

Dear Trinity,

This summer we're breaking out of the Revised Common Lectionary from June 14 until August 30 to get *Unraveled: Seeking God When Our Plans Fall Apart*. This series from our friends at A Sanctified Art was released in 2017, but I can't imagine a more timely worship template for us in the summer of 2020!

You, the good people of Trinity, have undergone enormous change over the past two years (yes, its only been two years). A beloved pastor resigned under painful circumstances, decidedly *not* the farewell you'd imagined after decades of life together. In our present moment, we're experiencing change at a breakneck pace. But change without conversation or community leaves us feeling uncertain. It's time for us to explore our suspicion that things are becoming *Unraveled* so we can whole heartedly proclaim that God is still making all things new!

During *Unraveled*, we will Lament, Learn, and Look for God.

Lament is a holy prayer of pain, anger, grief, and all the things that we presume "good Christians" shouldn't admit to feeling. Our Biblical ancestors had no such reservations however! In the Bible, Lament is a popular form of conversation with God. Ragged breaths name the lament until finally the depths of anger get replaced with sighs that speak God's faithful presence. Lament is necessary for growing in faith and for processing change. Lament is never the end of the conversation, but its needed.

Learning is part of Christian faith and life, especially if you're a Lutheran! It's a healthy, faithful mindset to believe that we, each of us, can always learn more. So during the sermon series we'll dig deep into the Bible and our Lutheran heritage to help us understand how to release those plans that have fallen apart. When we do so, our hands and hearts and minds are open to receive the new blessings God has in store.

Finally, we'll look for God's faithful presence in our daily lives, over the expanse of generations, and through the course of human history. Naming God's continued presence will encourage us to trust that God is still here, working to bless all of creation even now. During this series, we'll practice tuning our hearts to God even in chaos and uncertainty.

Walk with me this summer as we explore *Unraveled*.

Grace + Peace,

Pastor Amy

Drive Through Communion: Sunday, 6/14, 9 – 10 am at Trinity!

Communion is a sacred gift to us from God. Jesus commanded that we “do this to remember” him and still serves as the host of this meal. Come. Receive this gift, be strengthened by the love and sacrifice of Jesus, be renewed. To prepare yourself for receiving communion, please worship online with us at 8 am.

Pastor Amy and Pastor Dan will be stationed in the parking lot ready to distribute blessed elements of juice and wafer, the body and blood of Jesus. All you need to do is roll down your window!

1. Even with mask and glove precautions, there is some element of risk to this. If you feel unwell or are hesitant in any way, please stay home. Jesus loves you!
2. Enter the church parking lot of Lincoln Street and wrap around the building (arrows). Parking lot attendants will direct you to stations where Pastor Amy and Pastor Dan will pass communion to you through your window.



Please note: the church will be closed and bathrooms unavailable.
Gluten Free Wafers available on request

Yes! You can bring your offering to communion.

Yes! You can bring your quarters for Guatemala to communion.

Yes! You can bring your pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House to communion.

All Devotionals including the Unraveled devotionals will be available at Drive Thru Communion.

A request for help from one of our confirmation students working on a Girl Scout project.

Hi! I am Mackenzie Cramlet, an 8th grader at the Fort Atkinson Middle School.

In my Middle School years I had the opportunity to do a silver award for Girl Scouts. I have always had a passion for trying to help my community and make a difference in others lives. This I thought was the perfect opportunity to do just that.

What I am planning to do for my silver award is to make some sensory frames for all of the Special Education rooms in all elementary schools in the Fort district. I would make 2-3 frames for each Special Education classroom.

Here are some of the materials that will be helpful for the project are;

Picture Frames (4*6)

Sandpaper

plastic straws

thin hot glue sticks

buttons and felt

pool noodles

maybe a corkboard.

Anything else you can think of that would be a good texture material

Some of the requirements for the silver award are;

*A project that will help the community for now and in the future

*50 hours of work needs to be put into the project

*4 or less people are working on the project

Thank you so much for helping and I am looking forward to helping the Fort Atkinson community!

Sincerely,

Mackenzie Cramlet; Cadette Girl Scout in the Badgerland Council

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR.....Judy Almquist, Marsha Anderson, Sandy Anderson, Nick Bee, Linda Doerr, Kim Hannan, Renee Jensen, Ron Kemmerling, Bob Kyle, Phyllis Lang, Steffani Liebel, Rick Liebel, Dan Morrow, Pam Nicholas, Debbie Pierce, Tom Pomraning, Violet Prust, Paul Reed, Tim Sawyer, Denny Stark, Shelley Scheurm, Ruth Smithback, Karen Weber, Donna Weeks, Aryzone Zick, Donald Zuehlke and those we name silently in our hearts.

