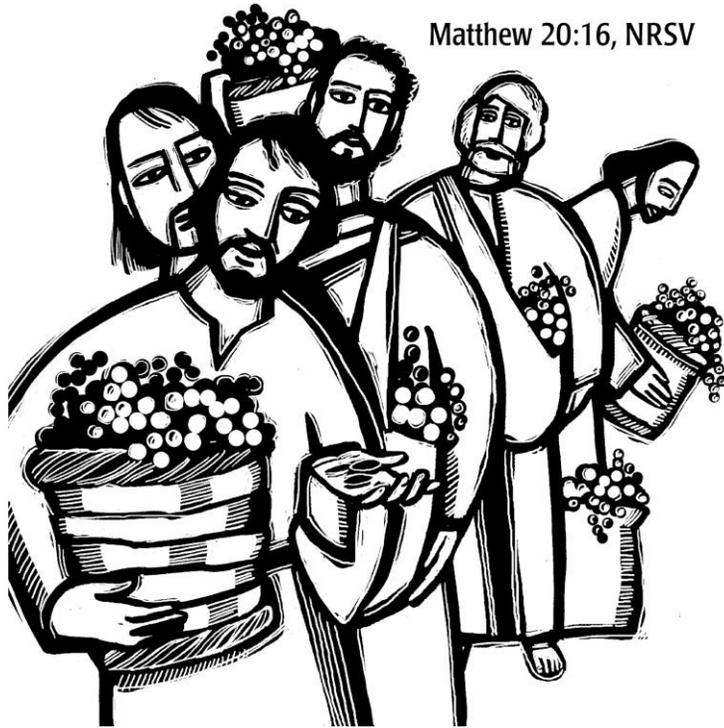


So the **last**  
will be **FIRST**,  
and the  
**first**  
will be **LAST**.

Matthew 20:16, NRSV



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 24, 2017  
Service of the Word

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Pam Illick, Pastor



Welcome to all – especially visitors!!! **It is no accident that you are here today!** You are an answer to our prayer. We have been praying for you, and believe that God has brought you here because God wants to touch your life.

If you need some help to make your worship with us more accessible, please see an usher for assistance. A transport chair and large print bulletins are available if you have need for them.

*Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables, in which Jesus says the reign of God is like workers who get paid the same no matter when they start. When God changes his mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.*

**GREETINGS** - Take a moment to check in on Facebook!  
Feel free to share your worship experience via social media, too.

## PRELUDE & QUIET MEDITATION

### GATHERING

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the ☩ holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.  
*(Time for silent confession and reflection)*

Source of all life,

**C** we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

**P** God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, † God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

#### **\*PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

**\* GATHERING SONG** *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*  
(ELW 618)

#### **\*GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE** *Awesome God*

Our God is an awesome God,  
He reigns from heaven above  
With wisdom, power and love  
Our God is an awesome God!  
(repeat)

Our God is an awesome God!  
Our God is an awesome God!

#### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

*Please be seated.*

#### **WORD**

##### **FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11**

*After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but should not I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites who do not know the difference between their right and left hands?*

**L** A reading from Jonah.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and

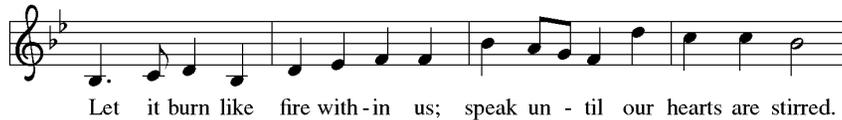
asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

**L** Word of God, word of life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*Please stand.*)



**\* GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

*Jesus tells a parable about God’s generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.*

**P** The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said

to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *O Master, Let Me Walk with You* (ELW 818)

**\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*After each petition the congregation will respond:*

**C** hear our prayer.

*Please be seated.*

**OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

**THANK AND TELL**

## \*OFFERTORY



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## \*OFFERING PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.

**O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.**

**C** Amen.

## \*LORD'S PRAYER

**A** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## SENDING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*BLESSING

**P** God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,

**C** Amen.

**\* SENDING SONG *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven* (ELW 864)**

### \*DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Share God's message of love through your words and actions with others

**C** We will. Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE

*Worship is ended: our service begins.*

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## Gathered in Abundance

Every Sunday, Christians around the world gather together for worship. Alarm clocks (or cell phones) ring, faces get washed, clothes are picked out, breakfasts get eaten. Then we hop on a bus, get in a car, ride a bike, or set out by foot. From our many residences, our many lives and schedules and commitments, we gather together into one body to celebrate the abundance of God's grace and to carry that grace out into the world in service of others.

