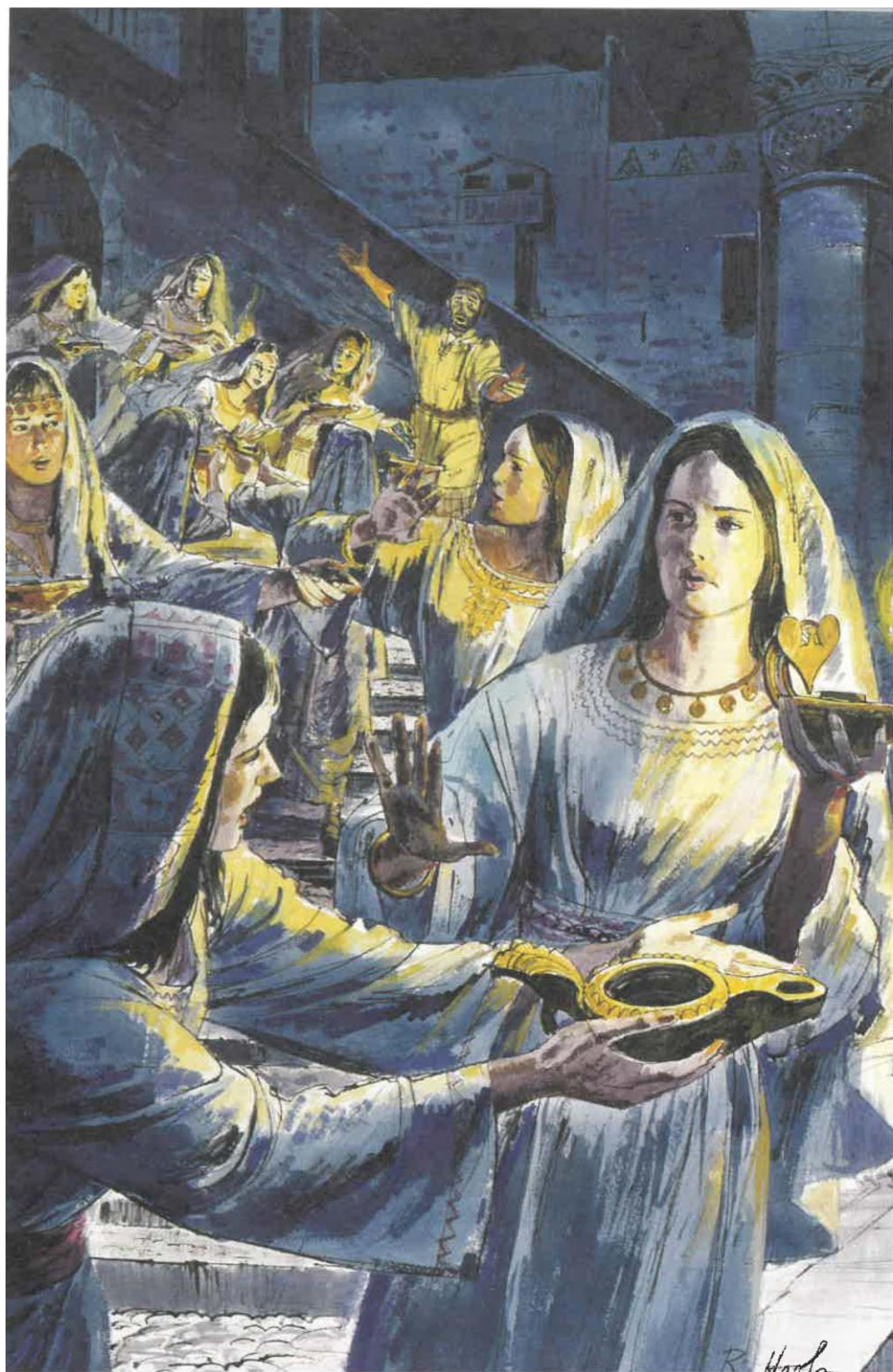




Trinity Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Rev. Andrew Preus – Pastor
Office: 573-237-3026 (Home) 563-329-0943
office@trinitynewhaven.com

The Last Sunday of the Church Year ***November 23rd -- anno Domini 2025***

Both the wise and foolish virgins fall asleep. But Jesus tells us to stay awake. What did the wise virgin do that the foolish did not do? They simply took oil with them in their vessels. But they both dozed off and fell asleep. At the end of the day some had oil while others didn't. Everyone gets set in his ways. Everyone dozes off and gets tired. This parable is not so much of a great example from the wise virgins. It is rather a warning that we know neither the day nor the hour of Christ's return.

