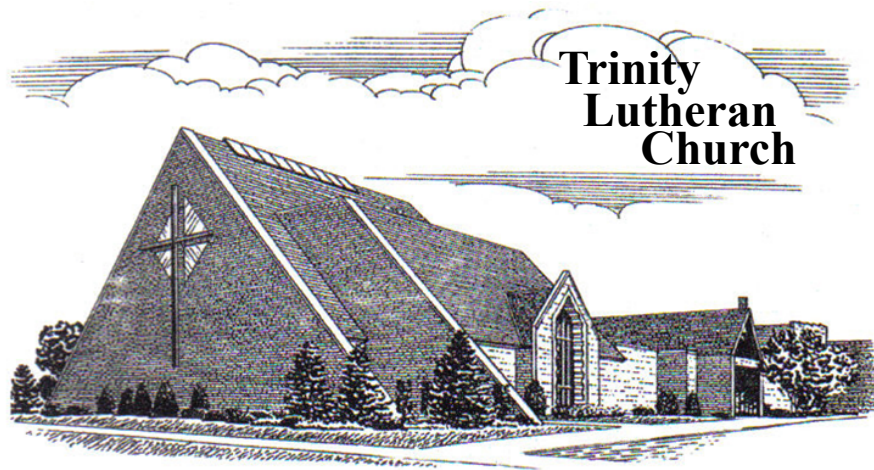


Rally Sunday



Sept. 7-13, 2026

Weekly Outline

Invocation

L: In the way of your testimonies I delight.

C: I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

L: Let us pray:

O Lord, take away from me all coldness, all wanderings of the thoughts, and fix my soul upon thee and thy love, O merciful Lord and Saviour, in this hour of prayer.

C: Amen.

Scripture

Sept. 7: Psalm 1

Sept. 9: Colossians 2:6-7

Sept. 11: John 15:1-11

Devotion

Closing Prayer

L: Ever blessed Trinity, to thy mercy I commit this day, my body and soul, together with all my ways and undertakings. I beseech thee to be gracious unto me; enlarge my heart and open my lips, that I may praise and magnify thy name which alone is holy. And as thou hast made me for the praise of thy holy name, grant that I may yield my life a sacrifice to thy honor in humble love and fear.

C: Amen.

Monday

This Sunday is Rally Sunday, where we will kickoff Sunday School and celebrate the beginning of the 26-27 school year at FLS. Our educational theme for this year is, Rooted in Christ. Psalm 1 gives us a picture of the blessings that accompany being rooted in Christ.

The psalm begins with a contrast, "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night." Every person has to find for himself a source of life, something that will direct his desires, guide his choices, and provide a standard of righteousness that he can live by. The psalmist says, "Blessed is the man who doesn't find his source of life in the company of the wicked!" There is much counsel that the world could give, but how much of it is good? There are plenty of things that the world would teach us to desire, but do they have eternal worth? There's a lot that the world teaches us to scoff at, including God and Christ. Don't root yourself in the counsel or company of the wicked. Root yourself in Christ through God's Word.

Here is the blessed man, "He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers." The stream of water that nourishes the fruitful tree is God's Word. Even in droughts, that stream is present to make our lives fruitful in the proper season. Unlike those who root themselves in wicked things, the one who meditates on God's Word has a trustworthy source of life that will never fail. May God bless us this year by rooting us more deeply in Christ through his Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Wednesday

Trees are very annoying plants. They drop leaves on your lawn, branches on your house, and even after you cut them down, they keep coming back. Though it looks to all the world as though a stump is dead, give it a few days and it'll send up a new shoot.

Trees and roots are often used as metaphors for death and new life in Scripture. For example, God says in Isaiah 6 that he is going to cut down and burn Israel like one fells a tree, but he also promises that a holy stump will remain that will sprout new life. Christ is the holy stump of Israel from which all new life comes. When Paul tells us that we are to be rooted in Christ, he is pointing to Jesus as the only one who can give life to the dead. Just like the roots of a tree contain life even after the tree is cut down, so Christ remains full of life despite all humanity being cut down by sin. The bad news is that unless you are drawing life from the root that is Christ, there is no true life in you. The good news is that Christ came to be the root that gives you life.

