

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Pam Kruse, (Sept. 8); Tim Carpenter, (Sept. 9); Karen Rhodine, (Sept. 9); Mike Smith, (Sept. 9); Stephanie Long, (Sept. 10); Ray Garson, (Sept. 11); Jordan Klinker, (Sept. 11); Ryan Bock, (Sept. 12); Andrea Toven, (Sept. 12); Iris Brunett, (Sept. 14); Donna Marburger, (Sept. 14); Sydney McKim, (Sept. 14); and Donna Nelson, (Sept. 14). Happy Birthday!

SELF-STUDY COMMITTEE: The church council is officially asking TELC members to volunteer to serve on the church's self-study committee, which is an integral part and first phase of our search for a new pastor. The committee, consisting of 6-8 members, will collect data about the Laramie community and the church, survey the membership and write a report that will assist the synod in identifying potential candidates for TELC's call committee, which will be appointed in the next phase of the process. In appointing the self-study committee, we seek to have broad representation that reflects the diverse nature of the church. Please consider devoting your time and talent to this very important step in bringing a permanent pastor to Trinity. We hope to have the committee in place by the October council meeting and its work completed in 2-3 months.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY is **today!** Come and help us kick-off the 2013-2014 Sunday School year with games and refreshments, meet your teachers and find your class room.

SHY: Senior High Youth and their parents are invited to a lunch in the Rohr Fellowship Hall **today** after 10:30 service. We'll talk about what activities the SHY group would like for the coming year.

CHANCEL CHOIR started rehearsals on Wed. Sept 4. If you are not a member of the choir but are interested in sharing your musical gifts please contact Larry Hazlett at 742 4117 or [Hazlett@uwyo.edu](mailto:Hazlett@uwyo.edu).

THE WEDS. WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP is meeting @ 10:00 a.m. on Weds. mornings. We are starting a new study. All are welcome to join us.

REFLECTIONS MEETINGS: On Sunday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> there will be a time between the services for people to gather and share reflections on where Trinity has been in the recent past and hopes for where we are going in the immediate future. Pastor Keith will facilitate these sessions. Come and share your thoughts and feelings.

SEEKERS will be starting Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7 p.m. in the Gruver Room. This will be an organizational/introductory meeting. Pastor Keith will be bringing some ideas re: what we might like to study. All are invited!

WEDS. NIGHT COLLEGE GET-AWAYS have started back up. This group is for college-aged individuals. This is a fun, social event that runs from 6-8 p.m. with dinner provided. All college students are invited to attend.

VISIONS OF PEACE: This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year that Christians, Muslims and Jews from Laramie have gathered in public places to honor hope. The year, the Council of Interfaith Communities invites you to "*Visions of Peace*" on Weds. Sept. 11 in remembrance of 9/11. It will be at the Newman Center from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Please bring "finger foods" to share.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR congregational members who might be willing to provide a meal for our Weds. Get-Away college group. If this is something that you would be willing to provide there is a sign-up sheet posted on the pole in the Gruver Room. Thank you!

RIDE MINISTRY: Since there are now several people at church who need rides to worship, we are forming a Ride Ministry. If you are interested in helping out please call the church office @ 745-4222 or talk with Lois Hiller, 742-6455.

SKY RANCH LUTHERAN CAMP is celebrating the year of Jubilee as we get ready for our 50th Anniversary *ALL CAMP REUNION*. We will be celebrating this anniversary on September 13-15th. Guest storyteller and musician Jonathon Rundman will be attending Saturday, September 14, 2013.

THE TRINITY QUILTERS GROUP would love to have more members. This group of ladies has shrunk down to 3. They meet on Tuesday mornings from 9-11ish and break for Coffee at 10:30 a.m. Their projects include quilts for the Cancer Center (here in Laramie), the VA Hospital (in Cheyenne) and of course, those in emergency situations here in town. If you are interested in this group, come on in on Tuesday morning—they would love to have you join them!

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PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK: 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Timothy 12-17; Luke 15:1-10.

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## Serving the Church

|                  | <u>TODAY (9/8)</u>   | <u>NEXT SUNDAY (9/15)</u>  |
|------------------|--|--|
| <i>Lector:</i>   | 8:00 a.m. Mark Rehwaldt<br>10:30 a.m. Linda Kidwell                                | 8:00 a.m. Steve Boss<br>10:30 a.m. Dan Gibson-Reinemer                               |
| <i>Acolyte:</i>  | 8:00 a.m. Kelcey Anderson<br>10:30 a.m. Philip Henry                               | 8:00 a.m. Paul Boss<br>10:30 a.m. Gilbert Hart                                       |
| <i>Ushers:</i>   | 8:00 a.m. Debbe Conyers<br>Lindsay Conyers<br><br>10:30 a.m.                       | 8:00 a.m. Ed & Laureda Dolan<br><br><br>10:30 a.m. Barb Rouse<br>Georgia Mitchell    |
| <i>Greeters:</i> | 8:00 a.m. Cheryl Wilson<br>Roland Kidwell<br>10:30 a.m. Carlos & Marion<br>Klinger | 8:00 a.m. Judi Weatherwax<br>Janet Boss<br>10:30 a.m. Shirley Heggie<br>Hanna Heggie |
| <i>Nursery:</i>  | 8:00 a.m. Lexi Dockter<br>10:30 a.m. Lexi Dockter                                  | 8:00 a.m. Rosalind Kidwell<br>10:30 a.m. Tracy Kidwell                               |
| <i>Stewards:</i> | L. Hazlett / T. Rittenburg   | <i>Altar Guild:</i> Les & Karen Ommen  |

