

# Trinity Lutheran Church

June 16,  
2024

Fourth  
Sunday after  
Pentecost

217 Brackenridge  
Southwest  
Sleepy Eye, MN

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Every member

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*Custodian*  
Pat Lowther



"WHAT SHALL WE SAY THE  
KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE?"

*Mark 4:30*

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST~ LECTION 11  
HOLY COMMUNION ~ SETTING 8  
9:00 a.m. JUNE 16, 2024**



*Sundays after  
Pentecost*

**“GOD’S RADICAL LOVE, LIVED OUT EVERY DAY”**

*All are welcome and called to share and give thanks for Christ’s gifts of Promise and Presence! Through faith and trust in Christ’s words we receive his promise of being present in and through the bread and cup as we come to receive his gifts of forgiveness, salvation and eternal life.*

*We thank God for guests who are here today & pray you will be blessed as you are a blessing to our gathering.*

**WORSHIP AIDS**

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS** are available from an usher ask the usher.

**ACTIVITY BAGS** for young children are on a stand at the rear of church; please return after services. Thanks.

**PREFERENCE** to receive grape juice is indicated by raising your index finger to the server.

**GLUTEN FREE** wafers are available. Simply tell the server you wish to receive *gluten free*.

**GATHERING**

**WE PREPARE:** *The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We’d expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It’s not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody’s looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.*

**PRELUDE/ BELL**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Moment of silence for reflection

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

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

**OPENING SONG**

*As We Gather at Your Table*

**ELW #522**



1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.  
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God from which nothing can separate us, and the life-giving Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM 92**

It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praise to your name, O Most High;  
**to herald your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night;**  
 on the psaltery, and on the lyre, and to the melody of the harp.

**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;  
 and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.  
**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts<sup>1</sup> of our  
 God;**

they shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be green and succulent;  
**that they may show how upright the LORD is, my rock, in whom there is no  
 injustice.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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## WORD

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### FIRST READING

Ezekiel, 17:22-24

The First Reading is from Ezekiel chapter 17, verses 22-24. Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.

*Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.*

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

### SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

The second reading is in 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verses 6 - 17. Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

*So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord — for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.*

*Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.*

*From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!*

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL**

Mark 4:26-34

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 4th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

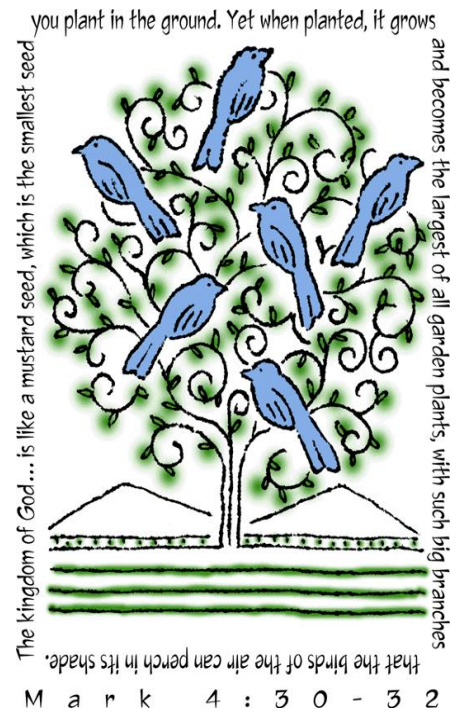
*He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."*

*He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."*

*With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.*

The Gospel of the Lord.      **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**



Pastor Grant Fischer



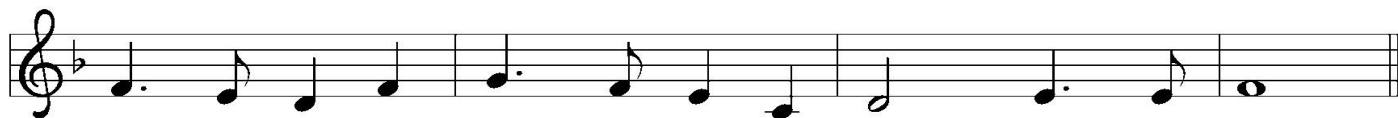
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

## CREED

**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**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: respond after Merciful God, receive our prayer.

## SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

# OFFERING

## *Everybody's Got Something to Offer*

♩ = 100 C

Ev - ery - bo - dy's got some - thing to of - fer Young and old the prince and the pau - per

Ev - ery - bo - dy's got some - thing to of - fer in the name of the Lord

To the lost and the low - ly ones here the mes - sage it is clear  
To the be - lie - vers gath - ered here the mes - sage it is true

We have all got a gift to give our hands our hearts our tears Ev - ery - body's got  
We have all got a gift to give in all we say and do Ev - ery - body's got

(THE USHERS BRING UP THE OFFERING)

# MEAL

## COMMUNION WELCOME

All are welcome to the Lord's Table at Trinity. You are well prepared and worthy if by faith you believe these words, "given for you" and "shed for you...for the forgiveness of sin". Welcome to the Lord's Table. Come taste and see that the Lord is good.

## THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

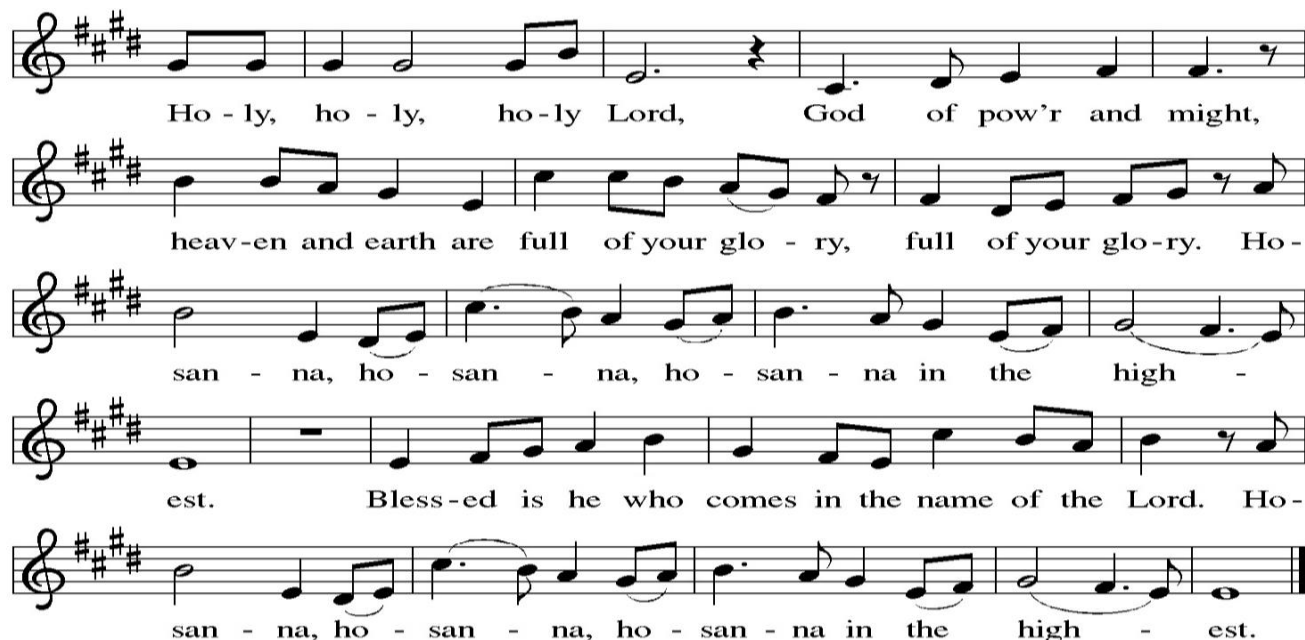
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave Himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with the earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF JESUS

