

August 2021

Dear Friends,

Who made God? Where did God come from?

I hear this question being asked more and more. Even children are asking these questions, as I found out this summer at VBS. They are excellent questions! Here is my answer:

God is uncreated and didn't come from anywhere.

I know that isn't a satisfactory answer so let me break it down.

If God were created then He wouldn't be God. He would be a demigod, and the One who created God would be the real God. But then the question becomes, who (or what) made that "One" and where did He (or it) come from. When you finally get tired of asking those questions as your considering all of the "Creators", you have to concede that there must be one Source that is uncreated and has no beginning. Otherwise, you'll find yourself with an endless string of demigods. This is not belief. This is logic and reason.

Whoever (or whatever) you think ultimately created the universe is your God, even if that turns out to be an intelligence or subatomic particles or a quantum field.

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)

Our claim as Christians is that God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the uncreated and infinite Creator of all things. God gives life and breath to all living creatures and sustains them. In Him we live and move and have our being. He unites all things in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth in the cross of Jesus. And the blood of Jesus is the very life of our Creator. We know our God through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, and especially through the means which He has appointed and revealed to us in Holy Scripture.

And, importantly, God is love because He gave His only Son to us that we would not perish but have eternal life.

Things to ponder. I pray that God will enlighten your heart and your mind and will bless you with the love of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Pastor Hoag



**Ushers:** The usher schedule for the month of August is listed below:

August 1 – 9:00 am – Tom Kaun / Larry Wennlund  
10:30 am – Brett Carr / Paul Krol

August 8 – 9:00 am – Ed Tatro / Tim King  
10:30 am – Tom Buell / Tommy Buell

August 15 - 9:00 am – Mike Gardner / Gary Purnell  
10:30 am – Jeff McDonald / Mike Lyman

August 22 - 9:00 am – Steve Tomany / Randy Varju  
10:30 am – John Buell / Phil MacFarlane

August 29 - 9:00 am – Rex Toepke / Jeff Lorenz  
10:30 am – Paul Krol / Diane Sewing



### **Sunday School – Opening Day – September 12, 2021**

As we work to expand our Sunday School program, **we are looking for teaching assistants!** While the commitment to be involved in Sunday School may feel large, we are hoping to expand our staff enough to lessen the time commitment. We would not expect your attendance every week. We would like to have enough volunteer assistants to create a rotating schedule! We have a small, devoted group, and we do have fun! Please prayerfully consider giving some time to the ministry for our children! Please contact Michelle Buell at (815) 909-6366 if you are interested.

We are looking forward to our first day of in person Sunday School! We are working on updating our Sunday School rooms, and we are working out all the details of our in person classes. Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 12th at 9:15 am.



### **SCRIP GIFT CARDS**

This is a fundraiser for the Youth Group. These cards are the same gift cards that you can purchase from retailers, including over 300 brand-name grocery, department stores, restaurants, gas stations, hotels, home improvement etc. We order the gift cards at a discount and you pay face value for the gift cards. Next deadline for Scrip Cards will be August 8, 2021. Direct any questions you might have to Angie at [minett411@yahoo.com](mailto:minett411@yahoo.com) or (815)228-4902. Order forms are on the hallway table outside of Pastor's office. You may place your order/payment in the gold envelope which is the old church office. Pre-ordered gift cards will be available for pick-up the weekend after the order is placed.



### **MEMBER UPDATES FOR JULY 2021**

#### **Baptisms:**

Christopher Angelo Wolter (July 11, 2021)

Grace Rose Marquez (July 18, 2021)

Oaklynn Mae Puttkammer (July 18, 2021)

Efstathios Alessi Zervos (July 25, 2021)



### **Church Humor:**

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.

Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'"

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus"!



Preschool News and Information



**2021-2022 Trinity Pre-School begins on Tuesday, September 7th.**

**Spots still available for both 3 and 4 yr olds - please tell your friends and neighbors!**

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$65.00 per student. For the school year beginning September 2021 the tuition per month will be \$115 for two-day students and \$145 for three-day students. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2021. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973.



I ♥  
**MEETINGS**

**Please watch the website and bulletins for any meeting dates.**



**Please watch the website and the bulletins for Bible Class dates and times.**



**Chancel Guild:**

We invite all women of Trinity to come visit our meeting and find out what we are about. We are a devoted, fun group of ladies who enjoy giving a little time to our church in a meaningful way.

The next meeting is September 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.



**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Fresh flowers are placed on the altar every weekend to enhance and beautify the altar area in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding, anniversary, or in celebration of God's blessings. A 2021 flower chart showing open weekends is posted in the cabinet across the general church office. **Chancel Guild still has five available Sundays for the 2021 year.** The flower order forms are attached to the cabinet. If you would like to sponsor flowers on one of those remaining Sundays, complete the form and place it along with a check (made out to **Trinity Lutheran Chancel Guild**) in the Chancel Guild mailbox in the general church office. If you want a date already chosen, it may be possible to share the date and cost with permission from the person who has already selected the date. If you have any questions, please contact Kay Purnell at [purnellk51@hotmail.com](mailto:purnellk51@hotmail.com) of (815) 485-9017. Flowers may be picked up at after the 10:30 church service. Thank you to all who sponsor!

Flowers left in the gym will be disposed of after 1 week.

Altar Flowers for the month of August:

August 1<sup>st</sup> Jennifer Mudrock in Thanksgiving for the music Lori Hilger provides.

August 8<sup>th</sup> Carol Oldendorf in Memory of Carol & Ken Oldendorf's granddaughter, Danielle McDonald.

August 15<sup>th</sup> Rex and Jan Toepke in Celebration of Their Wedding Anniversary.

August 22<sup>nd</sup> Al and Renee Kosel in Celebration of Their Wedding Anniversary.

August 29<sup>th</sup> Gary and Kay Purnell in Celebration of Their Wedding Anniversary

### **Chancel Guild Schedule for August**

August 1 – Doris Bay / Sharon MacFarlane

August 8 - Sharon MacFarlane / Rita Larson

August 15 – Rita Larson / Judi Donovan

August 22 – Judi Donovan / Jennifer Mudrock

August 29 - Jennifer Mudrock / Kay Purnell



If you do not presently receive our monthly newsletter electronically, but would like to be added to our email list, please email [tlcsecretary508@gmail.com](mailto:tlcsecretary508@gmail.com) or call the office at 815.485.6973

Church office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9AM to 2PM.