

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

P. O. Box 267, 201 Veterans Dr., Columbus, TX 78934

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June 4, 2023 Contemporary 11:05 AM

The Holy Trinity

Senior Pastor	Alan Kethan	<u>Home:</u> (979)-942-9060	<u>Cell:</u> (830)-708-1200
Deacon of Word and Service			Sandye Fletcher
Youth & Family Specialist			Stephanie Polasek
Congregational Chair			Donna Maas
St. Paul Christian Learning Academy Director			Briana Bedford
Secretary			Elena Holub
Custodian			Tomasa Rosales
Parish Nurse Program Coordinator			DyAnn Lauzon

MISSION STATEMENT: Love God, Love Neighbor (*Luke 10:27*)

VISION STATEMENT: We will work to strengthen and grow closer in relationship to God and to one another.

- *As we enter into a sacred time and space, a friendly reminder to please set your cell phone to vibrate.*
- ***We want to welcome all of our guests today and thank you for worshiping with us. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding our services, programs, day care, or preschool programs at St. Paul, please visit our Welcome Center in the narthex immediately following our service, and an attendant will be more than happy to assist you. If this is your first time at St. Paul, we hope you will take a gift along with you. We also have a gift bag for children.***
- Hearing Assist devices are available for those who need assistance in hearing worship service better. Please see a person in the Sound Room (Usher Room) to request the use of a device during worship.

* This symbol indicates that the congregation is invited to stand physically or in spirit.

INTRODUCTION

Though the word trinity is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made

known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIGNING OF ATTENDANCE PADS

(Ushers will be handing out Attendance Pads during the announcements. Please be sure to sign your name and contact information.)

60 SECONDS OF STEWARDSHIP – Outreach Team

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors, first privately then publically together.

(Silence is for private confession.)

P Merciful God,

C we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

P God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

GOSPEL SONG: THE COMMISSION

**See my hands, and look at my feet.
It's okay if it's hard to believe.
I have faith that you will do greater things.
It's my time to go, but before I leave,**

CHORUS 1

***Go tell the world about me. I was dead but now I live.
I've gotta go now for a little while, but goodbye is not the end.***

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20

After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

A The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 28, verses 16-20.

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.
¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

GOSPEL SONG: THE COMMISSION

**Don't forget the things that I taught you.
I've conquered death, and I hold the keys.
Where I go you will go too, some day.
But there's much to do here before you leave so. . .**

CHORUS 2 to BRIDGE

**Go tell the world about me. I was dead but now I live.
I've gotta go now for a little while, but goodbye is not the. . .
. . . end of the journey, the end of the road;
My Spirit is with you wherever you go.
You have a purpose, and I have a plan.
I'll make you this promise – I'll come back again. But until then,**

CHORUS 3

**Go tell the world about me. I was dead but now I live.
I've gotta go now for a little while, but goodbye is not the end.
(Go tell the world) Go tell them about me!
(Go tell the world) I've gotta go.
(Go tell the world) For a little while, but goodbye is not the end.**

CCLI Song #7146623 Words and Music by Blake Neesmith, Carter Frodge, Logan Cain, Madison Cain, and Taylor Cain
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CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

*** SERMON SONG: GOODNESS OF GOD**

**I love you, Lord, for Your mercy never fails me.
All my days, I've been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up, until I lay my head,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.**

CHORUS

**And all my life, You have been faithful. And all my life, You have been so, so good!
With every breath that I am able, oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.**

**I love Your voice! You have led me through the fire.
In the darkest night, You are close like no other.
I've known You as a Father, I've known You as a friend,
And I have lived in the goodness of God.**

CHORUS

**And all my life, You have been faithful. And all my life, You have been so, so good!
With every breath that I am able, oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.**

BRIDGE (x2)

**'Cause Your goodness is running after. . . it's running after me!
Your goodness is running after. . . it's running after me!
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now. I give You everything!
'Cause Your goodness is running after. . . it's running after me!**

LAST CHORUS

**'Cause all my life, You have been faithful. And all my life, You have been so, so good!
With every breath that I am able, oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.
Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God.**

CCLI Song #7117726 Words and Music by Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, and Jenn Johnson ©2018
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*** APOSTLES' CREED**

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(The congregation may be seated during the prayers.)

PRAYERS

A Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

A brief silence.