So stay awake, just as Jesus says! The oil is such an essential part of the lamp, and yet it is so easy to take for granted. And this is how faith and God's Word are. Of course we believe in Jesus! Of course we are Christians! We learned this stuff in Sunday School, VBS, Christmas programs, Bible Camp, and Catechism class. How easy it is to treat it as such a little thing! As Jesus warns his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Stay awake! For the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Even the wise virgins have the weakness of their flesh. Even they doze off, not thinking so much about what the sermon was about or what God's Word says about this or that topic. Even Christians have the weak, sleepy flesh, which sinks into the comfort of preoccupation with a game or a pointless conversation. But when they are woken, will they have the oil? When the Son of Man returns, will he find faith on the earth? If this causes you discomfort and uncertainty in yourself, then good! It should! This is the urgency of the message of Christ! Now is the day of salvation! Now is when God's Word is still being proclaimed! The day will come when people will run to and fro and will not find the Word of the Lord (Amos 8:11-12). Until then, may we and our children find our only comfort and our only security in the gospel, which freely fills our lamps with oil! God's Word is certain. It teaches us the riches of God's mercy in Christ who gave his life into the depths of degradation for our sins. When we learn not to find certainty and security in anything else, then we learn to rest only in this sure Word. So whether we are awake or asleep, we live with him.

DEAR VISITORS: As a congregation in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, Trinity practices ***closed communion***, which means that we only commune those who are members in good standing of sister congregations and have been instructed in the Christian faith as it is summarized in Luther's Small Catechism. If you are a visitor and desire to commune at Trinity, **please speak to Pastor Preus before the service.**

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TLH #67

Invocation, Confession & Absolution

pg. 15

Please remain standing through the conclusion of the Collect of the Day.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, | says the LORD,*
thoughts of peace and not of | evil,

**Then you will call upon Me and go and | pray to Me,*
and I will listen | unto you. (Jeremiah 29:11-12)**

Lord, You have been favorable | to Your land;*

You have brought back the captivity of | Jacob.

Show us Your | mercy, LORD,*

and grant us Your sal- | vation.

Surely His salvation is near to those who | fear Him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.

Truth shall spring out | of the earth,*

and righteousness shall look down from | heaven. (Psalm 85:1, 7, 9, 11)

Gloria Patri - *Glory be to the Father*

pq. 16

Kyrie - *Lord, Have Mercy*

Gloria in Excelsis - *Glory to God in the Highest*

Salutation & Collect of the Day

Sit

Old Testament Reading - *Isaiah 65:17-25*

¹⁷ "I am going to create new heavens and a new earth. Then you will not remember the first things or think of them again. ¹⁸ But rejoice and be glad forever about what I'm going to create, for I'm going to make Jerusalem a delight and her people a joy.

¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in My people. No more will anyone hear in her a sound of weeping or a cry. ²⁰ No more will You find there a baby living only a few days or an old man who doesn't live all his days, for anyone dying at a hundred years old will still be a young man. If a man is cursed as a sinner he may live to be only a hundred.

²¹ They will build houses and live there. They will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² They will not build and have someone else live there or plant and have another eat it. But the life of My people will be like the life of a tree, and My chosen ones will enjoy what their hands produce. ²³ They will not work for nothing or have

children only to see them taken by a terrible death, for they are descendants the LORD has blessed, and their children as well.

²⁴ Then it will happen that before they call I will answer, and while they're still speaking I will listen.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like a cow. And dust will be the food of a snake. They will not harm or destroy anyone anywhere on My holy mountain," says the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



Gradual

The King's daughter shall be brought / to the King:*

the virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be / brought to You.

With gladness and rejoicing they / shall be brought;*

they shall enter the King's / palace. (Psalm 45:14–15)

Epistle - 1 Thess. 5:1-11

You don't need anyone to write and tell you exactly when things will happen, my fellow Christians, ² because you know very well the Lord's day will come just like a thief in the night. ³ When people say, "All's well and safe!" then destruction will come on them suddenly like labor pains on a woman who is going to have a baby, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you, my fellow Christians, are not in the dark that you should let that day take you by surprise like a thief. ⁵ You are all the children of light and of the day. We have nothing to do with night and darkness. ⁶ Let us not sleep, then, like the others, but be awake and sober. ⁷ People sleep at night and get drunk at night. ⁸ But let us who live in the daylight be sober and *put on* faith and love *as a breastplate* and the sure hope of *salvation as a helmet*. ⁹ God didn't appoint us to be punished by His anger but to be saved by our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ Who died for us so that, awake or asleep, we may live with Him. ¹¹ Then encourage one another and strengthen one another just as you are doing.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand



Alle- / luia.*

Alle- / luia.

