

October Trinity Tidings

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Ephesians 4:1–6

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

In Jesus, all things come together. Outside of Jesus, all things fall apart.

It's a simple statement, but it is a very profound one.

In Jesus all things come together. Outside of Jesus, all things fall apart.

In our reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians this evening, we have a call for unity—for coming together as one—something we are quite familiar with in our world today. Calls for unity come from all directions, unity within our country, unity within our families and unity among other nations. Which sounds like a wonderful idea, until we try to put it into practice. How can we all become one, if we each have different opinions, different backgrounds, different languages and different tastes? The truth is that we celebrate and we vigorously defend our individual and our personal freedoms.

How can we "become as one" when we are all so different? How can there be unity, when we all desire to be individuals? "Easy," some would say. "If everybody would simply agree with me, my opinions and my way of doing things, then everything would be fine." Obviously, if everyone had that attitude, then there would be no hope for peace and unity at all.

So, is that it? Does this mean that there is no hope?

Not according to St. Paul. Unity, you see, is something that can only come from outside of ourselves. Inside ourselves there is only selfishness and sin. It is from inside ourselves that all those self-righteous ideas of "my way is the only right way" arise.

So Christ comes to us from the outside. From heaven He entered into our world as a man to rescue us from sin. That's John 3:16. Out of love, God sends us His Son. And from the Father and the Son we are sent the Holy Spirit. In John 15:26 Jesus says, *"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me."* This is the truth that we confess in our Creeds.

(Pastor's Message Continued)

By the power of this Spirit, we have faith in—and are able to bear witness to—the salvation the Son of God earned for us on the cross. And through water and the Spirit we become Christ's body, the Church. It is as the body of Christ Jesus that we find the unity we seek.

In 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, we read, *"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit."* And a few verses later, *"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."*

Church is much more than a social gathering and a place of "personal devotion." It is where our Lord Jesus comes to us through His means of grace.

It is a marvelous way of working, when you really think about it. Christ gathers us together from all walks of life—from young children to mature adults, from rich and poor, liberal and conservative—and He unites us as His own—He makes us one. By means of the liturgy, we literally are all put on the same page. Here we are all made equal. As one, we all confess to being sinners in need of forgiveness and as one we all hear that forgiveness proclaimed and as one, we receive it. Together we praise Him, together we confess Him and together we hear Him speak to us in His holy Word. As one we confess Him and reach out to Him in prayer, knowing that He hears our pleas. Then as one, He nourishes us with His holy Supper, giving us a foretaste of the feast to come and strengthening us for the days ahead.

In Jesus, you see, all things come together. Outside of Jesus, all things fall apart.

Without Jesus we can celebrate our independence, but in the end, that is all we are left with, ourselves, and that is a very lonely road to walk and the end of that road is dark and deadly. Without Jesus in our lives—without the certain hope of salvation that only Jesus brings—we are lost and we are alone. Yes, we can certainly do "good works" for our neighbors and seek to build earthly unity, but it is all temporary and short lived.

The unity that Christ offers is certain and it is everlasting.

This is the unity, the togetherness, to which we as Christians are called. A call that comes from outside of ourselves. And this is what we are baptized into.

So, as Paul says, we *"walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism,⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

In Jesus, all things come together. Outside of Jesus, all things fall apart.

Pastor Gaede



Pastor Gaede will be retiring in June of 2025, and a Call Committee has been formed to choose his replacement. As part of the Call process we are asking Trinity Members to complete the online Congregational Call Process Survey (link below); it takes about 10 minutes. For those that do not have access to a computer, Nancy Planek will be available on October 6th and 13th during Fellowship Time to enter your responses to the survey questions. Call Committee members will also be available on these Sun-

days for any questions you may have. Please prayerfully consider your responses to the survey, and have the survey completed by October 13th.

Thanks in advance for your participation.

<https://lcmsnorthernillinoisdistrict.questionpro.com/TrinityWestChicago>



The Call Committee

Heather Greubel, Jim and Laura Grobe, Dean and Sue Mennecke, Tracy Kotke and Nancy Planek



Trinity Youth at Heart is having a Bible Bingo Night

Friday October 4th from 7:00p - 9:00p in the Fellowship Hall

Snacks will be provided. Prizes will be awarded.
Fun will be had by all.

