



Holy Trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH

N A R B E R T H

Growing in Faith ~ Making a Difference ~ Open to All

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026

Rev. Erika Strobel Wesch, Presiding Minister

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Christopher Ertelt, Music Director

You are a child of God and you are welcome here: whatever your faith commitment, experience, or level of doubt, mental or emotional health, physical abilities, financial or employment status, race, ethnicity, or primary language; whatever your gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. We welcome you whether you are a parent or caregiver; whether you are a fussy baby, an energetic toddler, a 'tween, or a teen; whether you are an inquisitive young adult, exhausted adult, or wise senior citizen; whether you are single, in a relationship, married, divorced, or widowed; whether you struggle with an addiction to drugs, alcohol, or anything else. We welcome you however you found us: on the internet, from your neighbor or friend, or passing by our Giving Garden. We welcome those who hurt and those who celebrate, those who worship every week or just this once, and in whatever you choose to wear. We extend a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now. We welcome you to join us as we grow in faith through worship, study, and friendship. We welcome you as we seek to make a difference through combating food insecurity, ministering with those in need, and committing to racial equity. And we welcome you to help us be fully open to all. Whoever you are and wherever you are from, you are a child of God and you are welcome here.

+ GATHERING +

Prelude:

Aria

Flor Peeters

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
our hope, our heart, our home.

C: **Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- L: Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end,
- C: **we confess that we participate in systems
that perpetuate oppression and injustice.
We are often numb to the pain of the world around us,
resistant to change that costs us something,
and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves.
We sin against your good creation,
failing to be faithful stewards
of the land, the sea, and all their creatures.
Make your home among us once more, O God,
naming us beloved and opening our hearts
to do your will.
Amen.**
- L: All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you:
God knows you,
forgives you by the self-giving of ✝ Jesus Christ,
and frees you to love the world as you have been loved.
Creation's story will not end
until mourning, crying, and pain are no more.
When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure.
Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

Gathering Song: For the Beauty of the Earth (ELW 879)



- 1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Greeting:

- L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: **And also with you.**

Song of Praise:

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray together...

C: **Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Proverbs 8:22-31 [32-35]

L: A reading from Proverbs, the 8th chapter.

²² “The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.
²³ Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
²⁴ When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
²⁵ Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth,
²⁶ when he had not yet made earth and fields
or the world’s first bits of soil.
²⁷ When he established the heavens, I was there;
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
²⁸ when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
²⁹ when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
³⁰ then I was beside him, like a master worker,
and I was daily his delight,
playing before him always,
³¹ playing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.
³² “And now, my children, listen to me:
happy are those who keep my ways.
³³ Hear instruction and be wise,
and do not neglect it.
³⁴ Happy is the one who listens to me,
watching daily at my gates,
waiting beside my doors.
³⁵ For whoever finds me finds life
and obtains favor from the LORD,

L: Word of God. Word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 104:1-4, 14-24

The psalm will be read responsively.

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul.

O LORD my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honor and majesty,

² **wrapped in light as with a garment.**

You stretch out the heavens like a tent;

³ you set the beams of your chambers on the waters;

you make the clouds your chariot;

you ride on the wings of the wind;

⁴ **you make the winds your messengers,**

fire and flame your ministers.

¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,

and plants for people to use,

to bring forth food from the earth,

¹⁵ **and wine to gladden the human heart,**

oil to make the face shine,

and bread to strengthen the human heart.

¹⁶ The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,

the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

¹⁷ **In them the birds build their nests;**

the stork has its home in the fir trees.

¹⁸ The high mountains are for the wild goats;

the rocks are a refuge for the coney.

¹⁹ **You have made the moon to mark the seasons;**

the sun knows its time for setting.

²⁰ You make darkness, and it is night,

when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

²¹ **The young lions roar for their prey,**

seeking their food from God.

²² When the sun rises, they withdraw

and lie down in their dens.

²³ **People go out to their work**

and to their labor until the evening.

²⁴ O LORD, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;

the earth is full of your creatures.

Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

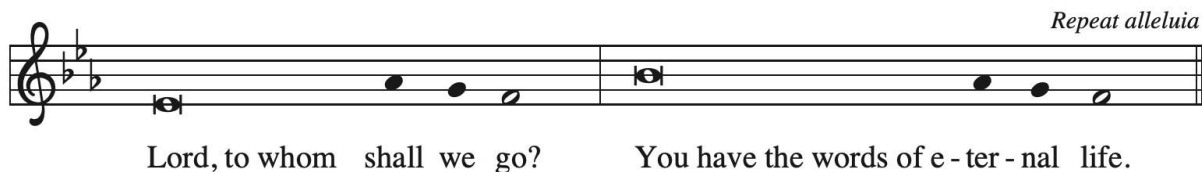
L: A reading from Colossians, the 1st chapter.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation:



Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:25-33

L: The Gospel according to St. Matthew the 6th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³² For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: Rev. Erika Strobel Wesch

Hymn of the Day: Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth (ELW 735)



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
 2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
 3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry
 me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of
 pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
 love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
 grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

Apostles' Creed:

L: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

L: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

- L: Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.
- C: **Amen.**

The Peace of Christ:

- L: The Peace of Christ be with you always.
- C: **And also with you.**
- L: Let us share a sign of peace with one another, as you are comfortable.

Anthem:

Look At the World

John Rutter

You are welcome to give by scanning the QR code, by visiting our church website, or by placing your offering in the offering plate. We are inviting you to give financially out of your heart and love for God. Our giving is a spiritual practice as part of our faith and discipleship.



Offering Song and Prayer: We Are an Offering (ELW 692)

After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands, and the offering song is sung by all.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

L: Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

+ MEAL +

The Great Thanksgiving:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things: our Savior, Jesus Christ. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out of the womb. You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing; all you create is a sign of hope for our journey. And so as the morning stars sing your praises, with the heavenly beings and all creation, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

- L: O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song: The earth is full of your glory.
- C: **The earth is full of your glory.**
- L: O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song: The earth is full of your glory.
- C: **The earth is full of your glory.**

L: We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

L: Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song: The earth is full of your glory.

C: The earth is full of your glory.

L: O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again: The earth is full of your glory.

C: The earth is full of your glory.

L: Amen, and amen.

C: Amen, and amen.

Lord's Prayer:

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
**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.**

All are welcome to receive communion. Those online will be communed first. Then, ushers will dismiss you by row to come forward for communion. You may proceed down the center aisle to the front, where you may receive bread to dip into the cup. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice cups are available for those who prefer them. If you are unable to come forward but desire to receive, please let the usher know so that the Eucharist may be brought to you. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing and may indicate this by crossing your hands over your chest when you approach the minister. After you have received communion, please return to your seat using the side aisles.

Invitation to Communion:

L: The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.
C: **Amen.**

Communion Song:

By Your Hand You Feed Your People

Marty Haugen

Prayer after Communion:

- L:** O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord.
- C:** **Amen.**

+ SENDING +

Blessing:

- L:** Creator God bless you and keep you.
Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy.
Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace.
- C:** **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: Let All Things Now Living (ELW 881)



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Dismissal:

L: Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:

“Little” Prelude and Fugue in G

J. S. Bach

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday to: Alexander Ackerman (9/23).

We welcome back the Rev. Erika Strobel Wesch, Assistant to the Bishop for Formation in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (ELCA), who is filling in for Pastor Jessica this morning. Many thanks for your word today, Pastor Erika!

Pastor Jessica on Medical Leave until September 26

Please continue to keep Pastor Jessica in your thoughts and prayers for a swift and complete recovery.

If you have a pastoral care need or a building-related concern, please contact Dale in the church office at holytrinitynarberth@gmail.com or 610-664-5503. You may also reach out to Tom DelMonte at tomdel1919@gmail.com.

Sunday Morning Worship Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to lector/read and assist Pastor Jessica when she returns from medical leave. If you would like to volunteer please sign up using the QR Code or contact Dale in the church office. Thank you for your flexibility and willingness to serve. Holy Trinity's ministry is possible because of the many people who share their gifts. We are grateful for all that you do.



