



September 2, 2026 Newsletter Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon reflection from Fr. Tryggvi

When we human beings are confronted with bad news there are some of us who respond by seeking to ignore it, or use denial as a protective mechanism against overwhelming fear, stress, and emotional pain. We may even seek to minimize the sadness of death by looking for positive meaning in how someone died. While such responses are understandable, they can also prevent us from confronting the fullness of life: that life contains both what we perceive to be good and bad.

Having cultivated great hopes for Jesus as their champion, the disciples could hardly imagine him willingly walking toward suffering and death. Peter's rebuke reveals his inability to accept this difficult truth, and Jesus' sharp response - "Get behind me, Satan" - shows how seriously Jesus regards the temptation to avoid the cross. Jesus then calls his followers to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him.

The Gospel challenges our culture's desperate pursuit of happiness, safety, comfort, and immunity from suffering. Christianity is not spectator faith; following Jesus carries a cost. Yet this is not a call to seek suffering or death, but to stop allowing fear of suffering and death to control our lives. Claiming Christ as Redeemer calls us to embody his mercy, compassion, and love, and to extend such good deeds, not only to friends and neighbors, but also to strangers, because in God's eyes no one is a stranger and everyone is worthy of love.

Questions for contemplation this week:

- *Where might fear of discomfort, suffering, or loss be causing me to cling too tightly to safety or control, rather than trusting God and living my life more fully?*
- *If following Jesus means becoming an instrument of his mercy, compassion, and love, who is the "stranger" in my life whom I am being called to attend to as my neighbor, rather than choosing to ignore him/her in order to protect my own comfort, happiness, and immunity from suffering.*

Peace, Tryggvi+

Parish House Construction Update – August 26

Demolition is ongoing. Concrete cutting for installation of the pillars for the new covered porch has finished. Reminder: the only entrance to the building is now through the front door. Work has not begun on the second floor yet.

Opportunity Sunday - September 13

"Opportunity Sunday" is the day our current ministry members gather to answer questions and share their experience in the various ministries of the church. If you are interested in getting involved in the support of the church, we hope you'll make plans to attend and possibly sign up! [Click here](#) to see a list of the current ministries at Advent.

With the Parish House construction and weather permitting, milder September temperature, we are planning to hold Opportunity Sunday outside in the Memorial Garden. If you would like to offer an alternative place to gather, please reach out to Fr. Tryggvi. or the church office.

Rota and Readings
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026

LEM: 8:00 A.M. Booker—10:30 A.M. Booker

1st Reading: M Dartnell

2nd Reading: D Dartnell

Altar Guild: McCauley-Burriss-Harrell

Flower Guild:

Organ Tech: K Jackson

Vestry of the Day: D. Dartnell

[Link to readings](#)

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 149

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Parish Prayer List

Flossie Dodge, Kate Jackson, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Kathie Schmidt, Betty Thomas, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Mary Ann Edelman, Anita Hunt, Beth Tamplin Jones, Fr. Dann Brown, Jack Ward, Gloria Ward, Jack Leo, Eric Wiemann, Susan Crosher, Gloria Leo, Etwanda "Tink" Wade, Robert Boswell, Helga H. Stefnisdóttir, Monaray Powers, June Harrell, Wayne Tankersley, Bobbie Rushing, David Medlock, Jim, Caroline Hill, Gail Thompson, Linda Carswell, Beth, Steve Huggins, Betty Camnitz, Bob Kite

Birthdays in August: 1 Alexander Reid, **4** Penny Lyle, **14** Vic Jackson, **15** Maryann Dartnell, **17** Julie Jenkins, **20** Ray Bennett, **20** Alex Branch, **26** Devon Dartnell, Harrison Yost, **27** Amanda Vernon, **28** William Wood Burriss

Recurring weekly calendar

- Rite I Eucharist: Sunday, 8:00 AM
- Sunday school (adult): Sunday, 9:15 AM
- Rite II Eucharist: Sunday, 10:30 AM
- Morning Prayer service: Wednesday, 9:00 AM
- Off the Rails AA group: M, Tu, Th @ noon
- Madison AA group: Th, F, Su @ 7:00 PM

Volunteer for service: To learn about and volunteer to be a lay reader, organ tech, lay eucharistic minister, or to be a member of the flower and/or altar guild, [click this link!](#)

To add a name to the prayer lists, either restricted or public, email: prayer-list@adventmadisonga.com.

Prayer list requests go to Tim and Fr. Tryggvi only. You can always add names to the register at the back of the nave. For other pastoral care requests such as inquiries about weddings, baptisms, or funerals, use of the Memorial Garden, requesting Eucharistic visits and short-term meals following surgery or during illness, email pastoral-care@adventmadisonga.com.

Morgan County Transit System provides transportation to local addresses to include grocery stores, workplaces, doctors' appointments and others. \$2.00 per person/ \$1.75 for seniors 60 and over. Advanced reservations are required. For detailed information see <https://www.morgancountyga.gov/158/Public-Transportation>

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

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