



TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

September 7, 2025 - 10:30 AM

AS WE Jesus is blunt about the cost of discipleship. He does not sugarcoat the life He calls us to in the baptismal waters but neither does He diminish His promises, gifts, and blessings that accompany this life of faith. Today He calls us to count the cost, knowing that the way of the Christian is constantly tested and tried by our affection for the things of this life, our vulnerability to the enemies of the faith, and the weakness of our own sinful flesh. Part of that cost is not just in what you desire but also in what you are willing to surrender for the sake of Christ and His kingdom.

PRE-SERVICE: *"Your Love Awakens Me"* (Praise Team)
 "A Thousand Hallelujahs" (Praise Team)

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG "10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)"

Chorus *Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul
 Worship His holy name
 Sing like never before, O my soul
 I'll worship Your holy name*

Vs.1 *The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
 It's time to sing Your song again
 Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
 Let me be singing when the evening comes*
(Chorus)

Vs.2 *You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
 Your name is great and Your heart is kind
 For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
 Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find*

(Chorus)

Vs.3 *And on that day when my strength is failing
 The end draws near and my time has come
 Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
 Ten thousand years and then forevermore*

(Chorus)

*Worship Your holy name
Lord I'll worship Your holy name*

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INVOCATION

Lector: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION Luke 10:3–5; Psalm 66:8

Pastor: Most holy and merciful Father,

People: **we confess to You, and to one another, and to the whole company of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

Pastor: We have not loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

People: **Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: We have taken for granted Your grace and mercy and lived as though You did not matter and we mattered most of all.

People: **Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: We confess to You, O Lord, that we have done the evil Your Word prohibits and have not done the good You command.

People: Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.

Pastor: We confess that we have hidden our sin from You and from one another and have not confessed honestly before You or to those whom we have hurt.

People: We are truly sorry for the sins we have committed in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done that is wrong and by our failure to do what is right. Have mercy and forgive us, Lord.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the X Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

MONTHLY VERSE (1 Timothy 1:15)

***"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost."***

SONG

"The Only Name (Yours Will Be)"

Vs.1 *Yours will be the only Name that matters to me
The only One Whose favor I seek
The only Name that matters to me*

Vs.2 *Yours will be the friendship and affection I need
To feel my Father smiling on me
The only Name that matters to me*

Chorus ***And Yours is the Name the Name that saved me
Mercy and grace the power that forgave me
And Your love is all I've ever needed
(Repeat)***

Bridge *When I wake up in the land of glory
With the saints I will tell my story
There will be one Name that I proclaim
(Repeat Bridge)*

*Jesus Jesus Jesus just that Name
(Repeat)*

(Sing Verses 1 and 2)

APOSTLES' CREED

C 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.

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND READING

Philemon 1-21

¹ Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker ² and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, ⁶ and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. ⁷ For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

⁸ Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹ yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. ¹¹ (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) ¹² I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³ I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. ¹⁵ For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 14:25-35

²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

³⁴ "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? ³⁵ It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

SONG OF THE DAY

"A Thousand Hallelujahs"

Vs.1 *Who else would rocks cry out to worship
Whose glory taught the stars to shine
Perhaps creation longs to have the
words to sing
But this joy is mine*

Chorus *With a thousand hallelujahs
We magnify Your name
You alone deserve the glory
The honor and the praise
Lord Jesus this song is forever Yours
A thousand hallelujahs
And a thousand more*

Vs.2 *Who else would die for our redemption
Whose resurrection means I'll rise
There isn't time enough to sing of all
You've done
But I have eternity to try*

(Chorus)
Bridge *Praise to the Lord
To the Lamb
To the King of heaven
Praise for He rose
Now He reigns
We will sing forever
(Repeat)
(Chorus)
(Bridge (Sing Once))
(Chorus)*

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MESSAGE

ATTENDANCE /CONNECT TIME / OFFERING (Instrumental) "A Thousand Hallelujahs"

