



May 24, 2026

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.





The Day of Pentecost

May 24, 2026

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 Tim Satorius

Theme of the Day: He lives to pour out his Spirit

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: 186 O Spirit of Life, O Spirit of God



1 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God, Re - veal - er
2 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God, En - light - en
3 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God, In - crease our
4 O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God, Lead us to



of God's ho - ly Word, You come to us from
us by that same Word; Un - less your grace the
faith in our dear Lord; Teach us to know the
love your sa - cred Word; The ho - ly flame of



God's great throne, From God the Fa - ther and the
pow'r should give, None can be - lieve in Christ and
Fa - ther's love And his dear Son, who reigns a -
love im - part, That kind - ness may in - spire each



Son, O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.
live, O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.
bove, O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.
heart, O Spir - it of life, O Spir - it of God.

Text: Johann Niedling, 1602–68, abr., adapt.; tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, alt.

Tune: O JESULEIN SÜSS (10 8 88 10) *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: Almighty 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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics below are: "C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy". The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics below are: "on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us." The system ends with a double bar line.

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 Risen LORD.

GLORY BE TO GOD



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



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



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: Holy Spirit, God and Lord, come to us this joyful day with your sevenfold gift of grace. Rekindle in our hearts the holy fire of your love that in a true and living faith we may tell abroad the glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Joel 2:28-29

²⁸ After this, I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.^[a]

Your sons and your daughters will prophesy.

Your old men will dream dreams.

Your young men will see visions.

²⁹ Even on the servants, both male and female,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

PSALM OF THE DAY: 51B

Refrain



Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, re - new our hearts and
kin - dle in us the fire of your love.

O Lord, open my lips,*
and my mouth will declare your praise.

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;*
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Refrain

Create in me a pure heart, O God,*
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence*
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,*
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,*
and sinners will turn back to you.

**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.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the rushing of a violent wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw divided tongues that were like fire resting on each one of them. ⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, since the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak fluently.

⁵ Now there were godly Jewish men from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ When this sound was heard, a crowd came together and was confused, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷ They were completely baffled and said to each other, Look, are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them speaking in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, and of Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt, and the parts of Libya around Cyrene; visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring in our own languages the wonderful works of God.” ¹² They were all amazed and perplexed. They kept saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ But others mocked them and said, “They are full of new wine.”

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them: “Men of Judea, and all you residents of Jerusalem, understand this, and listen closely to my words. ¹⁵ These men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ On the contrary, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ This is what God says will happen in the last days:

I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.

Your sons and your daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions.

Your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in the sky above,

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and a rising cloud of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

²¹ And this will happen: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord

will be saved.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.



Stand

GOSPEL

John 16:5-11

M: The Gospel of St John, Chapter 16

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

⁵“But now I am going away to him who sent me, and not one of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶Yet because I have told you these things, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth: It is good for you that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, about righteousness, and about judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

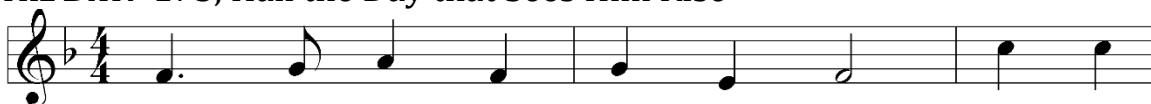
**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

(Continued of Next Page)

**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: 175, Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise



1 Hail the day that sees him rise To his
2 There the glo - rious tri - umph waits: Lift your
3 See, the heav'n its Lord re - ceives, Yet he
4 See, he lifts his hands a - bove; See, he
5 Still for us he in - ter - cedes; His pre -



throne a - bove the skies! Christ, the Lamb for
heads, e - ter - nal gates. He has con - quered
loves the earth he leaves; Though re - turn - ing
shows the prints of love. Hark! His gra - cious
vail - ing death he pleads. He, the first of



sin - ners giv'n, Re - as - cends his na - tive heav'n.
death and sin; Take the King of glo - ry in!
to his throne, Still he calls man - kind his own.
lips be - stow Bless - ings on his Church be - low.
all our race, Near him - self pre - pares a place.

6 There we shall with you remain
Partners in your endless reign,
There your face unclouded view,
Find our heav'n of heav'ns in you.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, abr., alt.
Tune: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS (77 77) Pierre de Corbeille, d. 1221, adapt.

