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Congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

Please visit our synod's webpage at [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)

Or better yet visit us in person.

We would love to have you worship with us.

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## Is God Up There?

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible.

This month's favorite Bible verse is: **Genesis 1:1**

***"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."***

"God, if you are up there, please show yourself to me." Have you ever said that to God? Wouldn't it be great if God just came down and showed himself to us?

God does show himself. In the first line of the Bible, God reveals himself to us. He tells us that he made all things. He made the huge galaxies of the universe. He made the tiniest atoms. He made you and me. His creation demonstrates his power, creativity, wisdom, and tender concern for us.

Take time to notice and to marvel at all God made—the colors of the sky, the light of the sun and stars, the mosaic of leaves outside your window, the beauty of the landscape within your view. Consider how God made you. Think of how your body works—your eyes and ears, your arms, legs, fingers and toes, your brain.

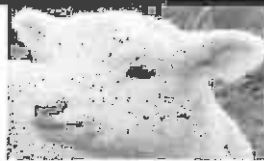
However, God did not make the world and then stand back as a disinterested observer far removed from it all. He is watching over it all. He continues to care for us by providing for all our needs.

Sadly, we often don't thank him for what he has done for us. We forget him. For that, God has every right to turn his back on us. Amazingly, he still cares for us. More than that, he came down to us and saved us from our wayward ways. He came down in love in the person of his Son, Jesus, and rescued us. Jesus lived the perfect life of thanks that we should live. On the cross, he died the death we should die for our sins. He promises a new and perfect world where all who believe in him will live forever in perfect joy.

Is God up there? Yes, he is! And, thankfully, he was willing to come down here to save us so that, one day, we will see him face to face.



# Lost and Found



"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

June  
2020

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### CHANGE!

There sure have been a lot of changes lately! Who would have imagined a few short months ago that people would be staying home, social distancing, wearing masks in public, canceling graduations and Memorial Day parades? As the saying goes, along with death and taxes, change is one of the surest things in life. My family is looking at quite a few changes too, with my retirement from the full-time public ministry coming up. New location, new home, new church, new friends! So much change!

Change is a part of life. Some changes are good; some not so good. Think of all the changes that have taken place in your own life. Changes can be frightening when it's not your choice or under your control. Change can be frightening when you don't know what the end result will be. It's often said that as we grow older the less we like change.

That's why it's so reassuring to know our changeless, eternal God. The same God with the same attributes, with the same promises, with the same love as recorded over thousands of years in the Bible is the same God today. The same God whose unselfish love led Him to offer up His own dear Son on the cross outside Jerusalem totally for me and you is the same God of unselfish love who calls you and me and all believers His children today. The same God will bring us believers home to heaven. He promises it.

In this world of change rely on the God who promises to you, "I the Lord do not change." (Malachi 3:6)

Pastor Alois Schmitzer III

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### Something to think about...

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty." (Henry Ford)

## WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

At the May meeting of the church council the Outreach Committee reported that efforts are being made to update our church website. Youth confirmands were ratified for communicant membership: Cohen Hamlin, Railen Hassan, Evan Kretz, Justin Rausch, and Kylie Smith. Confirmation Day was postponed to June 7.

Ben Baumann was transferred to Faith Lutheran Church in Fond Du Lac, WI. The decision was made to begin in-person worship at church on May 24, with coronavirus safety precautions in place. The online recorded services will continue. Pastor Nowak and Jenny Boehm are planning for VBS this summer, likely the week of July 20. Pastor James Mattek will be guest preacher and presenter on November 22. He is the head of Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service.

An anonymous \$100,000 donation was given by a Trinity member. The Stewardship Committee will meet to discuss how to invest/deposit it. A \$25,000 memorial for Trinity Lutheran School was also received from the estate of Bob Schroeder.

The School Board reported that MLC graduate Sam Koepsell was assigned for one year to serve as our 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Sam is married with 3 children. The Trustees received a request from a neighbor to obtain a piece of church property. A special voters meeting will be held after the late service on May 31 to consider this matter. Trustees have also been working to revamp rooms for the expanded Pre-School, Kindergarden, and library.

A door offering will be gathered for departing Principal Justin Eternick and wife Sarah on June 7 & 14. Trinity's application for the Payroll Protection Plan was approved. The Elders will make a recommendation to the Semi-Annual Voters meeting in July regarding the calling of a second pastor.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Join us for "Rainforest Explorers" VBS on **July 20-24 from 6:00-8:00 PM**. The rainforest is a wild place. To make it through this unknown world safely, kids need a guide who can keep them on the right path. Kids will learn how Jesus is our ultimate guide in the rainforest and in life with five interactive Bible lessons, music, games, crafts, and snacks. Registration is open for children **ages 3-11**. Register online at [tlcjenera.org](http://tlcjenera.org) or pick up fliers and registration forms from the deacons. We are limiting the group sizes this year, so please register soon to save your spot. Questions—contact Jenny Boehm (262)391-7994 or [mwmtrinity@tlcjenera.org](mailto:mwmtrinity@tlcjenera.org).

