



November 10, 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.





November 10, 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: It is beautiful to give to the Lord, who gives us all good things. Our worship follows *Service of Word and Sacrament*.

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: 250, From All that Dwell below the Skies



1 From all that dwell be - low the skies Let the Cre - a - tor's
2 E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, Lord; E - ter - nal is your
praise a - rise. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
glo - rious Word. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung Through
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore Till
ev - 'ry land, by ev - 'ry tongue. Al - le - lu - ia!
suns shall rise and set no more. Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN (888 888 with Alleluias) *Ausserlesene, Catholische, Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Köln, 1623, 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.

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 to 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.

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.

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 7/8. The lyrics are aligned with the notes. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) in the second, third, and fourth lines of the score. The score ends with a double bar line and a key signature change to one sharp (F#).

(Continued on Next Page)

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,

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. God, our refuge and strength, have mercy on your Church, as we come in prayer before you. Answer us not in judgment on our sins, but in peace and forgiveness; 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

1 Kings 17:8-16

The Lord's promise to provide creates hearts that give boldly.

Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹“Get up! Go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there. I have commanded a woman there, a widow, to provide for you.”

¹⁰ So he got up and went to Zarephath. He came to the city gate, and there he saw a widow gathering sticks. He called to her and said, “Please give me a little water in a jar, so that I can have something to drink.”

¹¹ When she went to get it, he called to her, “Please bring me a piece of bread.”

¹² She said, “As surely as the LORD your God lives, I have no food except a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a pitcher. See, I am gathering a couple of sticks so that I can go and prepare it for myself and my son, so that we can eat it and then die.”

¹³ Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid. Go and do just as you said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from the flour and bring it out to me. Then go and make another for you and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says. The jar of flour will not run out and the pitcher of oil will not become empty until the day the LORD sends rain to water the surface of the ground.”

¹⁵ So she went and did exactly as Elijah said. He and she, as well as her household, were able to eat for many days. ¹⁶ The jar of flour did not run out, and the pitcher of oil did not become empty, just as the LORD had said through Elijah.

SECOND LESSON AND SERMON TEXT

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

Now brothers, we want you to know about the grace of God that was given in the churches of Macedonia: ² In a severe test of trouble, their overflowing joy and their deep poverty overflowed into an abundance of their generosity. ³ I testify that of their own free will they gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability, ⁴ pleading with us with an urgent request for the gracious privilege of joining in this service to the saints. ⁵ And they did this not as we had expected, but in keeping with God's will they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us. ⁶ As a result we urged Titus, since he had already made a beginning, to bring to completion this gracious gift on your part. ⁷ But just as you overflow in every way—in faith, in word, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you also overflow in this gracious gift.

⁸ I do not say this as a command, but to test how genuine your love is, by comparing it with the eagerness of others. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. Alleluia! (*2 Timothy 4:18*)

Stand

GOSPEL

Mark 12:38-44

Jesus praises a widow who gives what little she has from the heart, while condemning those who “worship” for show. (The word “penny” is a coin called Quadrans, worth about 10 minutes’ wages for a farm worker. “A few dollars” would be a more useful translation.)

M: The Gospel of St. Mark, chapter 12.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

He also said to them in his teaching, “Beware of the experts in the law who like to walk around in long robes and receive greetings in the marketplaces. ³⁹They love the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. ⁴⁰They devour widows’ houses and offer long prayers to look good. These men will receive greater condemnation.”

⁴¹Jesus sat down opposite the offering box and was watching how the crowd put money into it. Many rich people put in large amounts. ⁴²One poor widow came and put in two small bronze coins, worth less than a penny. ⁴³He called his disciples together and said to them, “Amen I tell you: This poor widow put more into the offering box than all the others. ⁴⁴For they all gave out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all that she had to live on.”

