



Out of the Heart Comes Uncleanness;  
into the Heart Comes Cleanness

**September 1, 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



# Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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**September 1, 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

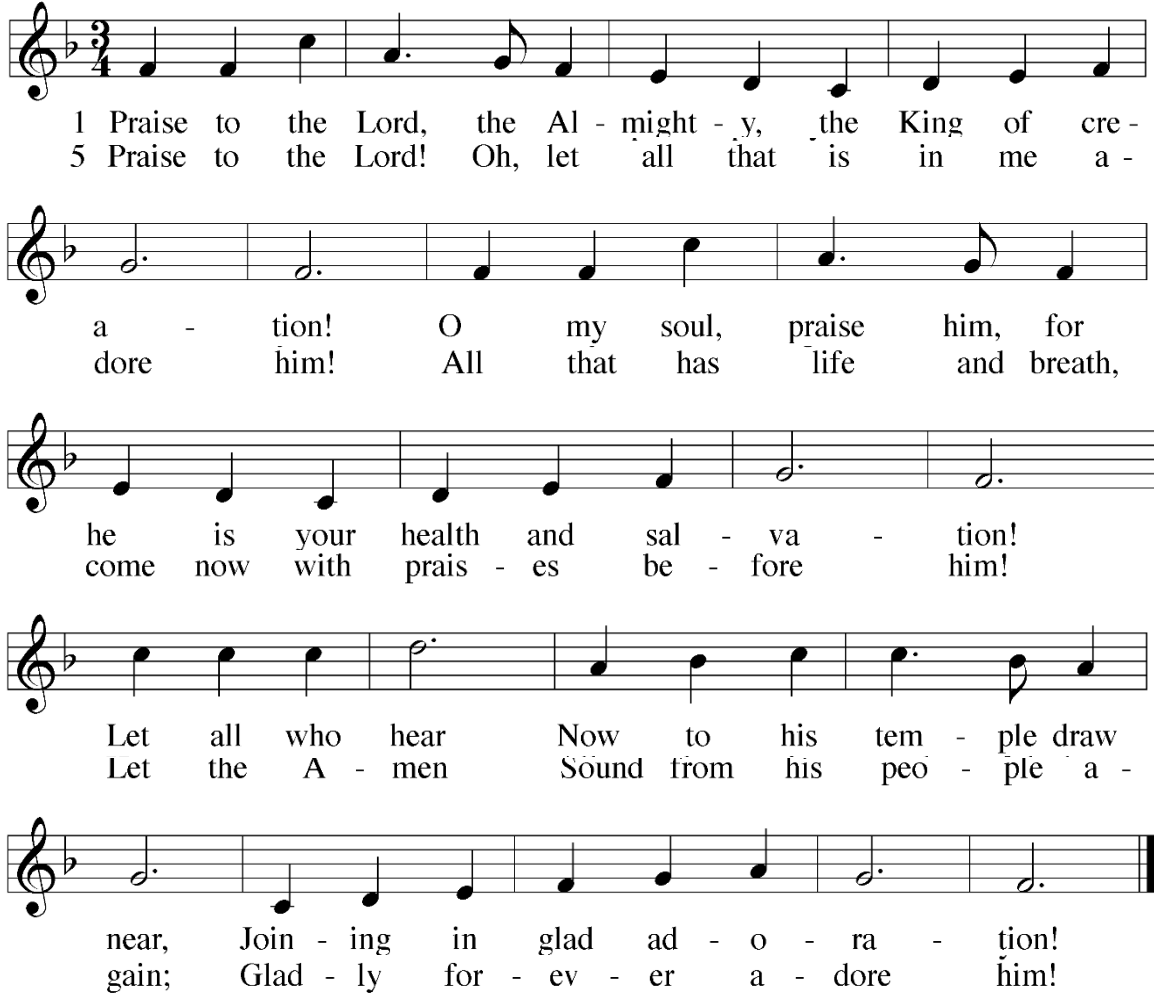
**Today's Focus:** God gives his law to do the necessary work of convicting sinners. He also supplies salvation to us in the gift of his Son. Our worship follows *The Common Service*.

# 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: 234, Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, verses 1 and 5



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
5 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for  
dore him! All that has life and breath,

he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
come now with prais - es be - fore him!

Let all who hear Now to his tem - ple draw  
Let the A - men Söund from his peo - ple a -

near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. composite.

