

"Proclaiming the Gospel of Good in a Secular World"

† St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor †

January 24/25, 2021

Trinity Lutheran Church Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Trinity Lutheran Church

824 Wisconsin Avenue Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081 920-458-8246

www.trinitvshebovgan.org

Prayer Upon Entering: O Lord God, awaken us this hour to the glory of Your presence in our midst. Shine among us in such a way that the darkness without and within may be pushed back, such that we might truly see what is real. Help us to recognize our sin for what it is. Enable us to behold the world as You created it to be, as You created us to be. Empower us to move from darkness to light, from sin to new life. May Your light shine through into worship this day, as all days. This we pray in the name of the Word made flesh, the light which is the light of all people. Jesus Christ. Amen.

Welcome: We cordially welcome you the Lord's Service to us this day. If you are worshipping with us for the first time, the following suggestions may be helpful to you:

- Due to the pandemic, the Divine Service is printed in its entirety in this booklet. During the pandemic, please practice physically distancing as you enter, as you go to the altar for the Lord's Supper, and as you leave. Masks are available at each entrance if needed. You may either stand or kneel for the Lord's Supper.
- Hearing devices are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.
- The Music Room, the room to your right before entering the sanctuary, is available for parents with small children who need to step out during the service. The service is televised in the Music Room.
- The time before the service is a time of prayer and preparation to receive the gifts of salvation. In addition to prayer, look over the readings and the words to the hymns during this preparation time. A booklet entitled, "The Divine Service" located in the pew rack may also assist you in understanding worship at Trinity.
- Please turn off all cell phones and refrain from taking pictures during the service. Thank you.
- Visitors, please sign the guest registers located in the Narthex.

Guests and the Lord's Supper: If you desire to commune, please speak to one of the pastors before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation.

THE SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

THE PRESIDING MINISTER: Rev. John M. Berg

THE GUEST PREACHER: (Sunday) Rev. Robert Zick

THE ORGANIST: Dr. Samuel Eatherton

THE INSTRUMENTALIST: Colleen Rindt, Flute

THE CHOIRS: (8:00 & 9:30) Men's Choir, Trinity Staff, Students of Trinity

THE COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (8:00) Eric Nimmer, Hans Otten, (9:30) Chad Hamilton, Dustin Kyrstowiak, (10:45) Tony

Smith, Jeff Roethel, (6:30) Dennis Barrow, Adam Glatczak

THE SOUND BOOTH TEAM: Ron Mueller, Hans Gruben, Tom Kelly, Joshua Rach, Robert Wiltzius

Our Calendar for January 24 - 31, 2021

Sunday, January 24

8:00 am Divine Service

9:30 am Divine Service

10:45 am Divine Service

Monday, January 25 6:30 pm Divine Service

Wednesday, January 27

10:00 am Trinity Children's Chapel

11:00 am Sunday Service TV Broadcast (Spectrum 990 & U-verse 99)

2:30 pm Midweek Confirmation Class

The Lutheran Hour

Broadcast Sundays at: 6:30 am WTMI 620AM 5:00 pm WJUB 1420AM

> **Morning Meditations** WHBL 1330am 7:26am & 10:45am

Trinity - Howards Grove

Thursday, January 28

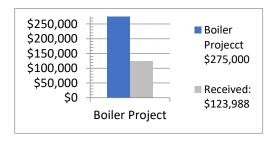
9:00 am Women's Bible Class (FH)

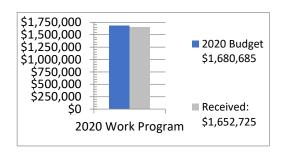
Friday, January 29

7:00 am Men's Bible Class (FH)

Sunday, January 31

8:00 am Divine Service 9:30 am Divine Service 10:45 am Divine Service





Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- **P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Stand