During this time, please sign the attendance book found in the pew or use your mobile device to fill out the Connect Card or submit prayer requests on our app or online at www.trinitymerrill.com/live. You can also visit our app or www.trinitymerrill.com/give to learn more about other ways to support the ministries at Trinity.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH & 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.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

“The Lord’s Prayer (It’s Yours)”

Verse *Father let your kingdom come (holy holy)*
Father let your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven (let it be done)
Right here in my heart
(Repeat)

Chorus **Give us this day our daily bread**
Forgive us forgive us
As we forgive the ones who sinned
Against us forgive them
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from the evil one
Let your kingdom come
(Verse sing 2X)

(Chorus)
It's yours it's yours
All yours all yours
The kingdom the power
The glory are yours

It's yours it's yours
All yours all yours
Forever and ever
The kingdom is yours
(Repeat)

(Verse sing 2X)

Tag *On Earth as in Heaven*
Right here in my heart

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Today's radio broadcast is sponsored in celebration of the 48th Wedding Anniversary of Dick & Ann Stoeckmann

The flowers on the altar are in loving memory of the heavenly birthday of Lenore English and for the blessing of family by Crystal & Brent Duwe.

New Fall Bible Study: You're invited to join us on Sundays 9:15am Bible Class starting September 21 as we explore the book of Ecclesiastes! Is everything really “vanity”? Are we living “under the sun,” or “under the Son”? Bring your Bible to the Fellowship Hall at church and let's discover what King Solomon says to us today! Please call the church office to sign up so that we have enough materials for everyone.

LWML Fall Rally -The Trinity Ladies Aid and Dorcas Society would like to invite the women of Trinity to the Zone 6 LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) Fall Rally that we are hosting on Saturday, October 11, 2025. Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m. with the rally beginning at 9:00 a.m. The registration fee of \$5.00 will provide you with rally materials and includes a luncheon which concludes the rally. The rally will feature devotions, a Bible Study on “Prayer”, and a guest speaker. We hope many ladies will join us for a day of learning and Christian fellowship! Questions or to pre-register: Please call Diane Schult at 715-722-3401.

TRINITY YOUTH

Middle School Youth We will meet once a week our youth grades 6-8 gather together for a time of faith, fun, and fellowship! This is always a fantastic time where we connect and grow along with one another with games, snacks, and time in God's Word. Join us Wednesdays at 3:30pm in the Youth Room, located in the lower level of Trinity Church! Bring your friends!

High School Youth Calling all youth grades 9-12! Join us on the first and third Sundays of every month from 7-9pm in the youth room. In this group, we dive deeper into God's word, practicing leadership skills, and exploring how to share our faith as we go out into the world. Youth nights include games, snacks, Bible study, and some spontaneous adventures!

Youth Lake Day -September 14th - 2-6pm - Alexander Lake - 6-12th Grade

- Come join us for a fun day out on the lake with pontoon rides, swimming, beach games, food, and lots of fun!
- Sign-up to participate is necessary so we can plan ahead for drop off, pickup, and boat rides.
- Contact DCE Steph Chapa with any questions at dce@trinitymerrill.com or 320-510-4862.



Trinity Lutheran School Needs You! Become a Substitute Teacher! Do you have an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree from an accredited school? Do you care about kids, love your school, and want to make a difference? **Trinity Lutheran School is looking for substitute teachers—maybe someone just like YOU!** Whether you're a parent, grandparent, or church member, if you've got a heart to serve and a willingness to learn, we'll walk with you through the process. You'll need to complete a **WI DPI - approved substitute teacher training through CESA** <https://dpi.wi.gov/licensing/apply-educator-license/sub-permit#Programs>, either **online or in person**, and then apply for your **Wisconsin Substitute Teaching License**. Principal Johnson would love to talk with you and help you get started! Reach out to the school office today and take the first step toward joining our mission to teach children about Jesus and help them grow in faith and knowledge.

Trinity Lutheran School Launches Operation Christmas Child Project

Bringing Joy—and Jesus—to Children Around the World

At Trinity Lutheran School in Merrill, we believe that even the smallest hands can make a big impact. This fall, we are excited to begin a school-wide mission project that will reach far beyond our classrooms and community. Through Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, our students and families have the opportunity to shine the light of Jesus into the lives of children across the globe—one shoebox at a time.

