



What Makes Christians *Different*

7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  **JULY 12, 2026**

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WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANS DIFFERENT: CHRISTIANS ARE PLANTED BY THE WORD

The Bible says Christians are different. Christians are people who believe in Jesus as their Savior. But they often look the same as those who do not believe in Jesus. How are Christians different? The answer is often something internal, attitudes or perspectives that come only from the work of the Holy Spirit in Word and sacrament. Ultimately, Christians are people who run to Christ for forgiveness because they have failed to live perfect lives. As we receive the mercy of Christ, it moves us to strive with all our being to do all the things that Jesus says.

Planting seed by hand can be extraordinary. In your hand, the seed looks lifeless and insignificant. You put the seed into the soil, and suddenly, all by itself, the seed germinates and sprouts and reaches to the sun. Except when it doesn't! Plant multiple seeds, and often only some will grow. The Bible describes Christians as planted by the Word. Why do some people grow in faith, and not others? What makes Christians different? The Bible describes the supernatural process by which God calls people to faith through the gospel. He promises that his Word always accomplishes his purpose. It is powerful all on its own, without our help. As we grow in faith, we give God thanks for the miracle of his work in our lives.

THE MISSION OF TRINITY

*The members of Trinity are joined together in Jesus' love to **worship** our Lord, **grow** in his Word, and **share** it with others.*

WELCOME TO TRINITY! We're happy you're here! Thank you for joining us this morning to worship our gracious God. We love to see **families worshiping together**. However, if you would like a place to quiet your little ones' "joyful noises," there is a **nursery** down the hall on the south side of the building. The **restrooms** are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. If you need anything before, during, or after the service, our **ushers** will be happy to assist you. God bless your worship with us today!

MINISTER: Pastor Daniel Balge

BULLETIN SPONSOR: Glen & Donna Wiens in Memory of Emily Wiens

ACCOMPANIST: Lori Enter

SPECIAL THANKS to all others who served in worship today, including our video and screen coordinators, ushers, greeters, and soloists

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Stand

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 55:6-11

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

⁷Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,"
declares the LORD.

⁹“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
¹⁰As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

The children are invited to come forward for a message designed specially for them.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 65A

Refrain

The seed that falls, that falls on good ground
will bring forth food for all.

Tone

The seed that falls, that falls on good ground
will bring forth food for all.

Praise awaits / you, our God;
you call forth / songs of joy.
You care for the land and / water it;
you soften it with showers and / bless its crops.
The streams of God are filled with / water
to provide the peo- / ple with grain. *Refrain*

You crown the year with your / bounty,
and your carts overflow with a- / bundance.
The whole earth is / filled with awe
at your / wonders.

The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are man- / tled
with grain;
they shout for / joy and sing.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

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Second Reading

1 Corinthians 3:5-11

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care.

¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 55:11



Refrain



My word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Refrain

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Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate

it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

¹⁸“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²²The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

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

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

644 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

Sermon

Isaiah 55:6-9

THE TIME IS NOW

1. Time to repent (6-7a)
2. Time to believe (7b-9).

Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

*Each petition will end with "Lord, in your mercy..." The congregation is invited to respond, "**Hear our prayer.**"*

Offering

*The members of Trinity Lutheran Church have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and throughout the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry. At this time, we ask both members and guests to fill out the **friendship register** found at the end of each pew. When you've written your information, please pass it to the next person until everyone has had a chance to sign it. Thank you for helping us serve you with the gospel!*

Hymn

925 On What Has Now Been Sown

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.
 Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
 Amen.

Closing Hymn

640 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday	133
Streaming	19
Monday	NA

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday 10:45 am	NA
Kids In Christ	NA
Monday 7:00 pm	NA
Monday Virtual	0

SUNDAY GIVING

General Fund	8107.25
Vanco	1,280.46
Capital	195.00

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sun (7/12)	9:00 am	Worship
	10:15 am	Fellowship
	10:45 am	Voters & Call Meeting
Mon (7/13)	6:00 pm	Worship
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Wed (7/15)	VBS Sign up Deadline	
Sun (7/19)	9:00 am	Worship
	10:15 am	Fellowship

TRINITY NEWS

VOTERS & CALL MEEITNG :Our next call meeting is July 12th after fellowship.

PINE & 99-TRINITY PORK CHOP STAND: We will host the next Pork Chop Stand on July 23rd. If you can help with grilling, set-up, serving food, or taking payments, please sign up for dates that work for you. Direct questions to Larry Bruegger at 507-420-9195. Thanks!

YOUTH RALLY: The youth group is still working on raising funds for the rally to hit their goal. Funds from fellowship on the 12th will go towards the youth group.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL: will be Wednesday July 29th from 4:30-7:00. We are looking for help with brining a pie, desserts or working a shift. Sign up sheets are in the narthex. Proceeds from the Ice Cream Social will go towards repairing our Church Bell.

WELS MISSIONS COMMISSIONING: Cindy Lendt has taken a call to be Women's Ministry Coordinator. We will be celebrating her commissioning with a special service on July 19th and presentation during fellowship. Communion will be moved to July 26th.

SOUTHEAST ASIA PRESENTATION: Cindy Lendt recently presented at a women's workshop in a predominantly Hindu country in Asia, an event coordinated by the WELS Asia-Oceania Team. on Sunday, August 2, during Fellowship after church she'll be sharing her experience in Southeast Asia!

INSTALLATION OF CALLED WORKERS: Renee Hussman (Grades 3-5) and Morgan Ritter (Preschool Director) will be installed as called workers on July 26th. We welcome them and celebrate their commitment to our school and students.

TRINITY WORSHIP CHOIR: is officially welcoming new and returning members. No professional experience or formal audition is required. Fill out the sign-up sheet found on the bulletin board in the narthex or contact the choir coordinator, Morgan Ritter, at morgan.ritter@trinitynicollet.org for more details. More information on rehearsal dates and commitment to come!



JULY 2026

TRINITY EV.
LUTHERAN
NICOLLET, MN

Pastor David Carlovsky

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
28 9:00 am Worship No Communion 10:15 am Fellowship 10:45 Bible Study/KIC	29 6 pm Worship 7 pm Bible Study	30	1 7:00 pm Unified Meeting	2	3	4
5 9 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15 am Fellowship	6 NO MONDAY NIOGHT WORSHIP /BIBLE STUDY	7	8	9 4:30-7 Pine & 99 7 pm Men' s Bible Study - Ch 10	10	11 7 pm Women, Wine & The Word
12 9 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship	13 6pm Monday Night Worship 7pm Bible Study	14	15 VBS REGISTRATION DEADLINE	16	17	18
19 9:00 am Worship - Cindy Lentt Commissioning NO Communion 10:15 am Fellowship &	20 6pm Monday Night Worship 7pm Bible Study	21 5:30-7:30 pm VBS	22 5:30-7:30 pm VBS 7:00 pm Council	23 5:30-7:30 pm VBS 4:30-7:00 Pine & 99	24	25 KICK YOUR FELLOWSHIP
26 9 am Worship w/ Communion Installation of Called Workers 10:15 am Fellowship	27 6pm Monday Night Worship 7pm Bible Study	28	29 4:30-7:00 pm ICE CREAM SOCIAL	30	31	1