natural response to being challenged is to be defensive. But I am really grateful for the honest messages we've heard. We can't change unless we know what it is that we need to change.

It's natural for us to want quick answers and quick fixes to things. But we're learning that real change takes time and it takes "buy in" from the majority of people in order to change a church culture. In response to being challenged, on the Sundays *after* we have a guest preacher, we're gathering to listen, talk and process together. We don't know what else we'll be challenged with this summer but there will continue to be opportunities to learn and we look forward to processing it more with Pastor Nathan when he returns! Who knows what learnings or reflections Pastor Nathan will have to share with us?!

Change #3 The Playground structure has been removed. The Council approved the removal of the playground equipment at the August council meeting. **Why?** The playground was installed for use by the preschool students. It was designed only for children age 7 and under. The structure is more than 25 years old and there were some unsafe parts of the playground that were a liability for us. From my perspective, the playground has been an awkward thing to have because we haven't been able to allow all children to use it. Playgrounds are appealing to children (and their caregivers) but it doesn't feel very welcoming or loving when we allow some (but not all) children to use a playground that isn't safe. **What next?** Because we love and care about children, we want them to have a safe place to play. Estimates to replace the playground were in the \$100,000 range...yikes! Because it's cost prohibitive, we won't be able to have a large play structure similar to the one we had previously but there are plans to have things installed that children of all ages can safely use. That feels so much more welcoming and inclusive. Instead of saying "Sorry, no, you can't use the playground," we will eventually be able to say "Yes, you can use the playground!" Be on the lookout for more information about new playground plans soon!

Change #4 Death and Resurrection was the theme of the New England Synod Assembly in June. Many churches are having to make some really hard decisions about whether or not they can remain open or if they can proceed as they always have. **Why?** Generally speaking, the ways that people attend, participate and engage with churches have changed (and declined) globally. The workload of churches has increased but in many places, the resources have decreased.

The reality is that it costs a lot of money to keep church buildings open, to pay staff and do ministry. In some places, there isn't enough energy or money to keep things going the way they have been. In so many ways, that's beautiful stewardship to know when enough is enough. **The Good News!** God is not dead! God remains the same loving God who will always be, even if church buildings and institutions change or close. We encounter the living God every single day in every single place, not just in church buildings. **The ELCA knows what's going on.** Rev. Ruben Duran is the ELCA's Director of Congregational Vitality. At Synod Assembly, he shared some interesting points about all of the changes that are taking place.

The truth is that the ELCA will look and be very different in the coming years because churches will be different. He noted that:

- 1) communities are coming together differently
- 2) smaller, more intimate gatherings are desired
- 3) people aren't as interested in denominational affiliation as they used to be, rather "authenticity" is desirable
- 4) the birth rate is down, there are fewer families/young people in our neighborhoods
- 5) vital congregations do not focus on the pastor/staff or building but they focus on community and lay people

What about Trinity? We are VERY grateful and lucky to have such good stewards of our resources. Trinity is in a good position financially right now to continue in ministry. But we can't be complacent because the world is changing all around us and we are changing too. We need to always be asking questions about what's important and how God is leading us. How can we be a vital congregation that is: flexible...focused on the community rather than ourselves...realistic about the time, money and resources that it takes to do things...equipping one another to do ministry in the world...creative with our approach to challenges?

God is with us in this liminal season! None of us can know what the future holds. We don't know what Trinity will be like next year or in five years but we can do the important work during this time of change to reflect, be open to new ideas and different perspectives. We can step out of our comfort zones to foster resilience and deeper understandings of ourselves and our beliefs. Embracing change can lead to new insights, greater empathy and a stronger connection to our faith. As people of faith, we don't need to be afraid of the unknown because God is always with us!

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT – KAREN COUTURIER

Sharing some brief highlights of August 14, 2023 Council meeting.

Council noted lots of ongoing work in various ministry teams and committees during the month of August. September is filled with events almost every Sunday including our Trinity Picnic on 9/10 and a Ministry Fair on 9/17. We continue to welcome guest preachers each Sunday as part of the 'I Have a Dream Grant' series.