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

CHILDREN’S SERMON: How to Give to Jesus

HYMN OF THE DAY: 454, I Gave My Life for Thee



1 I gave my life for thee; My pre - cious
 2 My Fa - ther's home of light, My rain - bow -
 3 I spent long years for thee In wea - ri -
 4 I suf - fered much for thee, More than my
 5 And I have brought to thee Down from my



blood I shed That thou might'st ran - somed be
 cir - cled throne, I left for earth - ly night,
 ness and woe That an e - ter - ni - ty
 tongue may tell, Of bit - t'rest ag - o - ny,
 home a - bove Sal - va - tion full and free,



And quick - ened from the dead. I gave my
 For wan - d'rings sad and lone. I left it
 Of joy thou might - est know. I spent long
 To res - cue thee from hell. I suf - fered
 My par - don and my love. Great gifts I



life for thee; Come, give thy - self to me!
 all for thee; Come now and fol - low me!
 years for thee; Come, spend thy years for me.
 much for thee; Come, bear thy cross with me.
 brought for thee; Come, bring thy gifts to me.

6 Oh, let thy life be spent,
 Thy years for me be giv'n,
 As I for thee was sent
 To bear thee home to heav'n.
 I gave my life for thee;
 Come, give thy life to me.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79, alt.
 Tune: OLD 120TH (66 66 66) *The Whole Booke of Psalmes*, London, 1592.

SERMON

Text: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9
Theme: Let Your Wealth Show

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 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 by 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. 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: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. 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

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

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 key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and eighth notes. 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: 389, Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring, Sim - ply to
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye -



my - self in thee; Let the wa - ter and the blood
thy law's de - mands. Could my zeal no res - pite know,
thy cross I cling; Na - ked, come to thee for dress,
lids close in death, When I soar to worlds un - known,



From thy riv - en side which flowed Be of sin the
Could my tears for - ev - er flow, All for sin could
Help - less, look to thee for grace. Foul, I to the
See thee on thy judg - ment throne, Rock of A - ges,



dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
not a - tone; Thou must save and thou a - lone.
foun - tain fly— Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die!
cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in thee!

Text: August M. Toplady, 1740–78, alt.
Tune: TOPLADY (77 77 77) Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872.

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, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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.

Be Seated

Closing Hymn: 469, *Take My Life and Let It Be*, verses 1 and 6

The image shows the first three lines of musical notation for the hymn. The music is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are as follows:
Line 1: Quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5; quarter notes B4, A4, G4; quarter notes F#4, E4.
Line 2: Quarter notes D4, C4; quarter notes B3, A3; quarter notes G3, F#3; quarter notes E3, D3.
Line 3: Quarter notes C3, B2; quarter notes A2, G2; quarter notes F#2, E2; quarter notes D2, C2.
The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across bar lines.

1 Take my life and let it be Con - se -
cra - ted, Lord, to thee. Take my mo - ments
and my days; Let them flow in cease - less praise.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79.
Tune: PATMOS (77 77) William H. Havergal, 1793–1870.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Wine and Word Bible Study – Thursday, November 21

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 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. 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.

Christmas for Kids – December 7

Trinity's next outreach event will be our Third Annual Christmas for Kids on Saturday, December 7, from 9:30-11:30. We are aiming to welcome 30-40 kids to learn God's love in action in the Christmas story. Pastor will be preparing the songs, Bible stories, games, gifts, snacks, and crafts. Just two or three more adult or teen volunteers will be needed simply to supervise and help out kids who might need a hand. If you could be one of those helpers, please let pastor know.

Advent and Christmas Worship Information

Brief devotions will follow our midweek Advent suppers on December 4, 11, and 18. The suppers start at 6, and are potlucks. Please bring something to share if you can; beverages and tableware are provided.

The Children's Christmas Worship Service will be during the 11:00 service on December 15. The 8:30 service on that Sunday will follow the order of *Service of Word and Sacrament*.

Christmas Eve Candlelight services will be at 5:00 and 7:00; Christmas Day worship with Communion is at 10:00.

Ammo Can Out to Support Lutheran Military Support Group

The ammo can is out today and next Sunday to support Lutheran Military Support Group, which, with your support, continues its wonderful work for Lutheran service members.

