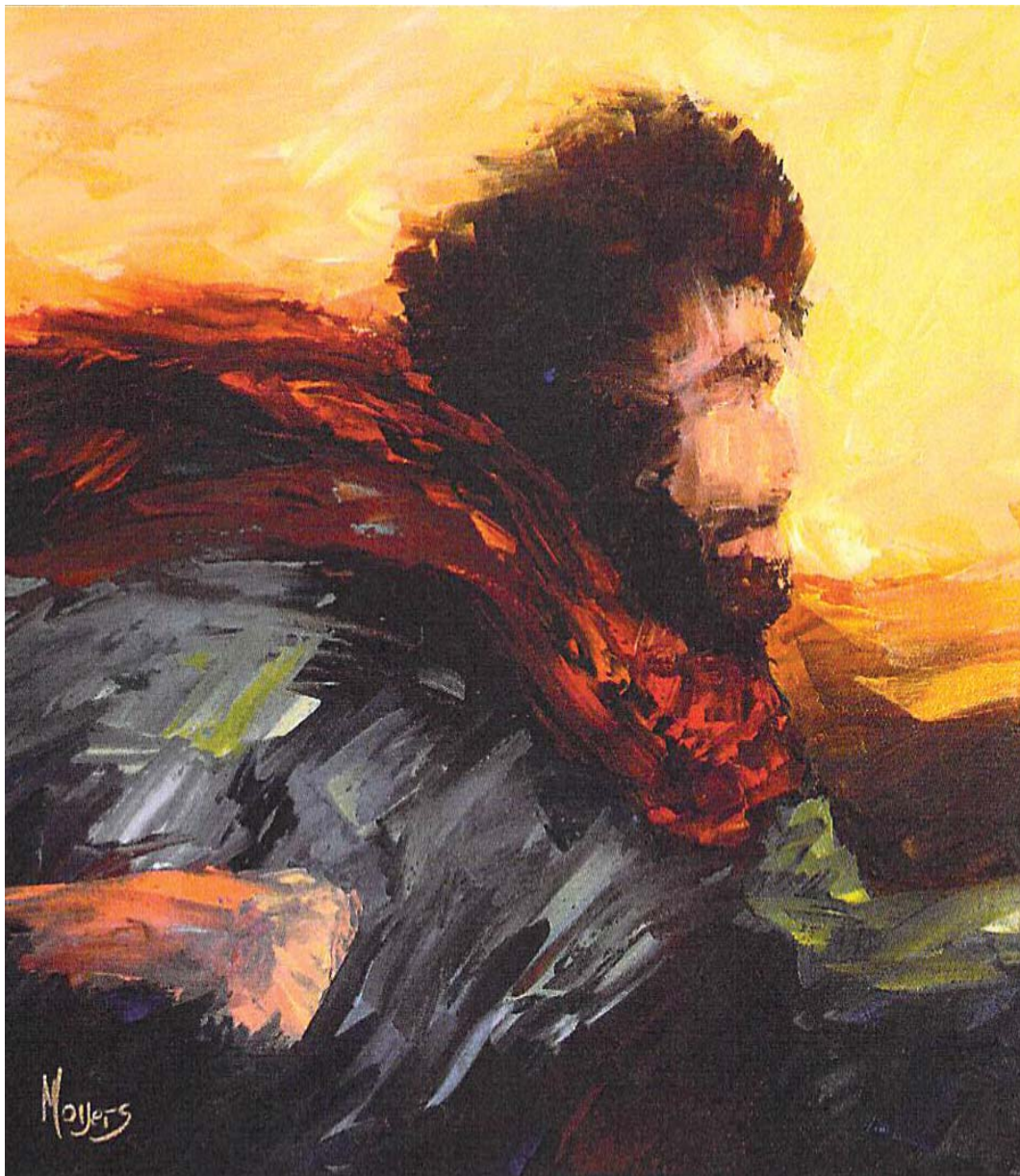




Trinity Lutheran Church



September

27

2026

**18th Sunday
of Pentecost**

Together
in Community
Living
with Christ
Caring
for Neighbors

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

Matthew 21:31-32

www.trinitylutherantopeka.org

We are glad you are here!
It is always good to be together, hearing the Word.
Thank you for choosing to worship at Trinity Lutheran Topeka.
Thank you, Marcy Carlson, for leading worship today.

