

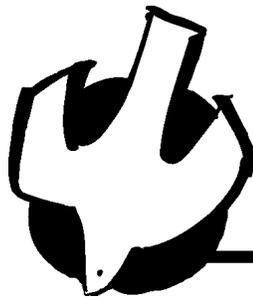
September 21, 2025

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.





Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

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: Pastor Paul Mueller

WE COME INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

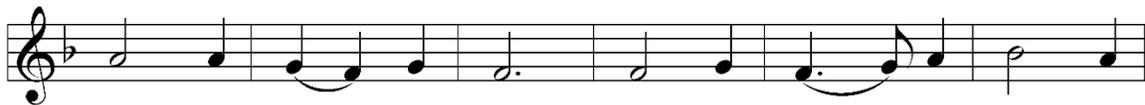
MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.

OPENING HYMN: 486, Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us With your
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you Glad - ly,
3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en To our
4 Yes, the sor - row and the suf - f' rings Which on
5 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us With your



life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the
free - ly, of your own. With the sun - shine of your
hum - blest char - i - ty In your own mys - te - rious
ev - 'ry hand we view Chan - nels are for gifts and
life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the



lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice,
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
sen - tence, "You have done it un - to me."
of - f' rings Due by sol - emn right to you,
lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by
Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That you
Right of which we may not rob you, Debt we
Give us faith to trust you bold - ly, Hope, to

(Continued on Next Page)



count - less as the sand To th' un - thank - ful and the
 you, at length be - lieve That more hap - py and more
 need what we can do, Say - ing by your poor and
 may not choose but pay Lest that face of love and
 stay our souls on you; But, oh, best of all your



e - vil With your own un - spar - ing hand.
 bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.
 need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?
 pit - y Turn from us a - noth - er day.
 gra - ces, With your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-89, alt.
 Tune: HYFRYDOL (87 87 D) Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87.

Stand

INVOCATION

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

Congregation: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

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

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD OF 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.

O LORD, OUR LORD

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;

(Continued on Next Page)

you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and

ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,

but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,

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

O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,

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: 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

Proverbs 25:6-7

⁶Do not honor yourself in a king's presence.

Do not stand in a place reserved for great people,

⁷because it is better to be told, "Come up here,"

than for you to be humiliated before a ruler

whom your eyes have seen.

PSALM OF THE DAY: 119A

Read Responsively

M: Blessed are they whose ways are blameless,

C: Who walk according to the law of the Lord.

M: Blessed are they who keep his statutes

C: And seek him with all their heart.

M: You have laid down precepts

C: That are to be fully obeyed.

M: Oh that my ways were steadfast

C: In obeying your decrees!

(Continued on Next Page)

M: Then I would not be put to shame

C: When I consider all your commands.

M: I will praise you with an upright heart

C: As I learn your righteous laws.

M: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

C: and to the Holy Spirit,

M: as it was in the beginning,

C: is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SECOND LESSON AND SERMON TEXT

Hebrews 13:1-8

Continue to show brotherly love. ² Do not fail to show love to strangers, for by doing this some have welcomed angels without realizing it. ³ Remember those in prison, as if you were fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated, as if you yourselves were also suffering bodily.

⁴ Marriage is to be held in honor by all, and the marriage bed is to be kept undefiled, for God will judge sexually immoral people and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have. For God has said:

I will never leave you,
and I will never forsake you.

⁶ So then we say with confidence:

The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid.
What will man do to me?

⁷ Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Carefully consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Your words became a joy to me, and the delight of my heart. Alleluia.
(Jeremiah 15:16 cf. RSV)

Stand

GOSPEL

Luke 14:7-14

M: The Gospel of St Luke Chapter 14

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

⁷ When he noticed how they were selecting the places of honor, he told the invited guests a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline in the place of honor, or perhaps someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him. ⁹ The one who invited both of you may come and tell you, ‘Give this man your place.’ Then you will begin, with shame, to take the lowest place.

