

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
 Little Mountain, South Carolina
 15th Sunday after Pentecost

We Prepare for Worship

Silence and meditation

Prelude *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

Welcome and Announcements

(* Please stand as able)

*Gathering Hymn *This is My Father's World* Hymn 554

*Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56

*Apostolic Greeting page 57

*Kyrie page 57

*Hymn of Praise *Glory to God in the Highest* page 58

*Prayer of the Day

P. Let us pray together.

C. God of grace, through your Son you have reconciled creation to yourself. Preserve your church that, assured of Christ's presence among us, we may exemplify the peace and reconciliation that can only come from you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

(We Sit)

God's Word Proclaimed

The First Lesson Ezekiel 33:7-9

Psalm 32:1-7 page 230

The Second Lesson Romans 13:1-10

*The Gospel Acclamation *Alleluia, Lord to whom...* page 62

*The Holy Gospel Matthew 18:1-20

*The Gospel Response page 63

(We Sit)

The Children's Sermon: *All of God's little Children are asked to come forward for a special message just for them!*

The Congregation is invited to sing "Jesus Loves Me" as the children come forward.

The Sermon "Reconciliation" Pastor Randy Drafts

*The Hymn of the Day *Lord of All Nations...* Hymn 419
 Reception of New Members page 198
 *The Peace
(We Sit)

We Offer Our Thanks and Praise to God

The Offering

The Anthem: *There's a Beautiful Story* Choir

*The Offertory Hymn *Create in Me* page 75

*The Offertory Prayer

Merciful Father,

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God Sends Us Into The World

*Blessing page 76

*Sending Song *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* Hymn 549

*Sending and Charge

*Doxology Hymn 564

Before Worship: Speak to the Lord
During Worship: Let the Lord speak to you
After Worship: Speak to each other

Welcome to worship today. We especially extend a warm welcome to all who are visiting with us today. We are strengthened by your presence and hope that you will worship with us again soon. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to become a part of our church family here at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Audrey Caldwell

Children's Bulletins based on the readings for the day are available on the table in the elevator room. You may also request one from an usher.

Stewardship Minute

"When I die, if I leave behind me ten pounds ... you and all mankind [may] bear witness against me, that I have lived and died a thief and a robber." — John Wesley

We welcome our new members to the Holy Trinity family.

Steve & Leslie Layton
 Quay & Charlotte Roseman

Prayers: Bobbie & Andy Bickley, Allen Williams, C.B. Mathis (brother in law of Patsy Frick), Junior Alewine, Patsy Frick, Broko Boland (nephew of Carmen Boland), Gerald Shealy, Amy Wicker (sister-in-law of Kevin E. Shealy), Marilyn Plampin, Nancy Webb (Mother of Terecia Wilson), Bob Whitlatch. *If you would like to include someone on our weekly prayer list, please call Pastor Randy at (803) 537-2303. Unless otherwise notified of a need, members will remain on the list for one month and non-members for two weeks.*

(~) Denotes a hymn that was recommended through the recent Congregational Hymn Survey.

Sunday, September 10, 2023

15th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

Psalm 32:1-7

Second Reading: Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Gospel: Matthew 18:1-20

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom

of heaven. ⁵Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Jesus warned his followers that anyone who caused a child (or one who is childlike in faith) to stumble in the faith would have a worse fate than having a millstone hung around his neck and being thrown into the sea. Followers of Christ are called to be humble and to receive the childlike with grace and mercy, even as they are called to be like children who are in awe of the kingdom of heaven.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

531 Church Street
Little Mountain, SC 29075
Office: (803) 345-2841/(803) 945-7336
Pastor Randy Drafts
Email: office@holyltc.org



*“Preaching, Teaching, and Serving
in Christ’s Name”*

SERVING TODAY, September 10, 2023

Acolyte: Cooper Morales
Crucifer: David Rodgers
Bulletin Folder: Blair Cromer
Lector: Phillip Allison
Greeters: Nick & Hannah Huffstetler
Nursery: Anna & Ava Kate Weaver
Altar Guild: Sheri Wicker, Kim Stiver
Flowers: Audrey Caldwell
Usher Chair: Spyros Lezimis
Elevator: Lane Attaway
Ushers: Christopher Corley, Edwin Havird