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN (14 14 478) *Ander Theil Des Erneueren Gesang-Buchs*, Stralsund, 1665, 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 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 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**

*(Continued on Next Page)*

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 Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; 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

#### **Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

*God's commands are good because they are the nature of the divine, and they are intended to bless his people.*

So now, Israel, listen to the statutes and the ordinances that I am teaching you, and carry them out so that you may live and so that you may enter the land that the LORD the God of your fathers, is giving to you and take possession of it. <sup>2</sup>Do not add to the word that I am commanding you, and do not subtract from it, so that you keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you.

*(Continued on Next Page)*

Keep them and put them into practice, because in this way your wisdom and your understanding will be recognized by all the people who hear about all these statutes; and they will say, "This great nation is certainly a wise and understanding people," <sup>7</sup> because what other great nation is there that has a god as close to it as the LORD our God is to us whenever we call on him? <sup>8</sup> What other great nation is there that has statutes and ordinances as righteous as this entire law that I am presenting to you today?

<sup>9</sup> But guard yourselves and guard your whole being diligently, so that you do not forget the things that your eyes have seen and so that those things do not disappear from your heart all the rest of the days of your life. Make them known to your children and to your children's children.

## **PSALM OF THE DAY: 119C**

*Read Responsively*

M: Oh, how I love your law!

**C: I meditate on it all day long.**

M: I have more insight than all my teachers,

**C: for I meditate on your statutes.**

M: I have more understanding than the elders

**C: for I obey your precepts.**

M: I have kept my feet from every evil path

**C: so that I might obey your Word.**

M: I have not departed from your laws,

**C: for you yourself have taught me.**

M: How sweet are your words to my taste,

**C: sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

## SECOND LESSON

### **Romans 9:30-10:4**

*For sinners, the law of God is not the path to the absolute righteousness we need for salvation. Paul's statement that "Christ is the end of the law," must be understood in that context. He is the end of the law as a way to be saved, because he is the righteousness of all who believe in him.*

What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who were not pursuing righteousness, have obtained righteousness, a righteousness that is by faith.<sup>31</sup> But Israel, while pursuing the law as a way of righteousness, did not reach it.<sup>32</sup> Why? Because they kept pursuing it not by faith, but as if it comes by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone.<sup>33</sup> Just as it is written:

Look, I am putting a stone in Zion over which they will stumble  
and a rock over which they will fall.

The one who believes in him will not be put to shame.

**10** Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God on behalf of the Israelites is that they may be saved.<sup>2</sup> Indeed, I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but it is not consistent with knowledge.<sup>3</sup> Since they were ignorant of the righteousness from God and sought to establish their own righteousness, they did not submit to the righteousness from God.<sup>4</sup> For to everyone who believes, Christ is the end of the law, resulting in righteousness.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Your words became a joy to me, and the delight of my heart. Alleluia!  
*(Jeremiah 15:15)*

*Stand*

## GOSPEL AND SERMON TEXT

### **Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

M: The Gospel of St. Mark, chapter 7.

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

The Pharisees and some of the experts in the law came from Jerusalem and gathered around Jesus.<sup>2</sup> They saw some of his disciples eating bread with unclean (that is, unwashed) hands.<sup>3</sup> In fact, the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they scrub their hands with a fist, holding to the tradition of the elders.<sup>4</sup> When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions they adhere to, such as the washing of cups, pitchers, kettles, and dining couches.<sup>5</sup> The Pharisees and the experts in the law asked Jesus, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders? Instead they eat bread with unclean hands."

<sup>6</sup>He answered them, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites. As it is written:

*(Continued on Next Page)*



These people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

<sup>7</sup>They worship me in vain, teaching human rules as if they were doctrines.

<sup>8</sup>“You abandon God’s commandment but hold to human tradition like the washing of pitchers and cups, and you do many other such things.”

<sup>14</sup> He called the crowd to him again and said, “Everyone, listen to me and understand. <sup>15</sup>There is nothing outside of a man that can make him unclean by going into him. But the things that come out of a man are what make a man unclean.”

<sup>21</sup> “In fact, from within, out of people’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual sins, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, unrestrained immorality, envy, slander, arrogance, and foolishness. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things proceed from within and make a person unclean.”