Cantor Mark's report highlighted Elder Calvin's role as an intern with us this summer. We are considering the possibility of having an intern next summer. Cantor Mark plans to add a new music component to the Sunday worship Time with Children this Fall.

Jena's monthly report highlighted activity in Ministry Teams;

- Faith in Action. Barbara Grusell has agreed to be in charge of the Little Free Pantry. There is no meal packing event scheduled this Fall. An alternative project related to Lutheran World Relief is planned for the winter months
- Hospitality, Fellowship and Welcoming are working on plans for the Pride Festival September 9 and The Trinity Church picnic September 10
- Ministry Cabinet is hosting a Ministry Fair September 17 following worship. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the different Ministry Teams available at Trinity.

Nancy's Treasurer's report notes that pledges continue to be ahead of budget. Our investment funds have done well in the past two months with gains in the MEF and Scholarship Fund. Our spending is approximately \$20,000 less year to date than at this time last year.

Finance committee requests that all committees and ministry teams that appear in the Budget prepare their budget requests for 2024 and submit them to Finance by October 15, 2023. Finance will submit a preliminary budget proposal to Council on November 6, 2023. A Budget information session will be presented to the congregation on Sunday November 12, 2023.

Council approved the appointment of Dick Liberty as Assistant Treasurer. Dick has been training with Nancy Fontneau and Scott Baeder and is a welcome addition to our Finance team.

Council approved the Property committee's recommendation to take down the playground structure. The current play gym is over 25 years old and deteriorating. The structure was designed for children ages preschool to grade 2. We currently have Trinity families and T.E.C. School students in grades 3 and older who would enjoy using the playground. With safety being our top priority, we are working with a Playground company to redesign the playground area to be safe, fun and usable by all children at Trinity. It is hoped the work on the new playground be completed by the fall months.

Stewardship chair Kevin Erkkila shared plans for the Fall stewardship campaign.

Building Use

- Clemente's building use contract is in development for 2023 to 2024 year to begin September 1, 2023 to August 30, 2024.
- Building use contracts include input from our Building manager, Legal counsel and Congregation Council. It is our intention to have a standardized process and format for building use agreements to assure fair and equitable treatment of all parties.

Old Business

- Council voted to approve the SAFE Church policy for children and youth. The policy has been reviewed by the Personnel committee. The NE Synod strongly recommends congregations have a SAFE church policy in place.
- TLC Care Ministry Team proposed bylaws were reviewed pending one additional follow up item.

As we begin the last month of Pastor Nathan's sabbatical, we can reflect on what we have learned about the impact of racism from our guest clergy. Council has been hosting a Sunday morning forum at 11:30 a.m. to discuss the guest preacher's message from the previous Sunday. Roz and Dave Horn facilitated the sessions in July and August. All members of the congregation are invited to attend and share their observations and thoughts on the guest preachers we've heard through the "I Have a Dream Grant." All are welcome to attend.

Many thanks to all our Council members for their faith, dedication and perseverance in our work together. A reminder that Council meetings are open to all members of the congregation. Please speak with a Council member if you have questions. Next regular Council meeting is September 11, 2023 @ 6:45 p.m.

TRINITY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Chancel looked somewhat different when Trinity Lutheran was new. Choir stalls ranged on both sides beneath the organ pipes, facing each other and seating up to 100 singers. The Moeller organ was relocated from First Lutheran Church; its console was tucked into a front corner where the lectern stands today. By 1965, it was clear that the Moeller organ needed extensive repair, and its location and design hindered the sound and caused substantial lag time between playing notes and the sound reaching the congregation.
- On October 3, 1966, the congregation voted to purchase the present day 41-stop, 4 division Noack organ, along with a portable positive 3-stop organ for use in the chapel. The cost of the project, approximately \$125,000 also included altering the original gallery, which seated about 100 and was not large enough to accommodate the new instrument and the choir. Moving the organ and choir seating opened up the Chancel space for a free-standing altar and communion rails.
- The Noack was dedicated in March, 1969. The Noack is a tracker organ, which is a design that dates back more than 500 years and allows direct mechanical action between the three (3) manuals, the pedals and the 3,000 pipes, allowing for more sensitive touch and interpretation. The pipes range from the size of a pencil to the 8-foot tall pipes on either side of the organ case. For more details on the specifications and voicing: <http://trinityworc.org> type pipe organ in the search box.

