



Please visit our webpage at [tlcjenera.org](http://tlcjenera.org)

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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## Hallelujah!

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

This month's favorite Bible verse is: **Psalm 118:1**

***"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."***

Psalm 118 is an "Hallelujah" psalm, meaning "Praise the LORD!" Long ago, God's people sang the words of this psalm toward the end of their Passover meal. It was a special occasion time for the God's people to remember how he had rescued their nation from slavery in Egypt; it was a picture of God's rescue of all people from their slavery to sin. The Passover meal reminded each generation how much God truly loved them.

Would disaster continue to interrupt their lives? Would prosperity be withheld? Would earthly death continue to pick away at their loved ones? Yes, yes, and yes. Yet the people sang out praise and thanks to their merciful God for deliverance from all these trials of life. . . and more: "Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved" (Ephesians 2:4,5).

It is the custom in North America to gather this time of year to celebrate *Thanksgiving*. Whether you are with family, friends, or celebrating alone, take the time to give thanks to our Savior-God for his mercy and deliverance from death through Jesus. Jesus shows us that God is good. Even when times are tough, Jesus proves that his love for us endures forever.



# Lost and Found



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

October  
2020

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers righteousness on you. (Hosea 10:12)*

### Break the Ground

You can't just plant anywhere you want right away. You need to work the ground just right, so that you can grow something there. If you don't till anything up, especially fresh land that has never been planted on, you can have weeds take over your garden or your field. If you overwork it, then you can compact the soil and strip away too many nutrients.

Just like a brand new field, we can develop weeds of sin that have roots deep within our soil. If we let them get out control, we will find that these weeds choke out our faith. They run the show. It's what they were doing in the land of Israel. Sins that had festered over time were choking out the good seed of faith.

Likewise, in our own lives, have we let weeds get out of control? Maybe it's not so much in our lives, but in the lives of our families. Maybe of the people in my community. Do I let the sinful weeds grow without saying a word or taking any actions?

Brothers and sisters, the time is now to break up our unplowed ground. Examine the weeds that are in your field. Is it apathy? Despair? Fear? Doubt? Work it with the Law of God; break through that tough soil. Don't be afraid when God confronts your sin. God is taking that time to show you the righteousness he has cultivated in your life.

Plant the Word of God in your life today. Go to his Word. See how he has given you that righteousness that alone comes through the work and words of Jesus Christ. Fertilize that seed of faith with the righteousness that Christ has won. Watch it grow.

Yes, harvest time is coming, brothers and sisters. What we have sown, we will reap. What Christ has sown he will reap. Fertilize that word of God in your life, till up the soil overrun by weeds, and let your harvest show in a yield of love for God and those around you.

In Christ,

Pastor Matt Nowak

What's Going  
On Here?

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### PROVERBS OF SOLOMON

Have you read the  
book  
of Proverbs lately?  
You will find  
God-breathed

"Hatred stirs  
up  
dissension,  
but love  
covers over  
all wrongs."  
10:12

## WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

### **Outreach Committee Report**

Outreach committee reported that they had 40 people come to the bonfire on September 19th. They are planning for the Trunk or Treat to take place on October 30th. The rain date will be October 31st.

### **Pastor's Report**

Vicar Wenzel preached for September 27th and 29th at Trinity. He also did Bible Study between service on Sunday morning.

**Pastor Phil Henning** will preach for October 11th and October 13th.

**TLS faculty** has begun planning for Christmas Eve. They sent out a questionnaire to see how many children, they could expect for Christmas Eve this year.

**Public School Catechism Class** has started. It will be taught online this year. While we hit a few snags the first time around, we seem to be settling into the digital classroom.

**Pastor Byrant Laude** returned the call to serve as co-pastor. On September 27, under God's grace we called Pastor Philip Casmer of Christ the Lord in Brookfield, WI to serve as co-pastor.

### **Elders' Report**

Rick and Ruth Grihalva requested and received a release from membership, as they live in Indiana now. Pastor, Ruth and Preston Schmitzer requested and received a transfer to Christ Our Savior Lutheran in Rockford, MI. Steven, Jessica and Sara Krueger transferred from Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Mansfield, OH. Samuel, Kyara, Victor, Gideon, and Samson transferred in from St. Paul's Lutheran in New Ulm, MN.

**The council** approved the motion to continue Tuesday night services through the month of October. The services will start at 7 pm, instead of 7:30 pm.

### **Board of Education report**

Traci Hummer will resign as teacher at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. The council recommended to call an experienced teacher to fill the vacancy. They will also begin the process for calling a 7th & 8th grade teacher and principal.