In today's parable we hear of a similar gathering. A landowner calls together more and more people waiting for work in the marketplace to reap an abundant harvest. Despite drawing them in at different times and in different ways, the landowner graciously gives each one a full day's pay. Understandably, the workers who have worked all day recoil at being paid the same as those who came at the end. But the parable points us toward a different way of seeing the situation. God knows the realities of our lives deeply. God knows the place from which God has called us, our unique history, story, hurts, and gifts. Though we are gathered with others, God's grace speaks to each of us directly, uniquely, and fully. We can come into God's presence expecting to receive all that we need for the coming week.

As you prepare for worship, spend time thinking about where you most need God's grace in your life. What are the realities in the week behind you or the week ahead of you that are the hardest to face? Know that where your needs abound, God's grace abounds even more. Extend that generosity around you as well. Look around at the faces of those gathered with you this day. Where have the people around you come from? Where is God calling you to work by passing God's grace onto others?

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### – PRAYER AND SUPPORT –

**Remember to write the name(s) of persons for whom prayer is needed on the pad in the rear of the church!** The names will be included in the Intercessory Prayers this morning. If you forget to put someone's name on the list, there is an opportunity to say the name during the prayers.

**Special prayers for:** Fire Fighters, EMTs, and Paramedics

**College Students:** Remember Madi Kreitz in your prayers!

### – UPCOMING EVENTS –

**SEPTEMBER IS SOAP MONTH!** Throughout the month of September TLC will be collecting individually wrapped bars of soap! We appreciate your donation of soap that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief.

**LUNCH BUNCH** goes out on Sundays after worship for lunch (except on Sundays when we have Coffee & Conversation). Join us today at **Café del Sol**. You are invited to come! Let's get to know one another better!!



**NEXT SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 1** Pets & Blessings!!!! Get ready for the fun happening between 2 and 5 p.m. at Red Run Park! Something new this year: a special memorial service for pets begins at 4:30pm. Sign up for Volunteers is posted on the "Trinity News" bulletin board! Get the whole family involved!! Sign up today or contact Sondra Musser to let her know how you would like to help!! Please remember that we need donations of **individually bottled water** for Pets & Blessings.

**OCTOBER NEWSLETTER** items are due Monday, September 25 at 9 p.m.

Everyone is invited to the annual **CELEBRATION DAY** Flea Market on the campus of The Village of Luther Ridge on Saturday, September 30 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be activities and entertainment for children and adults, as well as many flea market tables, craft vendors and, of course, delicious homemade food under the tent. This special day is sponsored by the SpiritTrust Lutheran® Chambersburg Auxiliary. All proceeds benefit programs in Franklin and Fulton counties,

**TODAY IS THE 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Reformation:** Sunday, September 24 at 3 p.m. our brothers and sisters at Salem Lutheran Church in Marion have invited our congregation to a service of celebration in observance of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. The service will include a hymn sing, and a light supper and fellowship will follow the service. This is a great opportunity for us to get to know folks from other Lutheran Churches in Franklin County. If anyone would like to go and needs a ride, let Pastor Pam know!

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BRING ROCKS FOR OUR GIRL SCOUTS!** Our Girl Scouts are going to do a craft for Pets & Blessings that involves painting **rocks**. They are going to need lots of **rocks** that are about the size of a deck of cards (a little larger is good, but not bigger than a softball). So start saving/finding **rocks!** A box will be placed under the pew in the back of the church to collect the **rocks!!** Thanks for your help.

**SAVE THE DATE!!!!** Ok all you **Boos and Ghouls!** Get ready for **Trunk and Treat!!!** Mark your calendar today for October 26!! Let's get ready for a "spook-tacular" time!!!!



There will be a special **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** on October 15 to make a decision on replacing the front doors and parking lot doors of the church.

### – FAITH FORMATION –

**ADULT FORUM** This fall we are studying of People of the Bible. Our first person is Moses. The book that will accompany this video-based course is called **MOSES In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet**, by Adam Hamilton. It is available through Amazon.com or your favorite book seller.

**GenNow DISCIPLES** is a program for students in grades 6 and up. We have 3 young people from TLC who will begin this course of study and exploration of God's story and our faith. I am going to be contacting individuals in the congregation to find a **mentor** for each of our students. Please prayerfully consider this important role in the lives of our youth as they learn what faith is and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. In addition, I am also going to ask folks in the congregation to volunteer to be a part of each student's "Cloud of Witnesses." In this role you will pray for one of our GenNow Disciples as (s)he begins their walk with Jesus. A sign up sheet will be on the Trinity News Bulletin Board for our Cloud of Witnesses. It is not too late for a young person to sign up for GenNow Disciples!!!! Contact Pastor Pam if you have any questions or know someone who is interested in participating!!

### – TELC MISSION WORK FOR NEAR AND FAR –

**"NEW NEIGHBOR BASKETS"** are now available for pickup at the church any Sunday morning. All you need to do is pick up the basket, deliver it, and have good conversation with your new neighbor. God is sending us out to do a new thing—help us reach out to our community!

