

Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA - God's Work. Our Hands

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 23, 2017

Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

Paul Andree, Pastor

Email: paandree@hickorytech.net Phone: 465-3635 or 456-7973

Facebook, Trinity Lutheran Church New Richland Webpage: trinitynewrichland.org

Welcome Guests! We are thankful God has brought you to worship with us today.

Prelude

Rhonda Andree

Gathering

The Holy Spirit, the comforter, gathers us in worship

Welcome/Announcements

Opening Hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

ELW # 855

Gathering Prayer

Call to Worship

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.

P: Once we were far off,

C: But now we have been brought near.

P: Once we were strangers and aliens,

C: But now, in Christ, we have become one family.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: We confess our sins before God and one another. *Pause for silence and reflection.*

P: Loving God,

C: You have offered us the world and yet we turn to our own distractions, believing we know better. We have not lived as your beloved children, born of one spirit and belonging to one family. Instead we cut ourselves off from what is unfamiliar, intimidating or different. Forgive us for our limited vision. Forgive us for not trusting in you and your promise to never give up on us. Amen.

P: We have been adopted into God's family, an identity which cannot be taken from us. God is love, God is patient, God is merciful. We owe eternal thanks to the lover of our souls for continually reaching for us and holding us fast in an embrace of forgiveness, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day

One true God, we are your dwelling place. Brought close to you by grace, may we reflect the unity which ours in Christ, in the Church and in the world. **Amen.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching and song

Children’s Sermon

Scripture Readings

Ephesians 2:11-22

Scripture Summary

The believers in Ephesus are given a monumental task: to live as though the age-old divisions of culture and religion no longer exist, for Jesus has made such distinctions irrelevant. Are these new Christians up to the challenge?

Litany

L: Who belongs to God?

C: Is this a trick question?

L: Not at all.

C: We do. We belong to God.

L: All of you?

C: Everyone in this church!

L: How about beyond this church?

C: Beyond this church? What do you mean?

L: Do people outside of this church belong to God too?

C: Yes, of course they do! All Christians belong to God!

L: How about non-Christians? Muslims, Jews?

C: Non-Christians? We need to think about that a minute. OK, yes, they do.

L: How about people who don’t believe in God at all? Do they belong to God?

C: We know where you’re going with this. Yes. Everyone on earth belongs to God.

L: Which makes us all one. Right? The dividing walls between us come down.

C: But some of those walls are very thick. Suspicion, prejudice, misunderstanding...

L: Fear, conflict—yes, they can be thick walls.

C: It’s hard to knock down those kinds of walls.

L: That’s why we have help!

C: Help?

L: When we open our hearts, God stretches them much wider.

C: And the wider our hearts, the more room for love.

L: Trust instead of suspicion. Acceptance instead of prejudice.

C: Understanding, not misunderstanding. No fear. No more conflict. In a perfect world that would be true...

L: We don't need to wait for perfect. We can tear down those walls.

C: Even the thick ones?

L: Especially them!

C: So, may God open our hearts ever wider.

L: May we tear down the walls.

C: May we truly all be one. Amen!

Hymn *"Rock of Ages"*

ELW # 623

Sermon

Hymn *"The Church's One Foundation"*

ELW # 654

Apostles' Creed

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.

Gathering of the Offering

Stewardship Snippet

"I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever." –Psalm 86:12

Ever notice how generous people are often people with thankfulness in their hearts? Gratitude and generous giving do go hand in hand. Becoming a good steward begins with taking stock of all we have and thanking God for it ... with your whole heart. Make – and keep – a list of all you are grateful for. Pray over it often and add to it as your life changes.

Offertory Prayer

As members of your household, O Lord, we come rejoicing into your presence, offering the best of what we have, dedicating it to your service for the benefit of all whom you

call beloved: our whole human family. Accept what we bring and bless it, in the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Offertory

Rhonda Andree

Offering Response "We Are an Offering"

ELW # 692

Prayers of the Church

P: Uniting God,

C: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

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Sending

God blesses us and sends us out in peace

Blessing

Sending Hymn

Favorite Hymn

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Prayer List: Please keep the following friends & members of our community of faith in your prayers of thanksgiving or for comfort, peace, and healing: Vince Peterson, Phyllis Shurson, Karen Koehler, (daughter of Laura Truebenbach), Jedidiah Bisker (friend of Marlene Tappe), Betty Berg, Bridgette Blowers, Karen Warke, Shirley Tappe, Peggy Borchard, Bernie Anderson, Shawn Davis, Jean Billing, Ronda Staloch, Al Batt, Clyde Lundholm, Jill Anderson, Sandra Schuette, Jewell Mendenhall, Connor Weckwerth, Jeff Boelter, Charlene Meyer, Shane Davis, Marge Haddy, and those in care centers. Karen L. Anderson, our missionary to Chile. Our three global partners: Tanzania, Colombia, and South Sudan.

General Fund Balance -\$24,725.35

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today	10:00 am	Coffee Fellowship
Monday	8:30 am	Quilting
Wednesday	2:30 p.m.	Program at NRCC
Sunday	9:00 am	Worship
	10:00 am	Coffee Fellowship