September 27 – Welcome Back Sunday and Blessing of the Backpacks

Join us for worship and welcome back from summer potluck lunch. We will also welcome back Pastor Jessica from her successful rehab after surgery. Holy Trinity will supply burgers, hot dogs and beverages. We are asking for volunteers to bring sides and desserts. Please join us in person. Leave Zoom behind and enjoy a lunch with your sisters and brothers in Christ. Bring a friend!

If you are interested in bringing a side or dessert please contact Dale in the church office. It helps with our planning. Don't miss it!

Outreach Team Revival!

Holy Trinity's Outreach Team is being revived, and you are invited to join us. This team will help brainstorm, plan, and coordinate ways for Holy Trinity to connect with our neighbors through community events and outreach opportunities such as NarbEarth Day, Pride at the Park, Witches of Narberth, and the Dickens Festival. Meetings will be held every 4–6 weeks, or as needed. If you have a passion for welcoming others, sharing ideas, planning events, or building community connections, we'd love to have you involved. Contact Pastor Jessica or the church office for more information.

Giving Garden

We continue to harvest every Wednesday at 8am. Just bring your garden gloves and whatever hand tools you may want for digging and harvesting. All are welcome as your schedules permit.

Celebrating the Season of Creation

Through October 4, Holy Trinity will join Christians around the world in observing the Season of Creation.

Rooted in the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, this season celebrates God as Creator and invites us to reflect on the mystery that all things were created through Christ. While this theme is woven throughout the church year, setting aside a season to focus on Christ in creation helps us deepen our appreciation for the natural world and renew our commitment to its care. In a time when environmental challenges affect communities across the globe, the Season of Creation reminds us that caring for the earth is not simply a political or practical concern, it is a spiritual practice rooted in gratitude, stewardship, and love for our neighbors.

Join us in worship during these weeks as we celebrate Creation in Christ, the beauty of God's creation, give thanks for the abundance that surrounds us, and consider how we are called to participate in God's ongoing work of renewal and restoration.

Save the Date

October 4 – Pet Blessing Sunday | 11:45am-1:00pm | Front Lawn

Starting October 18 - Faith Formation Hour following worship weekly. Stay tuned for more details!

Holy Trinity's Prayer List

Jan Doan

Friends and Relatives

Bettina Chavanne (friend of the McCluskeys)
Sharon Neall (Hall family member)
Beth Brady (Kristine DelMonte's co-worker)
Norma DelMonte (Tom's mother)
The Houghs (friends of Pat Brubaker)
Linda Baldi-Boyd
Marbury Hooey
John & Rosemary (friends of Pat Brubaker)
Margie (Jan Doan's friend)
Joseph Davis
Heinrich Mengel (cousin of the Hoffmann Family)
Louise Jackson (cousin of Julie Ackerman)
Mary Fran (friend of Dorothy McCluskey)
Tara Echelmeier Dolan (friend of Julie Ackerman)
Mary Ann Dixon (friend of the Hoffmans)
David Segermark (Kristine DelMonte's father)
Jane S. (friend of Pat Brubaker)
Ken Ackerman (Carl Ackerman's father)
Grace Vanartsdalen (friend of Bruce & Dorothy McCluskey)
Ellen Mitchell (sister of Mary Williamson)
Steve Crews (Kim's father)
The Lim family (friends of the Princes)
Cheryl Kurpiel and Family (friends of the Frye Family)
Cestare family (Extended family of Kim)
Bob Gamble (friend of Bruce & Dorothy McCluskey)
Joe Prince & Greg Savoy (loved ones of the Princes)
Deborah deHeyman and family (friends of Holy Trinity)
Lori Chambers (friend of Mark and Dee Jaye Frye)
Laurie & Wayne (friends of Pat Brubaker)
Bob Fuhrmeister (grandson of Bob Catherman)
David Rovner (friend of Holy Trinity)
Butch & Jackye (cousins of Pat Brubaker)
Gloria Guy (Grace Lutheran)
Kevin McMaster (son of Winnie McMaster)
Nina (Bob Catherman's cousin)
Julia Williamson (Carter Williamson's sister)