**Pastor Nowak** will attend the Principal Conference in Southeast Michigan and Ohio in September and October.

**The Michigan District Teachers Conference** was cancelled this year. TLS will have school on October 7th. (It was a scheduled day off.) The Trinity Faculty will have an in-service day on October 8th. TLS will have no school on October 8th and 9th.

**Milk cooler died.** We ordered a new milk cooler.

### **Trustees report**

Bus 6 needed to replace the passenger door due to a rusted hinge. Bus 6 is also leaking oil and will need to be fixed. The School Board will look to see if we need to buy a new bus.

### **Accountant report**

The Synod forgave the August insurance payment and 4th quarter pension payments.

### **Other business**

The council is looking to form a projects committee to look at various projects we might have.

The land transfer that the church agreed to in May is almost complete and finalized.

**Ladies' Aid** is looking at changing their Constitution requirements for the Vice President. They will also be tabling the Easter Breakfast Committee for a year. If anyone would like to host the Easter Breakfast this spring, please contact [pastormattn@gmail.com](mailto:pastormattn@gmail.com). The next meeting is Monday, October 12th at 7:30. We will continue our bible study on prayer. All ladies of the church are welcome. We will meet in the sanctuary. Face masks are required, according to the governor's mandate

**Stewardship Committee** will meet in late October to plan the church budget for next year.

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

**BELL RINGERS:** We will begin regular practice on Wednesday's at 6:30, beginning on October 7. Masks are required. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Enderle at 419-306-8360.

**THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE** is hosting Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 30 from 5:30-7:30 PM. (Saturday, October 31 will be the rain date.) All activities will take place outside this year--including a cook out (possibly), pumpkin decorating, trunk judging, and crafts and games for kids. We need lots of help to make this outreach event a success! Please consider joining us in sharing our faith and creativity by decorating your trunk for an evening of fun or sign up to help with games or crafts. Sign up in the narthex! Save the date, and we hope to see you then!

**WHAT'S GOING ON AT SCHOOL??**

Each week in preschool our books, crafts, songs, games, handwriting practice, science experiments, math exercises, show and tell, and snacks are all based on the letter of the week. Highlights from our letters so far include: Letter A- floating apple boat races, Letter B- making blue playdough from scratch and blue balloon rockets, Letter C- making corn kernel shakers and the science behind corn popping before popping our own popcorn. The students have also enjoyed bringing our bible stories to life by acting out our daily bible story at the start of each day. We are definitely keeping busy!

The Kindergarten class is a remarkable group that has taken masks, plexiglass table dividers, and hand sanitizer in stride. Our Bible lessons so far have included God's special message for Mary through Jesus being baptized. They have been busy in art as they have done painting, decoupage, and scratch art. Another highlight this school year would be using Play-Doh to practice reading, writing, and spelling our sight words. They are off to an amazing start and look forward to learning and growing more this year!

The 13 first and second graders are adjusting to being back in the classroom full time. Having 2 grades in a classroom is a big change for the new 1<sup>st</sup> graders who are learning to share their class time with 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. A multi-grade classroom also means learning how to work quietly and independently and not interrupt. The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have the honor of being the classroom leaders by being good examples to the first graders. We're on our 4<sup>th</sup> week of school and working hard to get into our Covid-19 classroom routines.

Grades 3-4 are off to a great start in this school year! We are enjoying learning about the Christmas story in Christ Light--even though it is warm outside. Our math lessons have been a good review as we remember what we learned about adding and subtracting last year. In science we have started to explore God's world by classifying plants and animals and learning how God created those plants and animals to thrive in their environments. We have taken special note of how God created people in a special way as the crowning glory of his creation

Hello,

In the 5-6th room we have in science been looking at the Earth and its layers and earthquakes and volcanoes. We have been listening to the Hobbit at lunch and reading From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. In P.E. we have been working on Jump rope and have been trying to get the eggbeater to work.

The first month of school for 7th & 8th grade has been a great one. While getting to know their new teacher, Mr. Koepsell, the upper-graders at Trinity have learned about Native American & colonial history, sentence structure and noun forms in English, their identity as children of God in Religion, and a whole smattering of subjects in Math. They have read through the first half of *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, and have completed several Art projects using lines. After completing MAP Testing this week, the 7th and 8th graders will begin preparing for the month of October and the 2nd quarter.

