

God Calls  
through Christ

**January 21, 2024**

## **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.

**trinity**



LUTHERAN  
CHURCH



- **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:** Rev. Paul Jenkins



# 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: 85 "O, God from God, O Light from Light"



1 O God from God, O Light from Light, O Prince of  
2 Deep in the proph-ets' sa-cred page, Grand in the  
3 That life of truth, those deeds of love, That death of  
4 Sing to the Lord a might-y song; Sing to his



Peace and King of kings, To you in heav-en's  
po-ets' wing-ed word, Slow-ly, in type, from  
pain mid hate and scorn—These all are past, and  
name, his glo-ries tell! Sing, heav'n-ly hosts, your



glo-ry bright The song of praise for-ev-er rings.  
age to age The na-tions saw their com-ing Lord;  
now a-bove He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.  
praise pro-long, And all on earth, your an-them swell!



To him who sits up-on the throne, The Lamb once  
Till through the deep Ju-de-an night Rang out the  
Lift up your heads, O might-y gates! So sang the  
Wor-thy the Lamb for sin-ners slain! For-ev-er

*(Continued on Next Page)*



slain but raised a - gain, Be all the glo - ry  
song, "Good will to men!" Sung by heav'n's hosts in  
an - gel hosts a - gain. Lift up your heads— your  
let the song as - cend! Wor - thy the Lamb en -



he has won, All thanks and praise! A - men, A - men.  
splen - dor bright, Re - ech - oed now, "Good will!" A - men.  
King a - waits. We lift them up, A - men, A - men.  
throned to reign; Glo - ry and pow'r! A - men, A - men.

Text: John Julian, 1839–1913, abr., alt.

Tune: O GROSSER GOTT (LM D) *Johann Störls . . . Schlag-Gesang-Und Noten-Buch*, Stuttgart, 1744.

STAND

## INVOCATION

Minister: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**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.**

## **LORD, HAVE MERCY - *KYRIE***

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

**C: Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

## O LORD, OUR LORD

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in  
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,  
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;  
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and  
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,  
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,  
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.  
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of eight staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) in the second, third, and fourth staves. The piece ends with a double bar line and a key signature change to one flat (Bb) in the eighth staff.

*(Continued on Next Page)*



you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;

you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the

King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,

how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*BE SEATED*

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

#### **1 Samuel 3:1-10**

*Samuel hears and answers the Lord's call.*

The boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days. Prophetic vision was not common.

<sup>2</sup> Now it happened that Eli's eyes had begun to grow dim, so that he could not see. Once when Eli was lying down in his place <sup>3</sup> and God's lamp had not yet gone out, Samuel was lying down in the LORD's temple, where God's ark was. <sup>4</sup> The LORD called Samuel, and Samuel said, "I am here." <sup>5</sup> He ran to Eli and said, "I am here, since you called me."

Eli said, "I did not call. Lie down again." So he went and lay down.

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD called once more, "Samuel!"

So Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "I am here, since you called me."

He answered, "I did not call, my son. Lie down again."

<sup>7</sup> Now Samuel had not yet experienced the LORD's presence, that is, the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD called Samuel for the third time. So he got up and went to Eli and said, "I am here, since you called me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the young man. <sup>9</sup> So Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'"

So Samuel went and once again lay down in his place. <sup>10</sup> The LORD came and stood there and called as he had the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

## PSALM OF THE DAY: 89

*Read responsively*

M: I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;

**C: I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.**

M: I will declare that your love stands firm forever,

**C: that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.**

M: The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,

**C: your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.**

M: O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?

**C: You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.**

M: Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,

**C: who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.**

M: They rejoice in your name all day long;

**C: they exult in your righteousness.**

## SECOND LESSON

### **1 Thessalonians 2:13-17**

*Those called to faith hold to God's Word and walk in his will.*

But we are always obligated to thank God for you, brothers, loved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning for salvation by the sanctifying work of the Spirit and faith in the truth. <sup>14</sup>For this reason he also called you through our gospel so that you would obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>15</sup>So then, brothers, stand firm and hold on to the teachings that were passed along to you, either by word of mouth or by a letter from us. <sup>16</sup>May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and in his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, <sup>17</sup>encourage your hearts and establish you in every good work and word.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! He said to me, "You are my servant in whom I will display my splendor." Alleluia!  
(*Isaiah 49:3*)

*STAND*

## GOSPEL AND SERMON TEXT

### **John 1:43-51**

The next day, Jesus wanted to leave for Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the hometown of Andrew and Peter.

<sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

<sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"

"Come and see!" Philip told him.

<sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said about him, "Truly, here is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

<sup>48</sup> Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?"