75TH ANNIVERSARY COLLECTION FOR CARDY CUPBOARD/ During the month of **September**, we will be collecting **feminine hygiene products** to help stock the shelves of the Carty Cupboard. We strive to reach the goal of collecting **75 items** each month. Thank you to all for your contributions over the past months!

75th Anniversary Banquet – All Saints Day – November 5th

You are cordially invited to join us in celebrating a momentous occasion - the 75th Anniversary Banquet of Trinity Lutheran Church. This significant event promises to be a captivating blend of cherished traditions, meaningful reflections, and a vision for an inspiring future.

Date: Sunday, November 5, 2023

Time: 11:30 AM

Location: Jeppson Hall

Trinity has embarked on an incredible journey over the past 75 years, impacting countless lives and shaping a legacy of excellence. The Anniversary Banquet is a special opportunity to honor our past achievements, acknowledge the present accomplishments, and set the stage for a future brimming with promise.

Your presence will be an honor to us as we come together to celebrate the achievements of the past and the possibilities of the future. To confirm your attendance, kindly RSVP by signing the 75th Anniversary Banquet Attendance Sheet in Jeppson Hallway any Sunday beginning September 10th. You may also call the church office at 508-753-2989 to RSVP during the week.

We look forward to sharing this special occasion with you and creating memories that will last for years to come. Together, let's toast to the past, present, and the exciting journey ahead for Trinity.

Please contact Paul Foster at 508-735-2689 or Charlie Labonte at 617-721 3593 with any questions.

UPCOMING

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRIDE! / Trinity has been invited to have a booth at Worcester Pride Festival's "Kid Zone." In order for us to be successful in sharing God's love with our LGBTQ+ siblings, we need volunteers to run the booth for the duration of the event. The festival takes place on **Saturday, September 9** from 2:00-7:00 p.m., with set-up beginning at 11:00 a.m. Volunteers will work a 2-hour shift where they will interact with children and families on a coloring activity: low stress, lots of fun! Shifts for set-up and clean-up are also available. You can volunteer by signing up at www.tinyurl.com/TLCPrize. If you have any questions, please reach out to Amanda Cummings (adcummings42@gmail.com).

TRINITY'S FALL PICNIC

Trinity's Fall picnic is scheduled for **Sunday, September 10, 2023**, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. liturgy. The Hospitality, Fellowship and Welcoming (HFW) team will be providing hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks and ice cream.

As in the past, we will **need volunteers** to sign-up to bring sides, salads and desserts. For planning purposes, so that everyone can attend the liturgy, we will also need volunteers to sign up to assist with set-up before the service, assisting with cooking and serving food, and to help with clean up. Sign-up sheets will be available during coffee hours and online. More details to follow soon! Please contact Thom Tarquinio (601-954-9315), orthobuck@gmail.com or Amanda Cummings.



Save the Date!

Sept. 17, 2023
after worship

Come and learn about all of the ways that you can get involved at Trinity!

Ministry Fair during coffee hour

hosted by the Ministry Cabinet

HOLD THE DATE! TRINITY INTERNATIONAL DINNER - Saturday, October 14

As part of the year-long TLC 75th Anniversary celebration, we look forward to the return of our International Dinner, following a long Covid-induced hiatus! This event is a celebration of diversity ... old traditions, as well as the energy that new members and immigrants bring to our church community!

At our last International Dinner (2019) our members and guests provided foods from 20 different cultures, and all who attended enjoyed a wonderful evening.

