

The First Word



Pr. Rob O'Berg

Preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching.
2 Timothy 4:2

I had the great privilege to spend the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany. I had the greater privilege to be staying in the home of close friends. In the German state of Saxony, Reformation Day is a holiday when families go to special Reformation Day markets or to the park or to church. I saw many young families enjoying the mild weather, many of whom were pushing small children in strollers.

What I didn't see were the familiar trappings of Halloween, which we observe on October 31—Reformation Day. After a full day of multiple church services, a couple concerts and sampling all the regional treats available at the market in the town square, my friends and I settled down to a quiet evening snack—no room for dinner!—consisting of red wine and pistachios, both products of the Fresno area I brought with me.

Then . . . a knock on the door. Two kids, in homemade costumes, yelled “Sweet or Sour!” the German equivalent of “Trick or Treat.” My hostess dutifully handed out candy and commented on how cute the kids looked. Her husband had a much different reaction. He wasn't opposed to the idea of Halloween—he just thought October 31 should be reserved for Reformation Day only.

I cherish both and, different from our German co-religionists, we celebrate Reformation Day on the closest Sunday before the 31st, not on the 31st itself. Unless the 31st falls on Sunday, which isn't often.

This year, Reformation Sunday is October 26th and our annual “Trunk-or-Treat” will be on the 31st. We have the best of both worlds—marking the inauguration of the Reformation and welcoming the children of the neighborhood onto our campus for a fun and safe Halloween. The message to Timothy was that the gospel is not confined to a single day or season, but is for every day of the year. I hope you will participate in both!

With you in Christ's service,

Pastor Rob



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OFFICE HOURS

Monday CLOSED
 Tues-Thurs 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
 Friday 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
 (559) 229-8581

Check Out Our Website!

Our website is constantly being updated with new photos, sermons, event information and more! Go to tlcfresno.org and share our website with your friends and family.



**Follow us on
Facebook and
Instagram!**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Did you know that you can put in a request for prayer on Trinity's website? It's simple and you can do it at any time of day or night. Just go to tlcfresno.com and follow the link to put in your request. You'll be put on our prayer list right away!

Congregation Council

A fundamental human need is to be heard.
 Your Congregation Council is here to listen.

Ed Brewer.....	273-6123
Frank Collins.....	250-3589
Wyatt Czesinski.....	593-5797
Veronica Flanders.....	287-8432
Walt Flanders.....	287-8432
Paul Fountinelle	229-3637
Barbara Stalis.....	270-7708
Shawn Swaim.....	360-1009
Jeff Willis.....	jwillis0312@gmail.com

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sundays

9:00 am-Contemporary Worship Service
 9:00 am-Adult Bible Study - Conference Room
 9:00am-Chancel Choir - Music Room
 10:30 am-Sunday School (K-6) - Multipurpose Room
 10:30 am-Traditional Worship Service

Mondays

9:00 am-Exercise Class 11am-12pm (online)
j3jordan@hotmail.com

Wednesday

6:00pm-Middle & High School Gathering/Worship
 9:00 am-Exercise Class 11am-12pm (online)
j3jordan@hotmail.com

Thursday

7:00 am-Men's Bible Study,
 12:00 pm-Bell Practice
 1:00 pm-Choir Practice
 6:00 pm-Women's Bible Study

COUNCIL'S CORNER

If you were at our annual meeting on September 21st, you know that we elected three people to the 2027 Church Council. Shawn Swaim was elected to a second term and recent new members Loren Unruh and Gordon Oakley begin their first terms in January. Congratulations to all!

Council service is the highest elected position a layperson can occupy. The Council tends to the business of the church between annual meetings—the congregation gathered for an annual meeting being the highest congregational authority in the ELCA.

What does a Council do? It monitors the finances of the congregation, presents matters of importance to the congregation such as budgets and by-laws and responds to matters put before it by members. It's not always exciting stuff, but it's all important to the health and maintenance of local congregations.

Be keeping our exiting members (Wyatt Czesinski and Veronica Flanders) our continuing members (Ed Brewer, Barbara Stalis, Paul Fountinelle, Jeff Willis, Frank Collins and Walt Flanders), our returning member (Shawn Swaim) and our new members (Loren Unruh and Gordon Oakley) in your prayers as we work to the end of this year and look forward to the next. Thanks!



Happy October, Trinity family!

