



spirit

NEWSLETTER

The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church

“Set Free to Serve One Another”

August 2025

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Worship Schedule:

Sundays 11AM (traditional)

Ministers.....All People

Pastor..... Kathryn Rackley

Administrative Assistant.....Jan Piskac

Organist.....Edith Schatt

Council President.....Tim Mize

Council Vice-President...Bonnie Piskac

Council Secretary.....Tina Schwab

Council Treasurer.....Jack Schwab

Prayer is risky.

That may sound odd coming from a pastor, but if we are being honest, prayer asks more of us than we often realize. Real prayer is not about convincing God to change something “out there.” It’s about allowing God to change something “in here.” It invites us to lay aside our illusions of control and self-sufficiency, and to open ourselves to transformation — to intimacy with the Divine.

Over the years, I’ve noticed that people often carry quiet confusion or even unease about prayer. Many of us were taught that prayer is about asking God for things, as if God were a cosmic vending machine or divine Santa Claus. Others were told that if we didn’t pray correctly or often enough, we were letting God down. No wonder so many of us feel uncertain about how or why we should pray.

But prayer, at its heart, is relationship. It’s not about saying the right words or having the right feelings — it’s about showing up with our whole selves. It’s about aligning our being with God’s being, our lives with God’s dream for the world. Prayer is not a performance; it’s a practice of presence.

This is why Jesus gave his disciples a model, not a formula, when they asked how to pray. The Lord’s Prayer — so familiar that we may stop hearing it — actually contains the seeds of transformation. It begins with “Our Father” — not a distant deity, but one who knows us intimately. Not a private God who affirms only our opinions, but the One who created all of us and knows both our light and our shadow.



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Triune Lutheran Church



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

When we pray “*Your Kingdom come*,” we’re not asking God to impose something from above. We are offering ourselves to participate in the Dream of God — a vision of love, justice, wholeness, and peace for all creation. Prayer isn’t about escape. It’s about engagement.

“*Give us this day our daily bread*” reminds us that we are dependent — not just on God, but on one another. It’s a prayer for sustenance — physical, emotional, and spiritual — and a call to be bread for others in need.

And when we pray “*forgive us... as we forgive*” — we name the reality that we grow in community, not isolation. Forgiveness is not weakness. It is the courageous work of healing, reconciliation, and becoming whole — together.

In short, prayer is the path by which we become more deeply human and more fully alive. It helps us “put on the mind of Christ,” as Joan Chittister writes, and see our world through God’s eyes. It helps us discover that God is not out there waiting to be found, but here — within and among us.

We are a people formed by *common prayer*. Our identity is not rooted in doctrine but in how we pray — together. The prayers we pray shape not only our individual souls but our collective life. And when we pray not only *for* one another but *with* one another, we become the Church in the deepest sense: the Body of Christ alive in the world.

This is why I want to invite us, as a congregation, into a shared practice — a daily prayer we can offer together, wherever we are. A prayer that aligns our lives with God’s longing and helps us become the community we are called to be: growing in soul, deepening in love, and walking alongside one another in faith.

Our Congregational Prayer

Holy One,
Open our hearts to your presence.
Align our lives with your Dream.
Grow our souls in love,
That we may become a community of welcome,
A people of courage,
And the Body of Christ in the world.
Let our light shine brightly as a beacon in the night.
Amen.

Let us begin by simply praying this together each day — as individuals and as a community. May it guide us, shape us, and draw us more fully into the life of God.

We ask you to keep the following siblings in Christ in your prayers:

Norelle Gress
Niki Grigsby
Patty Gurka
Phil Pesko

Jack Schwab
Annie Slaughter
Mardell Weiss
Clara Wilcox



If you wish to send any cards, please send them, or drop them off, to the church office, and we will be sure to deliver them.

Sunday September 14, 2025
Church Potluck Dinner

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

Happy
Anniversary

11th Matthew & Meghan Schatt

8th Brigitte Kiemschies
22nd Ellen Schmidt



The Monday Discussion Group



Monday discussion group will be taking a summer break due to busyness of regular participants. They will make the decision about the dates. Any one wishing to join our study of the book of Isaiah can email ngress@sbcglobal.net.

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 WORSHIP <u>@11 AM</u>	4	5 AA @ 7pm	6	7 AA @ 8 pm	8	9
10 WORSHIP <u>@11 AM</u>	11	12 AA @ 7pm	13	14 AA @ 8 pm	15	16
17 WORSHIP <u>@11 AM</u>	18	19 AA @ 7pm	20	21 AA @ 8 pm	22	23
24 WORSHIP <u>@11 AM</u>	25	26 AA @ 7pm	27	28 AA @ 8 pm	29	30
31 WORSHIP <u>@11 AM</u>						