



# TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Reverend Scott Gustafson  
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

January 18, 2026 - 10:30 AM  
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sharing the message with us today is Pastor Jonathan Chapa with Pastor Scott Gustafson as our Liturgist.

**AS WE Gather:** People often speak about a person's calling in life. They are describing a unique purpose or vocation according to interests and talents. Often, trying to determine a person's "calling" or "destiny" is defined by some innate ability or giftedness found within ourselves, something we were born with or somehow born to do. Today we hear of God calling otherwise ordinary fishermen Andrew and his brother Simon Peter. They were called by God through John the Baptist to follow the Messiah, the Christ, Jesus of Nazareth. They were called to be disciples and eventually to be sent on Christ's mission as apostles. The prophet Isaiah says even the Savior, the servant of the Lord, was called from the womb by God, "that Israel might be gathered to Him," and called "as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth" (Isaiah 49:5-6). Saul of Tarsus was "called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus," and Saul, now named Paul, reminds the church at Corinth and us that we are "called to be saints" (1 Corinthians 1:1-2). This calling differs from merely surveying interests or abilities within us; it comes to us from outside of ourselves, from the living God, our creator and Redeemer. This calling comes from God to everyone. It is the call of salvation, the divine call that transforms us from sinners into saints. Therefore, this calling depends not on anything within us but solely and totally on the grace and mercy and love of God.

<b>PRE-SERVICE:</b>	<b>"Revelation Song"</b>	Praise Team	<b>#32 Key of D</b>
	<b>"10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"</b>	Praise Team	<b>#16 Key of D</b>

**BAPTISM** Today we welcome Grayson Thomas Beyer to the waters of Holy Baptism. Grayson is the son of Jayden and Kaitlyn Beyer. His sponsors are Cole Asinas and LeAnn Bartel.

## WELCOME & GREETING

**OPENING SONG** **"Hallelujah Feeling" #82 Key of F**

**Vs.1** Some days I climb the mountains  
Some days I touch the clouds  
Some days my best friend  
Has been the cold hard ground  
There's mercy new each morning  
Comfort through the night  
My eyes are fixed on Jesus  
And I'm gonna be alright

**Vs.2** Oh just because it's raining  
Doesn't mean the sun won't shine  
There's a season for the struggle  
And a season for the prize  
But my hope is never fading  
'Cause it's anchored in the truth  
My Father goes before me  
And His joy will see me through

**Chorus** I got that hallelujah feeling down in my soul  
I got that hallelujah feeling and it won't let go  
I've been born again yes and amen  
No matter what comes I know  
I got that hallelujah feeling down in my soul

**(Chorus)**

**Tag** Hallelujah hallelujah (Repeat)

**Bridge** When everything is shaking  
Got that solid rock like pavement  
I might bend but I'm not breaking  
(1st) I know who's on my side  
(2nd) The Lord is on my side

**Tag** Hallelujah hallelujah

**Chorus** *I got that hallelujah feeling down in my soul*      **Tag 1b** *Hallelujah hallelujah*  
*I got that hallelujah feeling and it won't let go*      *Hallelujah hallelujah*  
*I've been born again yes and amen*      *Hallelujah hallelujah*  
*No matter what comes I know*  
*I got that hallelujah feeling down in my soul*

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## INVOCATION

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

**People:** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES      *Psalm 43:4, 1 Corinthians 6:11*

**Pastor:** I will go to the altar of God,

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

**Pastor:** You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified

**People:** in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION      *1 Corinthians 1:2*

**Pastor:** Called by God “to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”, let us give rightful praise and honor God, who calls sinners to repentance and bestows saving faith in our hearts by His Word and Spirit. Behold, the Lamb of God!

**People:** Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, mercifully hear our confession. We are sinners and have sinned against You. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors with our whole heart. We cannot free ourselves from our sin. Hear our prayer of confession and let us hear Your call and gift of forgiveness, salvation, and life.