You may wish to make dishes that are favorite family recipes, or from a country you have visited, or just from a part of the world that you find interesting. It is not necessary to bring food, and if you are not cooking, please just come to enjoy the food and fellowship!

The event will be held in Jeppson Hall on Saturday, October 14th. The church will open at 4:30 to allow time for those bringing food to set up and decorate the tables. Dinner will start at 6:00 pm.

Sign-up sheets will be available in Jeppson Hall. For questions, please contact Thom Tarquinio (601-954-9315 orthobuck@gmail.com) or Amanda Cummings (901-289-7232 adcummings42@gmail.com).

ONGOING

WEEKLY SUMMER SENIOR LUNCHEONS / The Senior Luncheon *will meet every Monday at Noon on the patio*. Please bring your own lunch and beverage for the months of July, August and September to enjoy socializing with those attending. If it rains, the luncheons will be held in the Golden Room. We hope to see you there!

DICK'S MARKET GARDEN FARMSTAND / Plan to visit the farm stand on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. through mid-October, located in the far end of the Trinity parking lot. If you are *interesting in obtaining a \$20 coupon (one per family) to the farm stand, please contact Chris Jackel, Office Manager 508-753-2989*.

MAKE A PRAYER SHAWL / The Care Team is hoping to have a supply of prayer shawls available for individuals who are in need of comfort for any reason. Completing a prayer shawl is a spiritual practice and you are invited to create one as you are able. You can knit, crochet or sew the prayer shawls but the finished size of the shawls should be 60 inches long and at least 18 inches wide. For more information about the origins of prayer shawls, prayers and a variety of instructions and patterns, please visit <http://www.shawlministry.com>. Completed prayer shawls can be given or left for Jena Hill at any time.

HOST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COFFEE HOUR / Hospitality, Fellowship and Welcoming (HFW) needs volunteers to host coffee hour. Hosts are responsible for set up and clean up, and providing food. All paper goods and coffee necessities are provided by the church. The sign-up sheets for August through December are posted on the Trinity bulletin board outside the copy room. HFW Co-Chairs Thom Tarquinio and Amanda Cummings are happy to answer any questions.

NEWS & UPDATES

WEDNESDAY MID-WEEK HOLY EUCHARIST / The mid-week Holy Eucharist will resume on *Wednesday, September 6 at 6:00 p.m.* in the Nave.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY / The Wednesday night Bible Study will also resume on *Wednesday, September 6 at 6:45 p.m.* in the Library.

FAITH IN ACTION UPDATE – NINA BEHM

A huge “thank you” to Barbra Grusell for taking charge of the Little Free Pantry and for putting the doors back on. The Little Free Pantry continues to be used by our community. Donations are always appreciated!

For the months of September through November, Faith in Action will be collecting money for Christmas gifts for the Lutheran Home. There are 100 residents who will each receive a blanket and non-skid socks. We’re estimating that it will cost approximately \$1,000 to provide these gifts. Thank you in advance for your contribution! Thank you to all who donated school supplies. All supplies were happily and gratefully received by the staff at Elm Park Community School.

SABBATICAL CONTACT LIST

Who do I turn to when Pastor Nathan is away on Sabbatical? We give thanks that Trinity is blessed with professional and support staff, lay leadership, and retired clergy who will continue to provide direction and support to the ministry during Pastor Nathan's sabbatical.

Pastoral care concerns & emergencies:

- **Cantor Mark Mummert**
Cell/text: 713-256-5980
Email: mmummert@trinityworc.org
- **Jena Hill**
Cell/text: 978-549-9079
Email: jhill@trinityworc.org
- **Pastor Cliff Gerber** will be available to support Cantor Mark and Jena to provide additional pastoral services.