### 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.**

### DISTRIBUTION

*(Please sign the Welcome Pads and pass to your neighbor.)*



### PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

# SENDING

## BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

ELW #551



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
 joy like seed and, all our days, to  
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
 share a dream and help the blind to see.  
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve. **Thanks be to God.**

**OUR THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE THE BODY OF CHRIST**

### Sunday 9:00 am Worship

<b>Accompanist</b>	Mary Mulry
<b>Acolyte</b>	Hayden Domeier
<b>Reader</b>	Harold Pettis
<b>Sound Techs</b>	Russ Sorensen
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Harold & Bonnie Pettis
<b>Greeters</b>	Isaac Johnson
<b>Ushers</b>	Brian Polesky and Dave Vosbeck
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Terry Newgord and Judy Johnson



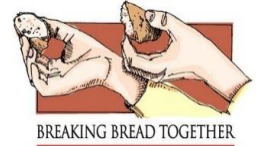
*The Flowers on the altar are in honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Linda and Jerry Schueler. Congratulations!*

**TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY, You are invited to an open house at the Sleepy Eye Event Center honoring Jerry and Linda Schueler on their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary TODAY from 1-4:00 pm. No gifts please.**



**Summer Coffee Fellowship has begun. There is a signup sheet by the ramp door for your convenience. Coffee will always be available even if there is an open Sunday. Thank you for serving!**

**It's Breaking Bread Together Sunday. Join the fun at the Daug House at 11:00 for fellowship and food. Talk to Cindy Steffl or Sue Pederson with any questions. Thanks!**



**MEALS THAT MATTER** Remember! Prepared frozen meals are in the freezer for you to deliver to a friend or neighbor who have had a life changing event- illness, birth of a baby, death in the family, etc... *Be the hands of Jesus!*

**Bring your tools and join us as we clean up the grounds of Trinity! We will meet at 5:00 pm on June 18<sup>th</sup>, to weed and beautify our Church. Many hands make the work easier and faster. Please help.**



The 2024 St John's Lutheran Home Auxiliary membership drive is underway! A box with our envelopes is in the Narthex. Please consider a \$5 donation to the Auxiliary. Place envelope in the offering plate. We help with bingo, birthday parties and fund raisers which support the residents and staff. We are proud of the facility and Trinity is church member of St John's Home. Thank you for caring and for your support!

TRINITY LUTHERAN  
PRESENTS

# NIGHT SWIM

**JUNE 25TH**  
8:00 P.M - 10:00 P.M  
Sleepy Eye Aquatic Center

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**OPEN TO ALL TRINITY  
LUTHERAN YOUTH**

**FREE ADMISSION FOR YOUTH. LET  
THEM KNOW AT THE DOOR YOU'RE  
WITH TRINITY**



JUNE 16, 2024

# The kingdom of God grows.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Mark 4:26-34	Two parables of seeds
Monday	Ezekiel 31:1-14	God cuts down tall, proud trees
Tuesday	Hosea 14:1-7	Israel will be a fragrant cedar
Wednesday	Mark 4:1-20	The parable of the sower
Thursday	Genesis 3:14-24	Deprived of the tree of life
Friday	Revelation 21:22 - 22:5	Given the tree of life
Saturday	Psalms 52	Like an olive tree in God's house
Sunday	Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calms the sea



*Sundays after  
Pentecost*

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

**Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!** 2 Corinthians 5:17

### **SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:**

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, thank you for all your blessings to us. Use our lives and our home to give shelter and care to others. Amen. (Mark 4:32)

Mealtime Prayer:

God has planted, God has fed. Thanks be to God for daily bread. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God help you to grow as a seed he has planted. May he watch over you and do many good things through you. Amen.

### **CARING CONVERSATION**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is one way you have grown over the past year? What has helped you to grow?
- Jesus talked about the kingdom of God growing from a tiny seed into a large plant (Mark 4:30-32). What do you think he meant?
- In what ways would you like to grow more in the coming year?