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, September 17, 2023

Acolyte: Dustin Winn
Crucifer: Tanner Shell
Bulletin Folder: Ava Kate Weaver
Lector: James Wieters
Greeters: The Kednocker Family
Nursery: Brittany Frick, Glenda Hentz
Altar Guild: Sheri Wicker, Kim Stiver
Flowers: Rodger & Karen Winn
Usher Chair: Spyros Lezimis
Elevator: Chris Crouch
Ushers: Blake Derrick, Rodger Winn

If you are unable to serve, please arrange to switch with someone or contact an alternate.

Our Weekly Commitments and Needs – General Fund:

Amount Needed Weekly in 2023	\$	5,739.71
Amount Received Last Sunday	\$	8,853.00
Difference	\$	3,113.29

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Pastor Randy Drafts
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Facebook @ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Welcome to Holy Trinity!

September 10, 2023

*We are glad you have chosen to worship with us today!
We pray that Christ will touch you with His love so you may be empowered
to be His witnesses in the world. Please join us throughout the week for
worship, Bible study, community outreach and fellowship in Christ Jesus.*

What's Happening This Week at Holy Trinity

Sunday, September 10th

Council Meeting	7:30 a.m.
Sunday School Jamboree	9:15 a.m.
Worship	10:30 a.m.
Teens for Christ	5:30 p.m.

Monday, September 11th

Prayer Shawl	9:00 a.m.
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Wednesday, September 13th

Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 17th

First Communion	9:15 a.m.
Sunday School	9:15 a.m.
Worship	10:30 a.m.
Lutheran Men	6:30 p.m.

First Communion Instruction
Sundays, September 17, 24 – 9:15a.m.
(TLC)
Sunday, October 1 – 9:15a.m.
(Sanctuary)

Here at Holy Trinity, parents and guardians help determine when a child is ready to receive Holy Communion.

This 3-session class is designed for children who are preparing to commune for the first time. Any child who already communes but would like a refresher on significance of Holy Communion is also welcome to attend.

Parents or guardians may attend all classes with their child and must attend the beginning of the first class on September 17th.

First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, October 1st, during 10:30a.m. worship.

If you have questions about your child's readiness, please contact Pastor Randy and/or pick up a copy of "*Holy Communion: Discerning Your Child's Readiness*" from Pastor Randy's mailbox just outside the church office door. Please note: children 3rd grade and above who haven't had First Communion instruction are strongly encouraged to attend.

You may register for this class by contacting Pastor Randy or by calling the church office. **Please register no later than Sunday, August 27th** to allow us time to prepare adequate materials. Thank you, and we look forward to journeying to the table with you!

"We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions..."

Stewardship is an individual's response to the blessings God has given to all His people and how we can best share those blessings with our neighbors. You will also receive an emailed copy and a copy will be available on the church website. Please complete the survey and return it by September 30th. You may place your survey in the offering plate or return it to the church office.

Parents, this is a wonderful opportunity to talk with your children about the importance of giving back to the Lord. We ask that you please help your children complete the form. The completed surveys will be used to help church leaders connect members with ministries they have gifts for, as well as to complete the servant list, volunteer calendars, and committee appointments for the coming year.

May God bless us as we use our time, talents, treasures, and testimony to preach, teach, and serve in Christ's name.



Join us for Card/Game Night on Thursday, October 5th at 6:00 p.m.

Please bring a dish to share and we will have dinner together. Looking forward to seeing everyone!



Bible STUDY
Join us!

Bible Study
Wednesday, September 13th at 10:00a.m.
in classroom next to the church office.

All are welcome!!



Evening Bible Study

Come join us every 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month for a bible study on Revelation beginning October 4th at 7:00 p.m. A study guide will be given and it will be a fun night of learning & fellowship.

Rev. 1:3 "*Blessed is the one who reads about the words of this prophecy & blessed are those who hear it & take to heart what is written in it because the time is near.*"

We look forward to seeing you there!

