



*I am the vine,
ye are the branches.*

JOHN 15:5

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6th / September 7th 2020

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

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Marinette, WI 54143
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WELS
Christ's Love. Our Calling.

Trinity Ev. Lutheran School

1216 Colfax Street
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Welcome to Trinity!

We're glad you're here to worship!

*If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tesch
(715-587-8521) or Principal Danell (715-732-2956)*

They will be happy to hear from you.

(Hymn 537 vv. 1,3,4)

1. Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.
Christ, the royal master,
Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle
See his banners go!
*Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.*

Onward, Christian Soldiers

3. Crowns and thrones may perish,
Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus
Constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never
'Gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise,
And that cannot fail.
*Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.*

Please rise

4. Onward, then, ye faithful;
Join the happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices
In the triumph song:
Glory, laud, and honor
Unto Christ the King;
This through countless ages
Saints and angels sing.
*Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before.*

Confessions of Sins:

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

C: Amen

Assurance of Forgiveness:

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Please be seated

Epistle Lesson

The world is a dangerous place. We've witnessed that with vivid clarity over the last few months. We've seen nature unleash her deadly might with viruses, hurricanes, earthquakes, and tornados. We've seen the darker side of human nature erupt in cruelty, injustice, violence, hatred, and contempt. And we know that there is more: climate change, floods, and drought; murder, rape, and war. The more we see, the more we realize how fragile life is.

How do we survive it all?

Only by the grace of God. Only God's power is strong enough. Only his wisdom is big enough.

In the seventh chapter of the Book of Revelation, we see a vision of angels holding back disaster. Disaster is pictured as violent winds. God commands four angels to hold the winds back until the church is sealed. We see that God protects his church and the earth is preserved because of it. It is God who preserves the earth. And it is God who will judge it.

The only place of eternal refuge is the church—when God brings a precious soul into his family of faith. God uses the symbolic numbers 12 (the church) and 10 (completeness) to demonstrate that his grace covers every member of the church in every age. The numbers 12x12 represent the Old and New Testament churches. Three (the number of God) tens (10x10x10)

represent the number when God says it's complete. The entire church of all ages will endure under the protection of God's seal.

Every Christian is privileged to be part of that eternal kingdom, sealed by God's grace, protected by God's power. Every soul needs that protection because, while the earth is dangerous, God's judgment is more dangerous still.

The earth will continue to rage—both in nature and in people. God will continue his work of rescuing people from utter destruction by bringing them into his church.

We read from the Revelation of Jesus Christ, given to the apostle John, chapter 7.

Revelation 7:1-8 (EHV)

After this I saw four angels, who stood at the four corners of the earth. They were holding back the four winds of the earth so that the wind could not blow on the earth, the sea, or any tree.

² And I saw another angel coming up from the east, who had the seal of the living God. He called out with a loud voice to the four angels who were given power to harm the earth and the sea. He said, ³“Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees until we have placed a seal on the foreheads of God's servants.”

⁴ And I heard the number of those sealed:

144,000 sealed from all the tribes of the people of Israel:

⁵ from the tribe of Judah, 12,000, who were sealed,

from the tribe of Reuben, 12,000,

from the tribe of Gad, 12,000,

⁶ from the tribe of Asher, 12,000,

from the tribe of Naphtali, 12,000,

from the tribe of Manasseh, 12,000,

⁷ from the tribe of Simeon, 12,000,

from the tribe of Levi, 12,000,

from the tribe of Issachar, 12,000,

⁸ from the tribe of Zebulun, 12,000,

from the tribe of Joseph, 12,000,

from the tribe of Benjamin, 12,000, who were sealed.

Gospel Lesson

It appears that the people of Jesus' time didn't understand who he was. They knew that he was important, but all their guesses fell short.

That hasn't changed. People still underestimate Jesus. It's hard not to—Jesus is God and he is beyond our imagination.

Peter got it right and he was blessed. But he didn't get the answer from human wisdom or human teaching. God revealed it to him.

That hasn't changed either. God is still working through his Word and Sacraments to create faith and reveal his Salvation.

Jesus told Peter that the faith that God gave him is the foundation of his church and the gates of Hell will not overpower it. He would send all his faithful people to carry the message of his work—but not before it was finished.

That's another thing that hasn't changed. God still works through us, his church, to reveal Jesus as Savior of the World and to produce repentance and to provide forgiveness. He still protects us from the power of hell.

And most people won't understand. They will underestimate the power and the importance of Jesus Christ. And they will misjudge the value of his church. Sometimes we do too.

The church is God's people—forgiven, equipped, and empowered by God himself. We are the church, sent to open eyes and hearts. Sent to rescue souls. Sent to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a world that is dying without it.

We read from the sixteenth chapter of Matthew's eye-witness account of Jesus' life.

Matthew 15:21-28 (EHV)

¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ They said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵ He said to them, "But you, who do you say that I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overpower it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he commanded the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

(Hymn 538 vv. 1,2,3,5)

1 The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.

The Church's One Foundation

2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation:
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With ev'ry grace endued.