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.**

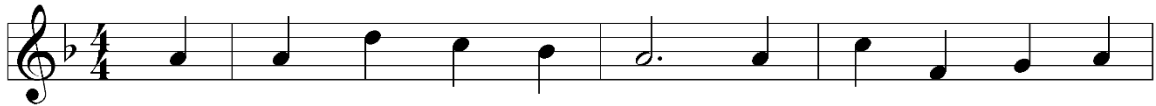
**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON: From the Inside Out

HYMN OF THE DAY: 459, O God, My Faithful God



1 O God, my faith - ful God, O Foun - tain ev - er  
2 Grant me the strength to do With read - y heart and  
3 Keep me from say - ing things That lat - er need re -  
4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind - ly words and



flow - ing, Who good and per - fect gifts In mer -  
will - ing What - ev - er you com - mand, My call -  
call - ing; Grant that no i - dle words May from  
ac - tions, And let me find good friends For coun -



cy are be - stow - ing, Give me a health - y  
ing here ful - fill - ing, That I do what I  
my lips be fall - ing, But then, when in my  
sel and cor - rec - tion. Help me, as you have



frame, And may I have with - in A con -  
should While trust - ing you to bless The out -  
place I must and ought to speak, My words  
taught, To love both great and small And by



science free from blame, A soul un - hurt by sin.  
come for my good, For you must give suc - cess.  
grant pow'r and grace Lest I of - fend the weak.  
your Spir - it's might To live in peace with all.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Tune: O GOTT, DU FROMMER GOTT (II) (67 67 66 66) *Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch*, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693, alt.

## SERMON

**TEXT:** Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**THEME:** Out of the Heart Comes Uncleaness; into the Heart Comes Cleaness

*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

### *Special prayers*

M: Almighty and unchanging God, by our baptisms into the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you have redeemed us from spiritual blindness, selfishness, and all dead works. Raise us up in the grace of our baptisms day after day, that we may see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, through Christ our Savior.

Bless us as we receive our Savior's body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, for the strengthening of our faith, and for the determination to live our lives in his thoughts, words, and deeds. Bless us here and keep us in the one true faith until you receive us at the wedding supper of the Lamb, in whose name we pray. 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.**

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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. 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 three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. 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 consists of five staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The melody is written in a simple, diatonic style. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

*Be Seated*

## DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: 390, Salvation unto Us Has Come



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace  
 2 What God does in his law de - mand And none to him  
 3 It is a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God his law  
 4 Yet as the law must be ful - filled Or we must die  
 5 Since Christ has full a - tone - ment made And brought to us



and fa - vor. Good works can - not a - vert our doom;  
 can ren - der Brings wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand  
 has giv - en That sin - ners can them - selves re - deem  
 de - spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled,  
 sal - va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad



They help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to  
 For man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has  
 And by their works gain heav - en. The law is  
 Our hu - man na - ture shar - ing. He has for  
 And build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a -



Je - sus Christ a - lone, Who did for all the  
 not those pure de - sires The spir - it of the  
 but a mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred  
 us the law o - beyed And thus the Fa - ther's  
 lone, dear Lord, I plead; Your death is now my



world a - tone; He is the one Re - deem - er.  
 law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.  
 sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.  
 venge - ance stayed Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.  
 life in - deed, For you have paid my ran - som.

6 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise  
 To Father, Son, and Spirit,  
 The God who saved us by his grace—  
 All glory to his merit!  
 O Triune God in heav'n above,  
 You have revealed your saving love;  
 Your blessed name be hallowed!

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: ES IST DAS HEIL (87 87 887) *Ellich Cristlich lider*, Wittenberg, 1524, alt.

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: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through 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.**

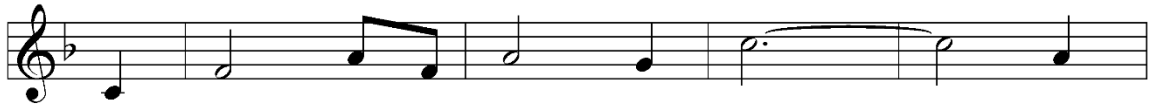
*BE SEATED*



CLOSING HYMN: 379, Amazing Grace – How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound—  
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me;  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares  
 4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years,



That saved a wretch like me! I  
 His Word my hope se - cures. He  
 I have al - read - y come; 'Tis  
 Bright shin - ing as the sun, We've



once was lost but now am found,  
 will my shield and por - tion be  
 grace has brought me safe thus far,  
 no less days to sing God's praise



Was blind but now I see.  
 As long as life en - dures.  
 And grace will lead me home.  
 Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, st. 1-3, abr.; John P. Rees, 19th century, st. 4.  
 Tune: NEW BRITAIN (CM) *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1829, 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)

**Needed: One Christmas Program Director** for the annual Sunday School Christmas Program! Talk to Pastor Jenkins or Rachel Kovaciny if you are interested in volunteering!