# Trinity Lutheran Church & School

# October 2020

September '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

November '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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	
Communion Elders' meeting 2:00	MWM 9:30	MWM 9:30 Midweek Worship 7:00	School Chapel 8:20 Handbells 6:30 On-line Catechism 6:30	Teacher In-service No School Bible Info Class 6:30	Ohio Principals Conf No School	Ohio Principals Conf Soccer 9:00 At Zion, Monroe	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Children's Lesson	Board of Ed 7:00 Ladies Aid 7:30	School Picture Day Midweek Worship 7:00	School Chapel 8:20 Handbells 6:30 Outreach 6:30 Catechism 6:30:00 AM	Bible Info Class 6:30		Volleyball 9:00 At St. Stephen, Adrian	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Communion	MWM 9:30 OH Pastors Conf Powell Church Council 7:00	MWM 9:30 OH Pastors Conf Powell Worship 7:00	School Chapel 8:20 Handbells 6:30 On-line Catechism 6:30	Bible Info Class 6:30		Volleyball 9:00 At Zion, Monroe	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
WELS Connection	Newsletter Articles Due Worship Committee 6:00	Midweek Worship 7:00	School Chapel 8:20 Handbells 6:30 On-line Catechism 6:30	Bible Info Class 6:30	Trunk or Treat	Trunk or Treat Rain date	
1	2	<u>Money Counters</u> Gary Mitchell 09.26 - 10.10 Joe Spaeth 10.11 - 10.24 Adam Rettig 10.25 - 11.08				Monthly Flower Chairperson Linda Webb	Lutheran Chapel on the air Sundays 11:00 AM 1230 AM Dial (WCWA)

**GREETERS FOR OCTOBER**

	<u>Early Service</u>	<u>Late Service</u>
4	Joshuah & Ashley Breittigam	Warren & Marilyn Pratt
11	Jim & Jane Smith	Mike & Jill Woodward
18	James & Deb Reichley	Mark & Jane Boehm
25	John & Janet Weihrauch	Jerry & Joyce Beagle

**NEXT MONTH**

14	Ohio Academic @ Beautiful Savior, Grove City
24	Parent/Teacher Conferences (evening)
25- 27	NO SCHOOL-Thanksgiving break
26	Thanksgiving Day Service

**BIRTHDAYS**

4	Traci Hummer
8	Jim A. Smith
11	Doug Stahl
18	Julia Lisanti
26	Brooke Anspach
27	Savannah Schara
28	Dean von Stein
30	Steve Ritter
31	James Miles
31	Mark Sands

**ANNIVERSARIES**

4	Joshua and Amanda von Stein
15	Bryan and Natalie Miller
20	Todd and Veronica Sherman
27	Marvin and Jean Ann Ritter

**EMAIL ADDRESSES**

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)**

**Congregational Status / Pastor Needs**  
**Trinity, Jenera, OH**  
**Meeting Date: August 20, 2020**

**THE CONGREGATION:**

Souls:	600	Communicants:	399	Voters:	110		
LES:	41	own:	32	Sister Cong:	4	Mission:	5
Preschool:	16	own:	11	Sister Cong:		Mission:	5
Day Care:		Own:		Sister Cong:		Mission:	
Attending Synodical Schools:		Attending Area Lutheran HS					
Year Congregation founded:	1883	Average age of members:		45			

Status of Congregation: **Self-supporting** / Mission /

1. List what you think are the real strengths of your congregation:

- a. *Christan Day School*
- b. *Members volunteer to serve*
- c. *Support of preschool and early childhood programs*
- d. *God's Word taught in truth and purity*
- e. *Members financially support church and school*

2. List areas in which you think your congregation needs to make better use of its resources and opportunities for doing the Lord's work:

- a. *Getting better involvement of youth and keeping confirmed young people*
- b. *Better use of outreach resources*
- c. *More interaction with community*
- d. *Member training and encouraging people to get outside comfort zone*
- e. *Better use and promotion of school for all ages*

3. How would you complete this sentence: "The word or phrase that would best describe the current mood/spirit/personality of our congregation is *hopeful, yet uncertain*."