Jesus answered, "Before Philip called you, while you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

<sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

<sup>50</sup> Jesus replied, "You believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that!" <sup>51</sup> Then he added, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*BE SEATED*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:** "Servants Listen"

**HYMN OF THE DAY: 79 “How Lovely Shines the Morning Star” verses 1-4**



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star!      The na - tions see and  
 2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won,      True Son of God and  
 3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son      You loved me ere you  
 4 Oh, joy to know that you, my Friend,      Are Lord, be - gin - ning



hail a - far                      The light in Ju - dah shin - ing,  
 Mar - y's Son,                  The high - born King of a - ges!  
 had be - gun                      This an - cient world's foun - da - tion.  
 with - out end,                  The first and last, e - ter - nal!



O Da - vid's Son of Ja - cob's race,      My Bride-groom  
 In your blest bod - y let me be,      E'en as the  
 Your Son has made a friend of me,      And when in  
 And you at length— O glo - rious grace—      Will take me



and my King of grace,      For you my heart is pin - ing.  
 branch is in the tree,      Your life my life sup - ply - ing.  
 spir - it him I see,      I joy in trib - u - la - tion.  
 to that ho - ly place,      The home of joys su - per - nal.

*(Continued on Next Page)*



Low - ly, Ho - ly, Great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious  
Sigh - ing, Cry - ing For the sa - vor Of your fa - vor  
What bliss Is this! He is liv - ing, To me giv - ing  
A - men, A - men! Come and meet me, Quick - ly greet me!  
Sing out, Ring out Tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious



Prince of gra - ces, Fill - ing all the heav'n - ly pla - ces.  
Rest - ing nev - er Till I rest in you for - ev - er.  
Life for - ev - er; Noth - ing me from him can sev - er.  
With deep yearn - ing, Lord, I look for your re - turn - ing.  
Chos - en na - tion; Praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.  
Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET (887 887 22 44 48) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.

## SERMON

**TEXT:** John 1:43-51

**Theme:** “God Calls through Christ”

*STAND*

## 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.**

*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.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

**C: Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.**

M: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

**C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## 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

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

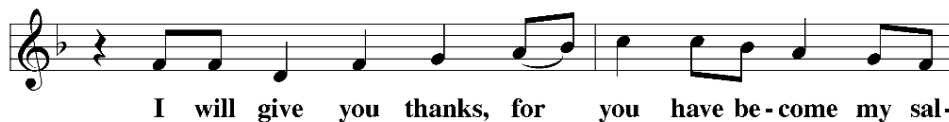
**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

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

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## 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



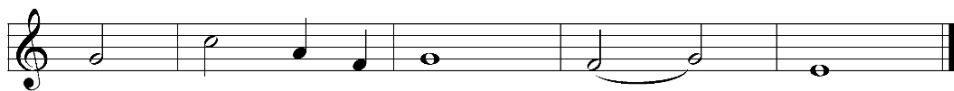
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



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: 313 “Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior”**



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, Turned a - way  
 2 As his pledge of love un - dy - ing, He, this pre -  
 3 Je - sus here him - self is shar - ing; Take heed how  
 4 Use - less would be Je - sus' pas - sion If sal - va -  
 5 Christ says, “Come, all you that la - bor, And re - ceive



God's wrath for - ev - er; By his bit - ter grief and  
 cious food sup - ply - ing, Gives his bod - y with the  
 you are pre - par - ing, For if you do not be -  
 tion you could fash - ion. Do not come if you sup -  
 my grace and fa - vor; Those who feel no pain or



woe He saved us from the e - vil foe.  
 bread And with the wine the blood he shed.  
 lieve, Judg - ment in - stead you shall re - ceive.  
 pose, You need not him who died and rose.  
 ill Need no phy - si - cian's help or skill.”

6 Then hold fast with faith unshaken  
 That this food is to be taken  
 By the souls who are distressed,  
 By hearts that long for peace and rest.

7 Praise the Father, who from heaven  
 Unto us such food has given  
 And, to mend what we have done,  
 Gave into death his only Son.

8 If your heart this truth professes  
 And your mouth your sin confesses,  
 Surely you will be his guest  
 And at his banquet ever blest.

Text: John Hus, 1369–1415; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. composite.  
 Tune: JESUS CHRISTUS, UNSER HEILAND, DER VON UNS (88 78) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert*,  
 Wittenberg, 1535, alt.