Please RSVP to Tracy Kotke at
tck@sbcglobal.net or 630-386-7646



Ecclesiastes 11:9 Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

WHAT IS GOING ON??

1. Pastor Gaede will be retiring in June 2025.
2. A Call Committee has been formed. Members include Jim Grobe, Ron Benes, Dean Mennecke, Nancy Planek, Heather Greubel, Tracy Kotke, Laura Grobe and Sue Mennecke.
3. Three meetings have been held, and the process of information gathering has begun, which will be provided to the Northern Illinois District. Pastor James, from Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Downers Grove, will be our Circuit Visitor. He will receive all agendas and minutes and be asked to attend the Call Committee meetings.
4. Next steps will include gathering information from our Trinity Congregation. This will be accomplished by the members of the congregation ELECTRONICALLY filling out and submitting a "Congregational Survey". A deadline will be announced for submitting the survey at a later date. ALL ANSWERS ARE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL!
5. "ELECTRONICALLY???" BUT, I don't have a computer!!." **If you don't have a computer**, paper copies of the survey will be available. After completing the survey, please give them to Nancy Planek and she will input them online. The Call Committee members will be happy to assist *you with any questions or concerns*.
6. Please prayerfully consider your responses, pray for the committee, the call process, and for Pastor Gaede as the Lord leads him into his next chapter of service.



Count Team - The Count Team is looking for two additional counters. Thank you to Kristi and Jim Horvath for volunteering to be on our fourth Count Team. We would like one additional person to be on their team and one additional person to be on Nancy and Ron's team. If we are lucky enough to have three persons on a Count Team we can cover most vacation needs. Please prayerfully consider volunteering. Please contact Laura Grobe if you are interested in volunteering and for information about the responsibilities.

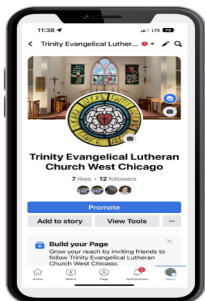
Greeters - We are looking for three additional Greeters to add to the rotation for Sunday mornings. This is the perfect opportunity to say "Good Morning" to your friends and a great way to make new ones! Please prayerfully consider volunteering to be a Greeter. Please contact Sue Matejka if you are interested in volunteering and for information about the responsibilities.




Assistants.... If you aren't available for your assigned Sunday, it is your responsibility to find a substitute.

2024 SCHEDULE	Count Team	9:30 Worship Asst.	9:30 Usher	Altar Guild	Lay Reader
10/6/2024	Greg & Sharon Garcia and Cheryl Perkis	Doug Schmidt	Larry Kotke	Nancy Westra	Grace Greubel
10/13/2024	Laura Grobe, Sue Mennecke and Jeni Siekmann	Ron Benes	Jim Grobe	Elder	Ron Benes
10/20/2024	Nancy Planek and Ron Benes	Larry Kotke	Dan Rakow	Nancy Planek	Nancy Planek
10/27/2024	Greg & Sharon Garcia and Cheryl Perkis	Jim Grobe	Andrew Greubel	Sharon Garcia	Eldra Rakow

Do you know of anyone that should be included in our **Prayer Chain**? If so, please contact Rita Dauber at 630-293-0518 or rita.dauber3@gmail.com



Find us on 
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 West Chicago

Have something you'd like to post?
 Email secretary@trinitywc.org or Darcy.L.lee@gmail.com

FYI—The current Trinity page has no comma in it's name. If the picture associated with the account is of the outside of the church, you're on the wrong page.

Trinity's 2024 Annual Golf Outing

The golf outing this year took place at Settler's Hill in Batavia. The first tee-off time was 9 am, and all golfers were done golfing and enjoying a beverage within 4 hours (could that be because our golfers are getting better every year??). Jared Schneider won the prize for the longest putt, and Dan Czuba won closest to the pin. A big **thank you** goes to Greg and Sharon Garcia for donating the prizes for the outing.

Thanks to everyone that participated!



