



July 2, 3 & 6, 2022 Weekly Bulletin

Senior Pastor: Rev. Steven S. Billings

Principal/Associate Pastor: Rev. Keith E. GeRue
Church (920) 722-2662, School (920) 725-1715

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:00 am to 3:00 pm

Church Admin E-Mail: ChurchAdmin@trinitymenasha.com



✠ This Week at Trinity ✠

Saturday, July 2:

5:00 PM Worship Service In-Person & Online

Sunday, July 3:

9:00 AM Worship Service In-Person & Online

10:30 AM Ed Hour In-Person & Online

Monday, July 4: INDEPENDENCE DAY

Church & School Offices Closed

Rev Billings' Sabbath

Tuesday, July 5:

6:30 AM Ladies Bible Study

6:30 PM Board Meetings

Wednesday, July 6:

6:30 PM Worship Service

Thursday, July 7:

6:00 AM Men's Bible Study

Friday, July 8:

Saturday, July 9:

9:00 AM Food Pantry

5:00 PM Worship Service In-Person & Online

Sunday, July 10:

9:00 AM Worship Service In-Person & Online

10:30 AM Ed Hour In-Person & Online



✠ We Pray For... ✠

Rick Ascher, Michael Bekx, Shannon Braun, Michael Burns, David Cotter, Matt Daniels, Cindy Diesch, Jeff Dionne, Frank Erdmann, Shirley Fleischer, Lorna Forbes, Lana Gast, Dominic Hall, Michael Hastings, Peter Keller, Brenda Kempf, Sam Koch, Judy Krause, Karen Lambert, Pr. Ronald Meier, Betsy Meverden, Donna Mies, Dianne Olsen, Lisa Olson, Lynn Olson, Bill Otto, Norb Pomerence, Sandy Rammer, Joan Reinke, Kathy Rigotti, Dan Schael, Jan Schroeder, Ray Schroeder, Scott Steenpoorte, Liz Swaney, Jill Thomas, Bud Tschirgi, Joyce Virchow, Ronald Virchow Sr., Carla Watson, Merle Webber, Laverne Werth, Dorothy Wirth.

Holy Communion

We ask that those desiring to commune be members in good standing of Trinity or of a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. If you have questions regarding this, please speak with one of the Pastors.



WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO USE THE HYMNAL TO HELP CUT OUR PAPER COSTS.

PLEASE NOTE: SCHOOL OFFICE IS CLOSED. HOURS ARE BY APPOINTMENT.

Church & School Offices Closed July 1st & 4th



News, Events, Requests, Etc.

Visit us at: www.trinitymenasha.com_or
"Like" Us on Facebook

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are given in memory of
Bonnie Fischer.

This Weekend's Banners

"God Bless America"

"Kingdom People Produce KINGDOM FRUIT"

\$ Current Finances \$

Monthly Income Needed: **\$75,637**

Income as of June 26: **\$43,033**

Altar Guild Help Needed

We are in need of volunteers to serve on our Altar Guild team. Tasks are: set-up, reset, and clean up communion. On Sundays, after worship, we deliver the Altar flowers to members of Trinity. Setting the Lord's Table is truly an honor and blessing. Contact Kari Lindner at (928) 279-7192 to be a member of our team.

Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer, a devotional book, is available in the narthex, or stop by the office for a copy.

Bible Study Opportunities At Trinity Lutheran Church:

10:30 AM Sunday – "Community. We are not alone." with Rev. Alliet & Rev. Billings
(In Person & Online) - Large Fellowship Hall

10:30 AM Sunday – Young Adult Bible Study (7-8th Grades, High School & College Students) "Jonah" with Rev. GeRue - Conference Room

10:45 AM Sunday – With Blaine Henkel—**THIS STUDY WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER.**

6:30 PM Monday – Women's Bible Study, meet in the Large Conference Room for devotions, discussion and fellowship until this fall. Contact: Connie Henkel

6:30 AM Tuesday – Ladies Bible Study, 12 Ordinary Men: How the Master Shaped His Disciples for Greatness, and What He Wants to Do with You with Dottie Kraus

6:00 AM Thursday – Men's Bible Study, Book of Romans with Steve Reinke, Large Conference Room

For more information, please get in touch with the contact person listed above, or contact the church office.

