

Jesus Changes Our Minds

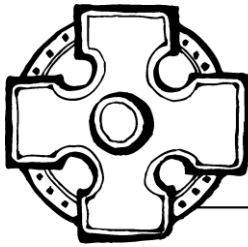
March 3, 2024

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.





The Third Sunday In Lent

March 3, 2024

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

Today's Focus: God's wisdom trumps – and saves – our fallen, sinful minds. 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: 224 God Himself Is Present



1 God him - self is pres - ent— Let us now a - dore him
2 God him - self is pres - ent— Hear the harps re - sound - ing;
3 Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Pu - ri - fy my spir - it,



And with awe ap - pear be - fore him.
See the hosts the throne sur - round - ing.
Trust - ing on - ly in your mer - it.



God is in his tem - ple— All with - in keep si - lence,
“Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly”— Hear the hymn as - cend - ing,
Like the ho - ly an - gels, Wor - ship - ing be - fore you,



Hum - bly kneel in deep - est rev - 'rence.
Songs of saints and an - gels blend - ing.
May I cease - less - ly a - dore you.

(continued on next page)



He a - lone On his throne Is our
 Bow your ear To us here: Hear, O
 Let your will Ev - er still Rule your



God and Sav - ior; Praise his name for - ev - er!
 Christ, the prais - es That your Church now rais - es.
 church ter - res - trial As the hosts ce - les - tial.

Text: Gerhard Tersteegen, 1697–1769. abr.; tr. Frederick W. Foster, 1760–1835, and John Miller, 1756–90, alt.
 Tune: WUNDERBARER KÖNIG (668 668 33 66) Joachim Neander, 1650–80, alt.

STAND

INVOCATION

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

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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 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.

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

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. Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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

Exodus 20:1-17

God sets in stone his moral law with the Ten Commandments.

Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt, where you were slaves.

³ You shall have no other gods beside me. ⁴ You shall not make any carved image for yourself or a likeness of anything in heaven above, or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth. ⁵ Do not bow down to them or be subservient to them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God. I follow up on the guilt of the fathers with their children, their grandchildren, and their great-grandchildren, if they also hate me. ⁶ But I show mercy to thousands who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not permit anyone who misuses his name to escape unpunished.

⁸ Remember the Sabbath day by setting it apart as holy. ⁹ Six days you are to serve and do all your regular work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day shall be a sabbath rest to the LORD your God. Do not do any regular work, neither you, nor your sons or daughters, nor your male or female servants, nor your cattle, nor the alien who is residing inside your gates, ¹¹ for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. In this way the LORD blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

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¹²Honor your father and your mother so that you may spend many days on the land that the Lord your God is giving to you.

¹³You shall not commit murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

PSALM OF THE DAY: 19

READ RESPONSIVELY

M: The heavens declare the glory of God;

C: the skies proclaim the work on his hands.

M: Their voice goes out into all the earth;

C: their words to the end of the world.

M: The law of the LORD is perfect,

C: giving joy to the heart.

M: The commands of the LORD are radiant,

C: giving light to the eyes.

M: They are more precious than gold;

C: they are sweeter than honey.

M: By them is your servant taught;

C: in keeping them is great reward.

(Continued on Next Page)

M: May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

C: be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Redeemer.

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The gospel is divine wisdom and the power to save.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. ¹⁹In fact, it is written:

I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will bring to nothing.

²⁰Where is the wise man? Where is the expert in the Jewish law? Where is the probing thinker of the present age? Has God not shown that the wisdom of this world is foolish? ²¹Indeed, since the world through its wisdom did not know God, God in his wisdom decided to save those who believe, through the foolishness of the preached message. ²²Yes, Jews ask for signs, Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified—which is offensive to Jews and foolishness to Greeks, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵We preach Christ crucified, because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” Alleluia! (*John 3:14 and 15*)

STAND

GOSPEL AND HOMILY TEXT

John 2:13-22

M: The Gospel of St. John, chapter 2

C: **Glory be to you, O Lord!**

The Jewish Passover was near, so Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

¹⁴In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and money changers sitting at tables. ¹⁵He made a whip of cords and drove everyone out of the temple courts, along with the sheep and oxen. He scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶To those selling doves he said, "Get these things out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a place of business!"

¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

¹⁸So the Jews responded, "What sign are you going to show us to prove you can do these things?"

¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again."

²⁰The Jews said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple! And you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹But Jesus was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When Jesus was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this. Then they believed the Scripture and what Jesus had said.

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.**

BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S SERMON: "Jesus Gets Very Angry"

HYMN OF THE DAY: 403 I Know My Faith Is Founded

1 I know my faith is found - ed On Je - sus
 2 In - crease my faith, dear Sav - ior, For Sa - tan
 3 In faith, Lord, let me serve you; Though per - se -

Christ, my God and Lord; And this my faith con -
 seeks by night and day To rob me of this
 cu - tion, grief, and pain Should seek to o - ver -

fess - ing, Un - moved I stand up - on his Word. Man's
 trea - sure And take my hope of bliss a - way. But,
 overwhelm me, Let me a stead - fast trust re - tain. And

rea - son can - not fath - om The truth of God pro -
 Lord, with you be - side me I shall be un - dis -
 then at my de - par - ture, Lord, take me home to

found; Who trusts in world - ly wis - dom Re - lies on
 mayed; And led by your good Spir - it, I shall be
 you, And let me there in - her - it All you have

shift - ing ground. God's Word is all - suf - fi - cient,
 un - a - fraid. A - bide with me, O Sav - ior,
 prom - ised me. In life and death, Lord, keep me

It makes di - vine - ly sure, And, trust - ing shall
 A firm - er faith be - stow. Then I shall
 Un - til your heav'n I gain, Where I by

in its wis - dom, My faith shall rest se - cure.
 bid de - fi - ance To ev - 'ry e - vil foe.
 your great mer - cy The end of faith at - tain.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. composite.

Tune: NUN LOB, MEIN SEEL (78 78 76 76 76 76) *Concentus novi*, Augsburg, 1540, alt.


SERMON

TEXT: John 2:13-22

THEME: "Jesus Changes Our Minds"

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.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the friendship register found in your 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: Lord Jesus, you call all who are weary and burdened to come to you for rest. Rejoicing in your grace, we now come to this heavenly feast in which you give your children on earth your true body and blood to eat and to drink. Remove from us the soiled garments of self-righteousness and sin, and clothe us with the righteousness purchased with your blood. Strengthen our faith, increase our love, especially for those with whom we share this blessed communion, and after this life grant us a place at your heavenly table. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Special prayers

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 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, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts 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 in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature (C). It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in a simple, accessible style with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. 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

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: 310 "I Come, O Savior, to Your Table" Verses 1-5



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to your ta - ble, For weak and
 2 Oh, grant that I in man - ner wor - thy May now trust
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
 4 Oh, let me loathe all sin for - ev - er As death and
 5 Your heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners



wea - ry is my soul; O Je - sus, you a - lone are
 sole - ly in your Word, And, con - scious of the sins be -
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet you your lamb will ban - ish
 poi - son to my soul, That I through will - ful sin - ning
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to you in faith are

Refrain



a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole.
 fore me, Look on - ly un - to you, O Lord.
 nev - er, Nor will your faith - ful - ness de - part. Lord, may your
 nev - er May see your judg - ment take its toll!
 turn - ing; So let me, too, come trust - ing - ly.



bod - y and your blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

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: 320 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: "On my heart im - print your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace, That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Have no pow'r to hide your face. This the su - per - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me, Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fifth staff.

On my heart im - print your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus,
King of grace, That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Have no
pow'r to hide your face. This the su - per - scrip - tion be:
Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me, Is my life, my hope's foun -
da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703, abr.; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.