(Hymn 538 vv. 1,2,3,5)

3 The Church shall never perish.
Her dear Lord, to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish,
Is with her to the end.
Though there be those that hate her
And strive to see her fail,
Against both foe and traitor
She ever shall prevail.

The Church's One Foundation

5 Mid toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

Sermon Text – The Church Stands

The church is old. It has a long history and a deep memory. The church has suffered tragedy, dark betrayal, and heart-breaking loss. It has also experienced exciting success, life-changing love, and stunning victory.

The church is under constant attack by monsters that beggar our imagination. And yet it endures. The church endures because it is filled with the power of God. The church endures because people still need to be saved and God is still reaching out with the power of the Gospel—reaching out through the church.

In every generation there is always someone who declares that the church is outdated and unnecessary. Perhaps it's because they can only see the outward organization. All they can see are flawed people, under-funded ministries, and the frailties and foibles common to every human being. That's what the church looks like from the outside.

But looks can be deceiving. There is so much more if you start to look.

It's a lot like Joshua's pile of stones. If you didn't know, all you would see were 12 old stones piled up by the Jordan river. But if you asked, you would find out that they were a reminder of God's power. They were a memorial of the day that God parted the Jordan River, brought his people into the promised land, and kept his promises. You would hear about the love of God who rescued his people from slavery, protected them on every step of their journey, forgave their wickedness and sin, and brought them home.

The church remembers. The church is God's people, gathered around Word and Sacrament, filled with God's grace, broadcasting God's love, and growing into the image of God.

The church endures. Its appearance cannot sufficiently convey its character. The church is a bastion of strength against the demons who hate all people and would destroy them. It is a hospital where sick and injured souls find healing. The church is a seminary where the works of God are remembered and taught. And the church is a clarion—calling out to sinners in every generation—offering life and peace to a broken and hurting world.

It might not always look like it, but in every generation, God moves through his church.

Joshua 4:1-9 (EHV)

When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD told Joshua, ²“Take twelve men from the people, one man from each tribe, ³and give them the following orders: ‘Pick up twelve stones from here in the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the feet of the priests are standing securely. Carry them over with you and put them at the place where you will stay tonight.’”

⁴So Joshua called the twelve men whom he had selected from the people of Israel—a man from each tribe. ⁵Joshua said to them, “Go to the middle of the Jordan in front of the Ark of the LORD your God. There each man is to lift up one stone on his shoulder. The number will correspond to the number of the tribes descended from the sons of Israel, ⁶so that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in the future, ‘What do these stones mean for you?’ ⁷Then you shall respond to them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD. When the ark passed through the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones will serve as a permanent memorial for the people of Israel.”

⁸So the people of Israel did just as Joshua had ordered. They picked up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, corresponding to the number of the tribes descended from the sons of Israel, as the LORD had instructed Joshua. They carried the stones over with them to their lodging place and deposited them there. ⁹Joshua also set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the feet of the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant had stood. They are there to this day

Special Prayer regarding Coronavirus

Jesus Christ, our Great Physician,

We come before you in great need. We ask that you would end this plague on our world. We do not ask because we are worthy, but because you are gracious and merciful. If it is your will, heal those who are afflicted.

Comfort those who are suffering. Grant wisdom and success to those who are treating and researching this disease.

Teach us to celebrate your blessings and your love. Help us not to take for granted our health or the connections we have among family and friends.

In your name we come to you. Amen.

Prayers for Our family and Friends

The Beaumont Family, Milferd Behnke, Ashleigh Bourdelais, Ardice Cerney, Gladys Constine, Geri Garbrecht, Dorothy Johnson, Rose Karr, Noah & Kristin Olson, Dave Schacht, Lisa Schmitt, Aaron Wood and Jesse Zach.

Prayers for those called to protect

Military: Jesse Adams (Sue Connor's son), **Greg Carow** (Dennis Carow's godson/nephew), **Aeron Forsberg** (Linda and Gene Erickson's grandson), **Dayton Godfrey** (Dave & Cindy Schacht's great-nephew), **Joshua Jansen** (Isaac Jansen's cousin), **Jesse Johnston** (Jim & Laurie Johnston's son), **Patrick Noppenberg** (Denis & Deb Vieth's son), **Aaron Stocker Jr.** (Martina (Dura) Stocker's husband), **Dylan Vanko**, (Roy and Grace Chmela's grandson), and **Thomas Weirich** (Mary Bush's nephew).

Firefighter: Steve Campbell.

Police: Greg Haemker, Raymond Cashaw (Pastor Sonnemann's niece's husband) and **David Peterson** (Jamie Tesch's uncle). Ask the Lord to bless them, strengthen them, and keep them safe.

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.*

The Benediction:

*The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look on you with favor and give you peace. Amen.*

(Hymn 529 v. 1)

Built on the Rock

- 1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the soul distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.

TRINITY'S CORE MISSION

Shining the Light of the Gospel in our community.

John 8:12 - *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

Matthew 5:16 - *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*