**- STEWARDSHIP -**

*Sharing the abundance of God's gifts to us of time, talents and wealth with others*



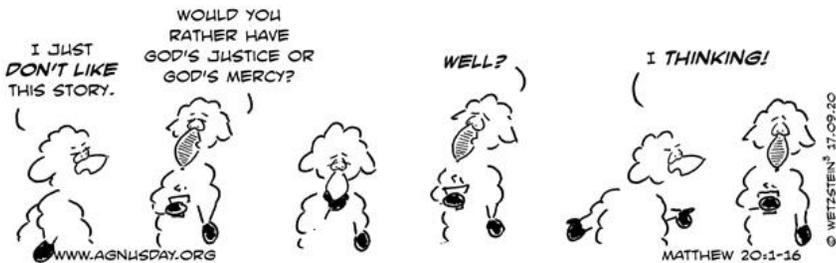
**Kitchen Renovation Fund:** Help us fill up the pot!! Our goal is \$8,000 for the renovation of the kitchen. To date we have received approximately \$1,300. Watch the progress on the “coffee pot chart” at the rear of the sanctuary.

**Building Fund envelopes** are available on the windowsill near the sanctuary entrance. Please use them to make your Kitchen Renovation Donation! Mark your envelope for the **Kitchen**.

Don't forget to drop off your **Box Tops for Education** (for our Girl Scouts) and your **all-occasion cards** for St. Jude's recycled card program, in the appropriate container at the back of our worship area.



**Agnus Day** by James Wetstein



"Agnus Day appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org"



**- September 24-30 -**

- Sunday .....12:15 p.m. - Lunch Bunch at Café del Sol
- Monday.....6:30 p.m. - Development Team
- Monday.....9:00 p.m. - October Newsletter Items Due
- Wednesday .. 1:00-3:00 p.m. - Wednesday in the Subway
- Wednesday ..... 7:00 p.m. - Creative Christian Ladies

**- October 1-6 -**

- Sunday ..... 9:30 a.m. - Youth Class & Adult Forum
- Sunday ..... 10:45 a.m. - Holy Communion
- Sunday ..... 2:00-5:00 p.m. - Pets & Blessings - Red Run Park
- Monday.....6:30 p.m. - Evangelism Committee
- Wednesday .. 1:00-3:00 p.m. - Wednesday in the Subway
- Wednesday ..... 7:00 p.m. - Creative Christian Ladies



**- Our Stewardship -**

	Current Fund
Last Week	\$30,547
Year to Date	\$29,294
Attendance Last Sunday - 37	
Does Not Include E-Giving Offerings	

**- Current Income/Expenses -  
To August 31**

Income	\$139,697
Expenses	\$83,672
Above reflects \$100,000 bequest and e-giving offerings.	



The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are placed by Sherri Kayhoe in loving memory of her father, Terry Sease, on his birthday September 26.

The bulletins are a gift to the glory of God from Terry and Carol Snyder in honor of their son and daughter, Troy Snyder and Shannon Gauss, on their birthday September 25.

**- SERVING THIS MORNING -**

Ministers ..... The Disciples of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
(1 Peter 2:4-10)

Pastor Pam Illick ..... Presiding Minister  
Ruth Strausbaugh ..... Assisting Minister  
Amy Dennis ..... Lector  
Brenda Rice, Jenny Rice, Rhonda Rice ..... Musicians  
Amy Dennis ..... Usher  
Linda Fleagle ..... Usher  
Judi Rice ..... Usher  
June Ecker ..... Altar Care  
Richard Berklite ..... After Church Lock-up  
Teresa Papoutsis & Ruth Strausbaugh ..... Offering Tellers

**- OCTOBER 1-**

Pastor Pam Illick ..... Presiding Minister  
Teresa Papoutsis ..... Assisting Minister  
Charles Strausbaugh ..... Lector  
Brenda Rice, Jenny Rice, Rhonda Rice ..... Musicians  
Amy Dennis ..... Usher  
Linda Fleagle ..... Usher  
Judi Rice ..... Usher  
Carolyn and Earl Duffey ..... Altar Care  
Jon Fleagle ..... After Church Lock-up  
Marie Seidel & Linda Weddle ..... Offering Tellers

**Seven Faith Practices**  
**Pray**  
**Study**  
**Worship**  
**Invite**  
**Encourage**  
**Serve**  
**Give**

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**

12043 Old Route 16  
Waynesboro PA  
PO Box 240  
Rouzerville PA 17250-0240  
(717) 762-1228  
[admin@trinityrouzerville.org](mailto:admin@trinityrouzerville.org)

 Like us on Facebook

Pam Illick, Pastor  
850 Fairview Avenue  
Waynesboro PA 17268-2136  
(443) 876-4736  
[pam.illick@gmail.com](mailto:pam.illick@gmail.com)



**- Our Mission -**

The mission of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rouzerville, Pennsylvania is to build, strengthen, and increase our faith community to better love and serve God – and the world community – with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



**- Our Vision -**

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is a flourishing, Spirit-filled, Christ-centered home for all.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.