✠ Stewardship Lesson ✠

Luke 10:20b – "But rejoice that your names are written in heaven." No one can snatch us out of the nail-marked hands of Jesus. He has redeemed us and claimed us as His own. As those whose names are written in heaven, we seek to live heavenly lives here on earth. This is the foundation of all our good works, including the good work of faithfully supporting the work of the Church. It's our joy in having been redeemed by the Lord through the activity of the Church that motivates us to support the Church.

Trinity's Food Pantry

Trinity's Food Pantry serves those in need in the Fox Cities.

You can continue to provide for our Pantry distribution. Currently, the following non-perishables are needed: Tomato Sauce & Paste, Paper Products, Yellow Mustard, Pudding/Jell-O, Pickles, and Tuna. If you or someone you know would benefit from the Food Pantry, please call Steve Reinke at (920) 540-5090.



August Golf League

Join us for a fun casual August Golf League for Trinity starting on Monday, August 8th at Winagamie Golf Course with tee off times between 4-5. If interested in signing up, please contact Barb or Steve Sexmith. Join us every week through the end of August. We need to let the course know how many tee times we need each week. Barb (920)427-6763 or Steve (920) 540-8687, bsexmith@new.rr.com, or ssexmith@new.rr.com.



Trinity Camping Weekend 2022

Has been set for the traditional 3rd weekend in August, August 19 - 21. We will camp once again at Wild West Campground & Corral. They're located on 90+ acres within 15 miles from Waupaca, WI and Hartmann Creek State Park, where you'll find a variety of recreational activities to enjoy. They are located on Hwy 54, 8 miles west of Waupaca (5 miles west of Hartmann Creek State Park). Check them out at: www.wildwestcampground.com. Campsite reservations and payments are taken online. Cannot camp the entire weekend, or not a camper? Come join us on Saturday for fellowship and a lunchtime potluck meal. Contact Roger or Merry Voigt with questions - phone 920-725-9908, email rogerwvoigt@gmail.com.



Your Efforts Are Making A Difference!

We thank you for your ongoing donations of aluminum cans! Your efforts are appreciated. You can deposit your bags of cans in the blue recycling bins inside Door 7 and now Door 2.

Prayer Chain

Barbara Kester is head of the Prayer Chain. If you desire prayers for yourself or someone else, please call Barbara at (920) 722-3228.

✠ Serving Our Lord Next Weekend ✠

Saturday, July 9:

Elder on Duty: *Bruce Gast*
Usher Team: *Roger Voigt*
Communion Assistant: *Dan Siebert*
Altar Guild: *Volunteer Needed*
Greeter: *JoAnn Schultz*
Acolyte: *Donovan Rausch*

Sunday, July 10:

Elder on Duty: *Bart Nielsen*
Usher Team: *Jim Wittmann*
Communion Assistant: *Ron Kraus*
Altar Guild: *Sandy Meyer*
Greeter: *Connie Henkel*
Acolyte: *Levi Kroes*

Wednesday, July 13:

Elder on Duty: *Tom Harrmann*
Usher Team: *Steve Reinke/Bill Diesch*
Altar Guild: *Kari Lindner*

Ladies Aid/LWML Summer Outing!

Our Ladies Aid/LWML summer outing has been set for **Tuesday, July 19**. We will be heading to Malone Wisconsin to the **LaClare Creamery and Goat Farm**. Meet at Trinity to carpool at 10 a.m. Please sign up on the spinner in the narthex; indicate how many are coming in your party, if you can drive, and how many people total will fit into your vehicle. The **cost is \$5.00**. We plan to dine at the restaurant there for lunch. There is a possibility of taking a bus; will update if that becomes reality.

\$ SCRIP News \$

SCRIP is sold in the Church Office Mon.-Fri. from 8:00AM-3:00PM, and in the narthex before and after worship services.

