

TRINITY TIDINGS



Living faithfully + Renewing hope + Sharing God's Love

The Time after Pentecost September 2026



**I'm going on a journey, and I'm starting today.
My head is wet, and I'm on my way.
Christ's mark is on me; it's on you too;
it says he loves me, and he loves you too!**
—Kennith D. Larkin, *ELW* Hymn 446, vs. 1

September 2026

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Greetings to Our Readers

If you are reading this newsletter from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Hasbrouck Heights and are either looking for a church home or you are just interested in finding out more about what goes on at Holy Trinity, we invite you to come and worship with us, to visit our website or to call the church office. In addition to in-person worship, we also provide a virtual worship opportunity via Zoom for anyone who is unable to attend in person. Pastor Susan can be reached at the office or by email. Our contact information is located below on this page. If you should call the office and get our answering machine, please be assured that your call will be returned at our first available moment. As always, we look forward to welcoming both newcomers and people we haven't seen in a while.

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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10:30 a.m. - Sunday Service of Holy Communion

If you would like to join us via Zoom for worship, please email
Pastor Susan at htlchhpastor@gmail.com



The Ministers	The People of Holy Trinity
Pastor	The Rev. Susan Nelson-Colaneri
	htlchhpastor@gmail.com
	201-288-6889
Parish Musician	Dwight Weaver
Parish Secretary	Anastasia Kaminski
Editor	Anastasia Kaminski

The Tidings can also be found on our website at . . .

holytrinityhasbrouckheights.com/upcoming-events/serving-scheduletidings

We welcome your suggestions and comments concerning our newsletter, its format, etc. Please email or call the church office with your comments and suggestions.

To view our calendar, visit holytrinityhasbrouckheights.com/upcoming-events

Greeters Needed

Looking for a simple way to serve? We are seeking volunteers to serve as greeters on a rotating basis before Sunday worship. Greeters arrive by 10:00 a.m. to welcome worshipers, hand out bulletins, and assist with any questions that may arise. A friendly smile and warm welcome help to make everyone feel at home.

If you are interested in serving or would like more information, please see **Marge Heeren** or **Pastor Susan** for details.
Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Coffee Fellowship

Hosts Needed

Sign up to host a Coffee Fellowship or two in the coming months. Hosts are needed to provide light refreshments following worship each Sunday.

Partnering with another makes the job even easier. The sign-up sheet is located on the desk in the lobby. Please contact **Dianna Mammone** or **Anastasia** in the church office for more information. Thank you.

Blessing of the Animals

Commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi

Sunday, October 4 at noon
On the front lawn

In commemoration of St. Francis, please join us on **Sunday, October 4 at 12 noon** on the front lawn and bring your pets for a brief, but maybe raucous, special Blessing of the Animals service. All are welcome!





Unison Benediction

By May Sarton (1912-1995)

*Return to the most human,
nothing less will nourish the torn spirit,
the bewildered heart,
the angry mind:
and from the ultimate duress,
pierced with the breath of anguish,
speak of love.*

*Return, return to the deep sources,
nothing less will teach the stiff hands a new way to serve,
to carve into our lives the forms of tenderness
and still that ancient necessary pain preserve.*

*Return to the most human,
nothing less will teach the angry spirit,
the bewildered heart;
the torn mind,
to accept the whole of its duress,
and pierced with anguish...
at last, act for love.*

I came across this poem today in a blog for sacred poetry and it struck a chord within me. I decided to share it with you hoping it might soothe and console frayed and worried thoughts as it did mine.

It is hard not to be aware of how much frustration people feel over the fraught and dark turn in our politics these days. More than frustration, there is a sense of anguish, perhaps even betrayal. Culture wars persist. The war with Iran persists. Immigrant neighbors are threatened. The vision of who we are and the future we might achieve seems damaged, even lost.

Along with these more corporate anxieties, we have our personal worries and sorrows and fears—I don't need to name them, you know them all too well. There are so many circumstances and forces that can paralyze our hearts and minds.

Yet, what if these things can bring something important about? What if they bring a kind of "enforced" awakening?

Return, return to the deep sources . . . This refrain by poet May Sarton echoes the call of the prophets . . . *return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy.* True, these words are usually associated with the season of Lent. But the message is always appropriate and salutary in every season, every day and in every way. When we feel we are at the breaking point or our cup is running empty, we need to return to the "deep sources"—to God in prayer, word, sacrament and in service.

Returning my heart to the deep sources of God's grace and mercy, means emptying my heartbrokenness, anger, and frustration. Eventually, the Spirit works upon my heart and mind and renews my hope. I find I am more open to unexpected pathways and healing begins. This is not logical amidst the world's fear and suffering, and yet this is the work of the Spirit as we let ourselves trust in God's unchanging love, trusting that God is always greater than our troubled hearts.