PRELUDE

Evangelical Lutheran Worship — Setting 5

+ GATHERING +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C Amen.

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

C we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P Hear this good news: We have peace with God through + Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

ELW 520

- 1 Dearest Jesus, at your word we have come again to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be near you as the promises here given draw us wholly up to heaven.
- 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded till your Spirit breaks the night, filling us with light unclouded. All good thoughts and all good living come but by your gracious giving.
- 3 Radiance of God's glory bright, Light of light from God proceeding, Jesus, send your blessed light; help our hearing, speaking, heeding, that our prayers and songs may please you, as with grateful hearts we praise you.
- 4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, praise to you and adoration! Grant us what we need the most: all your gospel's consolation while we here on earth await you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3; Gesangbuch, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.

GREETING

P 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we

giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one

will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord

heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in

praise you for your glo - ry.
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

L The Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1-9

Spoken responsively

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.
Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

P The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:23-32

²³ When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said,

‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated.

SERMON

MARCY CARLSON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

ELW 517

Please stand for the final verse of the hymn.

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your word; curb those who by deceit or sword would wrest the kingdom from your Son and bring to naught all he has done.
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, your pow’r make known, for you are Lord of lords alone; defend your holy church, that we may sing your praise eternally.
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth; support us in our final strife and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

APOSTLES CREED

P Together 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 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.

THE PRAYERS

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

A brief silence.

A Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need, especially Charlotte O'Brien, Shelley Andrews, Liz Utech, Martha Nemeth, Linda Longren, and David McGinnis. Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Pour blessings upon Dean McGinnis as he celebrates his birthday and upon Andy Winsor and Loni Reece as they remember their baptisms. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We pray for our church families worshipping under a different roof: Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Topeka, KS, St. John Lutheran Church, Pittsburg, KS, St. Mark Hope and Peace Lutheran Church, Kansas City, MO, and Lutheran World Relief. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P 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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Let us greet one another with God's peace.

Please be seated.

+ THANKSGIVING +

OFFERING AND OFFERING SONG

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C Amen

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

A O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C 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.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold us today and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

As Saints of Old

ELW 695

- 1 As saints of old their firstfruits brought of orchard, flock, and field to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield; so we today firstfruits would bring, the wealth of this good land, of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
- 2 A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give; to make our life an offering to God, that all may live. The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true: a world redeemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
- 3 In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way. O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son, teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christerson, 1900-1996, alt. Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

A Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TRINITY

Today, Sept. 27.....Doorstep 60 for 60 deadline
Worship 10:30 AM
 Tues., Sept. 29.....Quilters 9:30 AM
 Sun., Oct. 4..... Doorstep Food Collection Day.....
Hymn Sing Along..... 10:15 AM
Worship with Holy Communion..... 10:30 AM
Congregational Life meeting.....Noon

Worship Leaders & Assistants

Date	Acolyte	Ushers	Musician	Lector	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Worship Leader	Coffee Host
Sept. 27		Duane & Debbie Pomeroy	Mitchell Bean	Loni Reece	Janice Greenlee & Team 2	Marcy Carlson	Marcy Carlson	Troy Abbott/ Jeffrey Schafersman
Oct. 4	Curt Lewis	Howard Reece, Jeffrey Schafersman		Laurie Jackson	Pam Kobbeman & Team 3	Marcy Carlson	Pr. Bob Dealey	
Oct. 11	Brayden Winsor	Diane Bottorff, Dean McGinnis		LaVell Winsor	Kobbeman & Team 3	Ted Murphy	Duane Pomeroy	

Treasurer report as of 8-31-2026

Income and Expense update

Year to date giving totals \$65,082 with August's giving totaling \$8213. The giving year to date is below budget estimates of \$79,781.00 by \$14,700. We are averaging \$8,135 a month and budgeted for \$9,918 a month, monthly short fall of \$1,783.

