



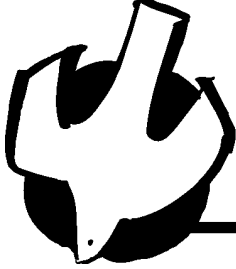
October 4, 2026

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.





Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 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 Gary Wong

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: 536, Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Church's head, You are her
2 O Lord, let this your lit - tle flock, Your name a -
3 Help us to serve you ev - er - more With hearts both
4 And for your gos - pel let us dare To sac - ri -

one foun - da - tion. In you she trusts, be - fore you
lone con - fess - ing, Con - tin - ue in your lov - ing
pure and low - ly. And may your Word, that light di -
fice all trea - sure; Teach us to bear your bless - ed

bows, And waits for your sal - va - tion. Built
care, True u - ni - ty pos - sess - ing. Your
vine, Shine on in splen - dor ho - ly That
cross, To find in you all plea - sure. Oh,

on this rock se - cure, Your Church shall en - dure
sac - ra - ments, O Lord, And your sav - ing Word
we re - pent - ance show, In faith ev - er grow.
grant us stead - fast - ness In joy and dis - tress.

Though all the world de - cay And all things
To us e'er pure re - tain. Grant that they
The pow'r of sin de - stroy And e - vils
Lord, for your mer - cy's sake, Let us by

pass a - way. Oh, hear, oh, hear us, Je - sus!
may re - main Our on - ly strength and com - fort.
that an - noy. Oh, make us faith - ful Chris - tians.
grace par - take Of end - less joy and glo - ry.

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734, abr.; tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891–1976, alt.
Tune: REUTER (87 87 65 66 7) Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924.

Stand

INVOCATION

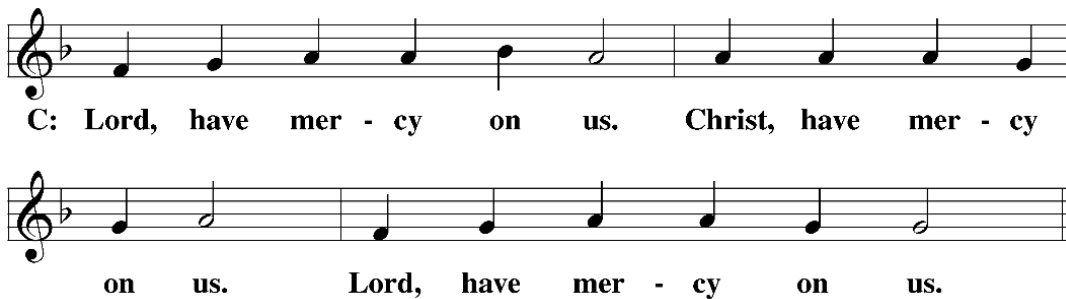
Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

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.



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

The musical score is written on ten staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The lyrics are in all caps and use hyphens to indicate syllables across measures. The score begins with a common time signature 'C'.

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: Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 5:1-7

I will sing for the one I love
a song about his vineyard:

My loved one had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.

²He dug it up and cleared it of stones
and planted it with the choicest vines.

He built a watchtower in it
and cut out a winepress as well.

Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
but it yielded only bad fruit.

³“Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴What more could have been done for my vineyard
than I have done for it?

When I looked for good grapes,
why did it yield only bad?

⁵Now I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:

I will take away its hedge,
and it will be destroyed;

(Continued on the Next Page)

I will break down its wall,
 and it will be trampled.
⁶I will make it a wasteland,
 neither pruned nor cultivated,
 and briars and thorns will grow there.
 I will command the clouds
 not to rain on it.”

⁷The vineyard of the Lord Almighty
 is the nation of Israel,
 and the people of Judah
 are the vines he delighted in.
 And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
 for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

PSALM OF THE DAY: 118

The Refrain is Sung; the Psalm is spoken responsively

Refrain

This is the day the Lord has made, let us re -
 joice and be glad! This is the day the
 Lord has made, let us re - joice and be glad!

M: The LORD is my strength and my song;

C: he has become my salvation.

