



ONE IN CHRIST

Week of June 13 - June 19, 2022

Pastors Word



The Mystery of the Trinity Franciscan Father Richard Rohr, Center for Action and Contemplation
This week's Daily Meditations circle around the Mystery of the Trinity, the Christian faith's central and fundamental description of God. Father Richard Rohr writes:

The notion of God as Trinity is the foundation of all Christian thought, and yet it never has been—not truly! Our dualistic minds largely shelved the whole thing because we simply couldn't understand it. Most Christians do not consciously deny the Trinity, but as Karl Rahner (1904–1984) wrote, "We must be willing to admit that, should the doctrine of the Trinity have to be dropped as false, the major part of religious literature could well remain virtually unchanged." [1] What a sad statement on our fundamental understanding of God!

The Trinity reveals God more as a verb than a noun, but we rarely speak about God that way in either our preaching or our prayers. God is three "relations," which itself is mind-boggling for most believers. Yet that clarification opens up an honest notion of God as Mystery who can never be fully comprehended with our rational minds. God is dynamic—a verb rather than a static name. God is Interbeing itself, and never an isolated deity that can be captured by our mind.

Christians believe that God is formlessness (the Father), God is form (the Son), and God is the very living and loving energy between those two (the Holy Spirit). The three do not cancel one another out. Instead, they do exactly the opposite. Recognizing the Trinity as relationship itself opens conversations with the world of science. This surprising insight names everything correctly at the core—from atoms, to ecosystems, to galaxies. The shape of God is the shape of everything in the universe! Everything is in relationship and nothing stands alone. The doctrine of the Trinity defeats the dualistic mind and invites us into nondual, holistic consciousness. It replaces the argumentative principle of two with the dynamic principle of three. It brings us inside the wonderfully open space of "not one, but not two either." Sit stunned with *that* for a few moments.

The most ancient and solid theology of the Trinity proceeds from the Cappadocian (Eastern Turkey) Fathers of the third and fourth centuries and is then adopted by later Councils of the Church. Trinitarian theology says that God is a "circular" rotation (*perichoresis*) of total outpouring and perfect receiving among three intimate partners. Historically, most of us, except for mystics, preferred the pyramid model with God the Father at the top, which then got imitated and promoted all the way down! This is no exaggeration.

As Catherine LaCugna (1952–1997) presented in her monumental study of the Trinity [2], any notion of God as not giving, not outpouring, not self-surrendering, not totally loving is a *theological impossibility and absurdity*. *God only and always loves*. You cannot reverse, slow, or limit an overflowing waterwheel of divine compassion and mercy and a love stronger than death. It goes in only one, constant, eternal direction—toward ever more abundant and creative life! This is the universe from atoms to galaxies.

Prayer for our community:

God, Lord of all creation, lover of life and of everything, please help us to love in our very small way what You love infinitely and everywhere. We thank You that we can offer just this one prayer and that will be more than enough, because in reality everything and everyone is connected, and nothing stands alone. To pray for one part is really to pray for the whole, and so we do. Help us each day to stand for love, for healing, for the good, for the diverse unity of the Body of Christ and all creation, because we know this is what You desire: as Jesus prayed, that all may be one. We offer our prayer together with all the holy names of God, we offer our prayer together with Christ, our Lord, Amen.



WORSHIP

Sunday, June 19, 9:30 am Worship

Access Online Bulletin

Join us for Worship in the Sanctuary. Childcare available in the nursery at 8:30am.

OR

You may also attend virtually using the Zoom link or call the number noted in the bulletin to join us!

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/278217453?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/278217453?pwd=azE2dkNHVE9WSzdaeDM5Yzh4RGRvdz09)

[pwd=azE2dkNHVE9WSzdaeDM5Yzh4RGRvdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/278217453?pwd=azE2dkNHVE9WSzdaeDM5Yzh4RGRvdz09)

One tap mobile

+13126266799,278217453#,1#,971744# US (Chicago)

Call in From Any Phone: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 278 217 453

Password: 971744



As of Friday, June 3, 2022, the CDC has changed the Community Level for St Louis County to High, and advises wearing masks indoors. **See the CDC site here for more information.** [COVID-19 by County | CDC](#)

Please plan to wear masks when you are inside our building until the Community Level has returned to Medium.

