



Jesus sends the

Spirit

to show Sin,
Righteousness, and
Judgment

May 7, 2023

An Explanation of Our Communion Practice

Today we are celebrating the Lord's Supper, which is a wonderful gift from our gracious God. In his Word, God teaches that Christians need a proper understanding of the Lord's Supper before receiving it (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). He also tells us that Christians should be completely united before communing together (1 Corinthians 10:17). Therefore, we ask that only members of our fellowship (The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and, worldwide, The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference) commune at Trinity.

We do want everyone to commune with us. So that everything may be done decently and in good order (1 Corinthians 14:40), we ask for the opportunity to verify that we are united in our beliefs based on God's Word, and then to celebrate that unity publicly in the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more, please speak to Pastor. Thank you for your understanding of our belief and practice.





- **Welcome!** Thank you for joining us for worship! In our service we receive God’s grace through his Word and sacraments. As he works to strengthen our faith in Jesus, we respond to his goodness with our prayers, praise, and offerings. We are glad to be here and glad that you have joined us today!
- Restrooms are located in the main hallway, narthex, and back classrooms.
- If you wish to step out of the service to calm your child, please feel welcome to use the Fellowship Hall or the Toddler Sunday School Room (located in the back-corner classroom of the building, connected to the Fellowship Hall). Both of these rooms have televisions showing the worship service. Also, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or any member if you need help locating anything. We want to make you feel welcome.

Serving the Lord and Serving Us:

Pastor: Paul Jenkins

Tonight’s Focus: Jesus sends the Spirit out with God’s law and gospel into all the world; the Spirit’s work is met with faith by some and rejection by others. Our worship follows *The Common Service*.

We Come into the Presence of God

MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.

OPENING HYMN: 255, "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty;
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee;



Zi - on, let me en - ter there, Where my
Come thou al - so un - to me. Where we
Here thy seed is du - ly sown. Let my
Let me keep thy gift di - vine, How - so -
Let thy will be done in - deed. May I



soul in joy - ful du - ty Waits for him who
find thee and a - dore thee, There a heav'n on
soul, where it is plant - ed, Bring forth pre - cious
e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en; May thy Word still
un - dis - turbed draw near thee While thou dost thy

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an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed is this
earth must be. To my heart, oh, en - ter
sheaves a - lone, So that all I hear may
o'er me shine As my guid - ing star through
peo - ple feed. Here of life the foun - tain



place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
thou; Let it be thy tem - ple now!
be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.
life, As my com - fort in all strife.
flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: UNSER HERRSCHER (87 87 77) Joachim Neander, 1650–80, alt.

Stand

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD



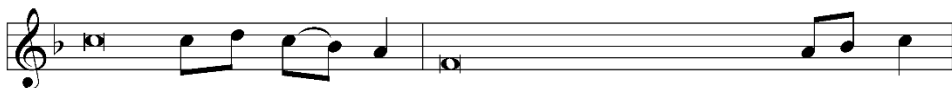
C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



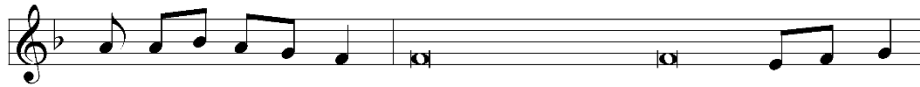
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of



God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;



you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,



are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray. O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

1 CHRONICLES 16:23-34

These are the final verses of a psalm of praise that David wrote for the priests to sing after he successfully rescued the Ark of the Covenant from the Philistines and returned it to Jerusalem. The psalm foresees the spread of God's Word to all nations on earth.

Sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

²⁴ Declare his glory among the nations,
his wonderful acts among all the peoples,

²⁵ for great is the LORD and greatly to be praised.
He is to be feared above all gods.

²⁶ For all the gods of the peoples are not gods at all.
But the LORD made the heavens.

²⁷ Honor and majesty are before him.
Strength and joy are in his place.

²⁸ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples.
Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²⁹ Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and come before him.
Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

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³⁰ Tremble before him, all the earth.
Surely the world stands firm.
It shall never be overthrown.

³¹ The heavens will be glad.
The earth will rejoice.
They will say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."

³² The sea and everything that fills it will roar.
The fields and everything in them will celebrate.

³³ The trees of the forest will sing for joy before the LORD,
for he is coming to judge the earth.

³⁴ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever.

Psalm of the Day: 66

Read Responsively

M: Shout for joy to God, all the earth!

C: Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!

M: Praise our God, O peoples,

C: let the sound of his praise be heard.

M: He has preserved our lives

C: and kept our feet from slipping.

M: Come and listen, all you who fear God;

C: let me tell you what he has done for me.

M: If I had cherished sin in my heart,

C: the LORD would not have listened;

M: but God has surely listened

C: and heard my voice in prayer.

SECOND LESSON

JAMES 1:16-21

According to his own good plan, God sends out his Word to save our souls. Our response is thankful, thoughtful, calm, and clean lives.