4. What comments and thoughts do you have about your congregation in the following areas?

<i>Unity / cohesiveness - in faith, but not socially - room for improvement</i>
<i>Mission-mindedness - improving, but lack of focus</i>

Communication - <i>poor, church members don't know needs of church or school</i>
Financial stewardship - <i>ok. spending can be improved</i>
CMO - Congregational Mission Offering - <i>good, but could be better</i>
Support of her Lutheran Elementary School - <i>excellent</i>
Congregational structure (Constitutional / Bylaw organizational set up) - <i>good, but revision is needed</i>
Use of congregational structure - <i>we are working through constitution and bylaw changes</i>
Members confidence in / satisfaction with their lay leaders - <i>good</i>
Long range planning - <i>needs work</i>
Member involvement in and/or support of congregation work, special projects, programs - <i>could use improvement, same people doing the work</i>
Member commitment to and involvement in evangelism efforts that are: <i>outreach committee, but could use help</i>
formal - organized by and reported to the congregation - <i>yes, committee</i>
informal - talking to friends, relatives and neighbors - <i>could be better</i>
Carrying out church discipline - correcting, regaining & excommunicating - <i>adequate, good</i>
Being open / willing to change - <i>slow, difficult for some, needs improvement</i>
Harmony between congregation and called workers - <i>good, as far as we know</i>
The work of Bible Class teaching / planning - <i>fair or good, boring for teens, poor</i>
The need for working with the young people of the congregation - <i>needs more attention, parents need to help</i>
Your sense of the need for pastoral counseling skills - <i>needed, can't trust or relate</i>
Your sense of the administrative abilities within your congregation - <i>great secretary</i>
Sensitivity to tradition in worship forms and congregational policies - <i>very traditional, stuck in a rut</i>
Thoughts on the use of music in the worship service - <i>good, but need to update. divided between traditional and contemporary</i>

5. How would you complete these sentences:

- a. If I could add or change just one thing to improve my congregation's service to its Savior and / or its attitude it would be: *open mind to change and better youth involvement*
- b. Two things for which our congregation MOST needs a pastor in addition to faithful preaching and teaching of God's word are:
  1. *relating to youth from 18 to 35 years old*



2. *organizing, getting volunteers motivated*

6. The greatest challenge that the Lord has helped us through as a congregation in the past year is: *remained strong during COVID, loss of called workers and adding preschool*

7. The greatest challenge that we face in the coming year (besides being blessed with another pastor) is: *navigating COVID, keeping and reaching out to members that have stayed away because of COVID*

PASTORAL NEEDS:

Gifts and Abilities:

Recognizing that extending a divine call is not like choosing items at a smorgasbord, list what you think are very desirable abilities or gifts for your next pastor to have:

a.	<i>organized</i>
b.	<i>relatable to youth</i>
c.	<i>good communication</i>
d.	<i>teaching God's Word in truth and purity</i>
e.	<i>willingness to work with all groups</i>

Other considerations:

1. Which is the more important consideration for your congregation as you consider calling a new man to serve as your pastor:

His age or

**His gifts and abilities?**

If you believe his age to be more important, remember that as a rule, a man with five years of pastor ministry experience is about 30 years old, a man with 15 years of experience is about 40 years old. This is tempered today by the number of second-career men who are training for and entering the public ministry.

\_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ years

2. How would you complete this sentence: The two things to which I think a pastor of this congregation should give top priority each week after preparations for preaching and teaching are:

1. *outreach and inreach to young people - social media*

2. *personal connection with community*

3. What other comments or information would you think is helpful as I draw up a Divine Call list for you? *good people skills with an understanding for small community - Jenera has a unique feel to it - a larger congregation with a rural congregation mindset - almost everyone has a family connection to everyone else*

## Receipt of Call

Dear brothers and sisters at Trinity,

Please know that yesterday, by telephone, I received notice of the call you extended to me on Sunday, September 28, 2020. I look forward to receiving the packet of call/congregational information in the mail this week.

As I deliberate, I will be in contact with various leaders at Trinity, but I also welcome your thoughts via email ([pcasmer@christthelordbrookfield.org](mailto:pcasmer@christthelordbrookfield.org)). In addition, I ask for your prayers on a few fronts: that God would bless his Church overall, that he would give me wisdom from Christian counsel and the insights of his Word to weigh out the two calls I now hold, and that he might use me, in whichever place, to be a blessing to his people.

In the meantime, I will pray that God bless your church as you seek a new associate pastor. It is always difficult in different ways to fill a long-time pastor's place. May God bless you as we walk together through this strange time in world history and as we move toward the encouragements of the End Time season. Christ is King and he rules with truth and grace!

Blessings in Jesus' name,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip J. Casmer', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Pastor Philip J. Casmer



**Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church**

301 N. Main St.  
Jenera, OH 45841

**October  
2020**

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)

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**Memory Gem from God's Treasure**  
(for parents, children—everyone young and old!)

"Those who live in his shadow will again raise  
grain, and they will blossom like the vine."  
(Hosea 14:7)