
AUGUST

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
505 Commercial St. SE
Hanceville, Alabama 35077
www.trinityhanceville.com
Phone 256-352-6442
SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:45 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM
JOIN US THIS SUNDAY !

THE TRINITY TRIBUNE

A Ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church, Hanceville, Alabama

August 2025



Become Like Children



If heaven actually had a door guarded by St. Peter like in the cartoons I imagine that he would be holding one of those height sticks like for rides at an amusement park. But in heaven's case St. Peter would measure you up and say, "Sorry you're too grown up. Look at the sign. **'Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'**" God's kingdom is built on simple, saving faith. You can actually grow up too much to enter into the kingdom of heaven. Not physically, of course but, what we can do is allow our self-importance, reason, or even worldly learning to grow to reject saving faith as childish and unimportant.

As we begin a new year of Christian education I want us to take time to remember what it means to have a child-like faith in our Savior Jesus. When the Holy Spirit brings us to faith we become spiritually like little children in humility. This is the opposite of pride - the spiritual ruin of mankind. Little children have not yet allowed an inflated sense of self to get in the way of faith toward God. In true humility, untarnished by pride, little children accept that they are God's children and all the good things they are given by Him. When little children are told that Jesus loves them they accept that love with joy and humility.

Another characteristic of little children is the ability to be taught. Young minds are a sponge, soaking up everything around them. It's said that in the first three years of a child's life they are the most receptive and will learn and integrate just about everything you teach them. That should give us even more reason to follow our Lord's bidding and bring even the youngest of children regularly to God's house so that the first things they will experience and make part of themselves is the Gospel of Jesus. But there is also no age at which we should stop learning. No matter our age, we can fill our minds with worldly wisdom that will draw us away from saving faith or we can heed the instruction of our Savior Jesus who said, **"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."**

As we adults have been taught the wonderful, saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, we now have the great responsibility but also the great joy to pass it on to children. We have the privilege of bringing children to the Lord and His Church. During His earthly ministry, people were always bringing their children to Jesus. Jesus commanded His disciples so He commands us, **"Let the little children come to Me, do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."** Never should the questions be asked by any of our children, "Are we going to Sunday school today? Are we going to church today?"

Child-like faith - by the grace of God our children have it and our youth cling to it though the world tries to strip it away. By the grace of God it is His gift to us adults too. In Christian, child-like humility we all recognize our utter sinfulness and look to Jesus Christ alone as our Savior because of His death and resurrection for us. With a child-like mind we allow ourselves to be taught by God. We don't judge His Word. We let ourselves, our hearts, minds, and consciences be judged by the Word. We are changed through the renewing of our minds by God's Word. With child-like faith we trust Jesus completely regardless of what this world may do to try and lure us away from Him. He earned that trust at Calvary. He ensured that trust on Easter morning. He holds that trust as He lovingly guides us by Word and Sacrament every day and into eternity.

The disciples asked Jesus, **"Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."** Jesus answers, "Those who receive me in child-like faith and humility." Jesus has laid His hand of blessing on us at Baptism and He has taken us up in His nail scared arms and cares for us every day. If we've grown too old and wise in things that draw us away from God may we put them away from us, climb up on Jesus' lap, and become again like one of those little ones in faith. *Jesus, make me Your little child; humble, willing to learn, and trusting, and by Your cross keep me a child in Your kingdom, for ever and ever. Amen*

In Christ,

Pastor Jankens

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2025					1	2
3 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Divine Service Flowers - Cupp	4	5	6	7	8	9 10 am Trinity Crafters
10 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Divine Service Flowers - Coan	11	12 1 pm - Ladies Bible Study	13	14	15	16 10 am LWML
17 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Divine Service Flowers - K. Morin	18	19	20	21	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23
24 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Divine Service Flowers - Marg. Cowart	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Divine Service Flowers - B. Gotch						

