

October 2024



Trinity Lutheran Church

Villa Park, IL

Always Growing in Christ

The Lion's Roar

Amos 3:8

"The lion has roared; who will not fear?"

The Lord GOD has spoken; who can but prophesy?"

"...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect..." 1 Peter 3:15

Prepared With a Reason

When I was growing up, the answer I hated most from my parents was "because I said so." I was the kid who wanted to understand the reasoning behind every rule. I also hated the answer from teachers, "because it's in the Student Handbook." Yes, I am aware that someone on the faculty thought it was a great idea to require students to wear long pants beginning October 1st, but given that even young human beings are capable of deciding if they are cold and know what to do to remedy that problem, what is the reasoning behind the decision to place usage dates on shorts? I always did and still do want to understand the reasoning behind rules.

Sadly, especially in our current society, many people don't know why they think what they think. They just absorb the ideas of their peers, their leaders and the press and regurgitate the answers they have heard. Do a little experiment and ask someone this: who do you support in the current election? Whoever they say, ask them for their favorite three policies that their candidate backs. Rarely will you get a coherent answer. You will often hear drivel like "well she's the first black woman to be president!" or "he's going to make America great again!" Drivel. No policy statement. No plan. Just drivel. I want to know your reasons for backing a particular candidate.

Why do we believe what we believe? Why do we think what we think? It is good for us to know the reasons we believe and think what we believe and think. This is particularly true with respect to religion. Biblical Christianity makes many hard and fast claims. Many of those claims are diametrically opposed to popular thought in our society. We, as Christians, are mouthpieces for God in this world. We are the ones who are called on to proclaim what God says in Holy Scripture, and we will be challenged when what we say is not congruent with popular thought. Unfortunately, the majority does not want to hear our reasoning. They want to believe what is convenient. Like all people, they don't want

to have to change. So, they just walk away mumbling something like, "we'll just agree to disagree." I personally hate that phrase because what you are saying is that there is no objective truth. I do not have to substantiate anything I believe or say, and you just have to accept it or we'll just agree to disagree. That motto is fine when discussing the color of the carpet or whether to shop at Jewell or Pete's. But it is not okay when discussing important concepts taught by God himself. We can never be lazy about that.

In an effort to help everyone to be ready to respond to unbiblical teachings in our society, I will be teaching Prepared with a Reason for the next couple of months in the Trinity Center on Sunday mornings at 9:15. This study moves through Epistemology (the study of truth), Ontology (the study of being), Anthropology (the study of human beings), Axiology (the study of values), Ethics (the study of the principles that determine right and wrong), Aesthetics (the study of beauty), and Eschatology (the study of the end of all things). It is my hope that, through this study, we will all be better prepared with a reason for what we believe. If we can explain why we believe whatever we believe, people are more likely to listen. If we can provide people with evidence for what we believe, they might be more likely to investigate God's Word and that's when the miraculous happens. Our job is to draw people to the study of God's Word and from there, the Holy Spirit takes over and accomplishes whatever He chooses to accomplish.

It is not our job to argue people into right faith. It is not our job to defend God (He can and does aptly defend Himself: see the Flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, and the Red Sea). It is not our job to appease people by weakening or justifying God's Word. I just recently heard someone say that the idea that women cannot be pastors was a hard teaching. I agree. There are a lot of hard teachings, some of which my sinful nature thoroughly dislikes. My job is not to explain away hard teachings but to draw people to the Word where the Holy Spirit can act. It is my hope and prayer that Prepared with a Reason will draw many people to Bible Study where we will all be better equipped to proclaim what we believe and why we believe it in hopes of drawing even more people to God's Word where the Holy Spirit can build us up and strengthen us for service to our God. **COME TO BIBLE STUDY! Sundays at 9:15 in the Trinity Center.**



Reformation 2024

October 27, 2024

Cindy Meier has created a new Reformation banner for our worship services on October 27. It is based on Luther's famous hymn "A Mighty Fortress," inspired by Psalm 46. Thank you, Cindy, for this great addition to our banner collection!

Save the date for a Reformation music festival at St. Johns Lombard (215 S. Lincoln St.) on Sunday, October 27, at 3:00 pm. Trinity's choir will be joining with other church choirs to lead the congregation in some spirited singing. Come celebrate the Reformation!