Can you believe that we are in the final months of 2025? So much has happened in my life and in the world since I last provided an update. I completed my clinical pastoral education (CPE aka chaplaincy internship) at Community Regional in August, which ended up being one of the most transformative experiences I have gone through in my life and has greatly informed the type of pastor/ministry leader I wish to be. I am excited to continue to cultivate these skills on Fridays as I serve as a volunteer chaplain at both Community Regional and Clovis Community! After CPE, I had to prepare for my endorsement interview with our synod's ordination candidacy committee—which took place while I was at a multicultural young adult gathering hosted by the ELCA in New Orleans!

The multicultural young adult gathering was a life-giving experience for me as I was able to learn more about the ethnic communities within the ELCA and the need for more young adult representation from the attending ethnic groups. With brothers and sisters in the ANHPI (Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander) cohort, we were able to dream and vision together how we can become more involved in the ELCA and the resources we can create to serve the ANHPI peoples in the ELCA. I am also excited to share that I had a very encouraging endorsement interview, and I am officially an endorsed candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament! What's next for me? I am currently working with Pastor Katy Grindberg at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary to find an internship church, where I will serve for a year as an intern pastor before I enter the approval process for ordination. Where I serve for internship and when it begins is all up to God now!

Enough about me. What's been happening in NextGen Ministries? While I was completing CPE, Lisa, Kayla, and Jose provided the best summer experience for our children and youth. They had pool parties, they went to Woodward Park, they went to the trampoline park, they watched Lilo & Stitch at the movie theater, and they offered the kids and youth a safe, cool place to unwind during the day. We concluded the summer and kicked off the school year with our Back to School Bash, which we were able to serve families from both the Enlightened Minds homeschool charter that meets on our campus during the week and families from Centennial. Our fall programming has officially started, and the staff are already engaging the students in real life issues and how God's Word offers hope amid struggles and uncertainty.

We are also preparing for our fall outreach events—which include Trunk or Treat on October 31 and Community Thanksgiving on November 23—and our winter fundraiser, A Very Merry Christmas Talent Show. More details about all these events to come soon! Please also keep us in your prayers as we are grieving with our students from the Noble-Goosey family, whose grandfather recently died. Thank you all for your support!

Grace and peace,

Josh Lee
NextGen & Outreach Director





BMAT Puzzle of the Month

(Bible Study Ministry Action Team)

GOOD IDEAS

The Bible is full of people who revered the Lord and praised His name, even in spite of opposition. From the names below, find the godly person's name for each situation. Three names will NOT be used.

1. Remained true to God, despite woe and loss.
2. Continued to spread God's Word, despite shipwrecks, whippings, persecutions and sickness.
3. Remained faithful to God throughout old age, despite the loss of a spouse after only seven years of marriage.
4. Believed God would provide an heir, despite being well past child-bearing years.
5. Believed God would forgive, despite having committed adultery and murder.
6. Continued to act out prophecies received from God, despite mockery and ridicule.
7. Sat at Jesus' feet, despite a sibling's ire.
8. Believed in Jesus, despite the disbelief of peers and colleagues.
9. Returned to his master, despite the possibility of severe punishment or death.

MARY	ONESIMUS	ANNA
DAVID	MARTHA	PAUL
ELIZABETH	EZEKIEL	NICODEMUS
PHILEMON	JOB	BOAZ

In November we will look at some people who had BAD IDEAS.

Answers on page 6



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Stephanie Phillips; Destiny Ramirez; Judy McGrath; Judy Friesen; John & Patty Kline Terri Drewes; Sabrina Cook; Felix Brewer, friend of Robby O'Berg; Robin Kline; Nancy Waterhouse; Roger Odahl; Gary Caskey; Adriene Keyes; Scott Rowley; Yonatan Kumar; John & Roni Grove; Barbara Cucuk; Bob and Joan Zoldoske; Coleen Schwartz; Debbie Zoldoske-Clark; Sebastian Traux; Continued prayers for Reva Chand and Debbie, friends of the Fountinelle's; Peace and comfort for Elisa Doe and family as they mourn the passing of her brother, Derek; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson for their work in Tanzania; the people of the Holy Land; the people of Ukraine and Russia; all victims of natural disasters; victims of violence and terror attacks; our troops, first responders, & their families.