Special Days for the Month of August

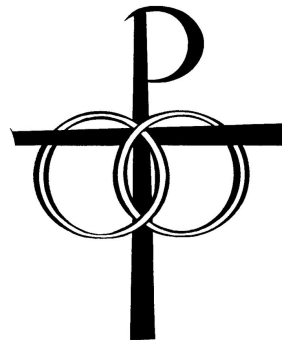
Birthdays

Eddie Crump	8/1
Melissa Culwell	8/5
Andrew Moore	8/6
Lennie McCain	8/10
William Cameron-Morin	8/11
Bree Junkins	8/13
Patricia Wise	8/14
Reba Michelfelder	8/16
Linda Wilson	8/19
Sandra Grund	8/22
Steven Grund	8/24
Shawn Morgan	8/25
Margarete Cowart	8/26
Frances Culwell	8/28
Raylan Moore	8/29
Martha Blanton	8/30
Patricia Brooks	8/30
River Nelson	8/30



Anniversaries

Jason and Caroline Moody	8/7
Mike and Susan Cupp	8/9
Shawn and Anna Morgan	8/27
Lee and Reba Michelfelder	8/31



Baptism Birthdays

Jimmy Michelfelder	8/1
Matthew Bales	8/2
Lauren Morin	8/8
Elizabeth Moody	8/9
Kay Michelfelder	8/11
Frances Brown	8/12
Emily Cameron-Morin	8/13
Sharron Nichols	8/16
Doris Evers	8/18
Elnora Moore	8/18
Anamarie Dahlke	8/30



Board of Elders News

Greetings from the Board of Elders,

It has been great to see attendance hasn't dipped on Sundays this summer, although we understand that many people are traveling since school has let out and vacation season is here, we would like to encourage you to keep the Divine Service and your church family as the prime focus of your weekend. So please come join us in the upcoming Sundays, as we study God's Word in Sunday school and receive His gifts He has for us through His forgiveness, His Word, His body, and His blood.

Our Sunday morning Sunday School study on the explanation of the Divine Service and all its parts, and reasons for those parts is such a blessing. It is great to be able to study God's Word and to answer questions, discuss, and interact with Pastor and fellow members. If you are missing Sunday School, you are really missing something good.

The Elders are continuing to contact those we see absent from service. Everyone can assist in this, if you notice someone missing and would like the Elders to contact them during the week, please let one of us know as you leave service that Sunday.

With the recent passing of our sister in Christ, Colleen Grund, some of our Trinity family may have been wondering if we would no longer have organ music used in any of our services. In a recent meeting, the Elders reviewed and approved a music software addition to our Lutheran Service Builder software package. It was a very minimal cost (only \$300 per year), and it is very professionally done recordings by Lutheran organists. It is an MP3 digital recording and used with our soundboard to coincide with our service. It was recently used at one of the funeral services at our church, and it worked seamlessly and sounded very well, so we just wanted to pass this information along to those of our Trinity family who may have been concerned.

A big thanks to our fellow Elder Dan Dahlke for doing a Men's Summer Bible Study again this year. We had our third and final study for this series on 7/26/25 and it went well, and we also enjoyed our breakfast together.

Thank you for allowing us to serve our congregation and please feel free to engage any of the Elders in conversation or approach us with any questions or needs that you may have.

May the Lord bless and keep each of you always. Thank you all for your service.

Your brother in Christ,

Tim Smith / 205-492-0235

Board of Evangelism News

The Board of Evangelism met July 13th to make plans for upcoming witness opportunities for Trinity members.

Trinity will start supplying Vienna Sausages for the Knapsacks for Kids program again in August. We are researching the possibility of including Arch Books from Concordia Publishing House in the Knapsacks. Watch your bulletin for dates to start collecting

We plan to have a collection of specific food items for the Wallace Lion's Kitchen Food Pantry during one month this Fall. Again, watch the bulletin for more details.

We will be providing dinner and devotion for the Hanceville football and cheerleader teams this Fall again. The date has not been set yet.

We are planning to provide a get-acquainted luncheon after worship services on September 28th. This will be an opportunity for our members to get to know each other better. When we know other's backgrounds, talents, joys, sorrows, and needs we will be better equipped to serve each other and to be witnesses of the Gospel message to others. We are hoping all our members will plan to attend.

We also discussed the possibility of serving the German lunch in October again. It will depend on the date and the availability of volunteers to help for the day. We welcome all input or suggestions on this matter.

As always, we look for ways to share the Gospel and we pray that His Word will continue to accomplish His purpose among us and around the world.