Do not be deceived, my dear brothers. ¹⁷Every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the lights, who does not change or shift like a shadow. ¹⁸Just as he planned, he gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would be a kind of firstfruits of his creations.

¹⁹Remember this, my dear brothers: Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. ²⁰Certainly, a man's anger does not bring about what is right before God. ²¹So after getting rid of all moral filthiness and overflowing wickedness, receive with humility the word planted in you. It is able to save your souls.

VERSE OF DAY

M: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Jesus said to them, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me." Alleluia!
(John 14:6)

Stand

GOSPEL AND SERMON TEXT

John 16:5-15

M: The Holy Gospel of St. John, chapter 16.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

"But now I am going away to him who sent me, and not one of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶Yet because I have told you these things, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth: It is good for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

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¹² “I still have many things to tell you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. For he will not speak on his own, but whatever he hears he will speak. He will also declare to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ Everything the Father has is mine. This is why I said that he takes from what is mine and will declare it to you.”

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON: "Thank God for Sending the Spirit"

HYMN: 145, "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no
2 Je - sus lives! To him the throne High o'er
3 Je - sus lives! For me he died; Hence will
4 Je - sus lives! I know full well Noth - ing
5 Je - sus lives! And now is death But the



long - er can ap - pall me. Je - sus lives! Death's
heav'n and earth is giv - en. I shall go where
I, to Je - sus liv - ing, Pure in heart and
me from him shall sev - er, Life nor death nor
gate to life im - mor - tal; This shall calm my



reign is done! From the grave Christ will re -
he is gone, Live and reign with him in
act a - bide, Praise to him and glo - ry
pow'rs of hell Part me now from Christ for -
trem - bling breath When I pass its gloom - y

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call me. Bright - er scenes will then com - mence;
heav - en. God is faith - ful; doubt - ings, hence!
giv - ing. All I need God will dis - pense;
ev - er. God will be a sure de - fense;
por - tal. Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:



This shall be my con - fi - dence.
This shall be my con - fi - dence.
This shall be my con - fi - dence.
This shall be my con - fi - dence.
"Je - sus is my con - fi - dence!"

Text: Christian F. Gellert, 1715–69, abr.; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1815–97, alt.
Tune: JESUS MEINE ZUVERSICHT (78 78 77) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

SERMON

TEXT: John 6:5-15

THEME: Jesus Sends the Spirits to Show Sin, Righteousness, and Judgment

Stand

CREATE IN ME

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Be seated

OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Register in the pew.

The members of Trinity make joyful offerings to support this church's ministry. A portion of our offerings is also used for the training of future pastors and teachers, and the worldwide mission work carried out by our fellowship, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Our guests are under no obligation to give, but any gifts freely given are welcome and will be put to work in service to God's kingdom.

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty God, we praise and honor your holy name for your numerous acts of love and mercy on behalf of your people. We especially thank you for the gift of your one and only Son, who has ascended into heaven and sits at your right hand. We rejoice in the knowledge that he is our Advocate before your throne, and that he intercedes for us in all our needs.

Send your Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds with understanding and knowledge of your heavenly truths. Give to all who serve your holy Church a full measure of your grace, so that Christ may be confessed, his cross uplifted, and his gospel declared as the only way to eternal life.

Bless all parents that they may be wholesome examples to their children. May they teach their children to love you, to practice virtue, to desire pure instruction in your Word, and to serve your Church and all people.

Hear the prayers of all who are suffering. In the quiet hour of the night, when they are weighed down by pain, loneliness, or anxiety, bring them strength and hope by assuring them that your love endures, your power overcomes, and your presence remains constant.

Special prayers

M: As we leave this hour of worship, we give all glory to Jesus. To him be praise and honor and glory and power now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C: It is good and right so to do

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est." The score ends with a double bar line.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this (+) is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this (+) is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - - men.

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: 152 "I Know that My Redeemer Lives," verses 5-7

5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; He lives to
wipe a - way my tears. He lives to calm my
trou - bled heart; He lives all bless - ings to im - part.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives and loves me to the end. He lives, and I shall conquer death.
He lives, and while he lives I'll sing; He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King. He lives to bring me safely there.

Stand

SONG OF SIMEON

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN: 260, "Let All Things Now Living"



1 Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks-giv - ing
2 His law he en - forc - es; The stars in their cours - es



To God the Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
And sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine.



Who fash - ioned and made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us,
The hills and the moun - tains, The riv - ers and foun - tains,



Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
The deeps of the o - cean pro - claim him di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us; His light goes be - fore us,
We, too, should be voic - ing Our love and re - joic - ing.



A pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
With glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



Till shad - ows have van - ished And dark - ness is ban - ished,
Till all things now liv - ing U - nite in thanks-giv - ing:



As for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
"To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt. © 1939. Renewed 1966 by E. C. Schirmer Music Co. (admin. ECS Publishing). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: THE ASH GROVE (66 11 66 11 D) Welsh folk tune.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Sunday Morning Bible Class

The adult Bible class is studying the Armor of God. For this class we are using a book called "Equipped: The Armor of God for Everyday Struggles," by Christopher M. Kenndy, which is available for purchase from Northwestern Publishing House at nph.net. It is not necessary to buy the book in order to benefit from the class, but it will be helpful.