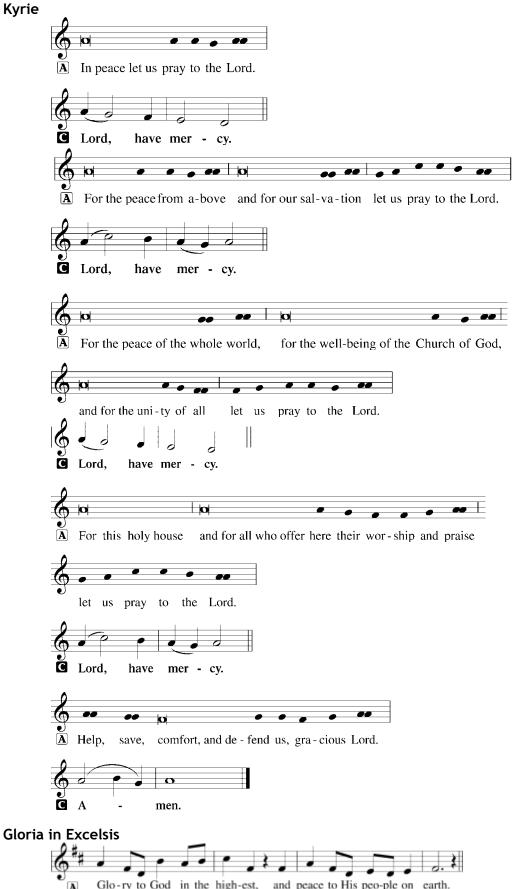
Service of the Word

589 Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens



Kyrie

LSB 168



God and

al - might - y

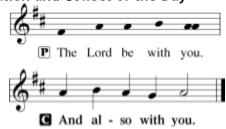
Lord God,

heav - en - ly king,

LSB 170



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You have always given to Your Church on earth faithful shepherds such as Timothy to guide and feed Your flock. Make all pastors diligent to preach Your holy Word and administer Your means of grace, and grant Your people wisdom to follow in the way that leads to life eternal; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

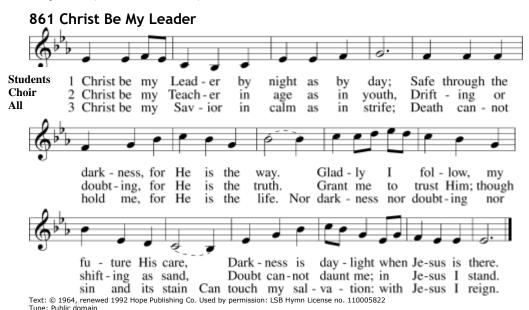
Sit

First Reading Acts 16:1–5

¹Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ²He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. ³Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. ⁵So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn (8:00 & 9:30 am)

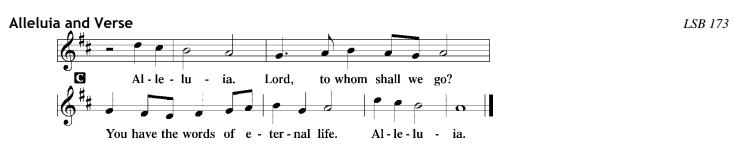


Epistle 1 Timothy 6:11–16

¹¹But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand



Holy Gospel

Matthew 24:42–47

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.



⁴²[Jesus said:] "Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. ⁴⁵"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary

and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

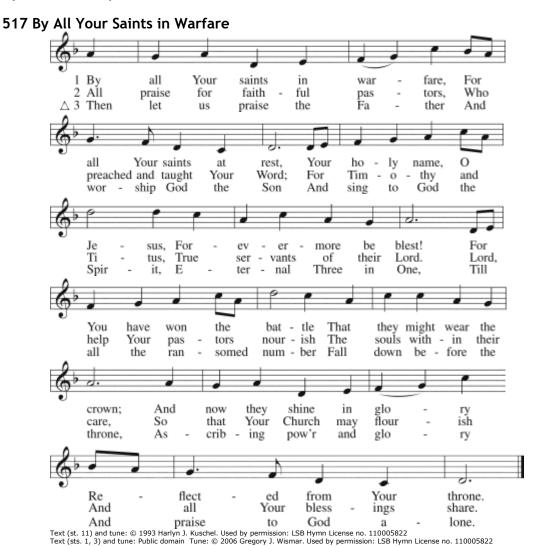
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life 🕂 of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day



sts. 1, 11, 3

Sermon

Theme: "Proclaiming the Gospel of God in a Secular World"

Text: Mark 1: 14 - 15

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.