¹⁰ “But when you are invited, go and recline in the lowest place, so that when the one who invited you comes, he will tell you, ‘Friend, move up to a higher place.’ Then you will have honor in the presence of all who are reclining at the table with you.

¹¹ “Yes, everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

¹² He also said to the one who had invited him, “When you make a dinner or a supper, do not invite your friends, or your brothers, or your relatives, or rich neighbors, so that perhaps they may also return the favor and pay you back.

¹³ “But when you make a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. Certainly, you will be repaid in the resurrection of the righteous.”

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY: 499, O God of Mercy, God of Might



1 O God of mer - cy, God of might, In love and
2 You sent your Son for all to die That fall - en
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: To feel for
4 All are re - deemed, both far and wide, Since Je - sus
5 In sick - ness, sor - row, want, or care May we each



mer - cy in - fi - nite, Teach us, as ev - er
man might live there - by. Oh, hear us, for to
those his blood has bought, That ev - 'ry deed and
Christ for all has died; Grant us the will, and
o - ther's bur - dens share; May we, where help is



in your sight, To live our lives to you.
you we cry In hope, O Lord, to you.
word and thought May work a work for you.
grace pro - vide, To love them all in you.
need - ed, there Give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
All those who live to live in love
Till you receive in heav'n above
All those who lived for you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.
Tune: ISLEWORTH (888 6) Samuel Howard, 1710–82.

SERMON

Text: Hebrews 13:1-8
Theme: Sameness

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 of heaven and earth, you made all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.

C: Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring sea, and the gentle breeze.

M: Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work, for projects that are done well, and for the approval of supervisors and teachers. Thank you for all who serve at night to make our days more pleasant.

C: Thank you for associates at work, for their encouragement and praise, and for the joys of human friendships.

M: Thank you for our cities and our countrysides, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all of life that flows so swiftly before us.

C: Thank you for children at play, their boundless energy, and their shouts of joy and laughter.

M: Thank you for the morning greetings we receive, and for all the smiles that come from faces loved by you.

C: Thank you for Christian parents, for their affection and their care.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we give thanks for personal blessings.

Silent prayer.

M: Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his coming to us in Word and sacraments, for his giving and forgiving, and for listening to our prayers. Receive our gifts and offerings as our sacrifice of praise.

C: Lead us in thankful living today and always. 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 right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. 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 forever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this (+) is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this (+) is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



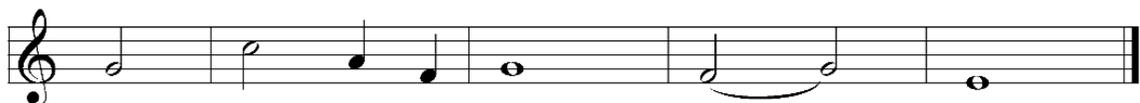
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION

Hymn: 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

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-joyce and proud-ly bear his name.



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



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

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

C: Amen.

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

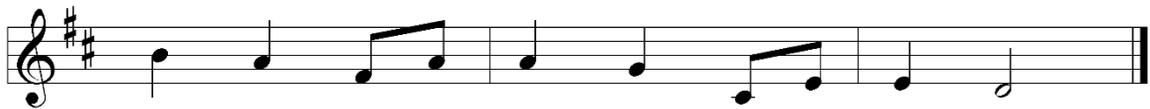
Closing Hymn: 449 Children of the Heavenly Father



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God his own doth tend and nour - ish; In his
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his



in his bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird or star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things he
Lord his chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them his grace he
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge ne'er was giv - en.
spares them; In his might - y arms he bears them.
show - eth, And their sor - rows all he know - eth.
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Caroline V. Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958. © Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America.
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Tune: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA (LM Trochaic) Swedish folk tune, 19th century.

Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Pastor Paul Mueller: 925-337-3635

Sixth Annual Trunk or Treat: Saturday, October 18 – Trunks Needed!