M: The LORD’S right hand is lifted high;

C: the LORD’S right hand has done mighty things!

M: I will not die but live,

C: and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

Refrain

(Continued on Next Page)

M: I will give you thanks, for you answered me;

C: you have become my salvation.

M: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;

C: the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

M: This is the day the LORD has made;

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**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

Refrain Tune: Marty Haugen. © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 3:12-21

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. I will proclaim your name to my people; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. Alleluia. (*Hebrews 2:12*)



Stand

GOSPEL AND SERMON TEXT

Matthew 21:12-17

M: The Gospel of St Matthew, Chapter 21

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

¹² Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ¹³ “It is written,” he said to them, “My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”

¹⁴ The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.

¹⁶ “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him.

“Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read,
“From the lips of children and infants
you, Lord, have called forth your praise?”

¹⁷ And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

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.

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.

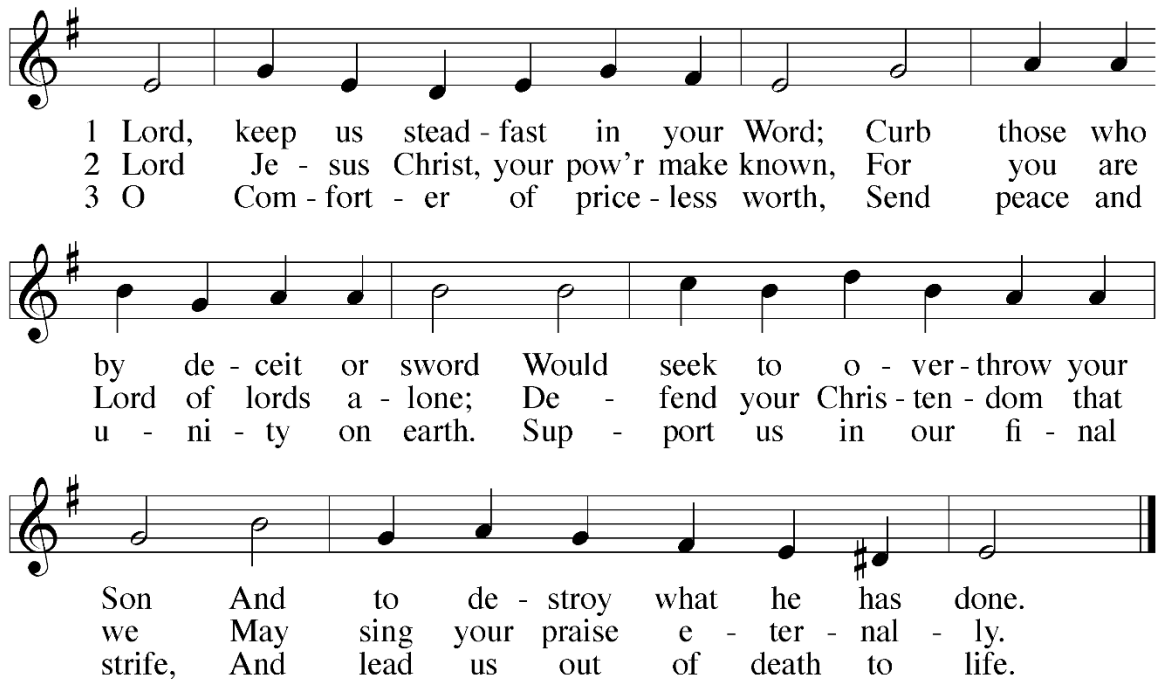
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

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: 203, Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je-sus Christ, your pow'r make known, For you are
3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, Send peace and

by de- ceit or sword Would seek to o-ver-throw your
Lord of lords a-lone; De-fend your Chris-ten-dom that
u-ni-ty on earth. Sup-port us in our fi-nal

Son And to de- stroy what he has done.
we May sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly.
strife, And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite.

Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder zu Wittenberg*, Wittenberg, 1543, alt.

SERMON

Theme: Children of God

Text: Matthew 21:12-17

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.