Service of the Sacrament

It is right

Preface LSB 177



to give Him thanks and praise.

LSB 176

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore with patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, with Your servant Timothy, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus LSB 178



Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

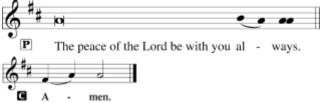
- **P** Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:
- Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

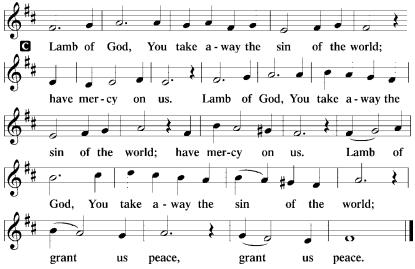
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini LSB 180



Agnus Dei LSB 180



Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins. **Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins. **Amen.**





Tune: Public domain
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005822



In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ⅓ in peace.
- C Amen.



Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction LSB 183

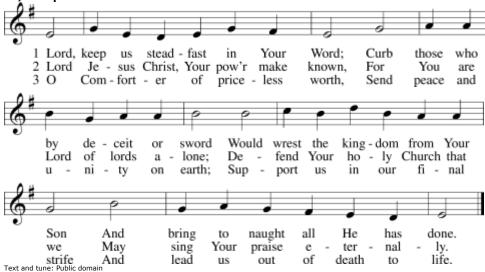


The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.



LSB 182

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



Postlude: Erhalt uns, Herr D. Johnson

Acknowledgments Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishiners. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2020 Concordia Publishing House.

FLOWERS & GIFTS GIVEN THIS SUNDAY TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

- † Flowers given today by Randall & Judy Hake
- † A gift has been given to the boiler fund in loving memory of Christopher Specht by his family

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK: Today begins our celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week. We celebrate with other Lutheran Schools across the nation. We are so blessed that Trinity's main mission since 1853 has been a Christian education for our children. We are blessed with faithful pastors, teachers, staff and a supportive congregation. The NLSW committee has a fun, exciting week planned for our students. See the flyer at the end of the bulletin for the week's activities.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY: A study of the scripture readings and hymns will be available on our website after Monday on our "Recorded Services". This study is led by Pastor Mech, Pastor Berg and Sam Eatherton. New session will follow weekly on Mondays.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the lounge. If you cannot find one with your name on it, please contact the church office (458-8246).

2020 CONTRIBUTION ADULT & CHILDREN'S STATEMENTS are available in the Lounge. If you have any questions or concerns about your statement, please call the church office.

CHURCH CLEANER NEEDED: Bethany Lutheran Church in Kohler is looking to hire a hardworking, detail oriented individual or group to clean the church on a weekly basis. For more information, or to apply, please call 920-457-4681 or email info@blckohler.com. Thank you!

NEAT REPEAT SALES:

1/26-1/30 All Clothing \$1

2/2-2/6 Shoes & Socks 50% off

2/9 (2nd Tuesday of the month) 30% off everything in the store

2/10-2/13 Candles & Candle Holders

2/16-2/20 Toys, Games & Puzzles 50% off

2/23-2/27 Linens 50% off

THE SPRING (LENTEN) 40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN to pray for an end to abortion is February 17-March 28, 2021 (Ash Wednesday-Palm Sunday). We will be praying outside Planned Parenthood in Sheboygan 12 hours a day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for 40 straight days.

TAKEOUT ONLY CHILI DINNER is Sunday, February 7th, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1634 Illinois Avenue, Sheboygan. Ticket Information: tickets are available in the back of Immanuel Church before and after services or from the Immanuel Church Office. Take-out is available for \$7.00 which includes: 1-quart chili, crackers and dessert. Please contact Immanuel's Church Office (920) 452-7266 for more information.