LINKS OF LOVE

Our Links of Love ministry at Trinity reaches out to Trinity members who are homebound or in need of having one of our lay ministers come out and visit, bring Communion, or send cards. Interested or know someone in need,? If so, please call Lisa Collins, at the Church office at 229-8581, and we will make sure to contact you.

Deb Moe
Twindeb2@yahoo.com
559-907-2914

Liz Davis
Twinliz2@icloud.com
559-779-7740

LUTHER'S LIBATIONS OCTOBER 18

Mark your calendar now and plan on joining us!!!!
You DO NOT want to miss it!

Featuring Central Coast wines:
Harmony Cellars
Castoro Cellars
Pear Valley Estate Wine
Broken Earth Winery
Claiborne & Churchill Winery

Tickets on sale now!

\$30 wine ticket
\$30 beer ticket
\$20 non-alcohol ticket



WHO WILL YOU INVITE TO LUTHER'S LIBATIONS?

Who do you know that you can invite to join you for a lovely Fall afternoon/evening?

Do you know someone without a church home?

Or someone who doesn't know Jesus?

This is a great non-threatening way to introduce a friend to Trinity. Who doesn't like an event with great food, music, beverages-both alcohol and NON-alcohol.

LUTHER'S LIBATIONS - SILENT AUCTION

The Silent Auction is always a fun part of the event. Previous auction items have included homemade cookies, a basket of wine, beautiful latch hook rug, a basket of home-made German noodles, framed paintings, and a couple of hours of work around your house.

Do you have something you can donate? We are looking for new, unused items this year. You can fill your own basket, or you can provide items and the FMAT team will put them together to create a basket of similar items.

If you have a service you would like to donate, let the committee know! Maybe you're gifted at putting things together, or you are gifted in the wrapping department.

It is fun to bid on an item and fun to watch the other bidders.





Special Invitation to women of Trinity!

Our women's "circles" have started back up! If you are new to these **WELCA** groups, each group meets once a month with threefold purpose: *a time of getting acquainted and renewing friendships - a time of Bible study - and time to discuss the projects and ministries we are involved in.* **Do come!**

Choose date/time. All meet once a month at Trinity, except Evening Spirit (check with Ann Brewer for that location).

Evening Spirit meets the 3rd Monday at 6:45 p.m.
Good Morning meets the 3rd Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.
Good News meets the 4th Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.
Mary Martha meets the 2nd Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.
Priscilla meets the 2nd Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

A three-month study starts the new year:

Lesson 1 - September: **Money: What do we treasure?**

Lesson 2 - October: **Stewardship: How do we tend our treasure?**

Lesson 3 - November: **Generosity: A Wideness in God's mercy**

Questions- contact Margie 559 365-1352



WILLING HEARTS AND READY HANDS FMAT CAN USE YOUR HELP

If you are available Friday or Saturday, October 17 and 18, we could use you!

In the recent Sunday morning's Buzz, there has been an insert of ways you can help make Luther's Libations more successful. If you have not turned one in, but could help for an hour or two (or as many as you can spare), you can contribute to the success of our event. There are the many aspects of set up and clean up that could use you, as well as helping the fundraiser run smoothly during our time of fun and fellowship.

Contact: Member of our FMAT
Karen Gregory, Shawn Swaim, Kristi Czesinski,
Dennis Donnelly, Nancy Newsome, Kristen O'Berg,
Sharon Rowley, Pastor Rob, or our church office.



The Bulldog Pantry would like to thank the following people for helping us in September food distributions Nancy Bird, Jan Odahl, Shawn Swain, and Robert Phillips. Thank you also to Linda Riley and WELCA for the donation of hygiene items and toilet paper.

We are grateful for those who have shared an Action Plan with us too. Your donations and support allow us to serve an increasing number of households in need in our community.

Also thank to everyone who helped with our Chipotle Fundraiser!

ADULT BIBLE CLASS Sundays in the conference room @9:00

For 2025 the **Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class** has been looking at the Old Testament Prophets and other writings, as they appear in the **Lectionary**. The **Revised Common Lectionary** (RCL) is widely used:

- 3-year cycle of Bible readings for Christian worship, designed to be used across various denominations and countries
- It follows the Church's liturgical year and provides a structured schedule of readings for each Sunday and major feast days, with the goal of unifying worship experiences and allowing for communal study and planning.
- The RCL's readings generally include a passage from the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible), a Psalm, an Epistle reading, and a Gospel reading.
- The focus shifts to a different Gospel each year (Matthew in Year A, Mark in Year B, and Luke in Year C); we are currently in Year C, studying Luke. The Gospel reading for each Sunday provides the primary focus for the service, and the other readings are thematically linked to it.