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

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

PREFACE

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

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: 309, Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
2 He that his saints in this world rules and shields
3 Come for - ward, then, with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured.
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields,
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was he for great - est and for least,
With heav'n - ly bread makes them that hun - ger whole,
Be - fore your al - tar, Lord, your ser - vants bow;



Him - self the vic - tim and him - self the priest.
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirs - ty soul.
In this your feast of love be with us now.

Text: Latin hymn, 7th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: OLD 124TH (10 10 10 10) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, alt.

THANKSGIVING

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: 319 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

On my heart im - print your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus,
King of grace, That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Have no
pow'r to hide your face. This the su - per - scrip - tion be:
Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me, Is my life, my
hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion.

The musical score is written on five staves in 4/4 time. The melody is in G major, indicated by one sharp (F#). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703, abr.; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.
Tune: DER AM KREUZ (87 87 77 88) Johann B. König, 1691–1758.

Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Trinity Women's Bible Study

Our women's Bible Study meets the second Saturday of the month at 9:00 am at Trinity. We are continuing to read *Take Heart: God's Comfort for Anxious Thoughts* by Lindsay Hausch. Please join us! Questions, or need a copy of the book? Please ask Erika (erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com).

Upcoming dates: Chapter 10: October 10, 2026; Chapter 11: November 14, 2026

Wine and Word Bible Study – October 15th The Wine and Word Bible Study is **studying the book of Ephesians** 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.

🍬 Annual Trunk or Treat! - October 24th, 3-4pm 🚗 🍬

We need your help to make this year's Trunk or Treat a success! **Candy donations** (individually wrapped or small packets), cookies, and other treats are welcome, and we're looking **for volunteers to bring their cars and pass out treats**. Decorating your trunk and wearing a costume are optional, but all decorations and costumes should be family-friendly and appropriate for our church parking lot. Come join the fun and help us welcome our community!

The Trinity Book Club invites you to join them at 9:30am on Saturday, Nov. 21, at Cuppi Coffee in Dumfries to discuss *Sense and Suitability* by Pepper Basham. Come ready to drink good coffee or tea and discuss a fun book!

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.



Bigger Than Our Brains

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20260923/>

What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy. Romans 9:14-16

Dogs are smart animals. They can understand simple commands like sit, roll over, and lie down. They understand when you tell them it’s time to eat or time to go outside. A dog learns to depend on its owner for food, protection, and care.

But have you ever tried to teach your dog algebra? He’ll tilt his head, stare at you blankly, or jump up and lick your face. Compared to our brains, dogs’ brains are much smaller and simpler. Even the best-trained dog cannot understand everything its loving owner does. Its owner understands things that are simply too big for the dog’s brain.

In today’s reading, the apostle Paul talks about something our brains can’t fully understand: Why do some people believe in Jesus while others reject him? The Bible gives us two clear answers. First, nobody gets to go to heaven because they have earned it or deserved it. We can’t work our way to heaven. It is only because of Jesus that we can go to heaven. We are saved only because of God’s mercy. God’s mercy is his forgiving love. God loves all people. Jesus died for all people and offers forgiveness and heaven to all people.

So, why do some people believe while others reject God’s promise?

Here is the second clear answer: when someone is saved, God gets all the credit. When someone rejects Jesus, that person is responsible. We must not change either truth to make them fit neatly inside our minds.

Just as people understand far more than dogs do, God’s understanding is infinitely greater than ours. We can’t understand everything God has revealed about himself. But we can trust everything he says because he never lies or makes a mistake.

Your faith is not something you earned or created. God brought you to Jesus through his Word and Baptism. He gave you his promises and made you his child. Your salvation does not rest on how smart, strong, or faithful you are. It rests entirely on God’s mercy. Some truths about God are bigger than our brains—but his promises are always big enough to trust.

Questions to Consider

- What are some things a dog can understand? What is something it can't understand?
- Who loves you, forgives you, and brings you to Jesus?
- What is God's mercy?
- Why can't we earn our way to heaven?
- If someone is saved, who receives all the credit? If someone rejects Jesus, who is responsible?
- What should you do when something in the Bible is bigger than your brain and you cannot fully understand it?

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.