### *Coffee Fellowship:*

#### *This Week at Trinity*

|                     |            |                   |
|---------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Sunday, Sept. 8     | 8:00 a.m.  | Worship           |
|                     | 9:15 a.m.  | SS Rally Day      |
|                     | 9:15 a.m.  | Coffee Fellowship |
| Tuesday, Sept. 10   | 10:30 a.m. | Worship           |
|                     | 9:00 a.m.  | Quilters          |
| Wednesday, Sept. 11 | 10:00 a.m. | Women's Study     |



If one of you decides  
to build a tower... LK.14:28

WE ARE HAPPY to have you with us today. We hope that our worship service has meaning for you and that you will come back and worship with us again soon. For those who wish, a nursery is provided during the worship service, just off the south lobby, for children ages five and younger. Please join us for coffee in the south lobby area after the service today.

PRAYER REQUEST CARDS are found in the back of the pew in front of you. If you wish, please fill them out and hand them to the usher during the hymn after the sermon. PEW PADS are found at the inside end of each pew. Please fill them out, pass them down to the end, and then return them to the center.

PLEASE RECYCLE THE BULLETINS: You are encouraged to take home any part of the bulletin that you would like. **Please** recycle the pieces that you do not choose to keep by putting them at either end of the pews at the back of the church. Help us save some trees! Thanks.

### *Special Meeting of the Congregation*

The voting members of Trinity Lutheran Church will hold a congregational meeting between Sunday worship services after the conclusion of the 8:00 a.m. service *next* Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> 2013. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss flooring options for the sanctuary. The Church Council has voted on a recommendation to replace the existing carpet which is showing its age. We will present the recommended option and well as an alternative option for consideration. All confirmed members are asked to be in attendance.





Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

Let us pray.

**Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**ANTHEM:** (10:30 a.m.) "Create a Pure Heart In Me" by Susan Matsui  
Chancel Choir

**FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.*

<sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.  
<sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.  
<sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

**PSALM: Psalm 1**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel<sup>1</sup> of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats<sup>1</sup> of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law<sup>1</sup> of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching<sup>1</sup> day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that<sup>1</sup> do not wither; everything they<sup>1</sup> do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so<sup>1</sup> with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind<sup>1</sup> blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when<sup>1</sup> judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council<sup>1</sup> of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way<sup>1</sup> of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall<sup>1</sup> be destroyed.**

**Glory be to the Father and<sup>1</sup> to the Son:  
and to the<sup>1</sup> Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and e-<sup>1</sup>ver shall be:  
world without end.<sup>1</sup> Amen.**

**SECOND READING: Philemon 1:1-21**

*While Paul was in prison, he was aided by a runaway slave named Onesimus. The slave's master, Philemon, was a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to his master and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.*

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup>to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.


<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love — and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me.



<sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother — especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**



Al - le - lu - ia, 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.

**\*GOSPEL: Luke 14:25–33**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the fearsome costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

<sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>"Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE:**



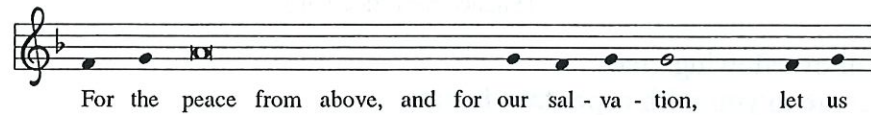
*Refrain*  
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.  
1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.  
*Refrain*  
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.  
*Refrain*  
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.  
3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



**\*KYRIE:**



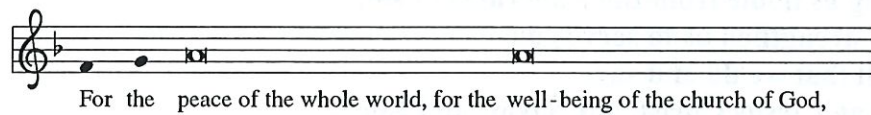
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.



