

THE
CRESTVIEW LUTHERAN
NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024



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“Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the **Father** may be glorified in the **Son**. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; the Helper is the **Spirit** of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you.”

- John 14:12-17

FROM THE DEACONESSES

Last Sunday we kicked off the season of Trinity with the reading of the Athanasian Creed. The Trinity season, marked by the hanging of green paraments, signifies a time of growth in God: loving Him and growth in community: loving your neighbor. This article taken from *The Lutheran Witness* explains further.

Pax Christi, Dcs. Heather Bien

The Holy Trinity and Life Together

June 8, 2011 / *The Magazine* / By The LCMS

by Rev. Christopher Hall

The Athanasian Creed confesses the Church's belief in the Trinity. What is the relationship between the three Persons of the Trinity, and what does that mean for our Life Together?

At many LCMS churches on the Sunday after Pentecost, the congregation will sit for the creed instead of standing. Instead of turning to the Nicene Creed or loosely holding their bulletin, they will turn to a page in the hymnal

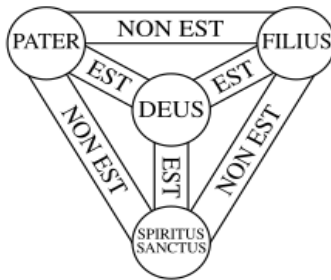
used only once a year. As they speak of their faith in the Holy Trinity, pastors and people alike will not close their eyes or look at the altar; everyone will be reading the words. They will be reading the words because the creed they are speaking is used so infrequently and is so lengthy that few (if any) have it memorized. It's the Athanasian Creed.

And it is a doozy—repetitive, long, intricate and so confusing that often words of explanation are offered in the bulletins or before the creed is recited. But it's thorough, detailing who the Holy Trinity is and what He isn't, and that is why it's used.

But using it may give the impression that the doctrine of the Holy Trinity is an intellectual puzzle, an academic exercise in logic and definitions. It can give the impression that the

Holy Trinity can only be understood by intellectual giants, that most of us are so bewildered by Him that we don't even want to think about it.

Yet God is no respecter of per-



sons (Acts 10:34) and does not reveal Himself in ways that only geni-uses can understand. While there are specific ways we can refer to our triune God, while there are facts to know and memorize, God is more than something mentally to be grasped and understood. There is another way of understanding the Holy Trinity who speaks to us and relates to us in a fundamental way.

Created to be together

God made human beings to have relationships with one another. When Adam had no mate, God said, “It is not good for man to be alone” (Gen. 2:18). He created the woman so that man would have a relationship with another, so that he would have someone to love and serve. He created that couple, and every couple since, to have a relationship with others as well.

In fact, our existence is established with others. God created the womb to be the perfect environment for growing a new life. But life beginning inside the mother also reveals something profound: We are created to be together, to live together, to have life together, so much so that God forms us and gives us life inside

of another human being. The couple—the husband and wife—were not created to be alone but to bear children when God allows it. Once the child is born, he or she remains in a community, broadened to parents and siblings and extended family.

Relationships with others continue in every way throughout our lives, and it is within those relationships that our faith expresses itself, where it is put to the test. It is only with others that our love can be expressed and used, that we can be forgiven and strengthened. Love demands another to love.

God creates a community because He is a community. He creates us with others because He is with others. He is not alone. He is One but also Three: the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

The relationship of the Trinity

In all three creeds we recite—the Apostles’, the Nicene and the Athanasian—we confess that the Son of God is begotten of the Father. This does not mean that the Father reproduced Himself to form the Son in a biological way, like a father begets a son in our lives, but the First Person of the Trinity’s relationship with

the Second is like that of Father and Son. And it always has been that way, because the Son is eternally present.

The Nicene Creed confesses it this way: that the Son of God was “begotten before all worlds.” In other words, the Son has existed with the Father since eternity. That is hard to imagine—impossible, really—but the fact remains that before the beginning of time there was Father and Son, together one God, yet in a relationship to one another like that of Father and Son.