All Saints Day Memorials

If you would like a memorial to be included in the Sunday, November 3rd All Saints Day bulletin; please forward your donation to the church office by Sunday, October 27th. Memorials can be dropped in the collection plate or put in the Secretary's mailbox. Please mark your envelope: "All Saints Day Memorial".

Wednesday Fellowship Group

Wednesday, October 16, 2024
11 AM

All are welcome to the WFG Potluck Wednesday 10/16 immediately following Pastor Allyn's Bible Study @ 11am. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex on the WFG Bulletin Board.

Youth News

As we move into the fall schedule here's a quick recap of our summer. We had a great time hanging out together and visiting places in the area for a variety of activities!

For Fun

Train to Geneva - We had an outdoor lunch at a new place for us, Atlas Chicken Shack. It was so good. Then we explored the town of Geneva and did some shopping.

Chicago Dogs Baseball Game - Summer & baseball... AND the Dogs won!
Rustic Road Farm in Elburn- What can be more fun than visiting goats & chickens and having pizza on the way home?
Bonfire at Judy's - Yeah, there were S'mores!

Fundraisers

Homemade Pizza Day - We learned a LOT about making pizza and not all of it the easy way. There was also lunch with the Thursday Men's Group where David used his amazing chef skills to make a charcuterie board.

Lemonade Stands - The high school group made homemade lemonade and bead bracelets to sell during a concert on the Prairie Path and at Trinity's Third Thursday gathering.

Cookie Sales - The NYG youth sold fresh-baked cookies after the Sunday Services.

Service Projects

On our visit to Phil's Friends in Addison we decorated boxes that are used to ship care packages to cancer patients. A \$100 donation from our youth account was given to the organization. Phil's Friends sent us a book written by Phil, a cancer survivor and founder of the charity. If you'd like to read it, please let me know.

At The Outreach House in Lombard, where people in need get assistance, our group helped stock shelves, did some cleaning, and assisted patrons that came to shop.

For Learning

Confirmation Retreat

The confirmation class attended a retreat at Camp Emmaus in Mt. Morris where they got a start on this year's curriculum about the 10 Commandments.

Upcoming Activities

High School Retreat for grades 8-12 January 2-4

Winter Xtreme February 21-23 (November 6 \$25 Deposit Due)

Advent Dinners Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18 @ 5:30

Youth serve meals to the congregation before mid-week worship services.

National Youth Gathering 2025 in New Orleans

Those entering grades 8-12 in 2024 are eligible.

2025 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans (lcmsgathering.com)

Gathering Dates – July 19-23

Travel Date – July 17-25

Breakfast with Santa Saturday, December 7

Proceeds from Breakfast with Santa will be split between the Gathering and Winter Xtreme in February 2025.

Placemat Ads

Advertisement space will be sold to put on placemats that will be used at all Trinity events for one year. The youth will sell the ads to local businesses. Also – personal ads can be placed for those who'd like to give special comments to the Gathering participants, such as "God Bless Joey" or "Have a great trip, Nancy".

January 2025 Bingo! - Details to come

The Projects

THE PROJECTS, after school for Junior High youth, will return in November. We're working out the exact dates and will get those to you as soon as they are confirmed.

THE PROJECTS offers a safe place in the afterschool hours for junior high youth to engage in a variety of activities that meet adolescent needs. Options include cooking, crafts, and shop projects. For more information about THE PROJECTS check out our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/TheProjectsAtTrinity

Trinity Anniversary Dinner

Saturday, November 9th 6:00 pm Founders Hall

Come and celebrate another wonderful year in the life of Trinity Lutheran Church. Enjoy a great meal and fellowship with friends and family. Tickets will be available for purchase before the event and at the door for \$15 per person or \$30 per household. Additional information will be coming on the event, however for now SAVE THE DATE!

Save the Date

Wednesday, November 27 @ 7 pm - Thanksgiving Worship

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18 @ 5:30 - Advent Dinners

February 16 & April 27 - Dart Tournaments

Wednesdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2,9 - Lent Soup Suppers

Saturday, September 27th, 2025

5th Annual Jim Van Ewyk Memorial Golf Outing & Fellowship Dinner

Worship Services

Saturdays 4:30 pm

Sundays 8 am & 10:30 am