**VBS BOX:** If you are not comfortable sending your child(ren) to an in-person VBS this summer, you can also register for a "VBS box." We will prepare a box with the lessons, crafts, and materials for you to do your own VBS from the safety of your home. You can choose this option when you register online at [tlcjenera.org](http://tlcjenera.org) or fill out a paper registration form from the deacons. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Boehm (262)391-7994 or [mwmtrinity@tlcjenera.org](mailto:mwmtrinity@tlcjenera.org).

**TRINITY OWLS** will meet on Tuesday, June 23, at 9:00AM to finish painting the fence in back of the parsonage that we began last fall. Please bring your brushes, rollers and pans, and dropcloths and lend a hand.

**RETIREMENT** There will be a retirement service for Pastor Schmitzer on July 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00p.m. Silas Schmitzer will be preaching and Andrew Naumann will be presiding. We are planning on having a meal after the service. Due to health concerns, the food will be catered in prepackaged boxes. It will be similar to the Relay for Life chicken dinner. If you don't sign up, you most likely will not receive a meal. Please RSVP by calling the office (419.326.4685) or emailing to [tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org](mailto:tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org). A sign-up sheet will also be available in the back of church and in the basement when we begin worshipping again.

**THE FAREWELL COMMITTEE** is seeking photographs of Pastor Schmitzer. Please send any snapshots you may have with or of Pastor to the school office. You may also email them to [tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org](mailto:tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org). The photos will be presented in a slideshow at Pastor Schmitzer's retirement. If you would like your photos back, please put your name and phone number on the back.

**GRADUATES:** If you are graduating from high school or college this year, please contact the secretary at 419-326-4685 or [tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org](mailto:tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org) by June 12. Please list the date, school, and your future plans (for high school students) or degree (for college students).

**WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? continued**

**RECORDED SERMONS** will continue to be posted to YouTube on Sunday evenings, for those who are not comfortable returning to church just yet. Please check the church website, [www.tlcjenera.org](http://www.tlcjenera.org), for links to the videos. You may also find all up-dates posted on the website. Sermons and devotionals are also posted to Facebook on the "Trinity Lutheran School" page and the "Friends in Christ Trinity Lutheran Church Jenera, Oh" page.

**LADIES AID SURVEYS** are available for completion. If you have not received one by email, please contact the school office at 419.326.4685. If no one answers, please leave a message with your name and mailing address. One will be mailed to you.

**A DOOR OFFERING** will be gathered for Principal Eternick on June 7 + 14. He accepted a call to Portland, OR. The Eternicks plan to move in mid-June.

**TLS HAS A NEW TEACHER!** Samuel Koepsell has been assigned to serve as 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Trinity. Sam and his wife, Ky, have three sons; Victor, Gideon, and Samson.

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**STEWARDSHIP -- Treasure God's Gift of Rest**

*<sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work... <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*  
(Exodus 20:9-11)

One of the most overlooked blessings that God has given us is the gift of rest. As we look at this blessing and start to unwrap all of the meanings it has for us, "rest" can be a source of stress rather than relief. "When can I take off work? Can I afford a vacation? Who will get everything done around the house if I take a break? Am I getting enough sleep at night? Am I handling my life's burdens in a healthy way?" It can be daunting to plan and take a much needed rest.

But if we don't relieve the stress somehow, our bodies break down. We may have depression and anxiety, which can lead to panic attacks and even heart attacks. Our loving God, in his wisdom, has created our bodies that need rest.

God specifically ordered his people to rest. He would give them a huge task, such as taking possession of a land from a hostile enemy. No small feat for anyone, even an entire nation. Plans could change in the blink of an eye and need to be adjusted just as quickly. Battles that were previously thought to be won are fought again and again. During all of this, when you manage to get some kind of brief reprieve, you might second-guess your decisions. This was a monumental task that God set before his people, but as we know, he was with them.

**Stewardship -- continued**

We may think, "Well, the things I need to get done aren't nearly as big as taking down an enemy nation. If I don't take a break, it won't be the end of the world."

Not so fast, brothers and sisters, he has assigned us an even bigger task than the Israelites. We get to share the Word with people around us. We share this message with the future generations through our school. As we prepare for the coming year, the task we face draws many parallels to the conflicts of the Old Testament. Plans can and will change. As soon as a certain aspect of the plan are solidified, we have to turn around and change it again. As all of this rages on, during the far and few between quiet moments that we do get, we spend over analyzing and second guessing our decisions.