Doug Schmidt, Marvin Boorsma,
Vytautas Norusis, Dan Czuba



Kevin Grobe, Jared Schneider,
Doug Books, Jim Grobe



Rich Bartecki, Matt Gaede,
Pastor Fred Gaede, John Gaede



Nancy Planeck and Larry Kotke

Thank you to all who attended the " End of Summer Picnic" on Sept. 8th. There was a lot of good food, and we all enjoyed our Fellowship time together. Thank you to Mike Cracraft for doing all the grilling.

As many of you know, the second Saturday in November was always set aside for our Christmas Sale. As nice as it always was, it was a lot of work with less people volunteering to help. This year we thought we would keep the date open but try some thing different. Some ideas have been suggested but no final decisions have been made yet. If you have an idea, please mention it to Cheryl or Carol. More details to follow in the Bulletins/Tidings.

Thank you for the treats that you have been bringing on Sundays to share for Fellowship . We have a big Freezer so keep them coming. If we don't use them this week, they will go out the next week.

The Fellowship Team,

Cheryl, Carol, Mike & Jen



LWML Sunday, October 6th— Celebrate with Lutheran Women in Mission

A special worship service is planned for Sunday, October 6th, to celebrate all that God has done through the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). The power of God is evident in the dimes, quarters, and dollars you put in your Mite Box, and we celebrate this every LWML Sunday. Thank you! The Lutheran Women in Mission Statement reads — “As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.” The Holy Spirit has been doing this for over 80 years through the LWML!

This year's Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday theme is “Ready to Serve” based on Luke 1:38. As redeemed children of God, Lutheran Women in Mission give thanks for the opportunity to serve others as we have been served, to proclaim that Jesus is our Lord and that He came for all nations, and to respond with our mite offerings to support God's mission. Our example has been the widow and her mite. The offering she made was observed by our Lord leading Him to share that her copper coins, her mites, were “everything — all she had to live on” (Mark 12:43). May our mite offerings be blessed for our Lord's kingdom.

“Ready to Serve,” Luke 1:38—And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Mite boxes will be distributed October 6th, and will be available all month. The last day to turn in your Mite box will be Sunday, October 27th.

Please wear purple to commemorate Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday on October 6th.

Please contact Tracy Kotke at tlck@sbcglobal.net or 630-386-7646 with any questions.

READY TO
serve

••••• LUKE 1:38 •••••

 **Lutheran Women**
in Mission SUNDAY

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
October Newsletter Article**



“The Singing Church”

Lutherans have historically been called “the singing church.” There is no doubt that music has been a major component in the theology and practice of the Lutheran church. Luther once remarked about music, “We can mention only one point, namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.” Music has a power and purpose that cannot be understated in our worship and the life of the congregation.

But music does more than touch the emotions. Music is a vehicle that carries both the musician and the hearer deeper into connection with the truth of the Scriptures. This is true of the most complex Bach chorale and even the simplest of songs like “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” Each musical selection within the church shapes the thoughts, minds and faith of the people who experience them.

This is also true of stewardship hymns. We are currently considering the verses of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) as it shapes our understanding and practice of stewardship. This month we take a deeper dive into verse two:

Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,
For Christ Your Son, and for each human face
that shows Your message ever new and near.

The stanza begins by touching on the truth of the Law. Thankfulness is not a natural posture for fallen humanity. For sinners curved in upon themselves, thankfulness for love and grace is something that must be taught. We are those who hoard and clutch. Our confession of our shallow thankfulness highlights the need for us to learn thankfulness to God.

Thankfulness also points to what we are stewards of: love and grace! All the things we have traditionally called stewardship aren’t actual stewardship. Rather, what matters is how we steward the one, true and only treasure: the love and grace of God revealed to us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, all stewardship is stewardship of the Gospel! How can we gaze at the cross and empty tomb and not be thankful?

The LCMS defines stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of God’s family — the church — in managing life’s resources for His purposes.” God’s love and mercy give us a clear purpose as we live out our Baptism and practice this joyous stewardship. All we are, all we have entrusted to us, and all we are called to do is to connect others with the love and mercy of God revealed in Jesus!

The faithful steward sings with lips and life of this love and mercy that is ever new and near. In the Scriptures. In the Lord’s House. At the Lord’s Table. This is where our stewardship song starts and ends. Our family, our co-workers and classmates, and our world need to hear this song!



Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving for God’s provision of a new worship space for the Cordero de Dios congregation in Bayamón, PR.
2. Thanksgiving for the 9/21 ordination of CMSCR graduate Rev. Freddy Otuvo (Bolivia).
3. For two LAC missionaries recovering from recent surgeries.
4. For new missionaries Abby Young & Aaron Reith (DR) as they participate in Week 1 of in-person orientation in St. Louis this month.
5. For all pastors deliberating multiple calls.

Cover Stories

As part of a holistic care framework, LAC’s Human Care team strives to ensure all missionaries get adequate rest—a unique challenge for those flying solo in their fields, like the Rev. Obot Ite (Jamaica) and the Rev. Dr. Gerald Paul (Cayman Islands). This summer, the short-term unit teamed up with Human Care to send a pair of volunteer US pastors to cover for Ite and Paul while they took some off-island R&R. My home service reunion with an [August 2023 Jamaica mission team](#) led to a connection with the Rev. Kevin Buelmann, who dutifully ministered to both Kingston-area flocks and led midweek Zoom Bible studies (pictured) so the Itees could reconnect with extended family in Nigeria. Meanwhile, the Pauls, in typically adventuresome fashion, enjoyed off-roading through southern Africa, leaving Safe Harbour in the competent hands of the recently retired Rev. Dale Snyder, a repeat offender when it comes to serving in LAC.



Left: My John Hancock on Kara & Christian’s marriage license means it’s official (AND that they got fun freebies on their honeymoon).



Above: Bridesmaids + groom at the Grand Basin in Forest Park. *Right:* Bride, bridesmaids, and flower girl in matching PJs before getting dressed at church.

Photo credit (left, below): [Black Tie Weddings & Events.](#)



Quote of the Month

“God is incomprehensible, and all that is comprehensible about Him is His infinity and incomprehensibility.”

—John of Damascus

To support the LCMS through me, you may give a tax-deductible gift...

- **online**, securely from any device: lcms.org/givenow/mackenzie;
- by **phone**: 1-888-930-4438 (donor care rep) or text **LCMSMACKENZIE** to 41-444;
- by **sending a check** (with “Mackenzie/Latin America” on the memo line) to:
 - ⇒ LCMS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861; or
 - ⇒ Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034.



MOOCHAS GRACIAS



October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1 Sharon Lemon	2 Amira Pena	3	4	5 Trevor Bartels
6	7 Erika Baxter	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Corey Brothers Shawn Brothers	15 Lois Kovarik	16	17	18	19 Marvin Boorsma Jr.
20 Lyla Wilson	21	22	23	24	25	26 Jennifer Grobe
27	28	29	30	31	1	2



October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1 Thomas Matejka	2 Carol Pena	3	4	5
6	7 Amber Zelman- Helfgot	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Jill Schneider Noah Kotke	16	17	18	19 Laura Grobe
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Quinn Adams	31 Santo Lee	1 Andrea Jensen Sharon Lemon	2



October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Sue and Dean Mennecke	9	10	11 Jared and Jill Schneider	12 Lynda and Ron Benes
13	14	15 Jeni and Peter Siekmann	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Jeffrey and Katie Gregory	24	25	26
27 Jamie and Vytas Norusis	28	29	30	31	1	2 Sandra and Glen Wilken

TRINITY CHURCH CALENDAR

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am - 11:45am Bible Study/Sunday School 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	30	1	2 6:30pm Confirmation	3	4	5
6 9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am - 11:45am Bible Study/Sunday School 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	7	8	9	10	11 7:30pm Compassionate Friends (Fellowship Hall)	12
13 9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am - 11:45am Bible Study/Sunday School 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	14 7:00pm - 8:00pm PPC Meeting	15	16 Pastor in Portugal	17 Pastor in Portugal 7:00pm Long Range Planning Committee	18 Pastor in Portugal	19 Pastor in Portugal
20 Pastor in Portugal 9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am - 11:45am Bible Study/Sunday School 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	21 Pastor in Portugal	22 Pastor in Portugal	23 Pastor in Portugal	24 Pastor in Portugal	25 Pastor in Portugal	26 Pastor in Portugal
27 Pastor in Portugal 9:30am Divine Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am - 11:45am Bible Study/Sunday School 7:00pm - 8:00pm AA Meeting	28 7:00pm Elder's Meeting	29	30	31	1	2