**I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heav- / en from God,*
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Alle- / luia.** (Revelation 21:2)

Triple Hallelujah

Gospel - Matt. 25:1-13

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

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten girls who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ The foolish girls brought their lamps, but they took no extra oil. ⁴ The wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ But the bridegroom delayed, and so they all dozed off to sleep.

⁶ "At midnight there was a shout: 'The bridegroom is here! Come out and meet him!'

⁷ Then all those girls woke up and got their lamps ready.

⁸ "But the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil. Our lamps are going out.'

⁹ "The wise girls answered, 'There will never be enough for us and for you. Better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'

¹⁰ "While they were away buying it, the bridegroom came, and the girls who were ready went with him to the wedding, and the door was shut.

¹¹ "Later the other girls also came and said, 'Lord, lord, open the door for us!'

¹² " 'I tell you the truth,' he answered them, 'I don't know you.'

¹³ "Keep awake, then, because you don't know the day or the hour."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

pg. 22

Sit

Hymn of the Day - Wake, Awake, for Night is flying

TLH #609

Sermon

Stand

Offertory

pg. 22

Sit

Gathering of the Offering

Stand to sing as the offerings are brought forward

*We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

Please complete the
Record of Fellowship in the
folder in your pew.

General Prayer

Service of the Sacrament

Preface & Proper Preface

pg. 24

Sanctus - Holy, Holy, Holy

pg. 26

Lord's Prayer

pg. 27

Words of Institution

Pax Domini - Peace of the Lord

pg. 27

Agnus Dei - Lamb of God

pg. 28

Sit – Guests are asked to please speak with the pastor before communing.

Hymns during Distribution

- *Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior*

TLH #311

- *When Sinners See Their Lost Condition*

TLH #65

- *Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord*

TLH #307

Stand after the distribution

Nunc Dimittis - *Song of Simeon*

pg. 29

Thanksgiving & Collect

pg. 30

Salutation & Benedicamus

pg. 31

Benediction

pg. 31

Sit

Hymn to Depart - *The World is Very Evil*

TLH #605

Silent Prayer

Ushers for today: Jon Finck, Andrew Rethemeyer, Oscar Otten

Next week: Cory Swann, Easton Bailey, Jett Cronin

Greeter for today: David Otten

Next Week: Luke Otten

Acolyte today: Tripp Cronin & Colton Swann

Next Sunday: Colton Swann

Thanksgiving Eve: Sam Scheer

Flower and Altar Care: **December:** Ramona Ruediger

Prayer and Petitions: Ken Altemeyer, Rachel Preus, Wayne Scheer and Sue Eads, health concerns. Homebound: Virginia Behrens, Ray & LeeAnn Rohling, Diana Scheer, Paul & Sue Laune; Missionaries: Brandt Klawitter, mission work in Norway; Pastor James May (missionary to Africa); Rev. David Preus (missionary to Romania); Michael & Naomi Ersland, Lutheran Bible Translators. Immanuel Lutheran School, Washington; Camp Trinity; Luther Classical College; Christ the King Lutheran High School.

Birthdays and Annivers: John Otten 28th

(Please email office@trinitynewhaven.com if your birthday or anniversary has not been listed or was incorrectly listed, so the records can be updated with correct information)

Thanksgiving Eve Service @ 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 27th.

November Ladies Luncheon: The ladies of the church will be meeting for lunch on Friday, **November 21st** at **Miller's Grill**, Washington, at 12:30 pm. All ladies are welcome.

Hannah Rethemeyer will be leaving on **December 15** to help lead a Christmas VBS in **Kimuka, Kenya**, and is collecting donations to bring along! She's gathering **gently used children's clothing** (ages 5–14) and **donations** to help cover craft supplies and other small VBS needs. Please bring all items by **December 7**. There will be **two tubs in the back of the church** for clothing donations—once they're full, that's all that will be taken. Every bit helps make this a joyful Christmas for the kids in Kimuka! See the insert for more details. (If you prefer to write a check to Trinity designate to Hannah - Africa VBS)

No confirmation class/Wednesday School November 26.