Administrative & other parish concerns:

- **Council President Karen Couturier (Executive Committee)**
Cell/text: 508-331-1993
Email: kcouturier7@gmail.com
- **Pastor Ed Sproul (Personnel Committee)**
Cell/text: 774-633-6747
Email: ed.sproul@gmail.com

General matters:

- **Office Manager Chris Jackel**
Office Phone: 508-753-2989 Ext 122
Email: admin@trinityworc.org

Building & Grounds matters:

- **Building Manager Frank Ricardo**
Office Phone: 508-753-2989 Ext 125
Email: building.manager@trinityworc.org

SABBATICAL PREACHING SERIES: LIFT EVERY VOICE

Lift Every Voice:

Centering the Voices of Clergy of Color in Preaching and Worship Leadership

During Pastor Nathan Piphó's three-month sabbatical this summer, the people of Trinity have had the opportunity to hear different voices preaching and leading our worship services. The Trinity Sabbatical Team has invited several local and national ELCA ministers of color to preach and preside on the Sunday mornings listed below.

These guest preachers have been intentionally invited to bring to the center of our congregational life voices and perspectives that have been pushed to the margins or silenced altogether in our church denomination. We hope that the people of Trinity will use these experiences to examine their own current practices and make necessary changes to become a more welcoming congregation for people of color. Those preaching and presiding during the month of September are:

September 3 **Pastor Rafaela Morales-Rosa**

Worcester, MA

Preaching & Presiding at 8:00 am and 10:00 am

September 24 **Pastor Susan Gaeta**

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Ayer, MA

NEAR (New England Anti-Racism) Core Team Member

Preaching & Presiding at 10:00 am **

FAITH FORMATION

CHILDREN'S TIME / During the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. Following the Children's Message with Jena Hill on the Chancel steps, children are invited to go with Jena Hill to Christ Chapel for the Children's Time. Children return to the Nave at the Sign of Peace in time for the Lord's Supper.

FIRST SUNDAY FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL / The first Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room. The whole family is invited! For more information, contact Jena Hill.

BIBLE STUDIES / We invite you to join us as we study God's word and the assigned scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. Bible Studies meet in the Trinity Library and are also offered on Zoom. If interested, you may contact any of the leaders listed for more information.

- **Tuesdays at 10:45 a.m. led by Cantor Mark**
- **Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. led by Dave Horn**
- **Wednesday night at 6:45 p.m.**

FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE FOR 2023-2024 / The Faith Formation team (Cantor Mark, Beth Getman, and Rick Lagueux) met May 10 to plan adult education for 2023-2024. This next year we will try shorter programs spread throughout the year. And, we will try to present programs more closely tied to activities of Trinity church. After talking with various people throughout the church community, we decided on the following education plan for 2023-24.

- **Summer 2023**— "The Performance of Black Preaching," led by Elder Calvin Cummings
- **October 2023**
 - October 8 (9:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.) — "Reflections on Sabbatical Sermon Series" discussion led by Pastor Nathan
 - October 25 (6:45 p.m., after Wednesday worship)— "Reflections on Sabbatical" presented by Pastor Nathan
- **Fall 2023**— The Racial Healing Handbook, by Anneliese A. Singh, PhD, LPC, led by Pastor Nathan
 - Starting October 15 (9:00 a.m.)
- **November 2023** (11:45 a.m.) -- Discussion of Handel's Messiah, led by Cantor Mark – possibly with Worcester Chorus
- **February and March 2024** (9:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.)— "The Three Days," led by Cantor Mark
- **After Easter 2024**— Discussion/education about Baptism (TBD)

- **Additional potential topics:**
 - Dialogues on Sexuality—by Augsburg Fortress Publishing
 - Discuss about the role of Christian Education
 - Confirmation for adults

CELEBRATIONS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

We recognize the birthdays of our members age 75 and older

Kurt Koppetsch – September 1
 Gail Puize – September 6
 David Cote – September 15
 Priscilla Evans – September 17
 Marion Johnson – September 18
 Thomas Toeppner – September 18
 Inger-Lise Kilcoyne – September 19
 Lois Mangsen-Pakula – September 21
 David Hobbs – September 24
 Jo Alexopoulos – September 27
 Edith Levin – September 27