## SALUTATION

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## MONTHLY VERSE      *Jeremiah 1:5*

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born  
I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”*

## SONG

**“Great Are You Lord”      #10 Key of E**

**Vs.**    *You give life You are love*  
*You bring light to the darkness*  
*You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken*  
*And great are You Lord*

**Chorus** *It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise  
We pour out our praise  
It's Your breath in our lungs  
So we pour out our praise to You only*

**Repeat Verse & Chorus**

**Bridge** *And all the earth will shout Your praise  
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing  
Great are You Lord  
(Repeat 2x)*

**Chorus- Repeat**

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## THE FIRST READING

**Isaiah 49:1-7**

Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The Lord called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. <sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." <sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God." <sup>5</sup> And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him— for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength— <sup>6</sup> he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." <sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SECOND READING

**1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, <sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— <sup>6</sup> even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### GOSPEL READING

**John 1:29-42a**

<sup>29</sup> The next day [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup> And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup> And I have seen

and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”<sup>35</sup> The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples,<sup>36</sup> and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”<sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.<sup>38</sup> Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?”<sup>39</sup> He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.<sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.<sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ).<sup>42</sup> He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

## SONG OF THE DAY

“Living Hope”

#30 Key of A

**Vs.1** *How great the chasm that lay between us  
How high the mountain I could not climb  
In desperation I turned to heaven  
And spoke Your name into the night  
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished the end is written  
Jesus Christ my living hope*

**Vs.2** *Who could imagine so great a mercy  
What heart could fathom such boundless grace  
The God of ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame  
The cross has spoken I am forgiven  
The King of kings calls me His own  
Beautiful Savior I’m Yours forever  
Jesus Christ my living hope*

**Chorus** *Hallelujah praise the One who set me free  
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There’s salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ my living hope*

**Vs.3** *Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion  
Declared the grave has no claim on me  
(REPEAT)*

*Jesus Yours is the victory whoa*

**Chorus** - (Sing Twice)

**Ending** *Jesus Christ my living hope  
Oh God You are my living hope*

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## MESSAGE

### APOSTLES CREED

**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**

### ATTENDANCE /CONNECT TIME / OFFERING (Instrumental) “Living Hope”

*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](http://www.trinitymerrill.com/live). You can also visit our app or [www.trinitymerrill.com/give](http://www.trinitymerrill.com/give) to learn more about other ways to support the ministries at Trinity. **(When filling out the attendance book – please include your last name and list the names of everyone in attendance in your family)***

## 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

*“Doxology (Amen)”* #79 Key of E

**Vs.1** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above you heav'nly host  
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost*

**(Chorus-Repeat)**

**Interlude** *Oh we're singing*

**Ending** *Amen amen amen  
Amen Amen Amen  
We praise You we praise You  
(REPEAT TWICE)*

**Chorus** *Amen Amen Amen  
God we praise You  
God we praise You*

**Vs.2** *Praise God for all that He has done  
Praise Him for He has overcome  
The grave is beaten love has won  
Praise God our Savior Christ the Son*

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**Today's radio broadcast** in sponsored by Buzz & Marge Fehrmann in honor of those who have served and who are currently serving in the Armed Forces.

**The flowers on the altar today** are sponsored in loving memory of Jack Kleinschmidt, beloved husband, dad, and Bapa, by the Kleinschmidt and Severt Families.

**2026 Church Offering Envelopes are here! Please pick up your envelopes from downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to find them, please call the church office. Envelopes are made for members Grade 3 through adult. Unless you have automatic giving set up.**

## **RIGHT NOW MEDIA**

We are excited to share that our church now has unlimited access to **RightNow Media**—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources. This extensive library has **more than 20,000 videos** taught by leaders like Francis Chan, Jennie Allen, J.D. Greear, Dr. Tony Evans, and many more. There's even a **library just for kids with over 2,000 safe, entertaining videos**. RightNow Media has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. You should have already received an email invitation for FREE access to RightNow Media. (If you haven't received it yet, be sure to check your spam or promotions folder.) Or Contact the Church office to receive an email invitation.

## **Men's Club Chili Luncheon**

The Trinity Men's Club is hosting a Chili Luncheon in the church basement following the 8:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, February 1st, 2026. The meal will feature 10 varieties of chili, including Beer Chili, Pineapple Chili, Lo-Sodium Taco Chili, EX-TREME Chili, White Chicken Chili and 5 choices of mild or medium chilies. We will also have macaroni & cheese (for non chili-lovers). Beverages (milk, juice and coffee) are included in the price. Shredded cheese, raw onions, crackers, bread and desserts will be offered at no additional cost. Serving will take place between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Carry-outs will also be available. Ticket prices are \$8.00 for adults, \$3.00 for kids 5 through 12. The meal is free for kids under 5.



## **TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

Help Us Spread the Word - Open House Invitation - January 28, 2026 Trinity families, we'd love your help! We are excited to welcome new families to Trinity Lutheran School and invite you to share our upcoming 4K–8th Grade New Student Open House with friends, neighbors, coworkers, and relatives who may be looking for a Christ-centered school community. Our Open House will be held 5:30–7:00 PM on the last Wednesday in January, and it's a wonderful opportunity for prospective families to see what Trinity is all about—faith, strong values, leadership, meaningful friendships, and academic challenges that help students grow.

### **Families will be able to:**

- Meet our teachers and staff
- Tour classrooms and learning spaces
- Learn about Full-Day 4K, our STEM-Innovation Lab, and the Wisconsin Choice Program & tuition assistance

**Experience the welcoming, family-focused environment that makes Trinity special**

**Stop in the church office to reserve your radio broadcast for 2026. Broadcasts are \$190. Radio broadcasts make a great gift for the hard to buy for friends or family members. Our broadcasts are an important part of our ministry – reaching those households who may not be able to come to church.**

**Griefshare begins Feb. 23, 2026** and meets weekly both online (Zoom) and in person for 13 weeks. Whether it has been recent or many years since the loss of your friend, spouse, parent, sibling or child, all are welcome! (church membership not required) Registration is available at <https://find.griefshare.org/groups/275994>, and includes a participant guide, (if you haven't attended previously) and access to videos and other content useful in the journey from mourning to joy. Joy may seem out of reach when learning to live without our loved ones, yet the support of others and focusing on God's word makes room for the seeming impossible process of healing. **Join us and learn more at [www.Griefshare.org](http://www.Griefshare.org)**. Grief is difficult. Share your burdens and grow through your unique healing this spring online and in person through Griefshare at Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill. "For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ." 2 Corinthians 1:5 NIV Questions call Manda Norman (715) 351-1399.

**Trinity is partnering with HOPE Life Center throughout the month of January. Hope provides confidential help, compassionate care and free services, to those faced with an unplanned pregnancy, possible STD, or dealing with a past abortion. We take time to build relationships and encourage individuals to make good choices. Most importantly, we share the love and forgiveness found only in Jesus Christ. With your support, we are committed to building a community of grace that extends beyond the birth of their child. Operation Baby Bottle (OBB) provides support for the mission of Hope, and is a simple way for our congregation to get involved. Please pick up a bottle as you leave church, fill the bottle with coins, bills or checks, and then return the bottle to church. You can also donate online at [HOPEWI.ORG/DONATE](http://HOPEWI.ORG/DONATE). Trinity is collecting throughout the month of January.**

**Altar Flower Calendar** is posted in the hallway next to the Narthex Conference Room. Sign up to display flowers on the altar to beautify our sanctuary for 2026. Please be sure your flowers are delivered to church on the Friday before 4:00 and that you contact Robin in the office at least a week prior to your chosen weekend, so she knows the occasion for your flowers. Flowers can be picked up after 6:00 PM Sunday service or Monday morning.

**ALTAR GUILD** Trinity Altar Guild will meet Tuesday, Jan 27th at 6:30 in the basement social room. Stephanie Chapa, Director of Christian Education, will be our guest speaker and give us an outlook on her daily tasks as youth leader, along with her great children's messages on Sunday mornings. Everyone is welcome to join us for fellowship and food and a short business meeting. Hostesses for the evening are Marlene Thomaschefskey, Robin Tomajcik, and Fern Whiting.