In His service,
Margie Burkart
256-531-4122

Board of Education News

We are looking for a few good men (and women) to help out with our Sunday School. We need teachers, subs and nursery workers. Please pray on this and if you are willing to help, let Anne know. The Fall lessons will begin on Rally Day, September 7th at 8:45 am. So mark your calendars!!

We will have our potluck lunch with the traditional water balloon fight that day after lunch. There are currently approximately 1600 balloons! Make sure you have a dry towel and a change of clothes.

Trinity offers a wide range of Bible study classes, from Sunday school for both children and adults to women's and men's classes.

Sunday School: 8:45 am Sunday morning

Wednesday: Bible study with Pastor 10:00am (To resume in the Fall)

Tuesday: Every second Tuesday of the month with Marty at 1:00 pm

Saturday: On the Third Saturday LWML meets in the parsonage at 10:00 am

Hope to see you soon!

As always in Christ,

Anne Gotch (256) 636-4288

Board of Stewardship News

Jesus' transforming presence

"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.' Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost'" (Luke 19:8-10 NIV).

Who knew, all those kids sitting in Sunday school were getting a lesson in stewardship! Generations of children have very often heard lessons based on the familiar account of Zacchaeus. The diminutive tax collector's curiosity surrounding the person and ministry of Jesus is what the Holy Spirit used to set him on a collision course for a total stewardship transformation. This transformation, according to the text of Luke 19, is not just about this life. This stewardship transformation is about eternity as well!

Remember the story: Zacchaeus was a tax collector. Do not think of friendly neighborhood IRS agents. This was more like a toll booth operator, but the governing authorities did not set the toll. They would contract men to staff roadside booths and tax the commerce that was passing along the road. This was an enterprise full of greed and graft. The tax collectors would take as much as they could and only pass on a portion to the government. The rest did not go into the community chest either! It went into the pocket of the tax collector.

This is why the people had such disdain for *Jewish* tax collectors. They were seen as both crooks and traitors. They were crooks in that they extorted their compatriots and others in the toll process. But worse, they were seen as traitors because their efforts supported the occupying Roman authorities. That is the real reason that the people would not make way so that short Zacchaeus could see Jesus.

For this reason, he runs ahead and climbs a tree. He had heard all the stories. He wanted to see this Jesus with his own eyes. Mercy is on display. This hated crook and traitor gets a direct audience with Jesus — at Jesus' own request! Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus' house. This is where the transformation is about to take place!

Notice how Jesus does it. He does not preach a three-week sermon series, nor does He ask Zacchaeus to make a pledge. There is nothing programmatic about Jesus' approach. But Zacchaeus is completely transformed! The transforming force is the very presence of Jesus! Direct time with Jesus takes a crooked, selfish, criminal and makes him the most faithful steward.

This new life of stewardship is marked by the promises made. First, he gives half of his ill-gotten gains to the poor. These are people whom he would not have defrauded at all! Yet, after spending time with Jesus, they are His first concern. Only after this does he double the requirement of the Levitical law on fraud. And what does Jesus say is the result? Salvation!

Doing the acts of stewardship does not save. Rather, the faith in Jesus that is created by the Holy Spirit is what saves! This is critical for us to confess. Failed stewardship can and will cut you off from God. The only antidote for failed stewardship is the presence of Jesus.

We do not need to run ahead and climb a tree for this presence of Jesus. He makes Himself available to us every week in the Divine Service. He speaks His Word of invitation to us in the pages of Holy Scripture. This, and this alone, transforms us from sinner to saint, from owner to steward of all that belongs to the Lord.

Do you want to become a more faithful steward? Spend more time with Jesus. Make the Divine Service a weekly priority. Feast on Christ's body and blood weekly! This is the great gift that brings salvation from God's House to yours!

Thank You

The impact
you have made is
HUGE!!!

without y'all this
would not be possible.

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

The foster families of Cullman County
cannot Thank y'all enough for the
gift cards. We were able from all of
the combined donations to give a \$25
birthday + \$50 for back to school to ALL
Cullman fosterers! We plan on trying to do \$100
at Christmas if allowed!!!

- Naudy Mattox - (VP) Cullman County Foster
Parent Association.