### **Worship Time Change; Bible Class, Sunday School, and Catechism Information**

Beginning next Sunday, September 8, we return to two worship services (8:30 and 11:00), with Bible class and Sunday School running from 9:45-10:45. (The first Bible class will be "The Holy Spirit and His Work.") Catechism instruction will also begin, from noon until about 1. (Everyone is welcome to attend Catechism for a review. Please let pastor know if you're planning to attend so he can order you a copy. Each lesson will also be repeated on Tuesday nights at 7 in the Fellowship Hall.)

### **September Sunday School Service Project**

Starting next Sunday, September 8, through the end of the month our Sunday School will be collecting books, food, and hygiene items for Trinity's Little Free Library. Please look for the bin in the narthex and know that all contributions are most useful and welcome by our neighborhood.

### **Sign Up for Sunday School!**

Trinity's Sunday school classes will start up again on September 8. Please take a minute to register your kids (preschool through 8th grade) at <https://trinityofwoodbridge.org/sundayschool/> so we have an accurate headcount and current info for all our Sunday school classes.

### **Women's Bible Study Starts September 14**

The Trinity Women's Bible Study will meet Saturday, September 14 at 9:00 am at Trinity. We'll start the book "Measured by Grace: How God Defines Success" by Sharla Fritz. Copies can be found in the narthex. The Bible Study will meet the second Saturday of each month. For questions, please contact Erika Ohlendorf at [erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com](mailto:erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com).

### **Wine and Word Bible Study – Sept 19**

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 Apocrypha with Larry Kovaciny as our guide. The study of follows the study guide for *The Apocrypha: The Lutheran Edition with Notes* (available from Northwestern or Concordia Publishing Houses and other booksellers). You can also follow the readings at [apocrypha.org](http://apocrypha.org). 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.

## **Fifth Annual Trunk or Treat: Saturday, October 19**

Saturday, October 19, will be the date of Trinity's Fifth Annual Trunk or Treat outreach event from 3-4pm in our parking lot. If you're planning on hosting a trunk, please let pastor know. We could also use a couple of volunteers to host a Welcome Table, and one or two for traffic control. If you have any questions or could help out in either of those ways, please speak to pastor also. If you can't make it to host a trunk but would like to contribute, candy donations are welcome.

**Trinity's Little Free Library** is one of our church's most effective tools for reaching out to our neighborhood. Many families in the area around Trinity regularly visit our LFL for books and shelf-stable food items, especially those who are experiencing food scarcity. Particularly useful are canned or boxed foods that do 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.

## **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



## Clean in Christ

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20210906/>

You know what's gross? When people don't wash their hands! Eww! Sometimes you might use chalk or paint or glitter and your fingers start to turn different colors. Other times hands get really dirty, like when you're playing outside and you get mud everywhere, even under your fingernails. Could you imagine someone coming to dinner with hands like this—dirty, slimy, muddy hands—and then digging into a big bowl of watermelon without washing their hands? Eww!

It's not just mud or paint that makes your hands dirty. Sometimes you can't see what makes your hands dirty because they're filled with germs. Imagine someone sneezing right into their hand and then wanting to shake your hand. Gross! Or how about a sick student coughing all over their hands and then touching everything at school—the desks, the books, the doors. Yuck! Bleh! Gross!

Some of the Jews in Jesus' time were very serious about washing hands and other things. They weren't really concerned about germs though. They did these things because they thought it made them more holy. They thought God would love them more because they did these special washings.

One day, when they asked Jesus why his disciples didn't do this kind of special hand washing, Jesus told them how wrong they were. Jesus told them it is not dirt and mud that defiles a person (that means to make them dirty or unclean). Instead, it is what comes from the inside that makes a person unclean. It's sin in us that makes us dirty in God's sight. Our anger, our greed, our hatred, our mean words, our pride, and so much more—all of these make us so dirty that no water or soap could ever clean us.

Thankfully, Jesus could—and did! Jesus washed us clean himself. But he didn't use soap or hand sanitizer. Jesus washed us clean with his own blood that he shed on the cross. He washed away every stain of sin and made us clean and pure in God's sight. Even better, one day we will be with Jesus in heaven where we will be clean and holy forever! What a joy that will be!

## Questions To Consider:

What makes us dirty in God's sight?

How do we become clean in God's sight?

Explain what Jesus meant when he said that what is inside of us makes us dirty.

Explain the difference between having a dirty body and a dirty soul. Which is worse? Why?

Why was it so dangerous for the Jews to be obsessed with the laws about hand washing? What were they missing?

When someone finds out that they are clean in Jesus, how might their life change and be different?

**It is the mission of**



**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.