Saturday, October 18 (Rain Date October 25), will be the date of Trinity's Sixth Annual Trunk or Treat outreach event in our parking lot. You can help by **hosting a trunk, helping at the Welcome Table, or helping direct traffic!** If you have any questions or could help out in either of those ways, please speak to pastor or Bruce Knox. If you can't make it to host a trunk but would like to contribute, candy donations are welcome.

You're invited to join the Trinity Book Club! Our next meeting will be Saturday, November 1 at 9:30 am at Cuppi Coffee in Dumfries. We'll be discussing a Christian suspense novel, *Woman in Shadow* by Carrie Stuart Parks.

Trinity Youth Group Outing - September 27th

All teens are invited to attend on Saturday, September 27! We will meet at 11am at Locust Shade Park in Triangle to enjoy the Warrior Challenge Course and nearby amenities, and to have a picnic and short devotion.

Bring your lunch and a friend!

Drinks and desserts will be provided.

Please text 703-951-6120 to RSVP by Wednesday, Sep. 24th, 2025.

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 9:45am The next series is "your Questions; Scripture's Answers", based on the book by Prof. John Brug. We'll start out with how God gave us His Bible, look at a few puzzling parts of the Bible, then go into adiaphora (if you don't know, you need to come), and a few other questions.

Wine and Word Bible Study – October 1st

The Wine and Word Bible Study is **studying the book of EXODUS** and 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. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine (or other drink of choice) 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.

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 Steven Douglas. If you have any questions or are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email worship@trinityofwoodbridge.org. You can also scan this code to sign up:



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 Hall beside the door to the hallway.

Small Choir

Trinity's 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 Bev Ohlendorf know.

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 925-337-3635 or pmjrmueller@gmail.com with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.



Think Long-Term!

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20250908/>

See now, today I have set before you life and prosperity, death and disaster. This is what I am commanding you today: Love the LORD your God, walk in his ways, and keep his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances. Then you will live and increase in number, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are going to possess. But if your heart turns away, and you do not listen, and you are lured away, and you bow down to other gods and serve them, then I declare to you today that you will most certainly perish. Deuteronomy 30:15-18 (EHV)

Jett and Eli were on a big ten-day backpacking trip. Somewhere along the trail on day eight, they lost their water pump that cleaned dirty water. By the end of day nine, they were SO thirsty. The park ranger had warned them before they left: “Don’t drink water from streams unless you clean it first—it could make you sick!” But Jett decided, “I can’t wait. I’m drinking now.” Eli thought, “I’ll wait until we get back to the car.”

A few days later, Jett got really sick from tiny bacteria in the water. Thankfully, he got better after going to the doctor, but the whole experience is a good picture for us to think about today’s devotion text.

The Lord gives a command not because he hates his people but because he loves us. He tells us to walk in his ways and keep his commandments, listen to our parents, and show love to our classmates. That’s not always easy, but it’s always good for us.

When we follow God’s ways, we’re showing an attitude of faith, of trusting him. We trust that Jesus forgave our sins when he lived, died, and rose for us. We trust that he has our well-being in mind when he tells us to listen to our parents and show love to our classmates. We trust that living that way opens the door to share Jesus with others.

But just like Jett, it’s so easy to think only about right now. “I’m thirsty—I want water NOW.” Or “I’m mad—I want to yell NOW.” Or “Candy looks good—I want it NOW.” That’s short-term thinking. Eli waited, thought about what would happen later, and waited until he got back to the parking lot to drink clean water.

When it comes to our spiritual lives, God wants us to think about the long-term too. This week we’ll see that being a Christian disciple isn’t always easy in the short-term, but God promises long-term gain. Stay focused on Jesus and his love for you and look forward to eternity in the joys of heaven!

Questions to Consider:

Was it wise for Jett to drink the water straight from the stream? Why or why not?

How was Eli’s decision better than Jett’s?

Why might eating five candy bars in one minute not be good for you later?

When it comes to following Jesus, what are some short-term things that might be hard, but good for you long-term?

Can you think of a time you wanted something right away, but waiting turned out better?

When you think about the future with Jesus, what excites you the most?

•

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.