



April 7, 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.





April 7, 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: Jesus renews our fellowship with the Father and with each other. 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: 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

(Continued on Next Page)



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.
 “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.

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. O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 18:1-11

The risen Lord strengthens and renews his servants to spread his Word.

After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them. ³ Because he had the same occupation, he stayed and worked with them, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴ Every Sabbath he led a discussion in the synagogue, trying to persuade both Jews and Greeks.

⁵ When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul was entirely devoted to preaching the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. ⁶ But when they opposed Paul and slandered him, he shook out his clothes and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on, I will go to the Gentiles!"

⁷ He left that place and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshipper of God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸ Crispus, the synagogue leader, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized.

⁹ One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid, but keep on speaking, and do not be silent. ¹⁰ For I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, because I have many people in this city." ¹¹ He stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

PSALM OF THE DAY: 16

READ RESPONSIVELY

M: Keep me safe, O God,

C: **for in you I take refuge.**

M: I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord;

C: **apart from you I have no good thing."**

(Continued on Next Page)

M: I have set the LORD always before me.

C: Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

M: My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

C: my body also will rest secure,

M: because you will not abandon me to the grave,

C: nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

M: You have made known to me the path of life;

C: you will fill me with joy in your presence.

SECOND LESSON AND SERMON TEXT

1 John 1:1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have observed and our hands have touched regarding the Word of Life—² the life appeared, and we have seen it. We testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.³ We are proclaiming what we have seen and heard also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and his Son Jesus Christ.⁴ We write these things to you so that our joy may be complete.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Alleluia! (*John 20:29b*)

STAND

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

Jesus renews his disciples' faith and refreshes their peace.

M: The Gospel of St. John, chapter 20.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you." ²² After saying this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." ²⁴ But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples kept telling him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶ After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt, but believe."

²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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.

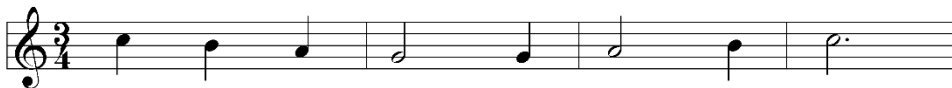
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S SERMON: "Jesus Blesses Us"

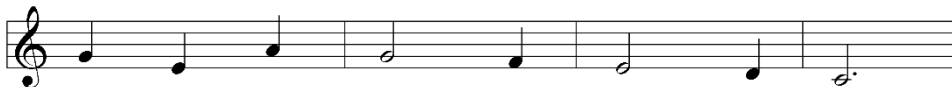
HYMN OF THE DAY: 165 O Sons and Daughters of the King



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King,
 2 On that first morn - ing of the week,
 3 An an - gel bade their sor - row flee,
 4 That night th' a - pos - tles met in fear;
 5 When Thom - as af - ter - wards had heard



Whom heav'n - ly hosts in glo - ry sing,
 Be - fore the day be - gan to break,
 For thus he spoke un - to the three,
 A - mong them came their Lord most dear,
 That Je - sus had ful - filled his word,



To - day the grave has lost its sting!
 The Mar - ys went their Lord to seek.
 "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."
 And said, "Peace be un - to you here."
 He doubt - ed that is was the Lord.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>6 "Thomas, behold my side," said he,
 "My hands, my feet, my body see;
 And doubt not, but believe in me."
 Alleluia!</p> | <p>8 Blessèd are they that have not seen
 And yet whose faith has constant been;
 In life eternal they shall reign.
 Alleluia!</p> |
| <p>7 No longer Thomas then denied;
 He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
 "You are my Lord and God," he cried.
 Alleluia!</p> | <p>9 On this most holy day of days
 To God your hearts and voices raise
 In laud and jubilee and praise.
 Alleluia!</p> |

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt.
 Tune: GELOBT SEI GOTT (888 with Alleluias) Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615, alt.


SERMON

TEXT: 1 John 1:1-4

THEME: "Fellowship in Jesus is Complete Joy"

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: God of all grace, we thank you for the gift of eternal life in your Son. By the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, and by the faithful testimony of the apostles, you have assured us that our faith stands on a sure and solid foundation.

Though we do not see Jesus with our physical eyes, help us see him with the eyes of faith. Through your Holy Spirit, breathe on your Church so that it may faithfully proclaim the gospel of our risen Savior with courage and diligence in all lands and to all people. Grant that we also may be illumined by the heavenly light of your Word, and so keep us in the one true faith.

Preserve us from all assaults on our souls, deliver us from doubt and despair, and preserve us from empty wisdom and false teaching.