Year to date expenses totaled \$69,320, which results in unfavorable cash flow to our budget and actual expenses. Year to date we are short \$4,238 in breaking even and \$10,380 short when compared to our budget estimates.

Our restricted giving for the month totaled \$1,756, special Sunday giving \$850 and \$695 in memorials make up the bulk of the restricted giving.

Our financial performance to date is **NOT** covering our expenses and needs to increase to help cover current and future expenses not yet recognized, primarily our property insurance that is payable each quarter.

COMPANION SYNOD VISITATION



Bishop Alexander Scheiermann

Scheiermann has been Bishop of the ELCUSFE since 2017. He was born in Omsk Russia, but moved back to Germany with his family as a teenager following the relaxation of emigration restrictions brought about by Perestroika. While his primary residence is in Germany, because he grew up in Russia, he is still able to travel back and forth between Germany and Russia to visit congregations and discharge his ministry as Bishop.



Rev. Bradn Buerkle

Buerkle spent two decades as a teacher and pastor in Russia and has been living in Germany since 2022. He is an ELCA pastor working for ELM (Hermannsburg) as Secretary of Theological Education in International Church Partnerships; this ministry keeps him connected with Russianspeaking Lutherans as well as others worldwide, especially those involved in the topic of lay minister training.



Pastor Waldemar Rausch

Rausch serves as the secretary for global sustainability and ecumenical relations with the Russian Federation at the Lower Saxony Mission Agency. Between 1998 and 2010, he worked in Russia on several occasions, including a threeyear stint as a missionary and pastor in Tomsk. He currently offers a holistic congregational program and is dedicated to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Urals, Siberia, and the Russian Far East.

LAWRENCE & TOPEKA KANSAS

**28
SEPTEMBER**
7:00 PM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1234 SW Fairlawn Rd. Topeka, KS

Community discussion and reception

**29
SEPTEMBER**
6:00 PM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1245 New Hampshire St. Lawrence, KS

Meal and presentation



RSVP

**03
OCTOBER**
3:00 PM

WESTWOOD HOUSE (KU CAMPUS MINISTRY)

1421 West 19th St. Lawrence, KS

Tour and conversation

For more information on any of these activities, please contact the individual church offices.

Thank you to all of our host congregation for making this visitation a success.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East (ELCUSFE)

The Christians in Russia are emerging from nearly sixty years of persecution and violent suppression of religious activities. Even though the Russian government ended its official suppression of religion in the late 80s, churches still face obstacles and challenges from all parts of the Russian state and society. Our engagement with our "CoSyn Christians" there in Russia expresses our concern for them and gives them support and encouragement. These relationships enrich our lives, our faith, and our ministries by exposing us to the witness and perspectives of Christians in other parts of the world as we seek to work with one another to build up the body of Christ and share the Gospel with the world.

Learn More at www.css-elca.org/companion-synods.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

725 SW Buchanan St. • Topeka, Kansas 66606
Phone: 785-233-0767 • Email: office@topekatlc.org
Website: trinitylutherantopeka.org

OFFICE HOURS

10:00AM-3:30PM, Monday through Thursday

Together in Community
Living with Christ
Caring for Neighbors

Living with Christ's Love

As Lutherans, we believe that we are justified by faith alone through the grace of God (Ephesians 2:1-9). As our namesake Martin Luther made clear, we are both sinners and saints as we live our lives of faith. Together as Christians, we are called to allow God into our lives everyday and to do our best to live according to Christ's love. We do this through being a community of faithful that welcomes all people to join us in prayer, service, study, and worship as we journey together in learning how to live out the Great Commandment.

Congregation Council

President Duane Pomeroy (Spiritual Care)
Vice-President Steve Luoma (Administration)
Secretary Diane Bottorff (Congregational Life)
Treasurer Bob Kobbeman (Administration)
Troy Abbott (Administration)
Marilyn Heckman (Community Relations)
Parker Jackson (Congregational Life)
Curt Lewis (Maintenance) Howard Reece (Maintenance)