The creeds also express the relationship between the Father and Son together and the Holy Spirit. But in this relationship, the Nicene Creed confesses that the Spirit “proceeds from the Father and the Son.” Again, it is impossible for us to imagine what this means or looks like. But it does affirm that there is a relationship between each of the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity.

God is love

Scripture testifies to this “inner relationship” of the Trinity. We can see this relationship that is at the heart of the Godhead when St. John writes, “God is love” (1 John

4:8). This is more than a warm and wooly feeling, more than a vague and emotional statement. It is at the heart of who God is. In order to love, there must be someone to love. St. Paul refers to this in the famous passage from 1 Corinthians, “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful” (1 Cor. 13:4–5).

In other words, love is always directed at another person. It is always a denial of oneself in favor of the other, their interests and their life and being. In this sense, self-love is an oxymoron, like saying “married bachelor.” We cannot love ourselves if we truly understand what love is. Love is always about the other.

If God is love itself, then God must have another to love. It is not enough to say that He loves His creation. He does, but if that is the only “other” that He loved, then before creation, God would not have been love. No, if God is love in its perfect and biblical definition, then love also describes His relationship with Himself. The Father loves the Son and the Spirit. The Son loves the Father and the Spirit.

The Spirit loves the Father and the Son. In other words, God is One, but since God is love, He loves with-in Himself, in the way of the Holy Trinity.

When we confess the Athanasian Creed, we also see that God is never alone. God Himself is a community, a relationship. He is One but also Three and always One in Three and Three in One. This love of God passes to us who have been created in His own image, who were also created in a community with Him and given a community with one another. We, too, are created to express our love not by ourselves, not by looking in a mirror, but in community with spouse and children, friends and neighbors.

Uncreated, infinite, eternal

The doctrine of the Holy Trinity is more than an academic principle, more than just a set of facts to be memorized and recited. It is more than something strange and odd and hard to understand. God is the foundation and source of life and being and creation. And God is rela-

tionship—one God, three persons, each relating to and loving one another . . . and loving us.

Even when the Son of God became a man, He reflects and teaches this inner life of God—this community of God, the relationship He has with the Father—and relates it to us. He says that He is One with the Father, that we may be One with Him (John 17:22). He says the



Word He speaks is not His own but was given by His Father (John 14:10). Jesus' ministry was centered on glorifying His Father in allowing Himself to do what the Father sent Him for. But it is double-sided: All that Jesus said and did was for us and our salvation.

Jesus does the Father's will and speaks the Father's Word completely and faithfully and obediently and lovingly. And what He speaks is life-giving and eternal. What the Father has, the Son gives, and it is eternal life. You could even say He gives Himself. He is life and love, and He gives Himself to those who hear, to those He calls, to those who listen to His Word. ✝

FROM THE LWML

Serve the Lord with Gladness! Psalm 100:2

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

May mites donations totaled \$41.50.

Mite box Sunday is the first Sunday of each month. You may bring the mite box any Sunday. If you prefer to donate by check, please make it payable to Our Savior LWML. Mite donations are sent monthly to the Gulf States District LWML to fund mission grants and district expenses and national mission grants.

As the Bible reminds us, even small offerings can make an enormous impact. The Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of “mites” — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Combined, these mites amount to millions of dollars for funding mission grants and providing ongoing support for various Lutheran Women in Mission programs.

The old cookbooks are still available for \$5.00. Funds are used to pay for convention delegate, Lutheran Women’s Quarterly magazine, and district travel fund.