For me, the only way for my angry spirit, bewildered heart and torn mind to face the whole of the duress and anguish of the world is to submit to be taught by the Spirit of Christ. Then I am made well enough to act for love. May the Spirit of Christ teach us all.

In the peace and joy of the Lord which is our strength,

Pastor Susan



The Sundays of



2026

Pentecost XV, September 6

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

Pentecost XVI, September 13

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

Pentecost XVII, September 20

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.



**Please bring an item or two to support
St. Matthew Trinity's Lunchtime Ministries.
See list of needed items on next page.**

Pentecost XVIII, September 27

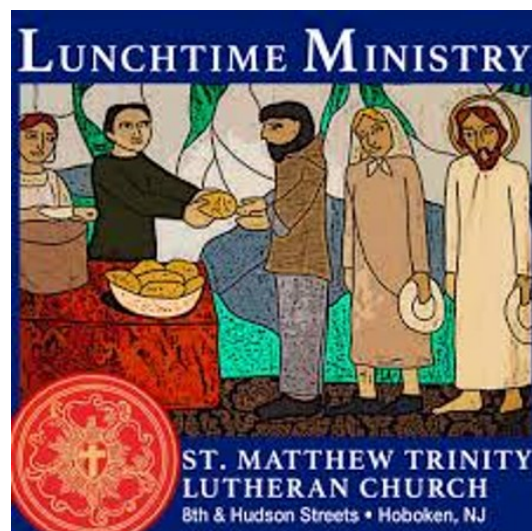
Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while the Lord offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting our lives in service for the sake of our needy world.



God's Work, Our Hands Sunday— September 20

This year we will be gathering much needed items to support St. Matthew Trinity's Lunchtime Ministries.

- Styrofoam cups, plates, and bowls
- Plastic forks and spoons
- Napkins
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Milk
- Socks and underwear
- Sleeping bags and blankets
- Backpacks and duffel bags
- Razors and deodorant
- Toilet paper
- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Masks, gloves, and cleaning supplies



*All donations must be brought to Holy Trinity by Sunday, September 20.
Pastor Susan will deliver the donations to St. MT in Hoboken.*



Notorious Men and Women of the Bible
Thursdays at 2:30 PM on Zoom
Begins September 10
Concludes October 22

The Bible holds many examples of men and women who acted courageously by faith. But it also tells the stories and deeds of those who plotted and acted to achieve power and political gain or just for plain old revenge. This Bible study will take a closer look at the lives and deeds of men and women who are regarded as infamous rather than virtuous—people like Judas Iscariot and Delilah. What can we learn from them? What part do they play in the story of salvation?

For more information or to get the Zoom link, contact Pastor Susan at htlchhpastor@gmail.com.



A



STEWARDSHIP

short . . . *A commitment to giving*

Behold, behold, I make all things new, beginning with you, and starting from today.
John Bell, Singing in Community Hymn 5

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.”
Jesus to the crowds and his disciples, Matthew 13:51

THE KINGDOM/THE COMMONWEALTH

“One of the most challenging aspects of the stewardship life is our ability to listen in order to understand and not simply listen in order to form a response or fix a problem,” observes the Rev. Dr. Marti Otto Zimmann about the “buffet of metaphors” Jesus offers in the gospel of Matthew to get to the bottom of how God’s kingdom, God’s reign, God’s commonwealth functions in a broken world. We might easily imagine the people sitting at Jesus’ feet in some lovely hillside in Galilee and cool breezes waft off the lake as they soak up his wisdom. But the reality is the lessons and blessings of God’s kingdom are not usually experienced in “just so” situations, they are more likely to be learned when the proverbial “stuff hits the fan.”

Pastor Zimmann goes on to suggest that we would understand “kingdom” better if we also use the word “commonwealth” since they go together well in considering Jesus’ parables that begin “the kingdom of Heaven is like.” Stewardship living is, according to Pastor Zimmann, the “perfect fusion of law and gospel.” Do we really understand this? Our head wants to say yes, but the body keeps the score. “We are weary, we are torn, we are broken by this commonwealth living, but it is God’s command (law) and our joy (gospel) to continue on.” Of course, we cannot do this on our own. We need the help of the Holy Spirit—who intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

*The stewardship life is the prayer of the Spirit welling up in the soul
when we are at a loss for words, when understanding escapes us, and we feel lost.
We need our Lord to never leave us or stop loving us in order
that we might live this kingdom/commonwealth life together.*





Grace-Full Dollars September 2026

Now is the time when we need one another.