Tune: FREU DICH SEHR (87 87 77 88) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, alt.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Lenten Suppers

Through the remaining Wednesdays of Lent (March 6, 13, and 20), we will have potluck suppers. Doors will open at 5:30, with supper at 6:00 and a brief Lent devotion at 6:30. Beverages, tableware and silverware will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass if you can. But even if you can't, please come anyway!

Wine and Word Bible Study – March 7

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 7-8:30 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 to RSVP.

Fourth Annual Easter Egg Hunt – March 23

Trinity's next neighborhood outreach event will our Fourth Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23, at 2pm. This event allows us to show kindness while also extending Easter worship invitations to our neighbors. It does not require a lot of volunteers, but four or five would be nice, to supervise the hunt and to staff a welcome table. If you would like to help, please let pastor know. Also, this year pre-filled eggs will be ordered in bulk for the hunt. If, however, you are someone who enjoys assembling and donating eggs, you are of course welcome to add your own.

Women's Bible Study on Esther

The remaining dates for the Women's Bible Study on Esther are:

March 9 at 9:00 am (Chapter 5)

April 13 at 9:00 am (Chapter 6)

May 11 at 9:00 am (Chapter 7)

The Women's Bible Study meets at Trinity. We are discussing the book "Esther: Providential Persian Queen" by Lou Ann Mokwa. Please join us anytime!

Save the date!

Trinity's annual church-wide yard sale will be held Saturday, May 4. Start gathering up your clothing, shoes, housewares, books, and other items that you would like to donate! Watch for more details in April. All proceeds go to the Sunday School mission offering.

Trinity Book Club will meet again on Saturday, April 27, at 9:30 am at Cuppi Coffee in Dumfries to discuss *Up from Dust* by Heather Kaufman. Any questions? Ask Rachel Kovaciny.

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

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 with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work



Jesus Deeply Desires We Keep his Word

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20210308/esus-Deeply-Desires-We-Keep-his-Word>

Why was Jesus so angry? Why would Jesus get so angry that he forced sheep, cattle, and the people who were selling them to run away from the temple courts? Why would Jesus get so angry that he even flipped tables over, knocking coins all over the ground? Is Jesus throwing a temper tantrum like a little two-year-old who didn't get his way?

The simple answer is no, but why was Jesus so angry? Well, Jesus actually had a very good reason. Remember who he is. When you think of Jesus, what comes to mind? A powerful Lord who calms storms, heals the sick, and raises the dead? A Savior who blesses the little children? How about Jesus as the holy God, who is King of kings and ruler over all things—time, space, creation, and people?

Jesus is our holy God, who deeply wants us all to keep his Word. Unfortunately, we all fail to do that on our own. In his Word, God tells us what he wants us to do and not to do, but we do what we want. We go our own way rather than God's way. We need Jesus to help us. That's why Jesus came into our world. He cares so deeply about each of us that he became a human being like us. He perfectly kept God's holy will in our place, even dying on a cross for us. We learn all about that in his Word.

So why was Jesus so angry in the temple? There was nothing wrong with selling animals or exchanging money, but that's not why God gave his Word or the church where we hear that Word. The temple, like church, was meant to be a place where people could worship and offer prayers to God. There they learned God's Word. The last thing Jesus wanted to see in his Father's house was people arguing over prices and purchases rather than hearing his Word and worshipping his heavenly Father. So, in holy love for his Word, Jesus cleared the temple that day.

Do we love God's Word like Jesus? Do we get angry when something gets in the way of hearing it? Do we love learning about Jesus and what he has done for us? Jesus passionately desires that we love his Word. In that Word, we learn about him. With his help, we will see how important it is to spend time with Jesus in his Word. With his help, we will love his Word as we learn how deeply our Savior loves us. With his help, we will keep that Word as we live each day, serving Jesus, our Savior-God.

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Questions to Consider:

- Describe what happened when Jesus went into the temple.
- Name two places where you can listen to God's Word.
- Why was Jesus so angry in the temple?
- Why do we need God's Word?
- Explain this statement: *Studying God's Word is time spent with Jesus.*
- How do you respond to someone who tells you that attending worship and Bible study is not that important?

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.