<http://www.lwml.org>

<http://www.lwmlgulfstates.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Emerald Coast Zone Fall Rally, Saturday, September 21, 2024, Jehovah Lutheran Church, Pensacola, 9:00 am-1:30 pm “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only” James 1:22

LWML 41st Biennial LWML Convention, June 26-29, 2025, Omaha, NE, “Growing in God’s Grace” 2 Peter 3:18

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Urda

LWML President



FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the “Star Wars” trilogy, do you remember the master Jedi Yoda saying “Do or Do not, there is no try”? I was reminded of that one evening from a friend who, trying to make me feel good, remarked that I was a ‘good’ man. I replied that though I may try, I very often fail, hence the need for repentance, confession, and absolution. Under the Law, there is zero credit for “trying” and it’s hopelessly impossible to “do” perfectly, all of the time, in everything. So, we have to admit that we “Do not.” What separates us from unbelievers, among other

things, is that we know Whom to seek for forgiveness of sin for those times when we fail, which are many. In His undeserved kindness, the Lord has even given us a human vessel who He has ordered (ordained) to hear our confessions and through whom we can hear very personal, private absolution – he’s our pastor! Many times after private confession, it’s as if a ton of bricks has been lifted from you, no joke. You really don’t want to pass this up - just sayin’.

Blessings,
Alex

Sunday Readings (Lectionary)

Date	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
June 2	Genesis 15:1-6	1 John 4:16-21	Luke 16:19-31
June 9	Proverbs 9:1-10	1 John 3:13-18	Luke 14:16-24
June 16	Isaiah 12:1-6	1 Peter 5:6-11	Luke 15:1-10
June 23	Genesis 50:15-21	Romans 8:18-23	Luke 6:36-42
June 30	1 Kings 19:11-21	1 Peter 3:8-15	Luke 5:1-11

FROM THE BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY

Happy June everyone! I hope you are ready for a fun filled summer with your church family, because I know I am! But let's take things one step at a time, and just look at June.



Father's Day BBQ!

Join us on Saturday June 15th for an evening of fun, food, and prizes celebrating the fathers and father figures in our lives! It will start around 4 pm, with dinner to follow! Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided, and bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share! We will have games and contests going, with prizes along the way! Hope to see you there!

Summer Movie Night #1

Join us for a night at the movies on Friday June 21st in the Fellowship Hall! Starting around 6 pm, we will be watching the Dreamworks animated movie: *Joseph: King of Dreams!* Popcorn will be provided, but feel free to bring your favorite movie snack (you don't even have to share it!).



Updates: Finally, there are two things I want to update you all on. As I said at the Voters' Meeting, the cookbook deadline has been extended to sometime next year. Still send me your recipes, but there is no rush right now!

Second, construction for the Little Library has begun! So if you have any books that you want to get rid of, please consider donating them for this! The Little Library is for all ages, children to adults.

I think that's it for this month, so look for the next update in July!

-Clare

COFFEE WITH PASTOR



Coffee with Pastor
begins with
Matins at 9:00 a.m.

followed by time with Pastor to get to
know him and for him to get to know his
flock!

Birthdays:

There are no June Birthdays!

Men's Group

7:00 pm

Tuesday, June 20th

Pastor Parent's house.



Women's Bible Study

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Join us in the study of Proverbs

Private Confession

Every Sunday, 8:00-8:45 a.m. or by appointment

Please see Pastor Parent.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED AT OSEL C

Serve on a Board - See Alex Franco, Pres.

Sign up for Flowers—See sign up list in the Parish Hall

Sign up for Refreshments—See sign up list in Parish Hall

Serve on the Altar Guild—See Dcs. Heather Bien

Ongoing Project on Campus—See Brian Hull, Trustee

Serve as an Usher—See Julie Blaylock

Sunday School—9:00 a.m. Sunday, Parish Hall

Coffee with Pastor and Women's Study—10:00 a.m. Thursday

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Agenda (In-Person)

May 8, 2024

President – Alex Franco

Vice-President- Brad Bien



1. Attendance: Pastor Parent (via Facetime), Dcs Heather Bien, Alex Franco, Brad Bien, Linda Urda, Julie Blaylock, Mahlon Haunschild, Cindy Parent, Jennifer Currid

2. Pastor opened the meeting at 6:31 with prayer.

3. The previous council minutes were approved with the following changes: New Business item a- 2 weeks amended to 2 Sundays; Item d- changed website to website link.

