

New Hope Lutheran Church

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June 12, 2022

Trinity Sunday

Coming Events

June 13 6:30 Council meeting **Regent St**
June 15 10 - 1 Kahvi Time **Regent St**
6:30 English Devotional **Hannah Lake**
June 19 10:00 Finnish Worship † **Voima Hall**
2:00 English Worship † **Regent St**

In our prayers Tyson, Ruth, Marilyn.

Remembering William Niemi 85yrs



Mighty, gracious, compassionate Lord, we pray today for the family of William Niemi, that you would comfort them in their grief, guide them in their sorrow, and give them your peace. We pray this in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 8

¹ LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens.
² Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.
³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?
⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.
⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:
⁷ all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,
⁸ the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.
⁹ LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

First Reading “Proverbs 8:1 – 4, 22 – 31”

¹ Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? ² At the highest point along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; ³ beside the gate leading into the city, at the entrance, she cries aloud: ⁴ “To you, O people, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind.

²² “The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; ²³ I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be. ²⁴

When there were no watery depths, I was given birth, when there were no springs overflowing with water; ²⁵ before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, ²⁶ before he made the world or its fields or any of the dust of the earth. ²⁷ I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, ²⁸ when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, ²⁹ when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. ³⁰ Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, ³¹ rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.

Second Reading “Romans 5:1 – 5”

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel “John 16:12 – 15”

Glory to you, O Lord.

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

By Pastor Charles Nolting

"I Believe In ..."

Today is known as Trinity Sunday, and I suspect we sometimes wonder just what Trinity Sunday is all about. While most Sundays mark a Biblical event, (such as Christmas, or Easter, or Pentecost) Trinity Sunday marks a doctrine – a belief. That doctrine is our belief in what appears to be a rather quirky God, because it has 3 personalities – if you want to put it in very simple terms. An attempt to explain is made in our creeds. It doesn't matter which creed you use; they all talk about our belief in the Trinity, but with varying degrees of explanation.

They all start with our belief in the Father – the creator. Our belief in the Son – Jesus our redeemer. And they finish with our belief in the Holy Spirit – our sustainer, the one who keeps us going. All our creeds attempt to tell us something about the divine trinity.

The thinking behind what the creeds say comes from declarations in the New and the Old Testaments – some of which we heard in our lessons this morning. Creeds are a public profession, a summary of the essentials of the Christian faith – the belief in God the Creator, God the redeemer, and God the sustainer. There is a story that when this faith was mentioned for the first time to an Asian man who was curious, he said, *"Ah, now I see, you are governed by a divine committee."*

I believe in God the Father....

In the first article of our creeds, we confess that we believe in God the Father, creator of Heaven and earth. So, what does that mean for us? According to Luther's catechism, if we believe that the Father created all things, we believe that we are all creatures of God, and created by God. We also believe that God gives and

constantly sustains our bodies, souls, and life, our faculties of mind, as well as our reason and understanding. We believe that the creator is the one who ultimately provides our food, clothing, homes, means of support, and family.

And if we truly believe this, we are not going to be going around bragging about how much we have accumulated in our lives, how smart we are with the money or things we have amassed, or any other way of describing how great we are and how we should be highly respected. As Martin Luther said in his large catechism, *"you might be surprised how many people recite the words, but how few actually believe them"*.

He further goes on to say that this article would humble and terrify us all if we believed it to its fullest extent. It means that God is the owner of all things and we are simply caretakers. When we really believe these words, all those honors should go to God, and we ought to be constantly giving thanks and praise to our creator.

I believe in God the Son...

The second article of our creeds deals with our redeemer; Jesus. In this article, we see what we receive from God over and above our earthly comforts – how God has given himself for us. We acknowledge that we have been led to disobedience through sin, that there was no help for us, and that we were doomed to eternal death without any hope. We also acknowledge that the son of God (the redeemer) didn't do this for himself and had no need to do these things, but had mercy on our misery and came to help us. The bulk of this article deals with clarification of how and by what means our redemption was accomplished – how much it cost Christ, and what he paid and risked in order to win us.

The 2nd article of the creeds pretty much covers everything that happened in the gospels, and is of massive importance to us. To believe this means that we can find freedom from the world. We aren't tied

down by sinful things anymore. And in that freedom, we can be Christians, finding out just what that means, and proclaiming through words and deeds, God's love for the world.

I believe in the God the Holy Spirit...

Unfortunately, in our Christian endeavors, we sometimes run out of steam. We try to do it all on our own. Where then do we find the strength to continue? This is where the 3rd part of the Trinity comes in, the Holy Spirit. To put it very basically, the Holy Spirit, makes us Holy. It also tells us that there is an unholy spirit; one we are to avoid, and can avoid by using the power of the Holy Spirit. We are made holy through our worship (or communion) together, through forgiveness (both receiving it and giving it), through the study of scripture, and even in the sermons we hear. Through these ways we gain strength to continue onward in our Christian journey.

It is the Holy Spirit who leads us to first become Christians, and it is the same spirit who sustains us throughout this life. It gives us the wisdom to know what to do, and Wisdom, interestingly enough, is often referred to in a female gender – as we heard in our first lesson. And so it is through the Father, the creator, the son the redeemer, and the mother (if you will) the Holy Spirit, that we are also made children of this heavenly family. A family that goes beyond this world and to everlasting life.

When we use a creed in our worship, we use it as a communal "Amen" to the scriptures and gospel proclaimed in the sermon. A creed affirms what we do here in the church and outside of the church. We proclaim our beliefs in what we do – our words and actions.

One neat aspect of the creeds is that they link us to all other Christians past and present. The words we recite in worship are the same words of faith spoken by our ancestors and all Christians for centuries. We are

connected through them to Christians of other denominations as well.

The things of which I have spoken today regarding the Trinity are really just a brief outline of how we attempt to explain this mystery of our God being one and 3 at the same time. And a mystery it still is. In our humanness we try and try to understand something that is beyond our human capability.

I guess the easiest way to explain the most basic use of our creed is with some words on the topic that a former national bishop Telmor Sartisan wrote many years ago. *“We cannot control what others believe and say. If their words confuse us, we have these words to help us, to show the way.”*

So may God – the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer – continue to show us the way and bless us in that journey. Amen.

Prayers

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

One God, giver of life, you established peace through your Son and gave your church the hope of sharing in your glory. Enliven us by your Spirit to speak and act in love for the sake of the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator of all, you rejoice in creation and have given human-kind responsibility for the works of your hands. Instill in everyone your Spirit of care for the earth, especially in areas threatened by ecological devastation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Redeemer, you delight in the human race. Move the hearts of world leaders to seek wisdom, speak truth, and care for all endangered by poverty, prejudice, or violence. Further the work of international collaboration and peacemaking. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Abiding Comforter, you call out to all who live. Restore severed relationships and protect children who lack trustworthy caregivers. Grant hope to those who are experiencing fear, pain, or grief. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Three, you are community and you create community. Build up ministries that support those who are isolated or lonely. Give endurance as we nurture vital relationships in our congregation and beyond. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we remember your saints for their strong faith and witness, even unto death. Console grieving families. Stir up in us the resolve to end the sin of white supremacy and pursue the courageous path of justice. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of every time and place, in Jesus’ name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.

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.**