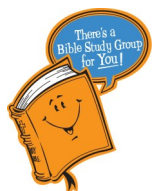
October 5 - Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

October 12 - 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

October 19 - Genesis 32:22-31

October 26 - Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

Bring your Bible, coffee, and questions!



October Birthdays & Anniversaries



Frank Plessmann & Charlotte Toepfer	10/02/02
Mike & Kristi Czesinski	10/02/93
John & Mary Anne Mc Connell	10/05/02
John & Elaine Schomaker	10/08/66
Linda & David Hurst	10/14/12
Curtis & Connie Smith	10/22/05



Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." John 6-7

BMAT PUZZLE ANSWER:

1. Job 2. Paul 3. Anna
4. Elizabeth 5. David
6. Ezekiel 7. Mary
8. Nicodemus 9. Onesimus



Tania Keller	10/01
Eric Kidd	10/04
Joel Pena	10/05
Curtis Smith	10/05
Marla Reisman	10/06
Gary Phillips	10/06
Connie Crain	10/07
Robby O'Berg	10/08
Billie Person	10/08
Katie Willis	10/09
Chloe Pena	10/10
Robert Zoldoske	10/10
Sandra Trippel	10/11
Mariah Cushing	10/14
Eleanor Miksch	10/16
Sara Nalley	10/17
Keith Davies	10/18
Lauren Wilson	10/18
Kellie Maul	10/18
Helen Horton	10/20
Dorothy Belcher	10/22
Spencer Strater	10/22
Brandon Burge	10/23
Benedikt Plessmann	10/24
Mathew Czesinski	10/26
Jolene Marshall	10/27
Claire Talbot	10/27
Cayden Talbot	10/27
Jerry Bailey	10/28
Marilyn McDonald	10/28
Laurell Huber	10/28
Karen Sebilian	10/29


Trinity Lutheran Church
3973 N. Cedar Ave.
Fresno, CA 93726
tlcfresno.com
(559) 229-8581

October 2025

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Our Mission:
To Lead People Into The Life-Changing Love of Jesus Christ**

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Exercise class via zoom j3jordan@hotmail.com	MBS-Men's Bible Study WBS-Women's Bible Study Contact Pastor Rob for a link to join via Zoom!		1 11a Zoom Exercise 2:30p TKC	2 7a MBS 12p Bells 1p Choir 2:30p TKC 6p WBS	3 2:30p TKC	4
5 ONE SERVICE 10a WELCA Sunday	6 11a Zoom Exercise 2:30p TKC	7 12p. WELCA Board 2:30p TKC	8 11a Zoom Exercise 9a CRTA Luncheon 9:30a Priscilla Cir.	9 7a MBS 12p Bells 1p Choir	10 9a Warming Fresno 2:30p TKC	11
12 9a Chancel Choir 9a Cont. Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10:30a Trad. Wrshp.	13 11a Zoom Exercise 2:30p TKC	14 1:30p Mary Martha 2:30p TKC	15 11a Zoom Exercise 2:30p TKC	16 7a MBS 12p Bells 1p Choir 2:30p TKC	17 2:30p TKC	18 3p. Luther's Libations 
19 9a Chancel Choir 9a Cont. Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10:30a Trad. Wrshp.	20 11a Zoom Exercise 2:30p TKC 6:45p Evening Spirit	21 10:00 Good Morning 2:30p TKC	22 11a Zoom Exercise 1p Good News Cir. 2:30p TKC	23 7a MBS 9a WELCA Quilters 12p Bells 1p Choir	24 9a Warming Fresno 2:30p TKC	25
26 9a Chancel Choir 9a Cont. Worship 10a Coffee Hour 10:30a Trad. Wrshp. 11:30a Coffee Hour	27 11a Zoom Exercise 2:30p TKC	28 2:30p TKC	29 11a Zoom Exercise 2:30p TKC	30 7a MBS 12p Bells 1p Choir 2:30p TKC 6p WBS	31 2:30p TKC	Warming Fresno is open to all levels of crocheters and knitters and they are willing to teach anyone interested!