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

We recognize anniversaries beginning with 25 years

John & Lynne Ostlund – September 7
 Rosalind & Dave Horn – September 10
 Thomas & Nancy Cunningham – September 22
 Jeffrey & Karin Underkoffler – September 27

+ DEATHS +

Miriam Jensen – August 7
 Ruth Carlson – August 16
 Helge V. Nordstrom – August 20

STEWARDSHIP – WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE? – KEVIN ERKKILA

As members of Trinity Lutheran Church, you have demonstrated your faithfulness throughout your lifetime through worship, service, and financial support. Now you are invited to consider a different type of gift, a special gift to Trinity through your estate plans. Our congregation's 75th anniversary year is a time of reflection on the gifts made by the founders and by many other faithful members through the years. By God's grace, their sacrifice, vision, and unswerving commitment have realized an enduring Lutheran expression of the living out of Christ's Gospel, in this place, in us. This is their legacy to us. What will your legacy be?

Making a will may not be something you have given thought to—about a third of Lutherans haven't made a will! Yet, it's an important step in protecting the assets and future wishes of you and your loved ones. If you include a provision for Trinity in your plans, you will have the added benefit of knowing that future generations will benefit from your generosity and legacy. For information on estate planning, consult your attorney, or the local bar association. The Pastor and financial team at Trinity can provide you with options for giving in accordance with your wishes. For more information, contact the Treasurer through the church office at (508)753-2989, or by e-mail at treasurer@trinityworc.org.

+ Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church +

Sunday, September 3 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21 *God fortifies the prophet*

Romans 12:9-21 *Live in harmony*

Matthew 16:21-28 *The rebuke to Peter*

Psalmody: Psalm 26:1-8 *Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 624, *Jesus, Still Lead On*, SEELENBRÄUTIGAM

In last week's gospel reading, Jesus praised his disciple Peter. This coming week, Jesus rebukes him, calling him Satan.

Come to hear this continuation of Matthew's story, and receive the life that only Jesus can give.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester

Wednesday, September 6

Jeremiah 17:5-18 *The vindication of the righteous*

Matthew 12:22-32 *Jesus comes to cast out Satan*

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Library) Live Video via www.facebook.com/tlcworcester

Sunday, September 10 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-11 *The prophet's responsibly*

Romans 13:8-14 *Live honorably as in the day*

Matthew 18:15-20 *Reconciliation in the community of faith*

Psalmody: Psalm 119:33-40 *I desire the path of your commandments*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 615, *In All Our Grief*, FREDERICKTOWN

When church people refer to "Matthew 18," it is the gospel for this coming Sunday that they are thinking of, with its advice about how Christians are to deal with controversies within the believing community. The good news in the reading is especially the last line: that Christ is among us always. Come to receive Christ's gift of himself in word, sacrament, and community.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester

Wednesday, September 13

Commemoration of John Chrysostom, Bishop

Leviticus 16:1-5, 20-28 *The scapegoat cleanses the community*

Matthew 21:18-22 *Jesus teaches about praying in faith*

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Library) Live Video via www.facebook.com/tlcworcester

Sunday, September 17 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Commemoration of Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen

Genesis 50:15-21 *Joseph reconciles with his brothers*

Romans 14:1-12 *When brothers and sisters judge each other*

Matthew 18:21-35 *A parable of forgiveness*

Psalmody: Psalm 103:8-13 *LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 605, *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*, DETROIT

The gospel this coming Sunday is a harsh parable about forgiveness. Yet even if we feel condemned by this reading, we receive God's mercy at the table of the Lord. Come to worship, to be forgiven, and to be empowered to forgive others.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester

Wednesday, September 20

2 Kings 2:1-18 *Prophets cross the Jordan*

Mark 11:20-25 *Forgiveness for those who forgive*

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Library) Live Video via www.facebook.com/tlcworcester

Sunday, September 24 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10—4:11 *God's concern for Nineveh*

Philippians 1:21-30 *Standing firm in the gospel*

Matthew 20:1-16 *The parable of the vineyard workers*

Psalmody: Psalm 145:1-8 *The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love*

Hymn of the Day: ACS Hymn 1000, *God's Work, Our Hands*, EARTH AND ALL STARS

The parable we hear this coming Sunday might strike church-goers as troubling: what, shouldn't we get paid more if we work longer hours?! The last shall be first? Come to worship, to meditate on the good news found in this story and to receive the meal of God's mercy.

