



Christ the King Sunday

November 23, 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.





Christ the King

November 23, 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 David Sternhagen

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: 29 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1 Lo, he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him
3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion
4 Yea, A - men, let all a - dore you



Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain.
Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
Still his daz - zling bod - y bears,
High on your e - ter - nal throne.



Thou - sand, thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
Those who rid - i - culed and sold him,
Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
Ev - 'ry knee shall bow be - fore you;



Swell the tri - umph of his train.
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
To his ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
Come and take your peo - ple home!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
Deep - ly wail - ing, Deep - ly wail - ing,
With what won - der, With what won - der,
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Christ re - veals his end - less reign.
Shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
Gaze we on those glo - rious scars.
You shall reign and you a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
Tune: PICARDY (87 87 87) French folk tune, 17th century.

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.



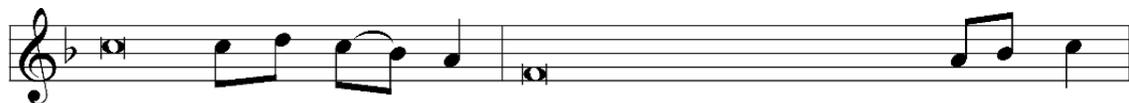
C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



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: Lord Jesus Christ, by your victory you have broken the power of the evil one. Fill our hearts with joy and peace as we look with hope to that day when every creature in heaven and earth will acclaim you King of kings and Lord of lords to your unending praise and glory; 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

Jeremiah 23:2-6

²Therefore, this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds who shepherd my people.

You have scattered my flock.

You have driven them away.

You have not taken care of them,
but I will certainly take care of you,
because of the evil things you have done,
declares the Lord.

³I will gather what is left of my flock
out of all the countries where I have driven them,
and I will bring them back to their pastures.
They will be fruitful and multiply.

⁴I will raise up shepherds over them
who will shepherd them.

They will no longer be afraid or terrified,
nor will any be missing, declares the Lord.

⁵Listen, the days are coming, declares the Lord,
when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,
who will reign wisely as king
and establish justice and righteousness on earth.

⁶In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will dwell securely.
This is his name by which he will be called:
The Lord Our Righteousness.

PSALM OF THE DAY: 98

READ RESPONSIVELY

M: Sing to the Lord a new song,

C: For he has done marvelous things.

M: The Lord has made his salvation known

C: And revealed his righteousness to the nations.

M: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;

C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

M: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,

C: Burst into jubilant song with music;

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M: Make music to the Lord with the harp,

C: With the harp and the sound of singing.

M: Shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

C: He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SECOND LESSON

Colossians 1:13-20

¹³ The Father rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption,^[a] the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, things seen and unseen, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and all things hold together in him.

¹⁸ He is also the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that in all things he might have the highest rank. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile all things to himself (whether things on earth or in heaven) by making peace through the blood of his cross.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Alleluia.
(*Revelation 22:13*)

Stand

GOSPEL

Luke 23:35-43

M: The Gospel of St. Luke, chapter 23.

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

³⁵The people stood watching. The rulers were ridiculing him, saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself, if this is the Christ of God, the Chosen One!"

³⁶The soldiers also made fun of him. Coming up to him, they offered him sour wine, ³⁷saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

³⁸There was also an inscription written above him: "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

⁴⁰But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me ^[a] when you come in ^[b] your kingdom."

⁴³Jesus said to him, "Amen I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise."

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: 392, Not unto Us



1 Not un - to us, not un - to us be glo - ry,
2 A - maz - ing grace— that chose us ere the worlds were
3 O faith - ful love— that shep - herd - ed through faith - less
4 Not un - to us but to your name be glo - ry,



Lord; Not un - to us but to your name be praise;
made; A - maz - ing grace— that sent your Son to save;
years; For - giv - ing love— that led us to your truth;
Lord, For grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.



Not un - to us but to your name all hon - or be
A - maz - ing grace— that robed us in your right - eous -
Un - yield - ing love— that would not let us turn from
A - bide with us till trav - 'ling days are o - ver and



giv'n For match - less mer - cy, for - give - ness, and grace.
ness And taught our lips to sing glo - ry and praise.
you But sent us forth to speak par - don and peace.
done, And pil - grim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.

Text: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–93, alt. © 1975 Kurt J. Eggert. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: NOT UNTO US (12 10 13 10) Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–93. © 1975 Kurt J. Eggert. All rights reserved.
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SERMON

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: Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

C: Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

M: Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

C: Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.

M: Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

C: Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer.

M: Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

C: Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Special prayers.

M: Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

C: Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. 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 preserves his Church to the end of time when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to 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.

The musical score consists of five staves of music in G major, 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;". The second staff continues: "have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,". The third staff continues: "you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.". The fourth staff continues: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;". The fifth staff concludes: "grant us your peace. A - men.".

Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: 304, Jesus Sinners Does Receive (Verses 1-4)



1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; Oh, may all this
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet his words, rich
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray Are not by the
 4 Come, O sin - ners, one and all, Come, ac - cept his



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
 Lord for - sak - en; Wea - ry souls who lost their way
 in - vi - ta - tion. Come, o - bey his gra - cious call;



And from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope
 Here their ills have per - fect heal - ing Who with hum -
 Are by Christ, the shep - herd, tak - en In his arms
 Come and take his free sal - va - tion! Firm - ly in



for all who grieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 ble hearts be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 that they may live— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 these words be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: MEINEN JESUM LASS ICH NICHT (78 78 77) Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, Darmstadt, 1699, 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: 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: 370, All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (Verses 1-2)

1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels
2 Hail him, ye heirs of Da - vid's line, Whom Da - vid
pros - trate fall; Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And
Lord did call. The God in - car - nate. Man di - vine. And
crown him Lord of all. Bring forth the roy - al
crown him Lord of all. The God in - car - nate,
di - a - dem And crown him Lord of all.
Man di - vine, And crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-92, st. 1-3, abr., alt.; *A Selection of Hymns*, London, 1787, st. 4-5, alt.
Tune: CORONATION (86 86 86) Oliver Holden, 1765-1844.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge
Pastor David Sternhagen: ecadave@gmail.com

Bethlehem Lutheran's Advent by Candlelight 2025 – Ladies, Register here!

Ladies - Here is the link to our online registration for this year's Advent by Candlelight event to be held Saturday, December 6 at 6:30 pm. <https://forms.gle/aV6KXWp4fsn1iDU56>

Our theme this year is 'Christmas begins with Christ!' and promises to be an inspiring and nourishing evening of fellowship and sisterhood as we kick off the Advent season.

God bless your week! *Lynnette Hupman (703-615-0755)*

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 – December 4th

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 ecadave@gmail.com with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.



Not Just a Pretty Picture

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20251112/>

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22:1-5

A long time ago, there was a man named John who loved Jesus with all his heart. John couldn't stop talking about how amazing Jesus was! He told people, "Every one of us breaks God's laws, but Jesus took away our sins so we could live with him forever in heaven!"

John was so excited about this good news that he had to tell everyone he met. He wanted everyone to know Jesus, too.

But not everyone liked that. One day, some soldiers showed up. They told John, "Stop talking about Jesus!" They wanted people to worship their leader—the emperor—instead of God. When John refused, they arrested him and sent him away to a lonely island called Patmos. There were no friends, no family—just rocks, wind, and waves.

It seemed like John's story was over. He must have felt sad and hopeless.

But then—God did something incredible. God gave John a vision—like a movie playing right in his mind.

In this vision, John saw:

God sitting on his throne, shining brighter than the sun.

A river sparkling like crystal, flowing right from God's throne.

The Tree of Life, growing strong with fruit for everyone.

(Continued on Next Page)

A city so bright there was no night at all—because God himself was the light.

People from every place and time serving God with smiles and songs.

And John heard this promise: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit “will reign forever and ever.” This wasn’t just a pretty dream. God showed John heaven to fill him with hope while he was stuck on that island.

God wanted John (and us!) to know:

Even when life feels scary, lonely, or unfair—God always wins.

And because Jesus died and rose again, we’ll win with him!

Someday, we’ll see everything John saw:

No more tears.

No more sickness.

No more sin.

Only joy, light, and love that never ends.

Heaven is where our God, who has all the power in the universe, will make all things perfect for eternity.

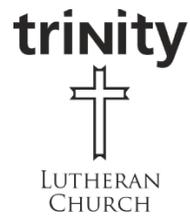
When you have a bad day—when friends are mean, when you’re sick, or when you’re scared—remember: God loves you so much that he just has to have you in heaven with him forever. He’s already preparing your place in that bright, perfect city. You can be sure that someday, you will be standing before God’s throne in that perfect city where it is never night. There, you will live with him forever.

And just like John, you can hold on to hope—because God always keeps his promises.

Questions to Consider

- Why does God want you in heaven someday? (Hint: You are his child, and he wants to be with you forever!)
- What’s the coolest thing you can imagine about heaven? (The river? The city? No more night? Something else?)
- Have you ever had news so exciting you just had to tell someone? How is that like what John did when he shared about Jesus?
- John’s life looked hopeless on the island, but God gave him hope. What’s something that gives you hope when life feels hard?
- You probably won’t get sent to an island for believing in Jesus, but what other tough things might happen when you talk about your faith? (Maybe friends don’t understand, or someone teases you.)
- The message of Revelation is “God Always Wins.” What other stories in the Bible show that God wins—no matter what? (Noah? David and Goliath? The cross? Easter morning?)

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.