Wine and Word Bible Study – Thursday, May 18

The Wine and Word Bible Study meets at the home of Bruce and Dawn Knox. Their home is located just 5 minutes from the church in Old Bridge Estates. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7-8:30pm. We are studying the book of Revelation with Larry Kovaciny as our guide. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and small bite appetizer. Come and join us whether you drink wine or not! Contact Dawn at 703-615-9320 or dawn.f.knox@gmail.com to RSVP.

Women's Bible Study - Saturday, May 13

Looking for an opportunity to grow in God's Word and for fellowship with other women? We'd love to have you join our Women's Bible Study on Saturday, May 13 at 9:00 am at Trinity. We will discuss the final chapter of "Coffee with the Savior" by Kristen Myers. Copies of the book can be found in the narthex.

Summer Worship Schedule Starts May 28

Beginning Sunday, May 28 there will be a single worship service at 10. Bible class and Sunday School will break for the summer. The "normal" schedule will resume on September 10, the Sunday after Labor Day.

Fellowship Opportunities This Summer: "Chosen" Nights

On most Wednesday nights this summer, everyone is welcome to potluck suppers that will start at 6. Beverages and tableware will be provided; please bring a dish to pass if you can. After supper we will watch an episode of the acclaimed series, "The Chosen," which tells the story of Jesus through the eyes of those who followed him. A little discussion time will follow the show.

The "Chosen" nights will be: June 21 and 28; July 12 and 26; August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.

If you have any questions, please speak to pastor.



Vacation Bible School

It's time to register for this year's VBS, which will be held here at Trinity July 17-21 from 9:00-11:30 am. Come join us for a Stellar VBS where kids will have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. We're looking forward to sharing God's Word, singing songs, making crafts, playing games, and of course, having some awesome snacks together. VBS is for kids ages 3 (and potty trained) to those entering 6th grade in the fall. Please register here: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/trinity2023> or scan the QR Code below



If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please contact Erika Ohlendorf (erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com). Kids entering 7th grade and older may volunteer as helpers.

Excess Offerings Team

From Trinity's President Steve Proksch: Trinity was blessed with an abundance of financial offerings beyond our actual expenses in 2022. Anyone in the congregation may contact the treasurer, Mr. Jim Strock, if they would like to participate on the team to help decide what to do with Trinity's surplus funds. This could include additional support to world missions, helping other WELS churches in need, or adjusting Trinity's financial investments.

Small Choir

Trinity's small choir sings once a month during Worship. Anyone is welcome to join! We'll sing hymns from our hymnal, Christian Worship. If you are interested in joining, please let John or Erika Ohlendorf know.

Help Needed with New Mover Welcome Packages

Each month Trinity delivers welcome care packages to new residents in our nearby neighborhood. We have a dedicated but small crew undertaking this project. If you would like to help, either providing care packages or delivering them, please speak to pastor. We are trying to make friends, inviting contact with as many new neighbors as possible, but need more help. Thank you for considering.

Youth Activities Coming This Summer – Update!

Camp Chi Rho will take place July 24-28, 2023. The location is moving from Elk Neck, MD to Shenandoah River State Park. This new location is more centralized and has more comfortable accommodations (A/C cabin rooms) while still maintaining the possibility to tent camp. And, who can pass up the world class finishing in the Shenandoah River? The cost will be roughly \$25 a night. Camp Chi Rho is for kids finishing grades 4-8. Kids finishing grades 9-12 can attend as "counselors." **Full information and registration is now up at campchirho.org. Please remember that a kind offer has been made by an anonymous donor at Trinity to pay the way for a kid to attend. If you'd like to take advantage of this offer, please speak to pastor and he'll put you in touch!**

The next regional youth rally, for students finishing grades 8-12, is planned for July 10-13, 2023 at Slippery Rock University (50 minutes north of Pittsburgh). The overall theme will center on relationships (with God, with others, and with ourselves). More detailed information will be available in the coming months.

Ushers and Usher Assistants Needed

A sign-up sheet is sent via email through Sign-up Genius. You are welcome to fill in as many Sundays as you are available. If you would like to become part of the regular rotation of ushers, or even just fill in once in a while when needed, please speak to Worship Elder Matt Popelier. If you are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org

Our Little Free Library

Our Little Free Library always welcomes donations of books and food! If the library outside is full, you can place donations in the white plastic bin in the Fellowship Hall right beside the door to the hallway.

Lord's Supper Available to All Members

If you are a confirmed member of Trinity and waiting to return to the sanctuary for worship, Pastor would be happy to commune you at home, or anywhere else you would like to meet. Just contact him at (309) 433-5807 or revpauljenkins@yahoo.com with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work

It is the mission of

trinity



LUTHERAN
CHURCH

to glorify God

by growing in His Word and by going with His Word

to Woodbridge and to the world.



Trinity Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.