Daily Discipleship

Sunday, June 12-18 (A) – Matthew 9:35 - 10:8

Tips of Discipleship: *Be On a Mission*

Focus Question: *How do you partner with Jesus in his mission?*

word of life

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:37 (NRSV)

Read Matthew 9:35-10:8

After Jesus is baptized, he spends time being tested and prepared in the wilderness. Once his ministry is launched, he proceeds to call his disciples and trains them about his mission. Jesus expands his mission outreach efforts by commissioning and sending his disciples.

1. *What is important for Jesus to teach his disciples in their first year together?*

In the Gospel of Matthew, by the end of chapter nine, Jesus is heavily engaged in teaching, proclaiming the good news, and curing illnesses. He has compassion for those he meets on his travels “because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36 NRSV)

2. *What does it feel like to be harassed and helpless?*
3. *What does it mean to be a sheep without a shepherd?*

Jesus sees great need and hunger in people as he travels throughout the cities, villages, and countryside. He compares it to a harvest time when the crop is ready and laborers are needed. If there are not enough laborers to maximize the moment, then the full benefit of the time is lost.

Jesus believes prayer is the first step. To pray is to acknowledge a need for assistance, particularly in dealing with people who have needs. The laborers of Christ still need a shepherd. Jesus says, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:37 NRSV) It is not just laborers who are needed, but those open to labor for Christ.

4. *How might prayer assist in getting laborers?*
5. *Why might the Lord be concerned about the harvest?*

God has blessed Jesus with laborers – his disciples. Thus, Jesus gathers his own disciples whom he has called, and gives them authority to heal. It is interesting to note the disciples listed in Matthew 10:2-4 are in pairs. Perhaps these are the missionary teams sent by Jesus.

6. *What would it feel like to be a student of Jesus and commissioned to heal and cast out unclean spirits?*
7. *Is this our calling today? How so?*
8. *Describe how you imagine the life of the disciples during their first year with Jesus.*

Jesus gives clear instructions to his disciples to not interact with the Gentiles. The time is not right to harvest that crop. Jesus places a priority on the Jews and requests his disciples to begin their work with them in very specific ways. He mandates, “As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast our demons.” (Matthew 10:7-8 NRSV) Plus, do it without pay.

9. *What is the most surprising aspect of the commissioning of the disciples?*

word among us

Homer's home congregation was struggling. No doubt about it. There was controversy over the color of the new women's bathroom, the hymns sung at worship, and even about where to allow the children to drink their punch after worship. All aspects of church life seemed like such hard work. It appeared to Homer like his beloved congregation had lost its focus and mission.

1. *What advice would you give Homer?*
2. *If a congregation loses its focus on mission, what can be done?*
3. *Describe a congregation centered on the mission of Jesus Christ.*

Homer's grandson lived out of state. He had fond memories of summers spent with his grandfather, so he pursued his first job after college graduation in Homer's hometown. Proudly, Homer took his grandson to church, but he became embarrassed by all the bickering heard before and after worship. Over lunch, Homer shared his profound sadness about his congregation which had lost its way despite the profound needs of his community. He had a sense of urgency as he expressed concern over his church's apathy. It was his grandson who suggested beginning with prayer. They committed to pray daily for a change of direction for Homer's church.

4. *How might prayer impact the situation?*
5. *How do you explain a congregation which loses its way?*
6. *How might some new members help change the direction of a congregation?*

Jesus compared the opportunities of his day to harvest time. He was well aware of the urgency associated with the season of harvest. There was no time or reason to procrastinate. Jesus knew workers were needed to do specific tasks in a timely manner.

7. *How is it "harvest time" for your community?*
8. *How does your congregation understand and implement the mission of Christ?*

In order to expand his mission, Jesus called his disciples and sent them out by twos. They were asked to do tasks beyond their human powers. Specifically, they were asked to cure, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and even cast out demons. They could do none of this without God's Spirit empowering them to do so.

Jesus continues to call disciples to be sent out on his mission – to do those things beyond their human capabilities. There is such need as people search for meaning and healing in their lives. Today – no matter the season of the year – is harvest time.

9. *What does it mean for you to partner with Jesus Christ in mission?*

Prayer

Christ, thank you for calling me to follow you and to serve as your disciple. Help me to grasp your mission and ways to partner with you. Amen

Dig Deeper

Romans 5:1-8

last word

Each day,
prayerfully ponder the opportunities
to partner with Jesus in mission.



UNRAVELED
SEEKING GOD WHEN OUR PLANS FALL APART

A SUMMER SERIES WITH
TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH

TRINTYFORT.ORG

Starting June 14, 2020