Masks will be available at entrances if needed. If you feel unwell, please care for yourself and others by staying home, and we will be happy to see you when you return. Thank you for your commitment to caring for one another!

Stewardship & Offerings

We can continue to fund our church and the important work we're doing with a few easy clicks:

1. Visit [our donation website](#) directly or go to www.christwq.org and scroll down to the 'Give Now' button.
2. You may make a one time or recurring gift. There are NO FEES to withdraw directly from your bank account. Fees do apply for debit/credit card transactions.
3. Optional: set up a profile to be able to change your recurring gifts at any time or view your giving history.

If you prefer to make your offering by check or cash, there are mailing envelopes included in your offering envelope package.



In person Adult Forum will be held in the Fellowship Hall and will also be available on Zoom. If you choose Zoom just stay connected after the Sunday morning service. We anticipate a 10-15 minute break between the end of the postlude and the beginning of Adult Forum.

There will be no Adult Forums this summer but sessions will resume after Labor Day.

Vigil For Black Lives

Every Friday from 6:00-6:30, congregations on Lockwood join together to stand for black lives, in our community and beyond. We take a short half an hour each week to be visible on Lockwood with signs of solidarity with our black siblings. It is a small way for us to make it known that we stand against racism in all the ways it impacts all of us. Please join us!





After a two-year hiatus, Christ Lutheran joined Emmanuel Episcopal at Vacation Bible School last week. This year's VBS focused on the importance of community. Kids learned about how we can support our teachers, families and the environment as part of our Christian mission. CLC members who helped included Alena Horn (Service), Kersten Horn (Games), Lauren Butz (Shepherd), Pastor Meagan (Prayer) and Carolyn Crowe (Nurse). Junior Helpers included Anna MacIntyre, Claire Butz and Marc and Mattis Horn.

The Sacrament of Communion

One of the core parts of our weekly Worship together is the Sacrament of Communion. We come from all different traditions and experiences of when and how Communion is celebrated, and when and how a person receives Communion for the first time. Many of us have memories of the first time we participated in Communion. And we may have experienced receiving Communion in many different ways, from intinction, to common cup, to individual cups, to receiving only bread.

Everything changed as we journeyed through Covid together worshipping on Zoom, and began celebrating Communion together, at home. For some of our children, their first time receiving Communion took place during those days of Zoom worship, as they joined their families in communing. Some of us were creative with what elements we used for Communion, as we did not have shared bread and wine and used what we had available. One thing is for sure: even as our sanctuary altar remains and will always remain a sacred symbol of God's presence and abundance, our Communion table expanded, far beyond our sanctuary walls.

As a result, when we look around the sanctuary, we or our children may notice differences in how each family at Christ Lutheran recognizes First Communion, and when that takes place. That is part of the richness of our community—the diversity of experiences and practices we have among us, even as we share a common faith in Christ who invites us to the table.

As all of us reflect on the meaning of the Sacrament of Communion, and especially as parents consider when your child may be ready to participate in the sacrament, here are a few things our ELCA Lutheran tradition, and our scriptures, tell us about the Sacrament of Communion.

Jesus Christ is truly present in the sacrament of communion.

In our Gospels, at the Last Supper, Jesus says, "This is my body. This is my blood." The Augsburg Confession states: "It is taught among us that the true body and blood of Christ are really present in the Supper of our Lord under the form of bread and wine and are there distributed and received." The 'how' of Christ's presence remains as inexplicable in the sacrament as elsewhere. It is a presence that remains 'hidden' even though visible media are used in the sacrament. *Use of the Means of Grace 33*

The Sacrament of Communion and the Word of God go together in our Worship.

Communion is core to our Worship. We come together, each week, and are fed in Spirit and in body, as we hear God's promises proclaimed, are strengthened by those promises and body and blood of Christ. We are then sent forth to embody God's promises and share God's abundance with the world. *Use of the Means of Grace 34*

The age of first communion may vary, for each congregation and each child.