**A Holy three, holy one, you call the church to make disciples of all nations. Encourage bishops,
pastors, and deacons in their proclamation of the gospel and direct all the baptized into lives
of humble service.**

A brief silence.

A Holy three, holy one, you have given humankind authority over the earth. Raise up leaders who listen earnestly, speak honestly, and govern thoughtfully. Heal divisions between nations, that we might agree with one another and live in peace.

A brief silence.

A Holy three, holy one, you set the earth on its axis, and we experience the seasons. Strengthen those enduring challenges this summer: those who suffer in the heat, parents overwhelmed by childcare responsibilities, and children experiencing food insecurity outside of school.

A brief silence.

A Holy three, holy one, we pray for peace in all the world, especially in war-torn areas of Ukraine and Sudan. Bring an end to all wars and the destruction of lives and your creation.

A brief silence.

A Holy three, holy one, we pray for the family and friends of Fran Gillett who passed away this past week. Be with them and comfort them during this difficult time.

A brief silence.

A Holy three, holy one, we pray for all those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including: Morris Kethan; Peggy Geisler; Briana Bedford; Jaime Sawyer; Kenny Venghaus; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you.

A brief silence.

A Holy three, holy one, we pray for all those battling cancer that they may know comfort and strength. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)*
Kim Moerbe Wehnack; Misti Retzer; Zelda Lanford; Michelle Thraen; Pauline Gosnell; Nina Naumann; GayLynn Willms Burk; Carl Norton; Barbara Farley; Laura Harris; Todd Foster; Cher Marino; Cindy Tanner; Joe Reck; Melinda Rodiek; Melda Coleman; Donna Culton; Nancy Hartmann; Lydia Rojas; Catherine Poppe; Larry Stolar; Vivian Fortenberry; Rick Davis; Darryl Stancik; Jerry Ordner; Michael Yancey; Al Gene Canik; Jane Venghaus Taylor; George Wright; Sandy Mosley; Charlene Tesch; Karen Bailiff; Julian Divin; Nancy Biers; Pam Potter; Charlie Hammock; Brad Bryson; Lynette Frnka; Riana Jamison; Jenna Escamilla; Margaret Ortiz; Keith Korth; Jodi Sebesta; Cathy Siglow; Paul Casinger; DeQuincy Lister; Lily Presswood; Denise Lange; Doug Mason; Dr. Tom Hancher; Joe Berry; Gracie Brune; Margaret Rogers; Leonard Kahlden; Curtis Wallin; Megan Burch; Lisa Grazier; Phyllis Behrend; Jessica Mauchlen; Donna Tiner; Libby Divin; Diane Brooks; Bob Loy; Stanley King; Monty Gillett; Dawn Foster; Edward Halcolm; Amber Smith Kutach; Louis Camacho; Melvin Schobel; Janet Greene; Sabrina Galindo; Debbie Grimes; Horst Traub; Margie Fisk; Preston Carter; Penny Miller; Carl Hahn; Megan Cain; Amanda Fuchs; Cyndi Wallace; Karen Broussard; Donna Young; Sharon Heimann; and Brenda Baker.

A Holy three, holy one, we pray for all expectant mothers, and especially for: Kelsey Kethan McNeely; Montana Appelt; Dina Anton de Espinoza; Olivia Leyendecker; Daya Latiolais; Cassidy Zajicek Parks; and Courtney Busselman that they have healthy terms and deliveries, and if not, may they find comfort and peace.

A brief silence.

A Holy three, holy one, we pray for all those who reside in care facilities and the homebound and especially for: Joey Denby; Edwin Oevermann; Paul Minar, Sr.; Adrian Fritsch; Doug Hill; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Barbara McMath; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Jane Booker; Pat Brasher; Curtis Berger; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Ronnie Rogers; Joyce Dehmer; Donna Dehmer; and Rita Noska that they receive your caring and compassion.

A brief silence.