SERMON

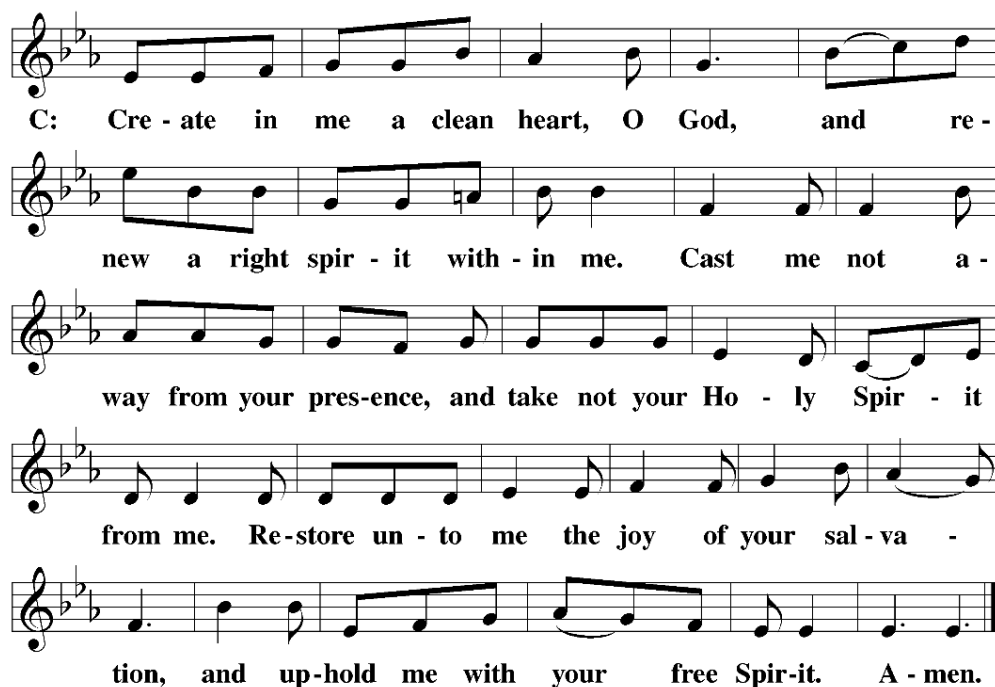
Text: **John 7: 37-39**

Theme: **“Pentecost is Refreshing”**

³⁷ On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and called out, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink! ³⁸ As the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from deep within the person who believes in me.” ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were going to receive. For the Holy^[a] Spirit had not yet come, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

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: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.

M: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

C: Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

M: We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

C: Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

M: Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

C: Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

M: Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

C: Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

M: Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers

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

Silent prayer

M: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

C: 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 on this day kept his promise and poured out the Holy Spirit to empower his Church to proclaim the gospel in all the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of six lines of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

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

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

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

The musical score 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 time signature is common time (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes or bar lines.

Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: 308 As Surely as I Live God Said



1 "As sure - ly as I live," God said, "I
 2 To us, there - fore, Christ gave com - mand: "Go
 3 "All those whose sins you thus re - mit I
 4 "What you will bind, that bound shall be; What
 5 The words which ab - so - lu - tion give Are



would not have the sin - ner dead, But
 forth and preach in ev - 'ry land; Be -
 tru - ly par - don and ac - quit, And
 you will loose, that shall be free; Un -
 his who died that we might live; The



that he turn from er - ror's ways, Re -
 stow on all my par - d'ning grace Who
 those whose sins you do re - tain Con -
 to my Church the keys are giv'n To
 min - is - ter whom Christ has sent Is



pent, and live through end - less days."
 will re - pent of sin - ful ways.
 demned and guilt - y shall re - main.
 op'n and close the gates of heav'n."
 but his hum - ble in - stru - ment.

6 When ministers lay on their hands,
 Absolved by Christ the sinner stands;
 He who by grace the Word believes
 Forgiveness, sure and sweet, receives.

7 Praise God the Father and the Son
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
 As was, is now, and so shall be
 Forever and eternally!

Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561, abr.; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
 Tune: ST. LUKE (LM) Jeremiah Clarke, 1674–1707.

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

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

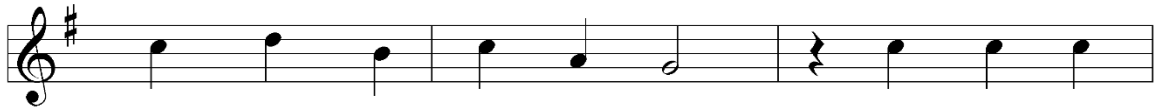
C: **Amen.**

Be Seated

CLOSING HYMN: 188, Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid



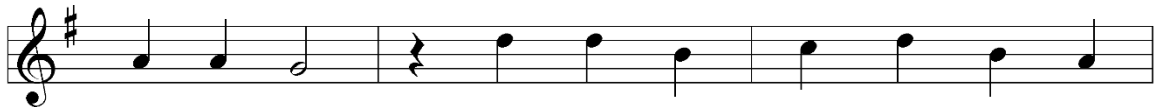
1 Cre - a - tor Spir - it, by whose aid The world's
 2 O Source of light, our Coun - sel - or, The Fa -
 3 Giv - er of grace, de - scend from high In an -
 4 Im - mor - tal hon - or, end - less fame, At - tend



foun - da - tions first were laid, Come, vis - it
 ther's help to us as - sure. Come down, as
 swer to our ear - nest cry. Help us e -
 th' al - might - y Fa - ther's name; The Sav - ior -



ev - 'ry hum - ble mind; Come, pour your joys on
 prom - ised, with your fire, And hearts with heav'n - ly
 ter - nal truths re - ceive And prac - tice all that
 Son be glo - ri - fied, Who for all hu - man -



hu - man-kind. From sin and sor - row set us
 love in - spire. Your sa - cred, heal - ing mes - sage
 we be - lieve. Give us your wis - dom that we
 kind has died; And e - qual ad - o - ra - tion



free; May we your liv - ing tem - ples be.
 bring To sanc - ti - fy us when we sing.
 see The glo - ry of the Trin - i - ty.
 rise To you, O Spir - it, in the skies.