4. Reports:

a) Pastor's Report (Fr Parent) – No report.

b) Deaconess Report (Dcs Bien) – No report.

c) Financial Report (Mahlon) - See attached.

Treasurer (Brian) – See attached.

d) Board of Security (Julie) – A woman sat outside the office door for about an hour on Sunday, May 5. The police talked to her, but they did not ask her to leave the premises as Julie asked them to do. After the police departed, the loiterer left around 15 minutes later. Julie proposed that we add “No Loitering” signs to the existing “video cameras in use” posts. This proposal will be on the May 19th Voters' Assembly agenda.

e) LWML (Linda) - See attached. Also see Linda's article in the May newsletter.

f) Board of Education (Cindy) – See attached.

g) Board of Elders (Alan) – No report.

h) Board of Trustees (Brian) – No report.

i) Board of Social Ministry (Clare) - See attached. Additional comments: The children who have been participating in the adult Bible study will return to their classroom in June.

j) Board of Evangelism (Alex) – We had 68 new website visitors this past month.

5. Unfinished Business:

a) Paraments order update – Heather presented the options and prices for two companies: Ecclesiastical Sewing and Gaspard. She will make the same presentation at the Voters’ Meeting.

b) Little Library construction has been planned.

c) Lutheran Service Builder update – We did not purchase the additional subscription for the hymnal component. We are still investigating computer compatibility before we make the service builder purchase.

d) Bryna purchase update – We need to develop a concept of operation before we move forward with this purchase. Julie will ask for volunteers to be responsible for the Bryna during services.

6. New Business:

a) Projector and sound system for Fellowship Hall- Mahlon provided the details concerning equipment and costs. See attached. This topic will be presented at the May 19th Voters’ Assembly.

7. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 (Brad/Mahlon).

8. Pastor Parent closed the meeting with The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Jennifer Currid

“Every occupation has its own honor before God. Ordinary work is a divine vocation or calling. In our daily work no matter how important or mundane we serve God by serving the neighbor and we also participate in God's on-going providence for the human race.”

- Martin Luther

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church



Voters' Assembly

May 19, 2024

President – Alex Franco

Vice-President- Brad Bien



1. Attendance – See sign-in sheet.

2. Meeting was called to order by Brad Bien at 11:47 and opened with prayer by Pastor Parent.

3. The previous Voters' Assembly minutes were read and approved with the following changes: Item 4 f should read "Jeannie will represent" not Julie. Item 6 c – Add that a designated fund was established to pay for the new paraments costs (Rich/Trish).

4. Reports:

a) Pastor's Report (Fr Parent) - The Liturgy study is complete and the early Christian heresies study has begun. Pastor predicts it will be complete by the end of June. These studies have been well attended. Pastor and his family will be out of town June 7-14 to attend the blessing of his daughter's marriage vows. Pastor also welcomes new members Gordon and Melania Ruef.

b) Deaconess Report (Dcs Bien) – Heather thanked everyone for their contributions and hard work which resulted in such a successful Sale for the Sem of over \$1400.

c) Financial Report (Mahlon) - See attached. Beginning in May 2024, the financial secretary will be reporting only donations for the month to avoid overlapping the treasurer's report.

d) Treasurer (Brian)- See attached. Brian reminded the voters that the treasurer's report is posted in the Fellowship Hall within a week of the monthly council meeting.

e) Board of Security (Julie) – No serious incidents to report; however, there has been an increase in loitering incidents. The most recent incident was on May 5 when a woman sat outside the office for about an hour. The police responded to Julie's call, but they did not ask the woman to leave. She left about 15 minutes after the police did.

f) LWML (Linda) – Linda and Jeannie went to the convention in Prattville. The results of the election and the missions grant proposals are in the May newsletter. Linda reminded us that we can contribute to the Mite collection at any time. The Emerald Coast Zone Fall Rally will be held on September 21 at Jehovah Lutheran Church in Pensacola from 9:00-1:30.

g) Board of Education/ Youth (Gervase) - Gervase resigned to make room for new chairman.