### **DEVOTIONS**

Collect some green paper and cut it into leaf shapes. Also set up a leafless branch or a stick in a pot or vase as a centerpiece for your home altar area or meal table. During your home devotion times this week, share ways in which you have seen God the King at work in the world around you. For each sign of God's kingdom activity, attach a paper leaf to the branch or stick. Praise and thank God for all his blessings.

### **SERVICE**

Plan to surprise your neighbors with gifts of potted plants at Christmas time. Work together to purchase plants or seedlings, soil and pots. Talk to an expert gardener about what kinds of plants will grow best in your climate. Take turns caring for the plants so that they grow strong and healthy over the coming months.

### **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

As a household activity, visit a plant nursery, botanical garden or conservatory. Talk about the differences you see between the plants on display and what is needed to help them grow.

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Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities

***Please take your bulletin home for weekly devotions***



## Trinity's Mission Statement

*We are a community where Jesus is Lord: our mission is to invite, welcome, nurture, and equip all people to be disciples in His name.*

**TRINITY'S PRAYER CHAIN** Send an email to [secretary@trinitysleepyeve.org](mailto:secretary@trinitysleepyeve.org) or call the office at 507 794-5051. Leave a message.

**TRINITY'S WEBPAGE** Send an email to the church office at [secretary@trinitysleepyeve.org](mailto:secretary@trinitysleepyeve.org) and let Darlene know you want your newsletter via email!

**TRINITY IS NOW ON FACEBOOK  
CHECK IT OUT!!**

*"Trinity Lutheran (ELCA) Sleepy Eye MN"*

The Trinity Tidings newsletter is now also posted on [www.sleepyeveonline.com](http://www.sleepyeveonline.com) watch this site for community news and events.



If you haven't already, please consider *Simply Giving*, an automated giving program for your offering. You determine the frequency of your offering which is deposited into Trinity's account the same day it is withdrawn from your account. It's a "hassle-free" way to give.

Talk to Pat or Darlene if you are interested. Thank You. *Please pick up your statements and envelopes in your mailbox. Thank You!*

### Last week at Trinity

Weekly Worship Attendance:	74
Bible Studies Attendance:	12+7 = 19
Weekly Giving:	\$3945.28
June Giving	\$7964.11
Amount given this year	\$109,740.23
Amount needed to meet Budget	\$131,790.00
2024 Budget	\$298,000.00

## This Week's Prayer Concerns

*Pray for Trinity*...that the Holy Spirit would keep our Trinity family united as we continue in worship and in helping others as we are able ...

*Pray for the Church*...that the Holy Spirit would empower us to live in the image of God so that we would speak and act in every way bringing glory to God before all the nations and peoples with what we have been given...

*Pray for our World*...that pain of this Covid-19 pandemic, which has penetrated so many lives that your light Lord would help us to see your presence and that the Spirit would lead us to seek the truth and practice grace for all who are hurting...

*Pray for all who are ill, afflicted, or recovering*...that the Holy Spirit would give comfort and daily strength to **Cindy, Wade, Krista, Trisha, Jan, Sherry, Kali, Jane, Ramsey, Sarah, Lennon, Chris, Julie, Kathy, Emmett, Joan, Lois, Joyce, Emma, Milo, Ed, Carlo, Dorothy, Story, Tina, Ethan, Robyn, Carmen, Linette, Tammy, John, Tony, Ted, Connor, Kimora, and Mary Jo.**

*Pray for the beloved*... who now rest from their labors in God's mercy and for all who mourn the personal loss of loved ones .....that God would fill each one with the hope of our Lord's promise to bring us to a new heaven and earth where suffering, crying, pain and death will be no more....

*Pray for all families*...that the Holy Spirit would bring compassion and mercy to all who are separated from one another and each would give way to mercy, love and reconciliation...

*Pray for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces and those far from home*...for **Brady Augustin** and his wife ...and for all of our military Veterans that the Holy Spirit would guard them in safety and keep their hearts stayed in Christ...

*Pray for the missionaries of our church (ELCA)*...that they proclaim their witness of the Gospel throughout the world.

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