Text: attr. Rhabanus Maurus, 776–856, abr.; tr. John Dryden, 1631–1700, alt.

Tune: ALL EHR UND LOB (88 88 88) *Gesangbuch . . . Psalmen, Geistliche Lieder*, Strassburg, 1541, alt.

Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Summer Schedule begins Sunday TODAY:

Our summer schedule begins with just 1 Sunday worship service at 9:30am. Note that in previous years we had service at 10am, however this summer we've moved to 9:30am so we can accommodate Pastor Satorius on some Sundays this summer. We'll resume our 2 service schedule after Labor Day.

Vacation Bible School Registration is OPEN. Registration is now open for this year's VBS, which will be held July 27-31 from 9:00-11:30 am. Come join us for Tropical Trek VBS and be guided by our Savior, Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life!. We look forward to sharing God's Word, singing songs, making crafts, playing games, and of course, having some awesome snacks together! VBS is for kids ages 4 to those entering 6th grade. Kids entering 7th grade and older may volunteer as helpers. Adult volunteers are needed as well! Please contact Erika Ohlendorf (erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com) with questions. Register your child here: <https://vbsmate.com/events/TrinityofWoodbridge/31882>



Youth Parents: This year, the WELS Youth Rally will be in **Ohio, July 14-17**, and registrations will open soon. We are partnering with Grace Lutheran Church to see if we can lower costs, but now we need to know how many teens (8th-12th grade) may be interested in this event so we can transmit a group pre-registration. If you would like your child/children to attend, have any comments, questions or concerns, please contact Hilda Naranjo by sending an email to arghilda@yahoo.com **as soon as possible**. Group Leaders must work on the pre-registration that opens March 9. Thank you!

Wine and Word Bible Study – June 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.

Volunteers Needed to provide snacks for our Sunday School and Fellowship Hour!

If you're able to bless our community with simple treats, please sign up on the sheet posted on the Sunday School bulletin board located in the large fellowship and adult Sunday School room. Your contributions help make our time together even more welcoming and enjoyable—thank you for supporting our fellowship!

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 with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.



Nobody an Orphan!

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20260513/>

[Jesus said] I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. John 14:18-19

“It’s the Hard-Knock Life.” That’s a song from the musical Annie. Annie is a little girl who lives in an orphanage. She sings that life is hard because she has “no folks to speak of”—no mom or dad to take care of her. An orphan is a child without parents to care for them. That can feel lonely, scary, and sad. Who tucks you in at night? Who helps when you’re sick? Who gives hugs when you’re hurting? Children need someone to love them and care for them.

That’s why Jesus gave his disciples a very special promise.

On the night before Jesus died, he told his disciples he was going away. He was going to suffer, die, rise again, and later return to his Father in heaven. Imagine how the disciples must have felt hearing that. They had walked with Jesus, listened to Jesus, and leaned on Jesus. Now it sounded like he was leaving. Life without Jesus probably felt scary. Maybe a little like being orphaned.

But Jesus gave them this promise: “I will not leave you as orphans” (John 14:18). Jesus knew life in this world would still be hard. The devil is a roaring lion looking to devour us. A sin-broken world wants to bring us down. The enemy is even inside us—our sinful nature—looking for every opportunity to betray us. On our own we don’t stand a chance against any one of these enemies. But Jesus says you are not alone. You are not on your own. You are not forgotten. You are not an orphan.

Jesus may not be standing next to us where we can see him, but he is still with us. He promises to be with his people always. And he sends the Holy Spirit to help us, comfort us, and keep us close to him. The Holy Spirit works through God’s Word. He works through Baptism. He works through Holy Communion. Through these gifts, Jesus is with you. He forgives you, comforts you, and reminds you that you belong to him.

So when life feels lonely . . . when life feels scary . . . when you feel like no one understands . . . remember Jesus’ promise: “I will not leave you as orphans.”

Questions for Younger Children

- What is an orphan? Why might being an orphan feel scary or sad?
- What are some good gifts God gives children through parents? What are some ways parents care for their children?
- How do you think Jesus' disciples felt when Jesus said he was going away? Why might they have felt afraid or alone?
- What are some promises from God that help when life feels scary?
- Sometimes the guilt or shame of our own sins make us feel like God will abandon us. What does God want us to do with our guilt and shame? What promises does he make when we are feeling this way? (Hint: 1 John 1:8–2:2)
- A Christian teacher (his name was Bernard of Clairvaux) long ago said, "The Word is the kiss of God on the lips of the soul." What do you think that means? How does God's Word show his love and comfort in today's devotion?

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.