October Attendance

6th: Worship: 36+38=74; Bible class=33

13th: 31+40=71; 31

20th 33+39=72; 27

27th: 34+44=78; 29

Proposal Passed at Voters' Meeting

In addition to passing a 2025 Spending Plan and approving membership changes, the voters' meeting on November 3 also passed the following. Any questions should please be directed to pastor, who put the resolution forward:

Whereas

A. The Thanksgiving holiday does not have deep roots in the Christian Church, but is rather a mostly secular, American-made holiday and

B. Thanksgiving Eve worship services at Trinity have been very lightly attended in recent years and

C. Trinity's pastors both present and future could more easily visit or host family for Thanksgiving without a worship service and

D. two WELS churches within reasonable driving distance (Bethlehem in Manassas at 8.3 miles and Grace in Falls Church at 14.1 miles) hold Thanksgiving worship services that Trinity members wishing to worship on Thanksgiving could attend and

E. the Biblical teaching of thanksgiving to God for all gifts is already thoroughly covered in Sunday worship by the Lectionary and

F. the holy day of Ascension does have deep historic roots in the Christian Church and

G. no other WELS church in the entire circuit currently holds worship on Ascension Day, so members of neighboring churches wishing to worship on Ascension would now have such an opportunity at Trinity and

H. the significance of Christ's Ascension is not as thoroughly covered in Sunday worship by the Lectionary, be it resolved that

1. Trinity no longer hold Thanksgiving Eve worship

And be it further resolved that

2. Trinity hold 7pm worship services with Communion on the festival of Ascension each year beginning 29 May 2025 (with possibly a fellowship supper beforehand)

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

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



Role Play

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20241009/>

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Ephesians 5:21-23; 6:1-3

Have you ever heard of a symphony? It’s an elaborate work of music with a lot of musical instruments. There aren’t many symphonies that let a large, loud brass instrument called a trombone take the lead. That usually belongs to the violins, the flutes, or the trumpets. The trombones play the musical notes underneath. Now imagine this: you attend the symphony, and the entire time, the trombones play as loud as they can. Oh boy, you better cover your ears! That wouldn’t be beautiful music. For a symphony to sound delightful, each instrument needs to know its role.

“Know your role” might be a theme for today’s devotion. In Ephesians chapter 6, the apostle Paul addresses life as a family. “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ,” he begins. Families seek to live in service to each other. As each member of the family—mom, dad, kids—carries out their roles, they do so humbly and with the well-being of everyone else in mind.

From there, Paul speaks to each member of the family. Wives are to submit to their husbands. Many hear those words and cringe because they think this is a put-down, like a master/slave relationship. It isn’t. Think instead of the head/helper image God uses. Think of our relationship to Christ. Why wouldn’t we want to submit to Christ when, as our head, he gave himself up for us? So, when a husband lives with self-sacrificing love like Christ, it shouldn’t be difficult for a helper to submit to a head like that, right? What a beautiful role!

Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the Church. In love, Jesus took the lead and was responsible for the sins of the world on the cross. He sacrificed himself in our place. Using Jesus as their role model, husbands are asked to do the same and mirror Jesus’ love. They are to be responsible leaders for their families. Whether that means moments of pride or bearing sorrow, husbands sacrifice themselves and their self-interests for the good of the family. God lays the spiritual nurture of the family at the feet of husbands.

Even children fall underneath Paul’s probing eye. Family is the training ground for later adulthood, and as long as children are the learners, God calls for their obedience to their parents.

Each member of the family has a role to play as it goes and grows. Since God forms families, it is good to listen to what he says about our roles. His advice is simple, “know your role.”

Questions to Consider:

Who are the people in your family?

Which role do you play in your family: mom, dad, or kid? What is your role?

In what way are wives to be like the Church?

How are husbands to be like Christ?

Read carefully, who all is asked to “submit,” why, and to whom?

How is Christ both a motivation and an example for husbands to fulfill their role in the family?

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.