Our goal is simple but powerful: pack 100 shoeboxes filled with love, joy, and the hope of Christ. Each box is a chance to tell a child they are seen, valued, and deeply loved—not just by us, but by their Savior.

To make this vision a reality, we need your help. Over the course of September and October, we'll be collecting different types of items each week to fill the shoeboxes. Congregation members can drop off donations in the box at church. Here's how you can get involved:

September

Week 1 – School Supplies: pencils, crayons, notebooks, calculator, drawstring bag

Week 2 – Personal Care Items: toothbrushes, comb, washcloth, nail clipper, water bottle

Week 3 – Clothing & Accessories: socks, flip-flops, mittens, hats, hair ties, undergarment

Week 4 – Games & Activities: jump ropes, cards, small puzzles, stickers, coloring books

October

Week 1 – Toys: small stuffed animals, dolls, balls, building blocks, yo-yo, fidgets

Week 2 – WOW! Items: a special gift that will truly delight a child, stuffy, toy car, jewelry

Week 3 & 4 – Help us fill the gaps! We'll share updates on what we still need.

Each shoebox also requires a \$10 donation to cover overseas shipping and delivery. Your gift not only helps a child receive a box, but ensures they also hear the Good News of Jesus in their own language through outreach and discipleship programs offered by Samaritan's Purse.

As our students sort, pack, and pray over these boxes, they'll also be learning powerful lessons—about generosity, compassion, and the mission Christ calls us to: "Go and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19)

We invite you to be part of this meaningful mission. Let's come together as a school and church family to bless 100 children—and perhaps even more—with the love of Jesus. Stay tuned for weekly reminders, supply lists, and updates. Let's pack these shoeboxes full of hope... and send them off with hearts full of love. Contact the school office or Principal Scott Johnson with any questions. **Together, we can show the world that God's love fits perfectly in a shoebox.**

New monthly Trinity Men's Breakfast and Bible Study - Living and Leading as a Man of God

- The first Study is Saturday, October 18 (the next study will be November 15)
- The study will be on the third Saturday of each month. There will be a breakfast at 7:30, followed by the Bible study from 8-9 am. The study will take place in the fellowship hall in the basement at church
- This study will be led by either Pastor G or Pastor Jon

It doesn't matter if you're 25 or 75, it's not always easy being a Christian man in our society. Whether it's your role at work, or in your family, you face unique obligations, responsibilities, challenges, and opportunities. The good news is that, regardless of where you are in your walk with Jesus, you are not alone. Please join our new Trinity Men's Breakfast and Bible Study, where you'll spend time with other men of the congregation, enjoy breakfast and a coffee, and leave inspired by fellowship and a casual, pastor-led bible study on real-life topics relevant to men. You'll be done by 9 am and ready to kick off your weekend with a renewed purpose of what it means to be a man of God. In order to plan for the meal, please reserve your spot by calling or texting Mike Milligan at 920.265.7488 or email at mike@millipad.net, or Jesse Severt at 715.218.9351 or jessesevert@outlook.com

SCHOOL NEWS Dear Trinity Congregation,

The halls are once again filled with laughter, learning, and the love of Christ. Our students are settling into routines and building relationships that reflect the grace and truth we strive to model. Chapel services have been a joyful highlight, and we love seeing students lead in prayer and song. Thank you for partnering with us in this mission—it is a privilege to teach God's Word daily. Your support makes Christian education possible. Please keep our school in your prayers as we enter the heart of the first quarter. We invite you to join us on Wednesdays at 8:10 for chapel in the church sanctuary. ~ Principal Scott Johnson

The Holiday Choir is Back! Rehearsals will begin this upcoming Wednesday, September 10th @ 6 p.m. in the Choir Room and thereafter will be held weekly each Wednesday at 6 p.m. It is open to anyone high school age or older. Plan now to come and join us as we praise the Lord through our music. Call Vicki at 715-536-2626 for questions.