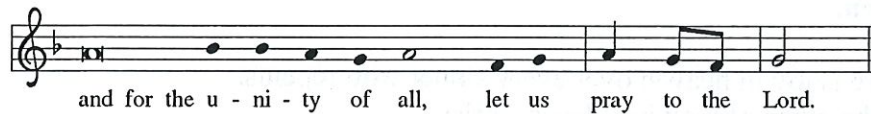
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



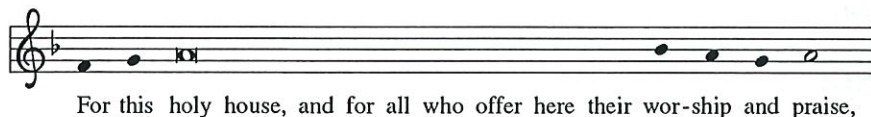
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME:**

**Pastor Keith Prekker**

**SERMON: "A Man Named Useful" Philemon 1:1-21**

**Pastor Keith Prekker**

**HYMN: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

**#807**

**\*APOSTLE'S 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.**

**OFFERING:**

**OFFERTORY:**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL OFFERTORY: "Praise God from whom . . ."**

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;

praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*\*A brief silence.*

Holy and faithful God, teach your church to walk in ways of trust and obedience. Plant your presence among us, that the life you intend for us may flourish. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen fruit-bearing trees and plants, as harvests are gathered. Increase yields, and encourage just distribution of food throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Grant that all who are imprisoned or enslaved would know the freedom that you alone can give. Sustain them, that they would each one day know a safe and joyful homecoming. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gather together all people who feel removed from you because of illness, crisis, or fear. Deliver them to a place of healing, and embrace them with your unfailing mercy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
(Silence for reflection.)

God of overflowing grace,  
**We come to you with repentant hearts.**  
**Forgive us for shallow thankfulness.**  
**Forgive us for passing by the ones in need.**  
**Forgive us for setting our hopes on fleeting treasures.**  
**Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness.**  
**Bring us home from the wilderness of sin,**  
**and strengthen us to serve you**  
**in all that we do and say.**  
**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents.  
By the grace of God in + Jesus Christ,  
who gave himself up for us all,  
your sins are forgiven and you are made free.  
Rejoice with the angels and with one another!  
We are home in God's mercy, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*GREETING:**

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



# TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 South 7th Street — Laramie, Wyoming 82070  
(307) 745-4222 e-mail: telc@qwestoffice.net  
web-site: telclaramie.org



God's Work . . .  
. . . Our Hands

Interim Pastor ..... **Keith Prekker**  
Congregation President ..... **Roland Kidwell**  
Office Secretary..... **Colleen Miner**  
Organists ..... **Dan Groathouse**  
Choir Director..... **Larry Hazlett**

Sunday, September 8, 2013 – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

\*Standing

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship today, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of the Christ in the blessed sacrament and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.*

### PRELUDE:

### WELCOME:

\*HYMN: "God Is Here"

#526

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God:  
the only sovereign, who dwells in light;  
Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners;  
the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.  
Amen.

Bless Sunday school teachers and students, Bible study participants, and all teaching ministries. Let your life-giving word be freely shared among all who hunger for it. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*\*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Living God, refresh our hearts through the witness of the saints. Build us up as one community in Christ, and lead us to the good that comes from following you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O Holy One, we entrust all for whom we pray, confident in your abundant and abiding mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

### \*THE 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.**

### \*BLESSING:

### PARISH SHARING TIME:

\*HYMN: "For the Beauty of the Earth"

#879

\*EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES . . . HYMN CHIME:

### \*POSTLUDE:



## WHERE'S MY ABACUS?

Help! Where's my abacus—and where's our good news? Demand follows demand: hate family, even life; carry the cross; calculate; give up everything. Where's the grace? Has Jesus exchanged his halo for an accountant's visor?

From August through October, our Sunday gospel readings speak of coins, debts, possessions, and money management. Now, as ever, among the greatest threats to faith in God is worry over finances: what will we live on? Will it be enough?

In today's passage Jesus uses examples from construction and politics to emphasize the cost of following him. Measure twice, cut once; nobody starts a successful project without first doing an estimate. But his examples raise questions; calculating cost is far from straightforward. We know of wars not included in national budgets, underwater construction markets, and a world economy at risk over imaginary financial products. If it's hard to anticipate everyday costs, how can we possibly figure ahead of time the price of total commitment? The realm of faith is beyond practical and logical management. (Today Jesus speaks of prudence, but in coming weeks we will read parables that fling cost-benefit logic to the wind: there is more joy in heaven over the one found than over the many never lost.)

Certain people sell the Christian faith as a means to financial prosperity and self-help. The truth that God wills our well-being is distorted into the promise that God will add to our bank accounts. By contrast, Jesus is honest that there is a cost to following. Conflicts of loyalty are inevitable. "Hate" is the attention-grabbing way he says, "In an ethical conflict, I want you to love me even more than any of these other good things." Today's gospel tells us that suffering loss or getting caught up in conflict may actually be a sign that we've chosen well. Jesus trusts us with the truth. And that—hidden as it is under the surface—*is* good news.

Carry the cross



and follow me