STAND

## THANK THE LORD



**C:** Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**M:** Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.**

**CLOSING HYMN: 79 “How Lovely Shines the Morning Star” verse 5**



5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, Let all glad sounds of  
mu - sic ring In God's high prais - es blend - ed.  
Christ will be with me all the way, To - day, to -  
mor - row, ev - 'ry day Till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.  
Sing out, Ring out Tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious  
Chos - en na - tion; Praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.  
Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET (887 887 22 44 48) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.



## Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

Pastor Paul Jenkins: [revpauljenkins@yahoo.com](mailto:revpauljenkins@yahoo.com), (309) 433-5807

Dawn Knox Administrative Assistant: [Admin@TrinityofWoodbridge.org](mailto:Admin@TrinityofWoodbridge.org), (703) 615-9320

Find us online at [www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org](http://www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge](http://www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge)

### Wine and Word Bible Study – February 1

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. We are studying the book of Revelation with Larry Kovaciny as our guide. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and a 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](mailto:dawn.f.knox@gmail.com) to RSVP.

### Trinity Book Club

Join the Trinity Book Club! Our next meeting is at 9:30 am on Saturday, February 3, at Cuppi Coffee in Dumfries. We'll be discussing *Shadowed Loyalty* by Roseanna M. White. If you have questions, please ask Rachel Kovaciny.

### Sunday School Spring Service Project

From the beginning of February through Sunday, February 28, Trinity's Sunday School kids are collecting baby items to donate to Birthright of Woodbridge. These will help new moms facing difficult pregnancies or with little support from their families and friends. Items needed include baby clothing (newborn to 12 mo), toiletries (baby shampoo, lotion, etc), diapers (unopened), baby towels, bibs, and burp cloths. See the bulletin board in the narthex for a more complete list. Please place all donations in the bin provided in the narthex by February 28. Thank you for helping us support moms who choose life for their babies!

### Valentine's Breakfast

Trinity will be hosting a Valentine's breakfast with free food, beverages, games and prizes on Saturday, February 10 from 9:00 to 10:30. Volunteers for menu coordination, cooking, decorating, and clean-up are needed. Because this involves food service, for insurance and liability purposes it will be a fellowship event and not promoted to the general public. However, members of Trinity are encouraged to invite their friends and neighbors. Please speak to pastor if you have any questions, or to let him know how you'd like to help with the breakfast.



## **Small Choir**

Trinity's small choir sings about 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.

## **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](mailto:admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org)

## **Lord's Supper Available to All Members**

If you are a confirmed member of Trinity, 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](mailto:revpauljenkins@yahoo.com) with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work

## **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.



## God Has Bigger Plans

*From Wels.net Family Devotion 1/10/2024*

*The LORD said: It is too small a thing that you should just be my servant to raise up only the tribes of Jacob and to restore the ones I have preserved in Israel, so I will appoint you to be a light for the nations, so that my salvation will be known to the end of the earth. Isaiah 49:6 (EHV)*

Today's Bible verse almost sounds like the happy ending of a movie. The Servant of the Lord arrived to deliver God's people who turned away from the Lord. They needed his rescue and help. So God specially chose this Servant to carry out the important work of saving God's people. But there was a problem. It was hard work, sad work, even painful work. The Lord's Servant would suffer so much. He would be lonely. He would face rejection and attacks from his enemies. He would even face death for all those who rejected him. His work would seem empty and unsuccessful.

But God had bigger plans. Through that hard, sad, painful work, the Lord's Servant would rescue the people of ancient Israel. He would save them from their sins and from death, but God had even bigger plans! The Lord's Servant wouldn't just restore God's Old Testament people, but he would reveal God's glory to people all around the world, even to you where you live! "I will appoint you to be a light for the nations, so that my salvation will be known to the end of the earth." The good news of God's salvation wouldn't just be for one group, but for all people.

Maybe you're wondering, "Who is this Servant of the Lord who is going to do these incredible things?" Isaiah is hinting, "It's Jesus!" Jesus' calling was to be a servant. A servant-baby. A servant-Savior. Saving an entire planet of human beings is the dirtiest, hardest, most back-breaking, thorn-crowning, nail-driving work. Jesus would suffer. His work would seem empty and unsuccessful, but the Servant would triumph! Now we can live in joy and triumph. Like a small boy at a football game who jumps up and down shouting, "We've won, we've won!"—even though all he did was watch—we too can shout, "We've won!" over the victory that Jesus won for us.

But God has even bigger plans! Jesus is "a light for the nations." The big plan is for Jesus to be God's light to everyone still in the dark about him. He wants to save everyone! And Jesus carried out that plan perfectly. Now that's a happy ending!

*(Continued on Next Page)*

**Questions to think about:**

- In your own words, describe God's "bigger plans" (Read verse 6 again.)
- Name at least one way God shines the light of his salvation into your life.

**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.