Forgive the sins of your people. Strengthen the doubting and faithless. Bring back the forgetful and wayward, and comfort the anxious and distressed.

Special prayers

M: As we go from this holy place today, grant peace and rest to all. We pray this in the name of Christ our Lord. 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

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

(Continued on Next Page)

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 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.

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 simple and consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The final note of the fifth staff is a double bar line.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: 376 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness



1 Je - sus, your blood and right - eous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day— Who can a
3 Lord, I be - lieve your pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve were sin - ners more Than sands up -
5 When from the dust of death I rise To claim my



are, my glo - rious dress; Mid flam - ing worlds, in
word a - gainst me say? Ful - ly through you ab -
ver - y throne of God For - ev - er will for
on the o - cean shore, You have for all a
man - sion in the skies, E'en then this shall be



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
solved I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
sin - ners plead, For me—e'en for my soul—was shed.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.
all my plea: Je - sus has lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!
Your boundless mercy has for me,
For me and all your hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–60, abr.; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt.
Tune: ST. CRISPIN (LM) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

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: 341 Crown Him with Many Crowns, verses 2 and 3



2 Crown him the Lord of love— Be - hold his hands and
3 Crown him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the



side, Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In
grave And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For



beau - ty glo - ri - fied. No an - gel in the
those he came to save. His glo - ries now we



sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But down - ward
sing Who died and rose on high, Who died e -



bends his won-d'ring eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.
ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–94, st. 1-2, 4, abr., alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3.

Tune: DIADEMATA (SM D) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Trinity's Little Free Library – Food Donations Needed

Donations of shelf-stable foods are particularly needed currently for Trinity's Little Free Library. As food prices climb, many families in the surrounding neighborhoods are experiencing food scarcity. For the past few months, the food shelf of our Little Free Library has been emptying out every single week. Items that are especially needed include canned or boxed food that does not require additional ingredients besides water to prepare. Books are always welcome, too, of course! If the shelves happen to be full, there is a donation bin for overflow items in the fellowship room beside the door to the hallway.

Vacation Bible School Registration OPEN!

Registration is now open for this year's VBS, which will be held July 15-19 from 9:00-11:30 am. Come join us for Scuba VBS where we will dive into an amazing undersea adventure and experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. We look 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. Kids entering 7th grade and older may volunteer as helpers. Please register here: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/trinity24> or scan this QR Code!



Wine and Word Bible Study – April 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 7-8:30 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.

Seeking District Convention Delegate

The North Atlantic District Convention will be held June 4-5 at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Chesapeake, VA. Trinity is seeking a confirmed male member to represent our congregation. All costs are reimbursed by the congregation. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor. The deadline to register a delegate is Sunday, April 28.

Women's Bible Study on Esther

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

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



Family Perks

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20231108/>

Being a child in your parents' home comes with some special perks. It might not always feel like it, but it's true. Three of the biggest perks are love, identity, and belonging. Think about it like this: if a random neighbor kid came up to your door, knocked, and asked your dad for a snack and a glass of water, he'd probably say, "I can see your house from here. Go get a snack there!" But if *you* asked him, he'd probably say something different.

Why? Because he loves you like a father loves his children! Because you are his child, that is what you are! And because you are his child, you belong to him and his family. That's what makes what John says here so awesome and amazing. God the Father loves you so much that he calls *you* his children! Not just his children in name only, that is your identity, that is what you are! You don't belong to the world anymore (it doesn't even know or recognize you) you belong to him!

This sense of identity and belonging is only possible because of the love the Father poured out on us. Not because we were pure; not because we deserved it. No, it was because of love hopeless orphans could have hope. Jesus was pure when we aren't, and in his love for us, Jesus gives us his own purity as a blessing of being adopted into this family. When we didn't have an identity because of wrongdoing... now we have one. Our faith and hope are rooted in Jesus and that makes us children of God!

Do you know what special bonus comes with that? Someday, when Jesus returns, we will be like him. We will get to see him with our own eyes. Part of your identity and belonging in God's family is the future hope of sharing in his glory and purity forever in heaven. That's where the perks of love, identity, and belonging you have through faith in Jesus and being part of his family will never end.

Questions to Consider

- Fill in the blank: John says we are _____ of God!
- Which special word can we call God because we are his children?
- Discuss as a family what it means to be pure.
- What kind of blessings will we enjoy because we are children of God?
- John says, "what we will be has not yet been made known. But... we shall be like [Christ]." Is that comforting or confusing to you? Share why it is, too.
- In what ways is our hope *in Jesus* different from regular "hope"?

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.