ANNUAL LHS CITRUS SALE TO BENEFIT THE LHS MUSIC DEPT. SPRING CONCERT TOUR

Orders for fresh Florida grapefruit and delicious California oranges (10#-quarter case \$15, 20#-half case \$25, and 40#-full case \$45) will be taken through Friday, Jan. 29. Contact any LHS student or call the school office 920-452-3323 to place your order through Jan. 29. Fruit must be picked up and paid for on Saturday, February 20 at Lutheran High School between 8:30 a.m. and Noon. You can also

download the order blank from the LHS website at www.lutheranhigh.com. Thank you for your support!

CHURCH SERVICE INFORMATION: For the safety and care of all, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic Trinity has offered the Divine Service in accordance with the CDC's recommendations and the guidelines of the State of Wisconsin. Sheboygan County has moved to Phase 2. The Divine Service at Trinity now is **200 people per service**. This is 50% of our sanctuary's capacity. This allows us to continue to gather safely during this pandemic while faithfully receiving our Lord's gifts of salvation. The continued restrictions listed below are motivated by our genuine love and concern for our neighbor (particularly those who are most at risk from the virus). The Divine Service schedule along with service information and instructions is as follows:

- We will continue with three services on Sundays (8am, 9:30am, and 10:45am) and one Monday night service at 6:30pm throughout Phase 2.
- Masks required per Executive Order #82.
- Please use hand sanitizer as you enter.
- Please be seated in pews with a green dot first, and keep proper physical distance as you enter, leave, and during Communion. After green dot pews are filled ushers will stagger seating of people in the other pews.
- The entire Divine Service is printed in the bulletin (please take your bulletin with you after the service)
- A team of ushers will sanitize the pews after each service.
- The Lord's Supper will be distributed in a continuous way one side at a time, keeping physical distancing, with people coming up the center aisle and returning via the side aisle (this is similar to the way we distribute the Lord's Supper at the church picnic).
- As much as we all would like to, please do not gather in groups in the church building after the Divine Service (cleaning crew needs time to sanitize the pews, entrances, exits, etc.).



Important School Information & Reminders

If your child (grades 1-8) is participating in tubing at Sunburst next week, you MUST fill out the online registration by Jan. 29th. THERE IS NO FEE FOR THIS TRIP. In order to access the online portal to register your child for Sunburst,

please go to https://shop.skisunburst.com/groups and use group code **TLS2021** to login. This online portal is where anyone who plans on participating the day of your event must register and fill out their liability waiver. Everyone who plans on participating must be registered.

TUNDRA TALES AT-HOME READING PROGRAM: Trinity is participating in the annual reading program sponsored by the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame. The program funs though March 28th and is for students in 4K-8th grade. An informational letter and program reading logs will be sent home by your child's teacher.

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR THE GENEROUS HEARTS OF OUR STUDENTS. Many of our families have been so faithful in bringing offerings every Wednesday for chapel. During the months of December, January, and February, we are praying for and supporting Deaconess Sandra Rhein. We were blessed to have Sandra visit our classes this past Wednesday to teach our students about her role in the LCMS. Sandra assists congregations throughout the world to develop musical and liturgical resources. To hear more about the projects Sandra has assisted on and what she is currently working on, please visit https://youtu.be/y4Z8MqcOnLk.

If any congregation members would like to help support Deaconess Sandra Rhein, you may send monetary gifts to the church office clearly marked for her ministry. They will be added to the children's chapel gifts.



SALSA Music Festival will be held on Monday, February 22nd at Lutheran High School during the school day. Please note no band or choirs will perform, only individuals and small groups will be participating.

Another **BIG SHOUT OUT** to the volunteers that helped run the basketball games last night at Immanuel. Thank you to Al and Denise Rick, Tyler White, Peter Karle, Tyler Thomas, Nicole Leganchuk, Erika Thomas, Heather Leibham and Coach Roethel. We couldn't run our program without people like you. Thanks again. The teams won 3 out of 3 games. Congratulations as we head into Thursday's games at Bethlehem for our 7/8 teams.

SCRIP DATES: Scrip order dates are January 31, February 14 & 28. Pick up dates are February 5, 19 and March 5.