Poinsettias are now being sold for the Ladies Aid to decorate the Church Chancel during Advent and Christmas. The poinsettias are \$10 each (6 red and 2 white) and will be delivered the second week of December. Please place your order by **December 3rd**. If you would like to purchase one, please fill out the insert in last week's bulletin and give it to Ladies Aid President Devin Eads or Treasurer Carolyn Scheer.

We are again providing **Christmas gifts** for the **Pregnancy Assistance Center**. If you wish to participate, please take an ornament from the tree in the narthex. Return unwrapped gift along with the tag by **December 14th**. Thank you for your help.

Installation of Sam Eckman as Principal of Christ the King Lutheran High School will be at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Port Hudson, at **3:00 pm** on Christ the King Sunday, **today**.

Trinity Youth (6th grade up through and including high schoolers and any college age youth who would like to help chaperone): Saturday, December 6th, 9 a.m.-11a.m. Church decorating, inside and out along with doing our semiannual Hwy 100 Trash pick up. Donuts for all in attendance as we *Serve with a Cheerful heart in Thankfulness for the Child whose birth we celebrate*.

Children's Christmas Eve Service practice will begin November 30 (9:00 am.). Practices will continue December 7, 14 and 21 beginning at **8:30 a.m.** Children and Youth through high school are welcome and encouraged to be involved. Dress rehearsal will be held after church on December 21st. The children will be treated to pizza immediately after church with the rehearsal starting around 11:45 a.m.

Christmas Caroling and Congregation Potluck soup and salad dinner December 14, right after church. Bring your favorite soup or chili along with salad or Christmas cookies. Dinner will begin immediately after church. Anyone interested in Christmas caroling to our shut-ins and other friends, will begin caroling after lunch until about 3:00 when they will conclude by singing at the New Haven Care Center.

Annual Washington Circuit Winter Youth Retreat will be held at Camp Trinity, **January 2nd & 3rd, 2026**. Youth mark your calendars now and plan to attend. It is for youth in Grades 6 through 12. Unchurched friends or members of other churches, also welcome. Some of our Washington Circuit Pastors will be leading the Bible Studies. The theme for this year is **FREELY BY HIS GRACE Romans 3:23-24**, It will begin at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and conclude by 3 p.m. on the 3rd. Registration forms available are on the bulletin board. Please register by December 22st.

Christ The King Lutheran High School is ready to receive donations of appreciated stock through our financial partner, Lange and Becker, Inc. (636-390-8339).

If you're in a position to contribute appreciated stock, CTKLHS deeply appreciates your consideration toward Christ-centered education in our community. Every gift brings us closer to our August 2026 opening!"

We're grateful for the incredible ways our community supports Franklin & Gasconade County's FIRST-EVER Lutheran high school!

Augsburg Confession - Article XXVIII. Of Ecclesiastical Power

61 There are monstrous disputations concerning the changing of the law, the ceremonies of the new law, the changing of the Sabbath-day, which all have sprung from the false belief that there must needs be in the Church a service like to the Levitical, and that Christ had given commission to the Apostles and bishops to devise new ceremonies as necessary to 62 salvation. These errors crept into the Church when the righteousness of faith was not taught clearly enough. 63 Some dispute that the keeping of the Lord's Day is not indeed of divine right, but in a manner so. They prescribe concerning holy-days, how far it is lawful to work. What else 64 are such disputations than snares of consciences? For although they endeavor to modify the traditions, yet the mitigation can never be perceived as long as the opinion remains that they are necessary, which must needs remain where the righteousness of faith and Christian liberty are not known.

65 The Apostles commanded Acts 15:20 to abstain from blood. Who does now observe it? And yet they that do it not sin not; for not even the Apostles themselves wanted to burden consciences with such bondage; but they forbade it for a time, to avoid offense. 66 For in this decree we must perpetually consider what the aim of the Gospel is.

67 Scarcely any Canons are kept with exactness, and from day to day many go out of use even among those who are the most zealous advocates of traditions. 68 Neither can due regard be paid to consciences unless this mitigation be observed, that we know that the Canons are kept without holding them to be necessary, and that no harm is done consciences, even though traditions go out of use.