

A Trinity 2017 Matthew 28:16-20 A Power Point
Accompanied this sermon.

There's a quaint little story about how St. Augustine an early Christian Theologian, found a sermon on the Trinity during a walk on the beach. He met a child pouring seawater into a hole in the sand. Augustine sort of teased the little boy and said, ***"You'll never fit the whole sea into that little hole!"*** And the precocious boy supposedly answered the great teacher by saying, ***And you'll never fit the concept of the Trinity into your little brain."*** (Celebration 6/10/2014)

I don't know if the story is true but the message is. The Trinity, the doctrine of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, 3 in 1 ultimately cannot be explained in human terms...though on many Trinity Sundays, throughout the years, I have tried.

So I thought I would take a different track this weekend. Writer, David Lose suggests that instead of explaining what the Trinity is, it might be better to talk about what a Trinitarian Church looks like. Those that are Trinitarian will have the activity of the Father, who is the creator, the son, Jesus who is our Savior and the Holy Spirit who helps us live in unity. So that's what I am going to do. My examples will not be exhaustive but will just give you a hint of how we live out our Trinitarian faith with some examples from our recent synod assembly and from our own ministry here at Our Savior's.

The theme this year for synod assembly was **We are Lutheran: Building Bridges Across all Differences that Divide.**

At Synod Assembly there were many examples of **God the Father's creative activity**. Many of the speakers, hymns and workshops began with the assertion that we are all God's people and that as church we work toward better understanding those who are different. Our job, as people of faith, is to share not only the gospel but the resources of creation so that all might have enough to eat, live in safety, and have hope.

Synod

- We had a resolution that supported the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.
- We heard from Lutheran Office for Public Policy about the fight against Human Trafficking. And reports from Lutheran Social Services and Lutheran Campus Ministry.
- A task force on Expanding Capacity for Intercultural Engagement and Racial Justice, showed a film and held an evening discussion afterwards.

Here at Our Savior's

- Today/tomorrow we are sending our up-coming 8th graders to Confirmation Camp at Imago Dei, where they will get to study in the great outdoors.
- There they will experience God's creation from the beautiful to the not so beautiful. Of course God created it all.
- Some of our education ministry contains conservation pieces right along with the bible stories.
- Groups like our quilters re-cycle materials to meet the needs of others.
- We also talk openly about being good stewards of all God's gifts.

At the heart of all that we do, as synod and congregations, is the Good News of **Jesus, God's Son, and our Savior.**

At Synod we celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. As part of that celebration we had a great time at the Reformation Carnival where we learned more about our roots as a Lutheran Church and Luther's theology.

Synod

- Dr. Martin Lohrman, from Wartburg Seminary was our guest speaker and bible study leader at the pre-event workshop and throughout the assembly. He covered the importance of Baptism, Holy Communion and an active worship and prayer life to Christians, because it is there we are guaranteed to meet Jesus.

Here at Our Savior's

- We worship weekly beneath the cross to hear the Good news.
- We meet Jesus in God's word and in the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.
- We teach children about how to share their faith in the world.
- Together we are witnesses to the story of Jesus in our neighborhood.

Finally, **the Holy Spirit, the Great Sanctifier, Our advocate and comforter** helps us to live more fully into the gift of unity that God gives us in Christ.

Now, remember that the Reformation's official start was Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Castle church.

This began the split between the Roman Catholic Church and Protestantism.

Synod

- So it was a certainly a sign of the Holy Spirit at work that the Most Reverend David L. Ricken was our guest preacher.
- Other signs of unity included our own Bishop Gerald Mansholt's recent trip to our companion synod the South East Diocese in South Africa, where he participated in the installation of their new Bishop.
- We also heard from a woman who is the first woman to be ordained in the Lutheran Church in Palestine. She will be with us in our synod, interning, for a year.

Here at Our Savior's:

- We are friends and family, who fellowship with one another.
- We serve people in need on God's Work; Our Hands Sundays and throughout the year.
- We take mission trips across the United States
- And abroad.
- We are active in our community
- And in the world.

Through the work of the Trinity we discover that God's love is with us and through the work of the church we share that love with others.

This is the Good News of the Gospel. Amen