Jesus fed all who were hungry, whatever their age. Throughout scriptures, God always feeds God's people, without distinction. In the ELCA, congregations may choose to have a requirement of age and catechetical preparation prior to receiving Communion for the first time, or may commune children from infancy. For many families, receiving Communion for the first time is an important milestone in faith. The Communion table at Christ Lutheran will always be open to all who wish to receive. And, we will always respect the varying needs and preferences of people of all ages and experiences among us. *Use of the Means of Grace 37-38*

Catechesis and the Sacrament of Communion

Among the promises of Baptism, parents and sponsors promise to teach children about our faith as they grow. Along the way, as we celebrate Communion throughout our lives, our understanding of the sacrament grows and changes, and none of us can ever say that we fully understand it! In John 16, Jesus tells his disciples that he has more to tell us, but we can't bear it yet . . . but the Spirit will continue to guide and teach us as we grow. We as a community of faith carry out the promise to learn together so that children and adults continue to grow in our understanding of the scriptures and the sacraments. A class dedicated to learning and reflection about the Sacrament of Communion in particular will take place at least once a year, for children around 2nd grade or older to learn about the sacrament, whether they have been receiving Communion or not. A celebration for those students in Worship will recognize their continued learning about our faith. The next Communion class will take place in the fall of 2022. *Use of the Means of Grace 37-38*

If you wish to learn more, you can read about our sacraments in the ELCA's document *Use of the Means of Grace* [The Use of the Means of Grace \(elca.org\)](https://www.elca.org). You can also talk with Pastor Meagan for additional resources, or to ask any questions, or share your thoughts and experiences.

Fourth of July Celebration at Christ Lutheran

If you plan to park on the church lot the morning of July 4th, please arrive before 8am. Due to the Webster Groves Parade streets will be blocked off after that. Also, please remember that the additional spaces next to the Mead Center are no longer available. No barbecue this year, so participants are encouraged to bring food, snacks and beverages for their families or additional items to share (optional). Christ Lutheran will be offering cold water and use of restrooms again this year. We have volunteers in place for helping with that, but contact Dave Fey at davefey@me.com or 314-229-8033 if you plan to attend and would like to help with setup, cleaning of church grounds, etc.



If interested, Churches Together for Justice will be participating as a group in the Webster Groves Fourth of July Parade and are looking for more candy passer-outers and folks to walk in the parade. Please contact Kate Hoerchler to participate, katehoerchler@gmail.com.

Bible Study

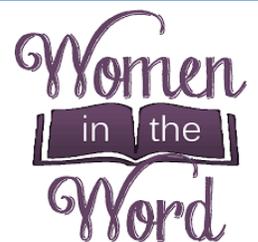
The Tuesday morning Bible study group will take a summer break until September.

When we resume, anyone is welcome to join us at any time. Just have one or more of your favorite Bibles with you, and prepare to enjoy our time together.



Women's Group

The women of Christ Lutheran are invited to join our meetings taking place the second Thursday of each month at 7pm. More details to come! Any questions? Reach out to Becca Jordan at beccajedwards@gmail.com.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please include the following people in your prayer life during this week.

ONGOING HEALTH CONCERNS: Those who are suffering from chronic pain & diseases, Shelly Madden, Linda Armstrong, Gege Brightman, Christine Austin, Kate and Brian Bates (John Hoffmann's sister and brother-in-law), Evan Deck, Helga Hayes, John Hoffmann, Bev & Al Marcus (friend of John Hoffmann), Michael McMullen (Greg McMullen's brother), Christy Monson (Step-daughter of Carolyn Lange), Donna Munger, Betsy Nielson (Nancy Lissant's sister), Doris & Harry Rahlfs (Karen Wood's parents), Flo Saeger, Joyce Traxler (Friend of Susan DeBusk), Shirley Wolf, Mary Stough (Sharon Hornbeck's aunt), and Wayne Wellman (Susanne Reimer-Fey's brother).

IN BLESSED MEMORY: For all of those who have died and all of those who grieve, that they may know the presence of God who grieves with us.

IN MILITARY SERVICE: Josh Duncan, Chris Hudson, Jesse Proctor, Scott Warr.



Join the new Justice Group forming at CLC!

