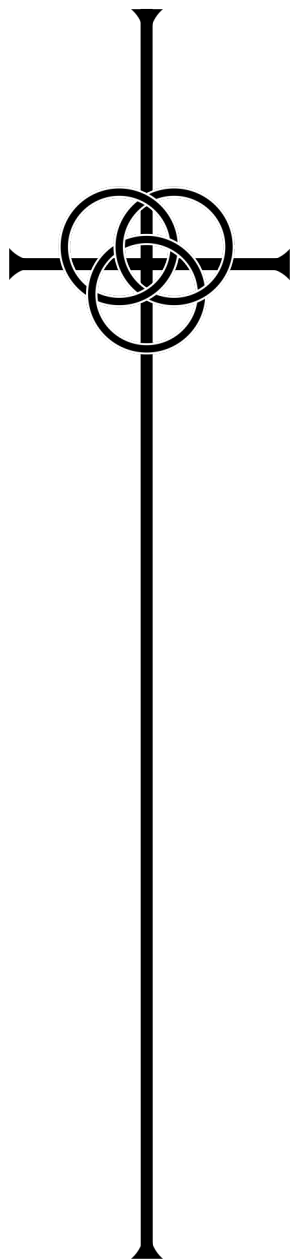


LIFE TOGETHER

RECEIVING GOD'S GIFTS ✝ SHARING GOD'S GIFTS



Dearest Saints of Holy Trinity,

As the harvest season comes upon us all, you have my prayers for safety, rest, yield, and sabbath at the last. If you are a farm widow, you also have my prayers. If you are neither farmer, nor farmer's wife, nor farmer's son or daughter, you also have my prayers simply because I am your pastor and I love you and pray for you!

Let us all remember the great call to prayer our Lord has initiated in Baptism. If we are children of the heavenly Father, after all, let us talk to him, flee into his loving embrace with every concern, let him laugh and weep with us, ask him for all that is good, and demand from him all that he has promised both to give and to do. This is the beginning of hallowing his name, and not misusing it.

Prayer is no abstract. It really does work! God always hears, and God always acts. What business do we have being slothful about our prayers? It does us no good (it harms, in fact), and it saddens the Father.

No matter who you are or what you do, remember St. Paul's admonitions to pray for all people and to pray without ceasing. Take the time to pray for those in the field, those in the classroom, those in the workplace, those at home, and even for your pastor. The prayers are mutual, I assure you.

Let's keep living together as this beautiful body of Christ, with him at the head. Let's keep living together as little planets in orbit around the Son. Let's keep being the Church.

In Christ,

Pastor Ferguson

Requiescat in Pacem:

Joy and Hope in the Prayers for the Dead

Pastor Ferguson

Another pastor recently lamented his experience attending a funeral mass at the local Roman Catholic church. One complaint was that the mass was performed for a practicing Muslim, but because the Muslim had been baptized a Catholic as an infant, it did not matter that he had renounced the Faith and bound himself to a false confession. The greater complaint was that the priest had the audacity to pray for the dead. “I’m so glad to be a Lutheran,” this pastor said, “who confesses the truth and who knows that praying for the dead is wrong.”

No doubt many well-meaning Lutherans were either taught by well-meaning pastors or came to the well-intentioned conclusion themselves that, as this pastor said, Lutherans do not pray for the dead. Yet, the simple fact of the matter is that Lutherans *do* pray for the dead.

Every Lutheran congregation and every Lutheran pastor holds an unconditional subscription to the Lutheran Confessions. This means that all teaching within the Lutheran church is bound to those fundamental expressions of the Faith. To preach or teach or act or live contrary to those Confessions is to forsake the Lutheran church. These Confessions have two interesting statements concerning the prayers for the dead, found specifically within the Apology of the Augsburg Confession regarding the Mass (Article XXIV).

The first is a general statement: “We know that the ancients spoke of prayer for the dead. We do not prohibit this, but we do reject the transfer . . . of the Lord’s Supper to the dead” (Ap XXIV 94). In other words, the Reformers acknowledged the longstanding practice in Christian history of praying for the dead (referenced by “the ancients”), and were happy both to affirm and to perpetuate it. Even if this is an overly generous interpretation of the Apology, we must still concede at the very least that we as Lutherans do not prohibit prayers from the dead, because those are the words used by our confessions. Though, we do not believe in communing the dead, or in somehow transferring a living Christian’s reception of the Sacrament to the dead.