The first place where we are rooted into Christ is baptism. There, sin is washed away, we are clothed in Christ's righteousness, and the Holy Spirit descends on us to impart Christ's life to all who receive him by faith. But unlike a tree that can be grafted onto a root once and then be left to grow, we require constant maintenance lest our sinful nature pull us away from Jesus. This year, let us rededicate ourselves to being rooted in Christ by using the means that Christ has provided, his Holy Word and Sacraments, that we might continue receiving true life from the only true root. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Friday

When we think about the source of life, we probably think first of food. But a man can live for weeks without food. The more essential nutrient is water. You can only go a few dozen hours with that. But what about Christ? Because people seem to get along fine without Christ, we tend to treat our Savior as though he is a bonus to life, something we can add if we need him. But Christ is not just a supplement to life, nor is he a competing source of life. He is life itself.

That is a central claim in the Gospel of John. John 1:4 says, "In him was life, and the life was the light of men." And in John 15, Jesus says, "I am the true vine...Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me...For apart from me, you can do nothing." Connected to the vine, branches bear fruit. The fact that they bear fruit is evidence that they draw life from the vine. But if a branch is not connected to the vine, it cannot bear fruit. Or, if a branch appears connected to the vine but does not bear fruit, its lack of fruit is evidence that it is no longer really connected. It is a dead branch that must be removed. The branch has no life in itself. Life originates in the vine.

In the same way, all life originates in Christ. The physical life that we enjoy is dependent on the ongoing care of Christ, along with the Father and the Holy Spirit. But that physical life is a faint shadow of the fullness of life that God created us to enjoy. That life depends on us sharing a spiritual communion with him, a communion that has been lost because of sin but is being restored in Christ for those who have faith. Apart from him, we can do nothing. But in him, we bear much fruit. He is the vine from which all life flows. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Evening Prayer

You may pray one or more of the following after dinner or before bed:

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray you that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.



Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray thee, Lord, my soul to keep; if I should die before I wake, I pray thee, Lord, my soul to take; and this I ask for Jesus' sake. Amen.



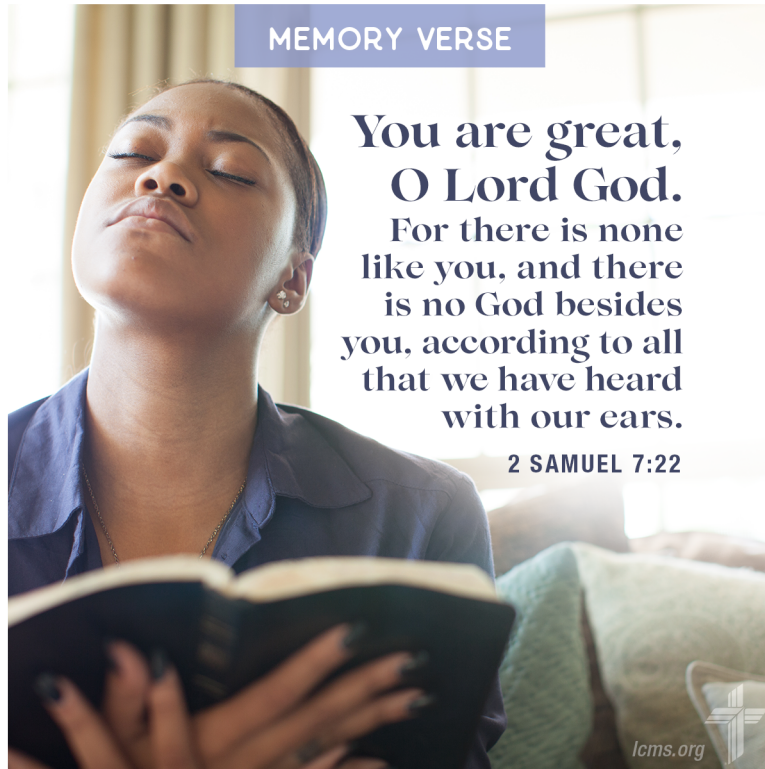
Visit, O Lord, our home, and drive from it all the snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell in it to preserve us in peace, and may your blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

A Parent's Blessing

You may place your hand on the head of your child before kissing them goodnight and say:

My loved one, rest securely,
for God this night will surely
from peril guard your head.
Sweet slumbers may he send you
and bid his hosts attend you
and through the night watch o'er your bed. Amen.

Memory Verse



MEMORY VERSE

**You are great,
O Lord God.**

**For there is none
like you, and there
is no God besides
you, according to all
that we have heard
with our ears.**

2 SAMUEL 7:22

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