

Trinity Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

Trinity Lutheran – ELCA is a welcoming and inclusive church. We welcome believers, seekers, and the curious, regardless of religious background. We are Reconciling in Christ and extend welcome and invitation to all regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity; race, ethnicity, or immigration status; economic status; physical, mental, or developmental issues; or other life circumstance. God loves and welcomes all people. We welcome all people to the life of Christ at Trinity.

So, how can you learn more about Trinity?

Visit our website at www.trinitylutheranfc.org

Consider joining us for worship or one of our ministry events.

Contact our pastors for a chat.

We believe we are not a complete community, and that God is calling new people to join us and to find their place at Trinity.

**We invite you join us on the journey of faith!
Saturdays at 5p.m.; Sundays at 10:30a.m.**

**Trinity is a welcoming faith community living together in God's love
to share the joy of Jesus Christ.**

Trinity Lutheran Church
301 E. Stuart St., Fort Collins, CO 80525, (970) 482-1226
Website: www.trinitylutheranfc.org
email: office@trinitylutheranfc.org
TLC Preschool - 221-9852



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***Celebration of Life for
Paul Walter Schairer
October 3, 1934—April 17, 2026***

Saturday, May 2, 2026 10:30 a.m.

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301 E. Stuart St., Fort Collins, CO 80525
970-482-1226
Office@trinitylutheranfc.org



Paul's Obituary

Paul Walter Schairer was born to Herbert and Mary Schairer on October 3, 1934, in Ann Arbor, MI. He was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church. He was a graduate of Capitol University, Columbus, OH, and received a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, IA. Paul married Mary Alice Baur on August 15, 1959, at Zion Lutheran Church, the church of their baptisms and confirmations.

Paul enjoyed spending time with his family, camping, reading, and golfing. Being a farm boy at heart, he enjoyed gardening at a significant level. Hearing a farm story as a sermon illustration was routine for both the primary congregations he served as well as the many interim calls throughout his career.

Pastor Paul, as he became known to the many churches he served, loved the Church and led the churches he served through processes of healing, transformation, and growth. The people in these ALC and ELCA congregations didn't take long to come to love Pastor Paul for his leadership style and capabilities, his preaching, and his strong commitment to the people of these congregations. He was a capable mentor for many associate pastors and interns.

Pastor Paul's career followed callings in parish ministry to St. James, Garden City, KS; home mission organizer at Peace in Joplin, MO; St. Matthew, Aurora, CO; St. John's of Saginaw, MI; and Faith of Bellaire, TX, until his retirement fifteen years later.

This, however, was not really retirement—as he liked to ask, “Where does it say I am supposed to stop?” He served many congregations as interim pastor, including Joy, Parker, CO; St. Phillip, Littleton, CO; Trinity, Fort Collins, CO; Lutheran Church of Hope, Broomfield, CO; and others. Pastor Paul brought his gifts to congregations needing guidance through transitions and struggles. After his interim career, Pastor Paul continued to fill supply pastoral needs and served as visitation pastor at Trinity,

GATHERING HYMN “*Borning Cry*”

ELW #732

John C. Ylvisaker

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- 1 “I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I’ll be there when you are old.
- 2 “When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 “In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I’ll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I’ve be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell.”
I’ll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.”
I’ll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise.”



- 4 “I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I’ll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.”

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

Pastor Larry Beck

READINGS


EZEKIEL 34:11-16

¹¹ For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. ¹² As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.


PSALM 84

¹ How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! ² My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. ³ Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. ⁴ Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. ⁵ Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. ⁶ As they go through the valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. ⁷ They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. ⁸ O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! ⁹ Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed. ¹⁰ For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. ¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly. ¹² O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

POSTLUDE

“Lead On, O King Eternal”

Ernest W. Shurtleff & Henry T. Smart
Public Domain

Serving today... Pastor Rick Reiten,
Pastor Kaari Nieuwlandt &
Pastor Larry Beck

Musician... Carrie Hansen

AV Technicians... Claire Pickerel & Chad Carpenter

Communion Assistants: Erik Elliott, Liz & Paul Johnson
& Shelley Aust

Welcome Table Hosts: Susan & Lee Lamb

Kitchen Angels... Ronda Simmons, Barb Klamann,
Jennifer Anderson & Cheryl Smith

Please follow the family to the memorial garden for the inurnment immediately following the service, and then stay for a lunch reception.

BLESSING

P: May God grant peace within you. May God help you trust, that you are exactly where you need to be. May God's love and forgiveness given to you be passed onto others. May God's presence be felt at every peak and valley of your life-and every moment in-between. May you be content in the promise-you are a child of God.

C: Amen.

SPECIAL SONG

"The Lord Bless you and Keep You"

SENDING HYMN

"Jesus Loves Me"

TFF #249

Anna B. Warner & William B. Bradbury

Public Domain



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! loves me still, though I'm ver - y weak and ill;
4 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
from his shin - ing throne on high, comes to watch me where I lie.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶ I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

JOHN 21:15-17

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

HOMILY

Pastor Rick Reiten

HYMN

“Now Thank We All Our God” **ELW #840**
Martin Rinkhart;
tr. Catherine Winkworth
M: Johann Crüger Public Domain



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

APOSTLES 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.

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” **ELW #632**
Isaac Watts & William Croft
Public Domain



1 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
2 Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
3 Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
4 A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,



our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:
sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.
from ever-lasting you are God, to end-less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

COMMENDATION

P: Let us commend Paul to the mercy of God.
Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Paul to your care. He is a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and the glorious company of the saints.

C: Amen.

"Faith of Our Fathers"

ELW #812

Frederick W. Faber

M: Henri F. Hemy & James G. Walton

Public Domain



1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
2 The mar - tyrs, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and
3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in



fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate
all our strife; pro - claim thee too, as love knows how,

Refrain



when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word.
if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,
by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.



ho - ly faith, we will be true to thee till death.

**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.**

PRAYERS

P: God of resurrection, we give you thanks for the
promise of life that is given to us all. We celebrate the
life of Paul Schairer and the lives of all who now rest
from their labors. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

P: God of all generations, thank you for the gift of faith,
the beauty of relationship, the mystery of life, the
promise of forgiveness, and the community of saints,
that sustains us day by day. Lord in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

P: God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his
death Jesus destroyed the power of death, and by his
resurrection opened the kingdom to all. Restore to us
the promise that neither death nor life, nor things
present, nor things to come, will separate us from your
love in Christ Jesus, who reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

PEACE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P: In the night...
...gave it to the disciples, saying:
- C: Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**
- P: ...gave it for all to drink, saying:
- C: This cup is the new promise in my blood, shed for you and for all people, for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us how to pray:
- C: 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.**

*We come to the table by Jesus' invitation. All are welcome!
As you come forward, receive the gluten free bread and a cup of
red wine or white juice, then place your empty cup in the tray.
Let us know if you prefer to only receive a blessing.*

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Children of the Heavenly Father" ELW #781

Carolina Sandell Berg; tr. Ernst W. Olson
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admin. Augsburg Fortress OL #03614
M: Swedish folk tune Public Domain



- 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
- 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
- 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
- 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



- nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.