Still, any questions about meaning and interpretation are addressed with the second statement. Only a few paragraphs later in this same Article, the reformers stated that the third century heretic Arius asserted, among many Christological heresies that ultimately gave birth to the Nicene and Athanasian Creeds, “that prayers for the dead were useless.” The Lutheran comment on Arius’ belief that such prayers are useless was this: “We do not support Arius” (Ap XXIV 96). This means that we do believe that prayers for the dead are not only permissible, but also efficacious.

These are the only binding statements, which are in themselves enough. However, Luther spoke highly of prayers for the dead in many of his writings, as did theologian Johann Gerhard. Martin Chemnitz even defended Judas Maccabeus’ prayers for the dead in the book of 2 Maccabees, provided they were prayers for preservation, grace, and mercy to those departed. Yet, there are many more examples of these prayers much closer to home. The funeral liturgy begins with, and includes throughout, prayers for the deceased and all who have departed in the faith. The committal includes prayers for the deceased. The commendation of the faithful departed during the celebration of the Feast of All Saints is a special prayer for our deceased brothers and sisters that sits within the larger Prayer of the Church.

The most intimate example, however, is what you hear at the end of every funeral homily: those familiar words, *Requiescat in pacem*, “rest in peace.” These words are not well wishes. They are a prayer for God’s peace to the departed as they slumber and await the resurrection.

Perhaps you still are uncomfortable with prayers for the dead, like that pastor. If you are, my question is simple: what do have to lose by doing so? If prayer is, among much else, calling upon God for his promises as dear children to their dear Father, why would you not take advantage of such a great gift for all your loved ones who await Jesus’ return, including those who now slumber? It is a great comfort to pray that God would grant eternal, peaceful rest to those we love with those simple words, *requiescat in pacem*. It is a great comfort to know that we can pray for those like the suicide victim, the infant who died *in utero*, the recent convert who dies while undergoing instruction, the baptismal candidate who dies before receiving the Sacrament, knowing that God will hear us and act for Christ’s sake. It is a great comfort to pray to the God who is outside of time, knowing that he has the power to apply such prayers retroactively for the benefit of one dead in time.

Finally, it is a great joy to know that the Church prays as one body, for one body, for eternity. Death does not stop the Church’s love. Death does not silence the Church’s prayers. Death does not stop the work of God. Therefore, the prayers we offer for the dead also serve to reinforce the hope of us living in God’s preservation of his saints, and in the resurrection of the body yet to come.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. *Requiescat in pacem*. Amen.

THIS MONTH AT HOLY TRINITY

Food Pantry Donations

Please help to provide for our hungry neighbors in need by donating goods to the food pantry. This is an easy addition to your regular monthly alms.

Food pantry needs for the month of October include jam, jelly, mac & cheese, Jello, pudding, and canned chicken.

For more information contact Debbie Ohlensehlen

LWML Nut & Candy Sales

Anyone interested in purchasing nuts and candy can use the order forms found on the LWML table in the narthex. Orders are due October 16th.

The Shop Sponsors 911 Luncheon

October 13th

12:00 p.m.

The Shop is sponsoring a 911 luncheon on October 13th at 12:00 p.m. Area churches are asked to provide a portion of the meal and Holy Trinity has been volunteered to provide desserts. Anyone willing to donate desserts can contact Leisa Biermann or Teresa Russell.

LWML St. Joseph Zone Fall Rally Ingathering

October 21st

9 a.m.—1 p.m.

The St. Joseph Zone fall rally is October 21 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Smithville, MO. More information can be found at the LWML table

Missouri LLL District Convention

October 21st

9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

Come to the Missouri LLL District Convention on Saturday, October 21 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 700 NE Chipman Road in Lee's Summit. The guest speaker Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker of the Lutheran Hour, will be presenting on *Gifted for More* the latest research in the Lutheran Hour Ministries—Barna partnership. LHM—Madagascar director, Daniel Andriajanaka will share an update on LHM ministry efforts in Madagascar. All are welcome to attend Saturday evening or Sunday morning Worship Services at St. Matthew to hear a special message from our guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler.

Doors open at 9:00 a.m. with the convention beginning at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be included with the convention concluding at 2:30 p.m. Please register by October 16 for a meal and seat count. Registration fee is \$15 per person (includes lunch).