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester

Wednesday, September 27

Isaiah 41:1-13 *God will be with the last*

Matthew 18:1-5 *True greatness*

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Library) Live Video via www.facebook.com/tlcworcester

Sunday, October 1 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 *The fairness of God's way*

Philippians 2:1-13 *Christ humbled himself to the point of death*

Matthew 21:23-32 *A parable of doing God's will*

Psalmody: Psalm 25:1-9 *Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 806, *O God, My Faithful God*, WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT

The gospel reading for this coming Sunday includes a short parable for all of us who have sometimes said No to God, and then later regretted it. Come to worship, to hear about God's welcome to us and to receive that welcome at the table of holy communion.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester

Trinity Worship Services on TV and the Internet

Live Stream Webcasts – www.trinityworc.org or www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester

TV – Worcester: Sundays at 11:30 a.m. on Channel 194 (one-week delay)

TV- Same Day Broadcasts: Shrewsbury – Channel 28, Sunday 8 p.m., Monday 12:30 a.m.

TV- Delayed Broadcasts: Auburn – Tuesday 11 p.m., Thursday 10 p.m., Sunday Noon & 11:30 p.m.; **Holden** – Channel 191, Sunday 8:00 a.m.; **Hudson** – Sunday 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m., Wednesday 3 p.m.; **Leicester** – Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8 a.m., Sunday 10 a.m.; **Millbury** – Sunday 10 a.m., Wednesday 3 p.m. & Saturday 7:30 p.m.; **Oxford** – Sunday 1:15 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.; **Spencer** – Saturday & Sunday 8:30 a.m.; **Sterling/Lancaster** – Monday & Thursday 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. **Sutton** – Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday 9 a.m.; **Uxbridge** – Tuesday & Thursday at 10:00 a.m. **Westborough** – Sunday at 1:30 p.m. **Briarwood** (closed circuit) – Channel 900 at 11:00 a.m. Sunday

TRINITY BOOK CLUB RESUMES IN OCTOBER / The Trinity Book Club will meet on Mondays (listed below) in the Library at 1:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Brown sbrown5453@gmail.com.

- October 16: *How the Word is Passed* by Clint Smith (NF) - Examines the legacy of slavery in America and how it continues to impact our society today.
- November 20: *Mad Honey* by Jody Piccoult (F) - Teenage love leads to problems and secrets revealed by two families in New Hampshire. Also interesting facts about bees and honey.
- January 15: *Bruno* by Martin Walker (F) – The first in a series of current day detective stories set in France with an intriguing protagonist.
- February 19: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks (F) – The story of a magnificent horse, how slavery supported the achievements of the past in unexpected ways, broken promises and delayed recognition.
- March 18: *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell (F) – The imagined story of Shakespeare's only son a twin.
- April 15: *Four Seasons in Rome* by Anthony Doerr (NF) – Before *All the Light We Cannot see*, Anthony Doerr spent a year in Rome with his wife and newborn twins. Beautifully written contemporary memoir.
- May 20: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus (F) – the world of the sixties, free thinking women of science and how chemistry works between people and experiments.
- June 17: *A Single Thread* by Tracey Chevalier (F) – Friendship, love and loss in pre-WWII Britain and the power of embroidery.

TRINITY CONGREGATION COUNCIL

2023-2024 Council Members

President – Karen Couturier president@trinityworc.org
Vice-President – Beth Getman vice-president@trinityworc.org
Secretary – Mary Tarquinio secretary@trinityworc.org
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Dale Mattice, Mark Mummert, Pastor Nathan Pipho, Matthew Whitmarsh,
Suzanne Whitmarsh, and Judy Willoughby

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