A Holy three, holy one, we pray for all law enforcement officers, fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers, 9-1-1 dispatchers, and active duty military personnel that they are protected and kept safe. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)*
Law enforcement officers: Todd Jacobs; Troy Neisner; Jacob Gorman; Nancy Gorman; Johnny Kovar; Abigail Weido; Dustin Lattimore; Bruno Flores; Zane Weido; Josh Jones; as well as Donnie Templeton and Jason Templeton who are also fire fighters. For all fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers and 9-1-1 dispatchers, especially Brent Gorman, Sr.; Brent Gorman, Jr.; Reid Brasher; Dusty Dittmar; John Maertz; Ron Luedke; Pastor Alan Kethan; Kristi Weyand; Eric Weyand; Bradley Berger; Jon Berger; James Chollett; Edward Thraen, Jr.; Garrett Flores; Kyle Burris; Dylan Walcik; Randy Wendt; Travis Neuendorff; Brenda Henkes; Jan Willette and Terri Neuendorff, as well as those active duty military members including Brian Anderson; Michael Grahm; Bryan Kubena; Brad Bergfeld; Cody Jowers; Kyle Appelt; Montana Appelt; Douglas Neuendorff; Scott Cherniss; Kameron Page; Ryan Neisner; Anthony D'Angelo; Dalton Kapel; Kindra Dawson; William Phillips; and Kevin Gonzalez.

A Holy three, holy one, we pray for the church throughout the world. May we all proclaim the good news of your love effectively. We ask, especially, that you would bless the ministry of our sister congregations Cristo Rey and Iglesia Cristiana Camino de Santidad in Peru, all Missionaries, especially St. Paul's supported missionary, Dina Anton de Espinoza, and our companion synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic.

A brief silence.

A Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

*** PEACE**

P As Jesus shared peace, let us also share His peace with one another. *(Share the "Peace of the Lord" with your neighbors.)*

(We will be collecting offerings before and after worship each week. This includes Power of One dollars.)

OFFERING and POWER OF ONE

“Power of One” is a ministry sponsored by your Stewardship Team. We are asking each and every one of our members to give \$1.00 above what your normal giving would be. We are asking each member to place this \$1.00 bill or change in the offering plate each week. The team is also inviting all children to participate to develop the habit of giving as part of their worship experience. Parents, a penny, nickel, dime, quarter, or dollar bill, any of these will do to help your children develop a habit of giving. These “Power of One” dollars will be used to support local ministries and ministries abroad. The purpose of this ministry is to demonstrate that something as small as one dollar can be used to make a difference in the lives of others.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

P God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us and the gifts you gave us to share, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*** REMEMBERING JESUS' WORDS, PROMISES, AND COMMANDS**

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to sing.

**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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P All people are called to Christ's table. Come and receive.

C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION (Continuous with Individual Cups)

{Distribution will be continuous. All are welcome for communion. Please come down the center aisle starting from the front. Follow directions of the ushers, coming up one side at a time. Pastor will hand you the bread. If you wish to have a gluten-free wafer, please tell Pastor “Gluten-free, please.” Afterward, you will choose either wine or white grape juice from the individual cups in the tray – white grape juice in the center with wine surrounding. Place the empty cups in the baskets located off to the side. Although communion is continuous, you are welcome to kneel at the rail in prayer after receiving communion. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.}

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*** BLESSING**

P The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ☩ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

C Amen.

*** CLOSING SONG: WHO YOU SAY I AM**

Who am I that the high-est King would welcome me?

I was lost, but He brought me in. Oh, His love for me. Oh, His love for me. . .

CHORUS 1

Who the Son sets free; oh, is free indeed!

I'm a child of God, yes I am!

Free at last, He has ransomed me. His grace runs deep.

While I was a slave to sin Jesus died for me. Yes, He died for me. . .

CHORUS 2

Who the Son sets free; oh, is free indeed!

I'm a child of God, yes I am!

In my Father's house there's a place for me;

I'm a child of God, yes I am!

BRIDGE

I am chosen, not forsaken – I am who you say I am!

You are for me, not against me – I am who You say I am!

I am chosen, not forsaken – I am who you say I am!

You are for me, not against me – I am who You say I am!

Oh, I am who You say I am! Yes, I am who You say I am!

CHORUS 2

Who the Son sets free; oh, is free indeed!

I'm a child of God, yes I am!

In my Father's house there's a place for me;

I'm a child of God, yes I am!

* **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace with the power and work of the Trinity.

C **Thanks be to God, and we will.**

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USHERS: Mike & Gerri Hackfeld; Sandi & Kaldon Roensch

LAY READER: Courtney Busselman

ACOLYTE: Harlie Lewis

STREAMING: Kay Wesson

POWER POINT: Peggy Geisler

ALTAR GUILD: Loraine Gast

WELCOME: This weekend we celebrate the Holy Trinity, so, fittingly, we welcome you to worship in the name of God the Creator, Jesus the Savior, and the Holy Spirit, who sustains our faith and empowers us for discipleship. Amen.

ALTAR WALL FLOWERS are placed by David and Sharon Johnson in thanks for God's many blessings and in celebration of their 53rd wedding anniversary on June 6.

COLLECTION OF OFFERING: Offering for the worship services is collected before and after worship. Offering bowls are placed in the back entrance and inside the side sanctuary door for you to place your offering in. This includes "Power of One" dollars.

Amount needed for average weekly budgeted expenses: \$8,405.00

Attendance: May 27 & 28, 2023 – 208

Contributions: May 27 & 28 – \$4,580.03

Power of One: May 27 & 28, 2023 – \$48.00

Building Fund: May 27 & 28 – \$246.25

Thank you to those who contributed to last week's offerings. Loving God/Loving Neighbor.

ATTENTION: *Names on the prayer list in the bulletin will be printed for 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, the names will be removed from the bulletin unless the church office has been notified to keep them.*

► **Children's Activity Bags** are available for use by our young members and guests! You can find them on the coat hooks in the coat area of the narthex. After worship, **please place the used activity bags and their contents in the receptacle in the narthex.**

Thank you! ☺

Attention Graduating Seniors and Current College Students: This is a reminder that if you are planning to or are currently pursuing a degree in education *or* nursing, you are encouraged to apply for the Frank & Ann Derr Scholarship here at St. Paul. For an application, please see Ms. Stephanie or stop by the church office. Complete your application and return it to the church office as soon as possible.

NOTICE!! Summer office hours for Stephanie Polasek, Youth & Family Specialist, are Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. Please make note of this change for the summer especially when scheduling any office appointments.

**** Colorado County Senior Connections ** –**

A place for Seniors, 65 years and older, to socialize with others.

Beginning Wednesday, June 7, 2023, the group will meet at the Stafford Opera House – Columbus in the Buddy Rau Room from **10:00 AM-1:00 PM** the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month**. Lunch will be provided. Various activities will include: Card games/board games; Bingo; Movies; Educational Speakers; Field trips; and Social gathering time!

♦ Our **Peru Mission Trip Team** will be having a **drive-thru dinner fundraiser** on **Tuesday, June 13, 2023** at The Lighthouse from **5:00-7:00 PM**. The menu will be: hamburger steak, twice baked potatoes, corn casserole, broccoli salad, dinner roll, and banana pudding. *Tickets are \$13 and pre-sale ONLY.* Tickets are available for purchase from any Peru Team member or in the church office. **Deadline to purchase tickets is Wednesday, June 7, 2023.**

**** Senior Explorers!! Get Ready for Some Blue Marlin Fishing in Cabo, San Lucas! ****

Join us **Wednesday, June 21, 2023** (this is a date change) for the movie "Blue Miracle" in **The Lighthouse at 10:30 AM**. *A lunch will be served following the movie.* The movie is about Papa Omar and his kids that partner with a washed-up boat captain for a chance to win a lucrative fishing competition to save his orphanage. For questions, please contact Kevin Page at 979-732-0845. **Please sign up in the narthex (foyer) by Sunday, June 18, 2023.**



Senior Explorers are going on a cruise! We will **depart** from St. Paul at **7:30 AM** on Thursday, July 6. We will board the ship before 10:00 AM for a 90-minute Sam Houston Boat Tour. It will be a narrated, educational ride along the Houston Ship Channel. There is an outside deck and inside air conditioned area. Free tour and ride. One free beverage provided mid-cruise. Walkers are OK. **PHOTO ID REQUIRED.** You may bring water, but you cannot bring any other food or drink on board. We will stop for lunch on the way home and expect to be home about 3:00 PM. **We currently have 24 spots reserved.** **Please sign up in the narthex (foyer) by Sunday, July 2, 2023.** Please call Kevin Page at 979-732-0845 with any questions.