2020-2021 Trinity Faculty & Staff "Sent to Serve"

Rev. Timothy Mech
 Rev. John Berg
 Sam Eatherton
 Senior Pastor
 Associate Pastor
 Music Director

Chris Melcher Church Office Manager

Christel Miske Part-time Church Office Helper

Jenna Roeske Principal

Colleen Rindt School Secretary
Jenna Walkenhorst 3K & Spanish Teacher

Kathy Gruben
 Angela Karle
 Allison Toerpe
 Ask d Spanish
 4K Teacher
 5K Aid
 5K Teacher

Dawn Peterson
Kim Roethel
Lisa Menzer
Cristi Smith
Abigail Wietfeldt

SK Aid
Grade 1 Teacher
Grade 2 Teacher
Grade 3 Teacher
Grade 4 Teacher

Lois Eatherton
 Terry Stenklyft
 Melissa Hauch
 Jason Harder
 Grade 5 Homeroom Teacher
 Grade 6 Homeroom Teacher
 Grade 7 Homeroom Teacher
 Grade 8 Homeroom Teacher

Liz Ekblad Grade 1 & 2 Music/Choir, Extended Care

Brittany Wolf After School Care

Ann Rahn

Megan Yurk

Child Care Director

Child Care Teacher

Child Care Aid

Chrissy Schmidt Assistant Child Care Teacher/3K Aid

Geoff Schuh
 Band

Sue Leibham
 Heather Leibham
 Tim Puksich
 Hot Lunch Coordinator
 Hot Lunch Helper
 Part-time Custodian

Mary Niesing Before School Care/Part-time Custodian

CONGREGATION AT PRAYER & DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Invocation

Introit (front page)

Meditation: Portals of Prayer

Prayer/Devotion

DAILY READINGS: LSB #302

Sun: Joel 3:1-21; Rom. 12:14-13:14 **Mon:** Zech. 1:1-21; Rom. 14:1-23

Tues: Zech. 2:1-3:10: Rom. 15:1-13

Wed: Zech. 4:1-5:11; Rom. 15:14-33 **Thurs:** Zech. 6:1-7:14; Rom. 16:17-27 **Fri:** Zech. 8:1-23; 2 Tim. 1:1-18 **Sat:** Zech. 9:1-17; 2 Tim. 2:1-26

In Our Prayers This Week:

- † Jean Scheblein, living with pulmonary fibrosis
- † Steve Heronemus and his family, living with ALS
- † Debra Kelm, management of an illness
- † Brendon Cullen, extended physical therapy
- † Bernadette Strate, sister of Tom Hoem, cancer
- † Sue Mack, cousin of Beth Riemer, cancer
- † Christina Newton Ray, cancer treatment
- † Jennifer Pralle, sister of Katherine Pape, breast cancer
- † Sharon Riemer, sister-in-law of Beth Riemer, ovarian cancer
- † Ruthann Shields, daughter of Marion Rieboldt, cancer treatment
- † Sharon Gerber, cancer treatment
- † Matt Makela, cancer treatment
- † Barrett, son of Josh & Amanda (Dillman) Graminske, leukemia
- † Serving in the military: Timothy Schwanke, Rev. Brian Banke, Robert Badtke, Andrew Kelm, Robert Holt, Austin Griesbach, Adam Robinson, Elizabeth Risler, Darryl Carlson, Nate Yeager, Robert Holt
- † Chris Staudinger, hospitalized at St. Luke's
- † Paula Huebschman, recovering at home
- † Jack Henning, recovering after surgery
- † Don Meier, recovering at home after a stroke
- † Trinity Members, family members and friends with COVID-19
- † Trinity Staff Member. Tim Puksich, Part-time Custodian
- † Ken Weimann, in treatment for cancer
- † Larry Koepsel, recovering after breaking a hip
- † Pastor Mech, recovering after a hospital stay
- † Jean Fengler, sister of Kathy Hermann, cancer treatment
- † The family of Denis Schmideler

Hymn of the Week: "If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee" LSB #750

Apostles' Creed

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

St. Timothy, Pastor & Confessor

January 24, 2021

Introit

Fight the good fight | of the faith.*

Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, for- | ever;*

with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all gener- | ations.

