

# Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Little Mountain, South Carolina

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## We Prepare for Worship

Silence and meditation

Prelude *Wonderful Grace of Jesus*

Welcome and Announcements

(\* Please stand as able)

\*Gathering Hymn *Awake, O Sleeper...* WOV Hymn 745

\*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. Steadfast God, your mercy is everlasting and your forgiveness boundless. As we gather together and receive your Word of forgiveness, renew us in the gift of baptism that we may be signs of reconciliation for the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*(We Sit)*

## God's Word Proclaimed

The First Lesson Genesis 50:15-21

Psalms 103:1-12 page 264

The Second Lesson Romans 14:1-12

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

\*The Holy Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

\*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 "Forgiven & Free to Forgive" Pastor Randy Drafts

\*The Hymn of the Day *Where Charity & Love Prevail* Hymn 126

\*The Creed page 65

\*The Prayers

\*The Lord's Prayer

\*The Peace

*(We Sit)*

## We Offer Our Thanks and Praise to God

The Offering

The Anthem: *All Because of Your Amazing Grace* 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 *Today Your Mercy Calls for Us* Hymn 304

\*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 honor of our grandchildren; Natalie, Dustin, Colson, & Kadence by Rodger & Karen Winn*

**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

HAPPY MOUNTAINEERS will meet Thursday, September 28, at 10:00, in TLC. Following devotions and any business, we will welcome Melinda Bush Sease as our guest speaker. Lunch will be provided. See Janet Fulmer if you'd like to contribute. All members are encouraged to attend. Visitors are always welcome!! **DEVOTIONS:** Lib Boland **LUNCH:** Will be provided

If you have a church related function where you need certain condiments such as ketchup, honey mustard, ect., please check the pantry before buying and use it **FIRST**. We would like to cut down on waste. If you have a function that you need items for and do not want them used, please **LABEL** them.

Please pickup any dishes you may have from the kitchen.

Prayers: Jean Alewine, 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.

**First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21**

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." <sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

**Psalm 103:1-12****Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. <sup>2</sup>One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. <sup>5</sup>One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup>The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup>For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup>for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." <sup>12</sup>So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

**Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35**

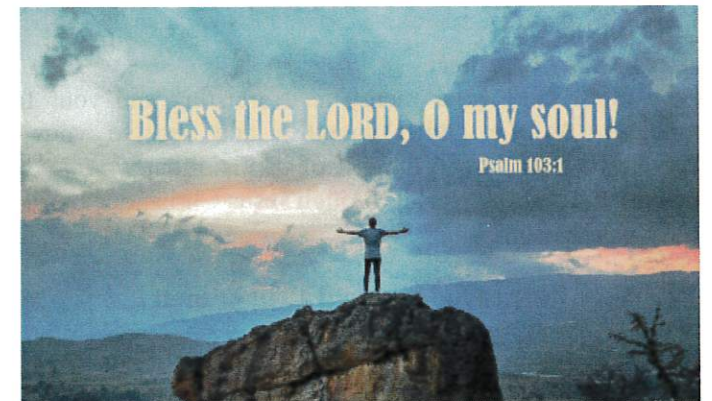
<sup>21</sup>Peter came up and said to {Jesus}, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

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Forgiveness is often a very difficult subject, even for those who know that we are called to forgive if we want to be forgiven. In our human sinfulness we seek to justify ourselves, coming up with reasons why our brother or sister does not deserve to be forgiven. Joseph speaks a word of forgiveness to his scheming brothers, pointing to the reality that God can work through great pain to bring healing of relationships.

# 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 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

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, September 24, 2023**

**Acolyte:** Dustin Winn  
**Crucifer:** Tanner Shell  
**Bulletin Folder:** Daniel Williams  
**Lector:** Mary Spires  
**Greeters:** TBA  
**Nursery:** Melissa & Eva Kednocker, Jessica Lindler  
**Altar Guild:** Sheri Wicker, Kim Stiver  
**Flowers:** Spyros & Mavu Lezimis  
**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	\$	4,888.00
Difference	-	\$ 851.71

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Pastor Randy Drafts  
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**Welcome to Holy Trinity!**

September 17, 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 17th**

First Communion 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Monday, September 18th**

Prayer Shawl 9:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, September 20th**

Herald Articles Due 9:00 a.m.  
Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  
Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, September 24th**

First Communion 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Teens for Christ 5:30 p.m.

LIFE GROUP FOR MOMS!

Please join us for a  
**LIFE GROUP**



**2 OCTOBER**  
Starts at 6:30PM

Trinity Life Center  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
For more info, contact  
Jillian Long (843) 708-4055  
Hannah Drafts (803) 429-5272



LIFE GROUP



WHAT IS A LIFE GROUP?

More than a small group, Bible study, or time of fellowship, a life group is a Jesus-centered family on mission together. Holy Trinity's first life group is specifically for moms.

WHAT DO LIFE GROUPS DO?

Life groups do life together! They have regularly scheduled times of meeting each month to study God's word (called "group time"), fellowship & serve together - in addition to regular Sunday morning activities.

***"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 to 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 30<sup>th</sup>. 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!

**Evening Bible Study**

Come join us every 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month for a bible study on Revelation beginning October 12th & October 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor 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!



**Bible STUDY**  
Join us!



**Bible Study**  
**Wednesday, September 20th at 10:00a.m.**  
**in classroom next to the church office.**

**All are welcome!!**