We've been reading and discussing issues of diversity, equity and inclusion at Christ Lutheran, now let's get a solid group together to affect change! The main goal of the committee will be to focus on areas where we can make Christ Lutheran a more welcoming space and affect change in our community. Duties would include reaching out to council and other committees on issues of justice in the church, brainstorming ways to be more active in local justice issues, selecting books for congregation wide book studies, etc. Please reach out to Kate Hoerchler (314-805-1751, katehoerchler@gmail.com) if you would like to join this group.

CLC Suggestion Box

Have an idea for how Christ Lutheran Church can make your experience better? Submit an anonymous note at <http://freesuggestionbox.com/pub/stwuunh> and we will do our best to help!



ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS!

LET'S CELEBRATE JUNE ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS!

Congratulations and Best Wishes! Christ Lutheran family wants to celebrate you!

ANNIVERSARIES:

| | | | |
|-------|------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 06/07 | Perry Yee & Szu Ching Fu | 06/28 | Nesiah Yee |
| 06/07 | Mark & Carole Lewis | 06/29 | Kersten Horn, Jackson Jordan |
| 06/09 | Lis & Michael Erickson Meyer | 06/30 | Hamise Askew-Sunkara, Sandy Hoyer |
| 06/10 | Larry & Kathy Hill | | |
| 06/11 | Bill & Linda Griffith | | |
| 06/20 | Megan & Colin Meadows | | |
| 06/21 | Mark & Lynnae Ruff | | |
| 06/23 | Kathy & Jerry Kuziel | | |
| 06/25 | Susanne & Dave Fey | | |
| 06/27 | Paul & Stephanie Lenhart | | |
| 06/28 | Janet & Mark Rook | | |
| 06/30 | Betty & Woody Erickson | | |

BIRTHDAYS:

| | |
|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 06/01 | Katherine Mudd |
| 06/02 | Emma Schulte |
| 06/04 | Sarah Bender, Joan Rivas, Joshua Wood |
| 06/06 | Megan (Lewis) Pickett |
| 06/08 | Ward Holmes, Carolyn Lange |
| 06/10 | Reid Bartek, Erin Eftink |
| 06/12 | Anna Bussler, Luke Bruns |
| 06/15 | David Ciorba |
| 06/16 | Evelyn Butz |
| 06/17 | Sam Allen |
| 06/18 | Evan Deck |
| 06/19 | David Cramer, Jordon Joern |
| 06/22 | Carole Lewis |
| 06/23 | Dave Austin, Wyatt Bussler |
| 06/24 | Kristin Hill, Kaia Chelgreen |
| 06/27 | Lauren Dopuch |
| 06/28 | Audrey Butz |



Our apologies if we missed anybody! Please let us know if we did.

June 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 | 2 4p Fitness group | 3 | 4 |
| 5 9:30a Worship | 6 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves 4pm Fitness group | 7 | 8 | 9 4p Fitness group | 10 | 11 |
| 12 9:30a Outdoor Worship | 13 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves 4pm Fitness group | 14 | 15 7p Worship team meeting | 16 4p Fitness group | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9:30a Worship | 20 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves 4pm Fitness group | 21 7p Church Council meeting in Confer- ence room | 22 | 23 4p Fitness group | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:30a Worship | 27 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves 4pm Fitness group | 28 | 29 | 30 4p Fitness group | | |



**Christ Lutheran Church, ELCA
1 Selma Avenue at Lockwood
Webster Groves, MO 63119-3199**

TELEPHONE: 314-962-6011

**E-MAIL:
OFFICE@CHRISTWG.ORG**

**WEBSITE:
WWW.CHRISTWG.ORG**

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE:
SUNDAY AT 9:30 A.M.**

**RESIDENT PASTOR: MEAGAN
MCLAUGHLIN OFFICE
HOURS: MON-WED, FRI 8:30-
4:30
APPTS BY
ARRANGEMENT**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT:
JESSICA GUNTHER**

**DIRECTOR OF SENIOR
ADULT MINISTRIES AND
FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE:
CAROLYN CROWE**

**DIRECTOR OF CHOIRS:
DIANE DROLLINGER**

**ORGANIST:
MARK RUFF**

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:
LISETTE KREITLER**

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY:
TAMMY PRYOR**

**WEBMASTER:
PERRY YEE**

Christ Lutheran Church Mission Statement

**Deepening people's connection to Christ,
Bringing meaning to daily life, and
Making a difference in our community.**