



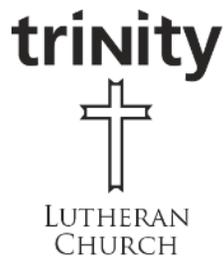
**The Millstone Around
Your Neck**

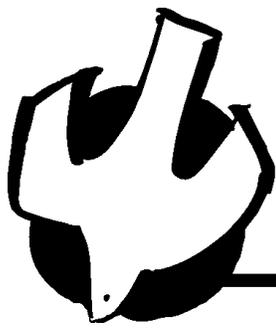
September 28, 2025

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.





Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 28, 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

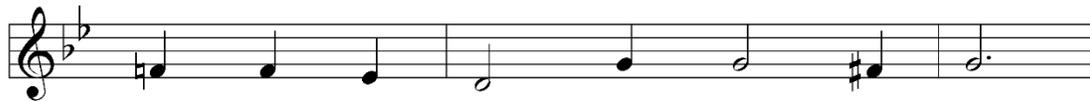
MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

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

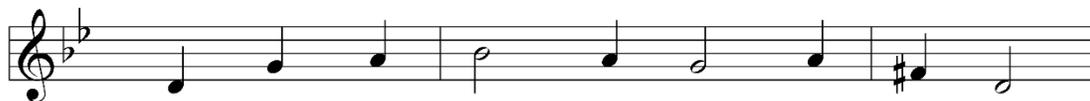
OPENING HYMN: 444, If You But Trust in God to Guide You



1 If you but trust in God to guide you
2 How can these anxious worries aid you,
3 Be pa-tient and a-wait his lei-sure
4 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un-swerv-ing,



And place your con-fi-dence in him,
These nev-er-ceas-ing moans and sighs?
In cheer-ful hope, with heart con-tent;
Per-form your du-ties faith-ful-ly,



He'll give you strength and stand be-side you
Will not his wings of mer-cy shade you
Then take what-e'er your Fa-ther's plea-sure
And trust his Word; though un-de-serv-ing,



When days are drear-y, dark, and dim.
When-ev-er trou-bled times a-rise?
And his dis-cern-ing love have sent.
You'll find his prom-ise true to be.



For those who trust his change-less love
Our cross and tri-als do but press
Doubt not; your in-most wants are known
God nev-er yet for-sook in need



Build on the rock that does not move.
The heav-ier for our bit-ter-ness.
To him who chose you for his own.
The soul that trust-ed him in-deed.

Text: Georg C. Neumark, 1621–81, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT (98 98 88) Georg C. Neumark, 1621–81.

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 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.



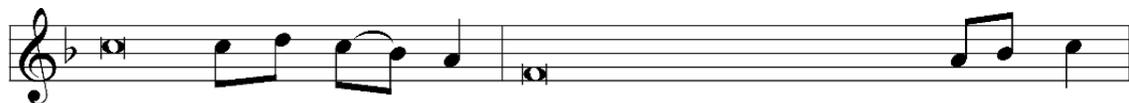
C: **Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**



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

(Continued on Next Page)

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 your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; 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

Exodus 34:5-9

⁵ The Lord came down in the cloud. He took his stand there with Moses and proclaimed the name of the Lord. ⁶ The Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed: "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and overflowing with mercy and truth, ⁷ maintaining mercy for thousands, forgiving guilt and rebellion and sin. He will by no means clear the guilty. He calls their children and their children's children to account for the guilt of the fathers, even to the third and the fourth generation."

⁸ Moses quickly bowed to the ground and worshipped. ⁹ He said, "If I have now found favor in your sight, Lord, please let the Lord go along with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, pardon our guilt and our sin, and accept us as your possession."

PSALM OF THE DAY: 19

READ RESPONSIVELY

M: The heavens declare the glory of God;

C: The skies proclaim the work of his hands.

M: Their voice goes out into all the earth,

C: Their words to the ends of the world.

M: The law of the Lord is perfect,

C: Giving joy to the heart.