How to order Scrip? Call the office Mon.- Fri., or email your order to: ChurchAdmin@trinitymenasha.com. They will put it together.

Stock up on both Festival and Kwik Trip Scrip for the new Festival-Kwik Trip Gas Card Program!

“DEPENDENT AND FREE!”

Luke 9:18-24

244 years ago in this country, there was a revolution. A revolution for independence, which we will celebrate again this Fourth of July. But *today*, there is *another* revolution going on – also for independence – except this is not a *political* revolution – it is a cultural, a moral, a religious, revolution. And that makes this revolution, in many ways, much more dangerous than any other.

For this is a revolution that is challenging the very foundations of our society, stating that there is no absolute truth upon which we stand, and upon which our life together is defined. No, your culture, your morality, your religion is what you want it to be. All gods are equal, all lifestyles are equal, all choices are equal. None are wrong and none are right, they simply are what you want the truth to be. Or in other words, you are *independent*. No one and no god can tell you who to be, or what is truth. You are *independent*. You are free – and freedom is a good thing, is it not? Except the freedom that this revolution promises is really no freedom at all, but in fact, a stronger slavery to sin. And many people, seeking to be “free,” are actually sinking into this slavery deeper and deeper. Addiction, dysfunction, confusion, denial, anger, loneliness, hopelessness – these are just a few of the symptoms. And even with these, people *think* they’re going the right way; that they’re headed in the right direction! But it isn’t working. This revolution promises everything, but delivers nothing.

This is not a new thing. This kind of revolution has been going on ever since the beginning. Men and women, declaring their independence. Throwing off restraints. Rebelling against authority. Pursuing freedom. Going their own ways, following their own desires. From Adam and Eve down to you and I today, the story is the same. . . . Yet the result has not been freedom or independence, but stronger and deeper bondage to sin. And its like quicksand – the harder we fight the deeper we get.

Unlike the revolution of 1776 that we are celebrating this Independence Day, this is a revolution that we can’t win. And so it is as we heard Jesus say in the Holy Gospel: “**Whoever would save his life will lose it.**” If we insist on saving

ourselves, and freeing ourselves, and declaring ourselves independent from God and anyone else, we will lose. “**But** [Jesus continues] **whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.**” But if we lay down our lives in repentance, in faith, and in dependence upon God, *then* we are free; we are forgiven; we are heirs of eternal life. So this statement of Jesus, which *sounds* so backwards and upside-down, actually shows us that we are the ones not right; we are the ones who need correcting; we are the ones who need to be put right again. And the one and only way that can be done is through the cross of Christ.

That is what Jesus is explaining to His disciples in the Holy Gospel. “**Who do the crowds say that I am?**” He asked. And there is a variety of answers – all, by the way, holding Jesus in very high regard and esteem; equating Him with prophets and holy men of old. And yet at the same time, all are inadequate; all missing something. But when Peter then gives the correct answer, “**You are the Christ of God**” – or in other words, you are the anointed One; the One God sent into the world to save – Jesus not only acknowledges this, but immediately grounds this answer where it must be grounded: *at the cross*. For we cannot rightly know Jesus as the Christ apart from the cross. And that is why He charged His disciples not to tell anyone yet. For the people were looking for a Savior who would give them *independence* – freedom from the Romans, and if they heard that Jesus was the Christ they would make Him King and expect Him to do this. They would want a cross-less Christ.

But, in fact, only Christ’s death can pay the price for the debt of sin that we have rung up, and only His resurrection can give us a new life. The answer to the freedom that we seek is not to throw off the shackles we think have been put upon us, to rebel and redefine what it means to be spiritual. No, the answer (as the prophet Zechariah said) is to turn to the one who was shackled for us, who was nailed to the cross, and who did not rebel. To turn to the one “**whom they have pierced,**” to that bloody, humiliated, corpse on the cross, and confess, “**You are the Christ of God.**” You are my Savior. For only joined to Him can our shackles be removed. Only He holds the key to the kingdom of Heaven. Only by being dependent upon Him can we be set free.