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,*

your faithfulness in the assembly of the | holy ones!

Blessèd are the people who know the | festal shout,*

who walk, O LORD, in the light | of your face,

who exult in your name | all the day*

and in your righteousness are ex- | alted.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Fight the good fight | of the faith.*

Take hold of the eternal life to which | you were called.

Collect of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, You have always given to Your Church on earth faithful shepherds such as Timothy to guide and feed Your flock. Make all pastors diligent to preach Your holy Word and administer Your means of grace, and grant Your people wisdom to follow in the way that leads to life eternal; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gradual

Behold, I will search for my sheep and will seek them out; I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered. I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed.

Learn by Heart: 4th Petitions **LSB** #324

Readings for next Sunday: Deut. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Acts 16:1-5

¹Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ²He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. ³Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. ⁵So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

1 Timothy 6:11-16

¹¹But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Matthew 24:42-47

⁴²[Jesus said:] "Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. ⁴⁵"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions."

Notes on Today's Service

Treasures from the Church: "Preaching is an attack - it is an invasion from Jesus into an unbelieving world." - William H. Willimon

Summary of the Readings: Our Master, Jesus Christ, "is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Matt. 24:44). He sets the servants of His Word as the watchmen and overseers of His household (Matt. 24:45). He commands them to keep, guard and "fight the good fight of the faith" entrusted to them (1 Tim. 6:12), "each according to his ability" (Matt. 25:15). Just as Christ "made the good confession" before Pilate (1 Tim. 6:13), so His servants stand before the Church and the world, and by their preaching the Lord strengthens faith and grants increase to His Church (Acts 16:5), the "pillar and buttress of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15). St. Timothy, Paul's friend and son in the faith, is an example of such a faithful and wise servant, set over the household of God in Ephesus to nourish in "righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness" (1 Tim. 6:11). The Lord still appoints men like Timothy to bear fruit that will abide (John 15:16), so that the whole household may confess and bear witness to the One "who gives life to all things" (1 Tim. 6:13).

Confessing the Faith: "My wife and I moved from Wisconsin to Virginia, which meant we had to transfer our church membership. We found St. Athanasius Lutheran Church. a wonderful, small, and rigorously confessional congregation. The service in which we were received into membership drew on the baptism and confirmation liturgies. We renounced the Devil and all his works; we affirmed our belief in the Holy Trinity; we accepted the authority of the Bible; and we confessed that the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church is drawn from the Bible and is 'faithful and true.' After agreeing to hear the Word of God, receive the Lord's Supper, and live according to the Word of God 'in faith, word, and deed,' we were asked this: 'Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?' We both answered, 'I do, by the grace of God.' We promised to suffer death rather than depart from this confession! Taking that confirmation vow is a powerful experience. Especially since many people through the centuries have died rather than renounce these beliefs. The Inquisition originally targeted those who held to the Reformation confessions. In Hitler's Germany, those who opposed the liberal, Nazified state church called themselves 'confessing' Christians, holding to the historic confessions rather than to the teachings of those theologians who rejected the Bible as being 'Jewish,' even though this could mean the concentration camp and hanging. Stalin slaughtered the Lutheran pastors in Russia and exiled the laity to Siberia and to Muslim regions, though they taught their confessions from memory to their children and kept their faith alive in secret. Today in Africa, where there are more Lutherans than in America, confessional Christians are facing persecution and death at the hand of Muslims, but they continue in their confession." - Gene Edward Veith Jr.

Sermon: Timothy's good confession referred to by the apostle Paul is that Jesus is Lord, God Himself in the flesh, and the Savior of the world. This confession of faith, saying back to God what He has said to us, was met with resistance. Hence, Paul encouraged Timothy to "fight the good fight of faith." There are always those in this fallen world who want to silence the word of God. They even tried to silence Jesus' own good confession of who He was and is by crucifying Him. Likewise, there was an attempt at full blown censorship of the apostles by killing them, too. Yet, even in their deaths they confessed that Jesus is Lord. It was the same for Timothy who we remember today as pastor and confessor. It's also the same for you as God's word has its way in your life. As the apostle Paul reminds us, "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).