Now is a time to live and act as faithful people of God.

September is ELCA World Hunger Month

One in 11 people, about 720 million, in our world are hungry. As ELCA members, we are called to respond, roll up our sleeves and get to work. We accompany neighbors near and far. God provides daily bread; together we help ensure it reaches every table, with compassion, courage, and faithful action. We listen to identify local needs and solutions and we join with congregations and global companions to make them real. Lutheran World Hunger Relief provides education and advocacy, tackling unjust systems so lasting change takes root at home and abroad.

To learn more about ELCA World Hunger, please visit:

<https://www.elca.org/how-we-serve/relief-and-development/world-hunger>

**In September, please make your check out to Holy Trinity with
“ELCA World Hunger” in the memo line.**



ELCA World Hunger

Grace-Full Dollars is a program of our Stewardship Ministry Team

They invite all of us to give whatever we are able in support of a worthy mission
or a local service organization.

If you know God's grace, you want to share God's grace.



Thank You!

- THANK YOU to **Dianna Mammone** for covering the cost of the new safety bars in our first-floor restroom. Dianna made this thoughtful donation in memory of **David**, sharing that she chose this project "Because he was always so practical." What a meaningful way to honor his memory while helping to make our church safer and more accessible for everyone.
- THANK YOU to **Arnie Ulrich, John Heflich and Susan Chiaravalle** for trimming the bushes and weeding the landscaping.
- THANK YOU to **John Heflich** for delivering 6 bags of donations to the Center for Food Action in Hackensack.
- THANK YOU to **Anastasia Kaminski** for making 2 trips and delivering 14 bags of donations to the Center for Food Action in Hackensack.
- THANK YOU to those who donated their time to help set up for the Memorial for Ursula Steinhauß.
- THANK YOU to all who continue to graciously volunteer their time and talents to make Holy Trinity a wonderful place to worship!



READERS

The Readers group at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church will resume its meetings on **Friday, September 18, at 3 p.m.**

We haven't selected a book for this meeting. Instead, we've decided to discuss all the books we read during the summer vacation, the books we had planned to read, and the books that are still waiting to be read on our shelves. During this meeting, we'll choose the book we'll read together next.

Our group is a lot of fun, and there are many ways to access books. Many of our members use audiobooks. If you've been considering joining a book club, this would be an excellent opportunity to try it out. All are welcome.



STITCH ONE, SHARE ONE

As the weather begins to cool we are asking all our knitters and crocheters to "tune up" their needles or hooks.

We are in need of handmade hats to include with our Christmas bags for Seafarers and also scarves for the homeless.

You can join us on the **fourth Sunday of each month from 2-5 pm** for an opportunity to stitch and socialize or feel free to work on projects at home if more convenient.

If you have items for our end of year donations please give them to **Karen Niestemski** or **Sharon Ramsaier** before Thanksgiving.

Thank you.



Happy Birthday!



September

Anne Heck
Marge Heeren
Deborah Stelzle
Lia Kunnapas
David Gugliotti
Nicole Vazquez
John Heflich
Eleanor Altomare
Enn Kunnapas
Pastor Susan

September Anniversaries

Charlie & Karen Niestemski
Bert & Marge Heeren

CHRISTMAS AT SEA

During October and November, WELCA will once again collect items for Christmas gift bags for seafarers, offering warmth, kindness, and a reminder that they are not forgotten during the holidays.

Thanks to your generosity, Holy Trinity provided more than 20 bags last year! Donations of new sweatshirts, T-shirts, socks, winter caps, treats, and personal Christmas cards are welcome.

You may donate items for a complete bag or just a few items. More details to follow in the next issue of The Tidings.



WELCA

Thanks to your generosity and a grant from THRIVENT, we were able to fill 24 backpacks with needed school items for students in Camden, NJ.

The ladies of WELCA continue to work on fleece blankets for the Palisades Emergency Residence Corporation (PERC), various projects for Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ, and the Christmas at Sea program. Please see the Christmas at Sea article above for details. Please contact **Karen Niestemski** for more information regarding WELCA.

Blessed are they who die in the Lord ...

Ursula Steinhauß

Early morning, June 19, Ursula Steinhauß entered peacefully into the everlasting arms of the Lord. In addition to being the beloved wife of the late Arnold Steinhauß, Ursula was a cherished mother and grandmother and longtime member of Holy Trinity. For many years, Ursula served as the head of the Altar Guild and a member of WELCA. A memorial service will be held at Holy Trinity on August 29.



Please continue to keep Ursula's daughters and their families in your prayers.

The eternal God is your refuge; and underneath are the everlasting arms.
Deuteronomy 33:27