Suddenly, when burnout strikes, we're too late to recognize the lack of rest in our lives, as well as the lack of trust in our almighty God. He tells us that disregarding rest is a sin. When we claim that we don't need rest, we're saying "God, I can't possibly rest now. Do you see what's happening in the world these days? Have you seen my life? How can you demand I rest?" When this is our attitude, we are (if unintentionally) telling God he was wrong to rest after creation. Do we dare?

God's reason for commanding rest is so that he can strengthen our trust in him. When trust him, handing him our worries, we realize that his strength to defeat our problems comes from Christ alone, certainly not from our earthly planning. What a relief to know we aren't alone!

In the Old Testament, God told the Israelites to rest specifically on the Sabbath Day, which was on a Saturday. Living in the New Testament, we are able to choose the day, and it can change from week to week. Typically, it's Sunday, since many businesses are closed or have shortened hours – and we worship on that day also. If you do work on Sundays, God still wants you to find that day where you rest from your physical labors and trust in him to care for you.

He wants you to place into his hands the unfinished tasks, the unfulfilled labors and see how he blesses the work you have already done. His mighty hand take the fruits of our labor and produce results without our own intervention. And when we do rest, God also blesses it. Afterwards, we are able to have a renewed sense of energy to tackle the tasks that he has placed before us.

Brothers and sisters, enjoy the rest God has given you. You're not unproductive. You're trusting God. You're not being lazy. You're learning to trust in him. You're watching how God has blessed you and continues to bless you, even without any of your help.

In Christ,

Pastor Matt Nowak

Trinity Lutheran Church & School

# June 2020

**May '20**

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**July '20**

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> Elders 7:00	<b>2</b> School Board 7:00	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Communion Confirmation Day Adult, Teen BC 9:20	<b>8</b> MI District Convention On-Line	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Outreach Committee 6:00	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Children's Lesson Drive-by Farewell for Eternicks 7:00-8:30	<b>15</b> Church Council 7:00	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Communion Adult, Teen BC 9:20	<b>22</b> Newsletter Articles Due	<b>23</b> OWLS Fence Painting 9:00	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> WELS Connection Adult, Teen BC 9:20	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<u>Sunday Worship</u> 8:00 & 10:30 AM Bible Class 9:20 AM	<u>Money Counters</u> James Miles 05.24 - 06.06 Clark Inniger 06.07 - 06.20 Ron Bower 06.21 - 07.04		Monthly Flower Chairperson	Lutheran Chapel on the air Sundays 11:00 AM 1230 AM Dial (WCWA)

### GREETERS FOR JUNE

	<u>Early Service</u>	<u>Late Service</u>
7	Barb Roidt & Ruth Marquart	Charlotte Brown & Janice Rausch
14	Joe & Jean Spaeth	Joyce Beach & Loretta Jansen
21	Dwight & Norma Rader	Gary & Becky Mitchell
28	Tom & Becky Smith	Richard & Ruth Johnson

### NEXT MONTH

19	Pastor Schmitzer's Farewell
20-24	VBS

### SCHOOL CALENDAR


### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6	Joyce Beach
11	Darl Deeds
11	Jacob Miles
13	Tom Smith
17	Ray Curth
24	Pamela Deeds

### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

7	Pastor Alois & Ruth Scmitzer
9	Steven & Wendy Krahn
15	Jerry & Joyce Beagle
15	Pastor Matt & Megan Nowak
15	John & Esther Spaeth
29	David & Linda Baumann
20	Dwight & Norma Rader

\*If we missed your Birthday or Anniversary and would like it added, call the office at 419-326-4685.

### EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pastor Schmitzer: [bschmitzer@juno.com](mailto:bschmitzer@juno.com)  
Pastor Nowak: [pastormattn@gmail.com](mailto:pastormattn@gmail.com)  
Church: [tlc.jenera@gmail.com](mailto:tlc.jenera@gmail.com)  
School: [tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org](mailto:tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org)  
Webpage: [tlcjenera.org](http://tlcjenera.org)

**Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church**

301 N. Main St.  
Jenera, OH 45841

June  
2020

Pastor Schmitzer: 419-326-4402

Pastor Nowak: 419-302-5271

School: 419-326-4685

Church: [tlc.jenera@gmail.com](mailto:tlc.jenera@gmail.com)

School: [tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org](mailto:tlsoffice@tlcjenera.org)

Return address requested.

Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM  
Sunday School & Bible Class 9:20 AM



We're on the Web!  
[tlcjenera.org](http://tlcjenera.org)

## Memory Gem from God's Treasure

(for parents, children – everyone young and old!)

"Let him who boasts  
boast in the Lord."  
(1 Corinthians 1:31)

## PROVERBS OF SOLOMON

Have you read the  
book

of Proverbs lately?

You will find

God-breathed wisdom  
from the wisest man

"Do not forsake  
wisdom, and she  
will protect  
you." (4:6; such  
wisdom in the Bible  
is the wisdom that  
comes from God!)