For hotel reservations at the Best Western—Lee's Summit, contact Brian Mitchell, MO LLL Convention Chairman by phone: 816-525-6016 or email: mkbmitch306@sbcglobal.net. The room is \$135 per night—make your reservation through Brian to forgo the state sales tax.

Everyone is a gift, everyone has gifts, everyone is called, and everyone can grow. Register today! Complete the registration form and mail to Brian Mitchell, 306 SW White Ridge Dr., Lee's Summit, MO> Make checks payable to Missouri LLL District.

Anniversaries of Baptism

- 5 Barb Heitman
- 7 Teresa Russell
- 10 Shaun Kent
- 11 Seth Oswald
- 14 April Voltmer
- 14 Tabitha Waigand
- 15 Cameron Biermann
- 17 Emmie Voltmer
- 17 Gena Livengood
- 18 Haylee Heits
- 19 Heath Biermann
- 20 Melissa Geib
- 21 John Oswald
- 27 Sophie Biermann
- 28 David Thurnau
- 29 Tyler Heits
- 31 Andrew Voltmer
- 31 Marla Voltmer

Birthdays

- 3 April Voltmer
- 4 Cindy Lewis
- 4 John Oswald
- 5 Greg Biermann
- 8 Leisa Biermann
- 9 Dennis Thurnau
- 11 Ronald Ideker
- 15 Cameron Biermann
- 16 Tyler Heits
- 18 Kathy Haer
- 19 Gailen Robbins
- 20 Andrew Voltmer
- 24 Letitia Oswald
- 26 Jim Krueger
- 26 Stacey Voltmer
- 27 Sophie Biermann
- 28 Jeff Livengood
- 30 Christina Marshall

Anniversaries of Marriage

- 6 Lynn & Marilyn Thurnau



Saints' Days and Commemorations

- 7 Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, *Pastor*
- 9 Abraham
- 11 Philip the Deacon
- 17 Ignatius of Antioch, *Pastor and Martyr*
- 18 St. Luke, *Evangelist*
- 23 St. James of Jerusalem, *Brother of Jesus and Martyr*
- 25 Dorcas (Tabitha), Lydia, and Phoebe, *Faithful Women*
- 26 Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann, and Paul Gerhardt, *Hymnwriters*
- 28 St. Simon and St. Jude, *Apostles*
- 31 Reformation Day

Serving This Month

Worship Preparation: Teresa Russell

Ushers: Dennis Thurnau, Bill Thurnau

Greeters: Susan, Sophie & Johannah Biermann

Acolytes:

- 1 Lela Wright
- 8 Sadie Biermann
- 15 Mayson White
- 22 Emma Ohlensehlen
- 29 Kipton Waigand

Refreshments:

- 1 Marla Voltmer
- 8 Teresa Russell
- 15 Carolyn Ferguson
- 22 Tabitha Waigand
- 29 Jennifer Biermann

OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15 a.m.—Sunday School 10:30 a.m.—Service of Prayer & Preaching Board of Education Meeting	2	3 7:30 a.m.—Matins 6:00 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	4 7:30 a.m.—Matins Driver's License Testing 6:00 p.m.—Midweek	5 7:30 a.m.—Matins Council items due to Secretary's office	6 7:30 a.m.—Matins Pastor Gone to Conception Abbey	7
8 9:15 a.m.—Sunday School 10:30 a.m.—Divine Service Council Meeting	9	10	11	12	13 2:00–6:00 p.m.—Food Pantry Open	14
15 9:15 a.m.—Sunday School 10:30 a.m.—Divine Service Quarterly Voters Meeting Potluck	16 7:30 a.m.—Matins	17 7:30 a.m.—Matins 1:00 p.m.—Ladies Guild 6:00 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	18 7:30 a.m.—Matins Driver's License Testing 6:00 p.m.—Midweek	19 7:30 a.m.—Matins	20 7:30 a.m.—Matins Pastor Gone to Conception Abbey	21
22 9:15 a.m.—Sunday School 10:30 a.m.—Divine Service Board of Elders Meeting 5:30 p.m.—Youth Group	23 7:30 a.m.—Matins	24 7:30 a.m.—Matins 6:00 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	25 7:30 a.m.—Matins 6:00 p.m.—Midweek	26 7:30 a.m.—Matins	27 7:30 a.m.—Matins 2:00–6:00 p.m.—Food Pantry Open	28
29 9:15 a.m.—Sunday School 10:30 a.m.—Divine Service	30 7:30 a.m.—Matins	31 7:30 a.m.—Matins 6:00 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal				