



August 30, 2026 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER

"The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old man which is the result of his encounter with Christ. As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death – we give over our lives to death. Thus it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise godfearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die. It may be a death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow him, or it may be a death like Luther's, who had to leave the monastery and go out into the world. But it is the same death every time – death in Jesus Christ, the death of the old man at his call." – Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*.

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 425, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*

OPENING VERSICLES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: This is the day which the Lord has made;

People: **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

Pastor: Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

People: **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

Pastor: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

People: **Teach me Your paths.**

Pastor: Sanctify us in Your truth.

People: **Your Word is truth.**

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: **to God my exceeding joy.**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: When we examine our hearts and consciences,
People: we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves.

Pastor: Therefore, let us confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. We take a moment of silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,
People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Pastor: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.
People: Amen.

Pastor: Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?
People: Yes.

Pastor: Let it be done for you as you believe. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

HYMN *LSB 722, "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jeremiah 15:15–21*

¹⁵ O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. ¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? ¹⁹ Therefore thus says the Lord: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. ²⁰ And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the Lord. ²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 26*

Pastor: Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

People: Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind.

Pastor: For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness.

People: I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.

Pastor: I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.

People: I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O Lord, proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds.

Pastor: O Lord, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.

People: Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men, in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.

Pastor: But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.

People: My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless the Lord.

EPISTLE READING *Romans 12:9–21*

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING *Matthew 16:21–28*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the sixteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸ Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

RESPONSORY

Pastor: Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
People: **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Pastor: Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
People: **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
People: **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

HYMN *LSB 688, "Come, Follow Me,' The Savior Spake"*

SERMON *"Follow Jesus"*

APOSTLE'S CREED

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

HYMN *LSB 783, "Take My Life and Let It Be"*

PRAYER

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For ... let us pray to the Lord:
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
People: **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
All: 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.

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

Pastor: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

Pastor: We pray together:

People: **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN *LSB 685, "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"*

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Next Week's Readings: September 6, 2026 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-9 Psalm 32:1-7

Romans 13:1-10 Matthew 18:1-20

Service adapted from Prayer and Preaching (LSB 260-267) and Corporate Confession and Absolution (LSB 290-291).
"As We Gather" quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*, (Touchstone, New York, NY, 1995), page 89-90.



ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of August 30, 2026

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Daniel Heitshusen

Cell: 832-727-3135 pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

Family for the Week: **Bill & Diane Thompson**
Christ, Eldorado Springs - Rev. Johannes Brann

Prayers of Peace and Comfort: Family of Francis Krueger

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Mike & Edith (friends of Sue Doss)
 Tammy Ardrey – (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
 Bruce Banks – (friend of Teri Ediger)
 Rick Bauer – (Gladys' son – health and healing)
 Becky – (Cheryl Lile's friend – fighting an infection)
 Jeannie Bennett – (relative of Teri Ediger – health and healing)
 Blazi – (friend of Jaycee & Ty – health and healing)
 Treasa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – (health and healing)
 Joyce Campbell – (friend of Wanda Thompson–health and healing)
 Charlene Dart (Linda Myers' sister-in-law – cancer)
 Kyle and family – (grandson to Cathy Munden, son of Teri)
 McGee family – (health and healing)
 The family of Nancy Keegan (hope and comfort)

Long Term

Ardella – (health and healing)
 Gladys Bauer – (health and healing)
 Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)
 Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)
 Rev. Johannes Brann – (health and healing/peace and comfort)
 Rev. Brian and Jessica Chisamore – (health and healing for Jessica)
 Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)
 Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
 Mary Ann Campbell – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
 LD Cantrell – (brother-in-law of Charlie & Edee Chambers – hospice)
 Dortha Dennis – (health and healing)
 Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)
 Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)

Glenda – (Teri Ediger's step-mother – health and healing)
 Tessie Holle – (cousin of Kathy Holle)
 Family of Jamie – (friend of Jaycee & Ty – health and healing)
 Janet – (Darlene Lampe's son-in-law's mother)
 Beverly Lofton – (friend of Cathy Munden – health and healing)
 Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel's brother – health and healing)
 Rebecca – (Kathy Holle's relative – health and healing from cancer)
 Emma S. – (recovery after hospital stay)
 William (Ardella's son)
 Tim Tucek – (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)
 Baby Vada – (Cathy Munden's great grandchild – health and healing)
 Dayton Wheeler – (grandson of Wanda Thompson – surgery)
 Kandi Wood – (friend of Cathy Munden – hospital)

Gary Gardner – (health and healing)
 Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)
 Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden's granddaughter)
 Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
 Mitzie Lorenz – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
 Jepper Meyer – (health and healing from cancer)
 Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's sister-In-Law – health & healing)
 Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)
 Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)
 LC Stalcup – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)
 Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)
 Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)
 Bill Thompson – (health and healing)

WEEK		
Sunday	Aug. 30th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour, Bible Study 9:30 am – Fellowship 10:00 am – Service Potluck Lunch after service
Monday	Aug. 31st	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
Thursday	Sept. 3rd	Project Rise (see Bernie for details)
Friday	Sept. 4th	Pastor's Day Off
Sunday	Sept. 6th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour, Bible Study 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service with Communion
Monday	Sept. 7th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
Tuesday	Sept. 8th	LWML – 1:30 pm in Freistatt

Birthdays: Sept.6-Emily Ernest & Ada Granderson; Sept.7-Faith Wright

Anniversaries: Sept.9-Paul & Barbara Martin

August		Ushers	
Greeters		30: Doug Goodman	
30: Bill & Joanne Michel			
September			
06-Matthew Springer & Emily Ernest		06-Bill Michel	
13-Cheryl Lile & Gladys Bauer		13-Harold Lampe	
20-Bill & Joanne Michel		20-Charlie Chambers	
27-Charlie & Edee Chambers		27-David Lampe	

Sunday Bible Class - Why do we begin the service with confession? Why does Pastor say "in the stead and by the command of Christ..."? Why do we have four Scripture readings every Sunday? Are they connected to each other? Is there any Biblical basis for why we do the things we do on Sunday morning? We will seek to answer these questions (and more) in our Sunday morning Bible class. If you've ever wondered why we worship the way we do, then come and join us!

Wednesday Evening Bible Class will begin Wednesday, September 9, at 6:00 pm. We will meet in the basement. Come and join us!

Join us for our next LWML meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026, at 1:30 pm in Trinity Chapel. Note the date change because of Labor Day. Our program will be given by Courtney Sletten — information about the music camp this past summer. Please join us. There will be a business meeting following the program.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Freistatt, MO, invites you to attend a musical concert on September 20, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. The concert theme is "Faith, Freedom, and Our Nation Under God" and will include vocal and instrumental music, solos, duets, and choirs. In addition, there will be 4 congregation hymns emphasizing our God, our journey, our foundation, and our nation. Come and enjoy the music of "Faith, Freedom, and Our Nation Under God". Please join us.

After the concert at 5:00 p.m. there will a historical presentation about **Trinity's first teacher, Henry Nehrling**. This will take place in the Fellowship Hall at the school. There will be a light supper of sandwiches and hors d'oeuvres in the Fellowship Hall. Additional information in the narthex.

The Story of Hubert H.A. Kleiboeker's WWII Experiences at Freistatt on September 21 at 6:30 p.m. Additional information in the narthex.