M: The commands of the Lord are radiant,

C: Giving light to the eyes.

M: They are more precious than gold;

C: They are sweeter than honey.

M: By them is your servant taught;

C: In keeping them there is great reward.

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

C: Be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Redeemer.

(Continued on Next Page)

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

2 Timothy 1:3-14

³I thank God, whom I serve with a clean conscience as my ancestors did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day. ⁴When I remember your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I remember your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am convinced that it also lives in you.

⁶For this reason I am reminding you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷For God did not give us a timid spirit, but a spirit of power and love and sound judgment. ⁸So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Instead, join with me in suffering for the gospel while relying on the power of God. ⁹He saved us and called us with a holy calling, not because of our works, but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, ¹⁰and it has now been revealed through the appearance of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald, apostle, and teacher of the Gentiles, ¹²and that is why I am suffering these things. But I am not ashamed, because I know the one in whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

¹³Hold fast to the pattern of sound words that you heard from me, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Through the Holy Spirit, who lives in us, guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia. (*Philippians 4:4 RSV*)

Stand

GOSPEL AND SERMON TEXT

Luke 17:1-10

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

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

Jesus said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! ² It would be better for that person if a millstone would be hung around his neck and he would be thrown into the sea than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. ³ Watch yourselves.

"If your brother sins, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him. ⁴ Even if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times returns to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

⁶ The Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you could tell this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. ⁷ Which one of you who has a servant plowing or taking care of sheep will say to him when he comes in from the field, 'Come at once and recline at the table'? ⁸ Won't the master tell him instead, 'Prepare my supper, and after you are properly dressed, serve me while I eat and drink. After that you may eat and drink'? ⁹ He does not thank the servant because he did what he was commanded to do, does he? ¹⁰ So also you, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants. We have only done what we were supposed to do.'"

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.

(Continued on Next Page)

**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

HYMN OF THE DAY: 402 My Faith Looks Up to Thee



1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of
2 May thy rich grace im - part Strength to my
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a -
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold,



Cal - va - ry, Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me
faint - ing heart; My zeal in - spire! As thou hast
round me spread, Be thou my guide. Bid dark - ness
sul - len stream Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior,



while I pray; Take all my guilt a - way;
died for me, Oh, may my love to thee
turn to day, Wipe sor - row's tears a - way,
then, in love, Fear and dis - trust re - move;



Oh, let me from this day Be whol - ly thine!
Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!
Nor let me ev - er stray From thee a - side.
Oh, bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87.
Tune: OLIVET (664 6664) Lowell Mason, 1792–1872, alt.

SERMON

Text: **Luke 17:1-10**

Theme: **The Millstone Around Our Necks**

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: Almighty God, we acknowledge with thanks that all we have and enjoy is a gift from your gracious hand. We come before you today in heartfelt appreciation for our nation and its people.

C: We thank you for enabling us to worship you in freedom and to serve you without fear.

M: You have enriched us with the bounties of farm and factory, the beauty of forest and mountain, and the marvels of medicine and science.

C: For all these blessings, we praise and glorify you.

M: Look with favor upon our nation, and preserve our cherished liberties. Enable our leaders to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice. Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.

C: Give us willingness to obey our nation's laws and to work for the common good.

M: Keep our financial institutions secure and our economy strong. Bless our fields that they may produce abundant harvests. Guard us from calamities of nature and accident, and spare our land from the ravages of disease and epidemic.

C: Teach us not to worry but to cast all our cares on you.

M: Strengthen the homes of our nation. By your Spirit lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility, and children to show respect.

Special prayers

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: To you, O Lord, we bring our thanks and our requests.

C: Hear our prayers for Jesus' sake. 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 unto 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.