h)Board of Trustees (Brian) – Brian thanked all of those who have helped maintain the grounds and facilities. Clean up of branches and limbs downed in the recent storms continues.

i) Board of Education (Cindy) – The youth are still attending the Adult Bible study on Sunday mornings. Recently they have made greeting cards for members of the congregation and helped with yard clean up. Cindy reminded us about Thursday morning Matins, Coffee with Pastor, Women's Bible study and the occasional Book Club. The men meet with the Pastor on the 3rd Tuesday each month at 7:00 at the Pastor's house.

j) Board of Social Ministry (Clare) - A good time was had by all who attended the Mothers' Day Tea. The cookbook deadline has been moved to 2025. An event for the fathers will be held in June. Monthly movie nights have been planned for the summer as well as a carnival for our congregation and community.

5. Unfinished Business:

a. No update on the storage building. That project remains tabled.

b. The church signs will be posted soon. If we are cautioned about their placement, we will remove them.

c. Because the conjugation of the kits for the Byrna system has changed, we will now need to purchase the pepper balls separately. A motion was made to purchase 95 pepper balls for a cost of \$50 (Machelle/Rich). This motion passed unanimously. After much discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of a non-lethal system, it was decided that Brian should move ahead with purchase of the Byrna system that was approved in the Feb. 18 voters' assembly. We still need members who are willing to be responsible for the Byrna during worship service.

d. We will move ahead on the purchase of the Lutheran Service Builder without the hymnal license. Brian will make this purchase soon.

e. After Dcs Bien presented the options for companies and prices for rose paraments and gold paraments, a motion was made to authorize the altar guild to purchase the paraments in the amount available in the designated fund. The complete set of rose and a complete set of gold paraments from Gaspard is estimated to cost \$4,648.36. The vote was unanimous to make this purchase.

6. New Business:

a. A big welcome was given to our new members Gordon and Melania Ruef.

b. Emily Bien was unanimously voted in as the chair of the Board of Youth to fill the remaining time left in that position.

C.A motion was made to purchase two "No loitering" signs and the mounting brackets for a cost of \$80 (Rich/Mahlon). The vote was unanimous to make this purchase.

d. The Little Free Library materials are available at no cost; however, to register it with The Little Free Library system, the cost of the emblem sign is a one-time fee of \$49. A motion was made to pay the fee (Emily/Clare). The motion passed unanimously. A church member offered to pay the fee.

e. Clare went over the plans for a Summer Carnival which would cost approximately \$250. Brian asked that further discussion be tabled until he could check out the tax implications of a fund raiser on church property.

f. Mahlon presented an audio-visual plan at a cost of \$3,400 minimum. The plan includes a projector with mounting brackets, a wall-mounted screen, speakers, amplifier, wiring/cabling, and input adapter kits. It was suggested that maybe this project could be done in stages. Mahlon made a motion to open a designated fund for this project; he then withdrew his motion when Brian said we had a temporary designated fund to hold donations for this project. Anyone wishing to make a donation needs to mark their envelopes "for AV fund."

7.A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1:32 p.m. (Brian/Alan).

8. Pastor closed us in singing the Doxology.

Respectfully Submitted, Jennifer Currid

**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN
EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

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We are on the Web!

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Council President: Alex Franco

Council Vice-President: Brad Bien

Secretary: Jennifer Currid

Treasurer: Brian Hull

Financial Secretary: Mahlon Haunschild

Board of Elders: Alan Widener

Board of Christian Life:

Board of Trustees: Brian Hull

Board of Education: Cindy Parent

Board of Youth: Emily Bien

Board of Evangelism: Alex Franco

Board of Social Ministry: Clare Jones

Board of Security: Julie Blaylock

LWML: Linda Urda

Library: Jennifer Currid

Usher Director: Julie Blaylock

Organist and Kantor: Brian Hull

Office Administrator: Trish Hull

Newsletter Editor: Dcs. Bien

Pastor Raymond Parent · Deaconess Heather Bien