



Trinity Lutheran Church
605-498-2343
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TRINITY CONNECTION

OCTOBER 13, 2023

Dear Beloved of Trinity,

Many times when Jesus was preaching, he used parables to make his point. Sometimes the parables are easy to understand like the parable of the seed being scattered in good soil or poor soil. Other parables are difficult and confusing. Parables are not true stories; they are not literal interpretations. Instead they are meant as deeper truths, allegories and messages to surprise or “wake up” the listener.

This Sunday’s parable follows 2 parables about what the kingdom of God is like – it is like two sons, one who says no to the work of the Father but then changes his mind and one who says yes to the work of the Father then does not follow through. He followed it by the parable of the Wicked Tenants who kill the servants and eventually the son of the vineyard owner who came to collect what was his. Jesus is still speaking to those gathered which included chief priests, elders and other religious leaders. I would imagine each parable is more shocking and offensive than the last.

The parable of the Wedding Banquet recounts a king who invites the upper echelon of society to his son’s wedding but when all is prepared, the guests refuse to come. So the king annihilate them. Then in a loving fashion, he invites everyone. OK, the first part is odd as his reaction to his guests not coming is to wipe them out. Then the second part is odd because I wonder why he didn’t just invite everyone to begin with.

Historically, Matthew writes his Gospel about 50 years post resurrection to a largely Jewish community. He writes to encourage, comfort and guide the early believers who are divided amongst themselves about whether Jesus was the Messiah, all while still living under Roman rule. These parables he writes about seem to depict God’s rejection of those who do see accept Jesus as Messiah. So the invited guests in the parable seem to be the religious leaders and Jewish elite. The reject the invitation and face judgement. The second invitation is the welcoming of all people to the good news – the outcast, the non-Jews, the forgotten, etc. That is one interpretation and there are many. We’ll unpack this disturbing parable on Sunday and dig deeper into the unfailing grace of God extended to all of us as we continue to learn and grow together.

In love,
Deacon Christie

Weekly Wednesday Men's Group

Wednesdays
Now - November 1
7:15 - 8:15 pm
in the Connection Room

All men are invited to a new men's group which will meet for six Wednesdays. Duane Gors will lead a study based on Martin Luther's Small Catechism. If you would like to get to know some new people, learn about the way Lutherans understand Christianity, and be a support for other men, please feel free to drop into this group. Call the church office to signup or show up as a walk-on.



WELCA Bible Study

Thursday, October 19
1:30 pm
in the Fellowship Hall

Please join us for a faith filled bible study, a short meeting and refreshments! All are welcome.

Tea Community Food Distribution

Thursday, October 19
5:00 - 6:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church

If you need help with food, or know someone who does, call the church office at 605-498-2343. Registration is required. Please register by Wednesday, October 18th.

Semi-Annual Meeting

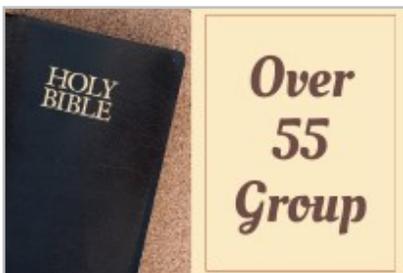
Sunday, October 22
11:30 pm
in the Sanctuary

Join us online or in person for Trinity Lutheran's Semi-Annual Meeting, a zoom link will be available ahead of time, watch your email for more information. Contact the church office if you have questions!

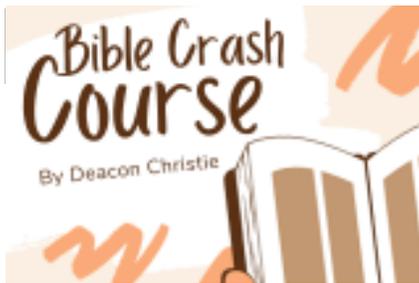


Over 55 Group

Tuesday, October 24
9:30 pm Blood Pressure Screening
10:00 pm Meeting, Presentation and Lunch
in the Fellowship Hall



Join us as we will hear a presentation from Pastor Tom about Jerusalem and have a short meeting with a potluck to follow. All are welcome!



“Bible Crash Course”

Monday evenings

7:00—8:15 pm

Oct. 23—Nov. 13

This 4 week Crash Course is designed for those who would like a general overview of the bible – major stories and themes. It is also designed for people who have a good working knowledge but would like to learn more – points of interest, fun facts, connections. You will learn something even if you come to only one lesson. It is for men, women and teens

Trinity’s Pizza Ranch Night

Sunday, Oct. 22

5:00—8:00 pm

Pizza Ranch, Tea SD

Back by popular demand, Trinity's Pizza Ranch night is back! Bring your friends, family or neighbors and join us at Pizza Ranch in Tea for dinner. Trinity will receive 10% of the dine in orders plus any money put in the tip jars. We can't wait for you to join us!



9th Grade Confirmation Reception

Sunday, Oct. 29

9:30 am

in the Fellowship Hall

join us as we celebrate our 9th graders as they affirm their baptisms. Cake and coffee will be available.

Milestone Ministry

High School Milestone—Balancing Work, School and Play

Lesson : Wednesday, Nov 1

7:15 - 8:15 am

in the Loft

Celebration: Sunday, Nov 5 at 8:00 am or 10:30 am or Wednesday, Nov 8 at 6:30 pm worship

Join Deacon Christie and learn about how to balance work, school and play!

5th Grade Milestone - First Communion

Lesson #1 Sunday, Nov. 5

9:15 - 10:15 am

in the Fellowship Hall

Lesson #2: Sunday, Nov. 12

9:15 - 10:15 am

in the Fellowship Hall

Lesson #3: Saturday, Nov. 18

9:00 am - Noon

in the Fellowship Hall

Celebration:

Sunday, Nov. 19 at 8:00 am or 10:30 am worship or Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 6:30 pm worship

Join Deacon Christie and learn about what communion means. In the Lutheran Church, we have 2 sacraments, Holy Communion and Baptism. Each is a gift from God. Communion is not a reward for the completion of these sessions but instead a gift to explore what Holy Communion means to us as believers.



Make a joyful noise!

Sundays - Oct 9—Nov 27
Men's Chorus 6:00 –7:00pm
Mixed Choir 7:00—8:00pm
Concert: Sunday, Dec 3

We want to invite you to join one or both of the Christmas choirs listed below. We have fun together and get to create beautiful music together. Youth are encouraged to participate. Call the church office to signup!

Turkey Dinner and Country Store

Saturday, Nov 4
4:00—7:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
Adults: \$12 | Kids (6-14): \$5 | Kids (5 and under): FREE
Dine in or Carry Out

Join us for our annual WELCA Trinity Turkey Dinner. We will be serving turkey, dressing, corn, mashed potatoes, gravy, coleslaw, dessert and drink. We will also have the Country Store for your favorite homemade baked goods, canning or crafts! There are many areas you can volunteer or you may make a monetary donation to help purchase supplies. Please note "Turkey Dinner" in the check memo line. The Country Store is also accepting donations of homemade baked goods, canning or crafts. Donations can be dropped off in the office. Signups are available in the Gathering Space.



Journey of Hope Donations

Donation Items for October: Toothpaste & Deodorant

"You are fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:14

Journey of Hope is a local non-profit whose goal is to provide basic hygiene products to those in need. Partnering with other local non-profits, they provide mental health, addiction and reintegration services, giving tangible hope. Trinity Lutheran is a collection point for this month's items of toothpaste and deodorant. Thank you for your generosity.

Trinity Library

Did you know that Trinity had a library? We have a wonderful collection of books by authors such as Jan Karon, Karen Kingsbury, Beverly Lewis and more. The library has been moved to the Lutheran Lounge. Anyone can take a book, read it and return it. Take some time to browse the shelves and find a good book.

WANTED: Cooking/Baking Class Leader

Do you have a old family recipe and have the art of making Krumkake, Gingerbread, Rosettes, Kolaches or Lefsa? Or are you talented in decorating Christmas cutout cookies? The Youth & Family Board is looking for that special someone with the talent that would be willing to show a small group during a holiday cooking/baking class. If this person is you, please contact Deacon Christie, any member of the Youth & Family Board (Laura Stewart, Deonne Portner, Deb Svanda or Kristi McKinney) or email the church office at info@teatrinity.org or call 605-498-2343.

October Food Pantry Donation: Grape Jelly

With the raising cost of food the Food Pantry has seen an increase in clients. Feel free to pick up an extra item or two when shopping to help those in need! In the month of October we will be collecting grape jelly. Donations can be dropped off in the Gathering Space. If you have questions or would like to make a monetary donation, please contact the church office or call Ruth at 605-321-7325.

Trinity Preschool enjoyed a fun field trip to Roger's Pumpkins, crafts and snacks!



Trinity Directory Prints

You took your Directory Photo, now what?

Time to order your prints and/or directory! Photos are typically available to view about 24 hours after your photo has been taken.

- Contact the office and you can set up an appointment, call 605-498-2343

When will I get my photos or printed directory?

- **Photo orders are due October 31st!** Orders placed after Oct. 31 will be shipped to your home address for a fee.
- **Photo Prints:** The photo prints will be delivered to the church mid-November as a bulk shipment unless otherwise noted in your order. Just in time for Christmas
- **Photo Directory:** The photo directory will be delivered to the church beginning of December as a bulk shipment.
- **Digital Photo Download:** You can download the photo immediately after the photographer releases the order.

What is a Digital Directory?

This is a new option Trinity is offering a digital version of the directory that you can access on your computer, tablet or phone! This will be available mid to late November. Watch your email for more information in the coming weeks.

Having trouble ordering?

- **Sunday Mornings:** Volunteers will be available on Sunday mornings between services to help order your photos, print directory or just ask questions about pricing. Look for the "Church Directory Photo Signup" table in the Gathering Space.
- **By Appointment:** Contact the office and you can set up an appointment, call 605-498-2343.