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: 311 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness, *Verses 1-4*



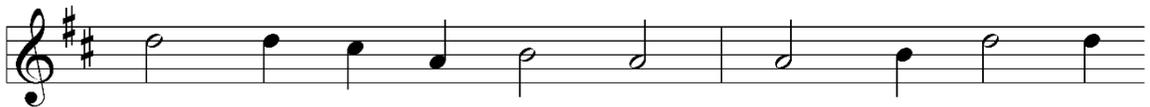
1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness; Leave be - hind all
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, And with lov - ing
 3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther cost nor
 4 Now I kneel be - fore you low - ly, Filled with joy most



gloom and sad - ness. Come in - to the day - light's splen - dor;
 rev - 'rence greet him, For with words of life im - mor - tal
 pain will mea - sure, But the price - less gifts of heav - en
 deep and ho - ly, As with trem - bling awe and won - der



There with joy your prais - es ren - der Un - to
 He is knock - ing at your por - tal. O - pen
 God to us has free - ly giv - en. Though the
 On your might - y work I pon - der, How by



him whose grace un - bound - ed Has this won - drous
 wide the gates be - fore him, Say - ing, as you
 wealth of earth were prof - fered, Naught would buy the
 mys - ter - y sur - round - ed, Depths that no one



sup - er found - ed. Though he reigns a - bove most
 there a - dore him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
 gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
 ev - er sound - ed. None may dare to pierce un -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 ceive you, That I nev - er - more will leave you.
 riv - en, And his blood, for you once giv - en.
 bid - den Se - crets that with you are hid - den.

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: 333, Abide, O Dearest Jesus



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us
 2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us
 3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us,
 4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us,
 5 A - bide with your pro - tec - tion A - mong us,



with your grace That Sa - tan may not
 with your Word And thus now and here -
 pre - cious Light; Your truth di - rect and
 boun - teous Lord; Let us in grace and
 Lord, our Strength, Lest world and Sa - tan



harm us Nor we to sin give place.
 af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.
 keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.
 wis - dom Grow dai - ly through your Word.
 fell us And ov - er - come at length.

6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
 Among us with your love;
 Grant steadfastness and help us
 To reach our home above.

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
 Tune: CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN (76 76) Melchior Vulpus, c. 1570–1615, alt.

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. Scan the QR Code Below to sign up!



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.

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 2nd

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.



Love That Won't Let Go

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20250915/>

The LORD said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.” So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.” For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods. Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days. **Hosea 3:1-5**

Ever tried calling a pet that doesn't want to be caught? Like a dog darting through the neighborhood, ears back, tail high, zigzagging just out of reach? You call. You chase. You promise treats. Still, they don't come.

Now imagine that pet is a person—someone you love. And they're running from you. Worse, they're running from God.

That's the heartbreak of Hosea. God tells him to chase after his wife, Gomer, who keeps walking away from him, choosing anything but to be faithful. She's broken her promises. Hurt their relationship. But still, God says: “Go. Love her. Bring her home.”

Why? Because this is how God loves us.

We wander. We mess up. We pick everything (video games, friends, sports, or other stuff) before him. And yet—he chases. He calls us back. He refuses to stop loving. He refuses to stop forgiving.

Sound reckless? Undeserved? It is. And that's grace.

Hosea's story is our story. A love so stubborn, so relentless, so committed that it doesn't quit when we do. In Jesus, God took his pursuit to the ultimate level—paying for our rescue, not just with silver and gold, but with his own life.

If you've ever felt unworthy, ever wondered if God could still love you after everything you've done—you don't have to wonder. He's chasing after you. You are wanted. You are his.

And if there's someone in your life who's running from him? Don't give up on them. Keep loving. Keep praying. Keep chasing. Because that's what God does for us.

Questions to Consider

Have you ever played hide-and-seek? What's the best part—hiding, or being found? Why?

Who in your life loves you no matter what? (Parents, grandparents, friends, even pets?)

Why do you think people sometimes run away from God? (Don't want rules, think other stuff is more fun, feel guilty, etc.)

How does it make you feel that God never gives up on you?

Hosea's love for Gomer was shocking. What does that show us about how big God's love really is?

Who in your life might need to hear that God hasn't given up on them? How could you show them God's love this week?

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.