Stellar VBS!! Mark your calendars for "Stellar" VBS! Join us at Vacation Bible School **July 10-14, 2023** as kids go on a cosmic quest and have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world! A meal will

be served 5:30-6:00 PM, and VBS will be held 6:00-8:30 PM. VBS is open to children in preschool up to students who have completed 5th grade. Registration is free, however, t-shirts will be available to purchase for \$8 each. *Space is limited so register early!* Parents may register their students online by visiting vbspro.events/p/spfu2023. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 or by email at stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.

Be a Vacation Bible School Volunteer!! VBS is a wonderful way to connect with the youth and to share how God has worked in your life. Sharing your love for Christ with the younger generation can be a humbling and rewarding experience and can impact the youth in so many ways. Last year we hit our capacity of 100 students! This year we have increased our capacity to 125 students, but, in order to accomplish this, more volunteers are needed. We all have gifts to give no matter what age, and we invite you to join our team. You may register online by visiting vbspro.events/p/spfu2023. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 or by email at stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.

• **VBS FOOD DONATIONS:** To help defray the cost, we are asking for donations to help with the meals served each evening before Vacation Bible School. We served about 200 kids and volunteers *each night* of VBS last year. If you would like to help, you can either give a **monetary donation or** donate **specific food items**. For monetary donations, an envelope will be on the table in the narthex (foyer) that can be placed in the offering bowl. If you wish to donate specific food items, just pull a slip off the board and return it with the donation on the date specified to the St. Paul Lighthouse. If you have any questions, please contact Loraine Gast at 979-732-1296. Each donation is and will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

♣ **Day Camp at Lutherhill!** Youth completing K-5th grade are invited to experience a week at camp without the over-night stay during the week of **July 30-August 4, 2023**. Camp starts each day at 8:00 AM and will end at 5:15 PM. Stephanie Polasek will shuttle youth each day to and from camp. We will leave the church at 7:20 AM and will return at 5:50 PM. **Cost is \$195 for the week**. Register online at lutherhill.org and then contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 for transportation. It's always a great time for the kiddos!

♥ **Grief Support Group:** Are you experiencing grief from the loss of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of friend who has moved? The Grief Support Group is a place to share and discuss these issues with other individuals. The group meets the **third Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30 PM in the church library**. For questions or more information, contact Peggy Geisler at 979-732-0350.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Mon., June 5 – 9:30 AM – Staff Meeting
1:00 PM – Deacon Sandye to TLC
6:00 PM – Evangelism Team (library)
6:00 PM – Women of JOY Bible Study (Hackfeld Family Room)

Tues., June 6 – 9:00 AM – Pastor Alan to Deanery
5:30 PM – Prayer Team (library)
6:30-8:00 PM – The Gathering

Wed., June 7 – 9:00 AM – CLA Chapel

Thurs., June 8 – 1:00-2:30 PM – Summer Craft Camp (Lighthouse)
5:00 PM – Worship Team (library)

Fri., June 9 – 10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)

Sat., June 10 – 7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship

Next Sun., June 11 – 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship
10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School
11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship
12:30 PM – Pre-K Water Day (church lawn)

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Monday, June 5, 2023 Boniface, Bishop of Mainz, missionary to Germany, martyr, died 754

Boniface was a native of England who became a Benedictine monk and was called to missionary work among the Vandal tribes of Germany. With fellow workers, he established churches and schools, and he also worked to reform the church.

Wednesday, June 7, 2023 Seattle, chief of the Duwamish Confederacy, died 1866

Noah Seattle led a coalition of tribes, and convinced them to live peacefully with encroaching white settlers. When he became a Roman Catholic, he held morning and evening prayer with his tribe. The city of Seattle is named for him.

Friday, June 9, 2023 Columba, died 597; Aidan, died 651; Bede, died 735; renewers of the church

These three monks from the British Isles helped keep the light of learning alive during the Middle Ages. Columba founded three monasteries off the coast of Scotland. Aidan was a pastor who led people to works of charity. The Venerable Bede was a Bible translator, historian, and hymnwriter. From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006327.

OTHER READINGS: Genesis 1:1-2 and 2:1-4a

At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then rests on the seventh day.

The reading begins:

Chapter 1:

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Chapter 2:

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. ^{4a}These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

PSALM: Psalm 8

¹O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! — ²you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger. ³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses, ⁴what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them? ⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them. ⁶You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet: ⁷all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field, ⁸the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea. ⁹O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

OTHER READINGS: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Paul closes a challenging letter to the Corinthians with an appeal to Christian fellowship grounded in the triune harmony of Christ's grace, God's love, and the Spirit's partnership.

The reading begins:

[Paul writes:] ¹¹Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. ¹³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

SERVICE OVERVIEW:

CELEBRATING OUR GOD BEYOND UNDERSTANDING

The festival of the Holy Trinity celebrates the wonder of relationship with God while leaving us distinctly dissatisfied with our limited understanding of what God is. While guarding against the idolatry of language, we survey our scripture, doctrine, creeds, and symbols of our heritage. Equally important, we pray for God to inspire fresh, innovative ideas of God in the present moment.

Today's gospel contains one of the few biblical references to the trinitarian formula. As the eleven are commissioned to make disciples, baptize, and teach, we are invited to consider our calling to influence the world with the good news of God's love. The text from Second Corinthians also includes a kind of naming of the Holy Trinity in an affectionate sign-off of a personal letter. With the psalm praising God the creator and sustainer of all creation, Genesis 1 relates the first of two creation stories, this one an ancient liturgy celebrating God as a divine plural.

That God that is beyond our understanding may be both troubling and comforting. The temptation may be to attempt to apprehend the idea of God with our intellect, offering the worshiping assembly a showcase of various models for God. The result is usually disappointing and feeds our bias toward intellectualism. Another possibility is to celebrate God's presence in all its glory and colorful wonder and our belonging to this wonder-full God.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Every time we worship, we praise our triune God. Today is special, though, because our full focus rests on contemplation of the mystery of the three-in-one God. Welcome to Trinity Worship! Learn about and receive the blessings that the Trinity gives.

When we notice the world around us, we engage the work of the Trinity. God put us here to witness creation but also to enable and assist it. We are here to notice each thing so the holiness of each thing gets appreciated. How do we as a community of faith engage in the ministry of "noticing"?

Healthy relationships require space to flourish. What God has created gives us holy space. Holy space bears the mark of God, or the life of God. We, as the people of God, created by God, have a worth and beauty and dignity befitting a holy space. If we think of worship as a marker of holy space, we can see how it serves to foster re-creative relationships with God and one another. We are called to bring that holy space out of our worship and into our world. Our holy practices of understanding, kindness, and willingness to help must extend, *in word and deed*, very specifically to those 'others' that we as a particular faith community may not currently love but with whom we share "holy space". Using the Trinity as a model, how are you inspired to extend kindness toward the 'other' in your neighborhood or community?

The Genesis reading states: "*Let us make humankind in our image.*" Think about this passage when considering hospitality and welcome to all. We are to recognize God's image in every person we meet. As we celebrate the mystery of the Trinity, also we celebrate the mystery of the intricacies of all of creation, whether it is the weeds growing up through the cracks in our driveways or the rolling pastures with cows grazing. God's fingerprints are everywhere.

KID STUDY:

Today we learn about the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As simple as that sounds, the Trinity is hard to understand. It is a *mystery* to us - something we can think about and wonder about. People have used many different things to try and help explain what the trinity is. Today, let's think about the Trinity as an egg. It is made up of three parts: the shell, the

white, and the yolk, but all together it is ONE egg. In the same way, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three persons but only ONE God. Mystery solved? Not really. There is so much to learn about and wonder about God that we will never solve that mystery!

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

Only material bodies fill or occupy material space. The Godhead is beyond all space; let no one seek the Godhead as though it were in space. Everywhere the Godhead is invisible and indivisibly present. Who can comprehend this? What then are we to say of God? For if you have grasped what you wish to say, it is not God. If you had been able to comprehend it, you would have comprehended something else in the place of God. If you had been almost able to comprehend it, your mind has deceived you. It is not God, if you have understood it. But if it is God, you have not understood it. - Augustine [Augustine, in The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers, III, 75-76.]

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Next Week's Theme (June 10 & 11): Jesus came to call sinners, heal the sick, bring back to life the dead

Next Week's Scriptures (June 10 & 11):

First Reading: Hosea 5:15--6:6

"God desires steadfast love."

Psalm: Psalm 50:7-15

"Call upon me in the day of trouble, says your God." (Ps. 50:15)

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

"The promise to those who share Abraham's faith."

Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

"Christ heals a woman and raises a synagogue leader's daughter."