

Greetings Trinity Lutheran Church Family!

Fall is upon us. It crept in so slowly, that many of us missed the signs all together. But now, they are hard to ignore. The leaves are turning shades of red, yellow, and orange. Mums are at peak blossom. The nights are getting cooler, box-elder beetles are everywhere, and harvest season is upon us. This is the time of year that we get to enjoy the earth's bountiful gifts from God, the Lord of the Harvest!



Farmers are combining corn, harvesting soybeans, and baling hay. We also see pumpkins and apple cider at the marketplaces. This is the season that we joyfully gather up the fruits of the earth that the Lord of the Harvest has so generously provided. Those with vegetables and fruits in their gardens are gathering in the final crops for the season. Hunters are also getting anxious to get out along the woods and fields to harvest wild game.

There's something that feels so right about working the land, isn't there? Whether it's planting or harvesting, mowing grass, watering the flowers, weeding the garden, or raking leaves. Maybe that's because this was the work God first gave to Adam in the Garden of Eden!

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it (Genesis 2:15).

All good things come from the Lord, yet He gives us a part in it. But when the first law was broken (eating the forbidden fruit), Adam and Eve fell into sin. This broke the fellowship they had with God. They were expelled from the Garden! And now, that privilege that Adam had of working the ground for the Lord, has become a burden, or even a curse.

And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:17-19).

Even if your occupation is not of the agricultural type, you can still appreciate the fact that we labor and toil so that; "by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread." We all work very hard. However, Fall shows us by the changing of seasons, we are not the ones in control. *God* is in control. Even nature needs a rest after a season of growing and producing. So, the crops wither and dry out, the leaves fall, the fields become bare, and the earth rests.

We labor and toil, but it's by God's grace that the crops get rain, that the soil still produces, and that we have seasonable weather to harvest. It is the same with God's Word. We sow it when and where we can, in season and out of season (2 Timothy 4:2), but it's God who gives the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6). We also *rest* and *grow* in God's Word.

It's hard to believe that I'm already a few months into this year's Vicarage, I am extremely grateful to be a part of the sowing of God's Word here at Trinity Lutheran Church. We are so blessed to have (in person) Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings, the Sunday morning Worship Service (*which is also broadcasted on KLMJ*), Sunday School, Vicar's Monday morning Bible Study, and Confirmation Class on Wednesday nights.

I hope all of you at Trinity Lutheran Church are able to benefit in one way or another from the sowing of God's Word, by which the immediate harvest is the strengthening of faith. Then we are able to bear good fruit in our lives, pointing others to saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. The final harvest will be when the Lord of the Harvest returns and raises the earthly bodies of the faithful, from the seed-bed cemeteries. Then, we will sprout from the ground like the fields sprout new life in the Springtime.

Thank you again for supporting the Vicarage Program as well at Trinity Lutheran Church! A Scripture passage that comes to mind related to your support of the sowing of God's Word through the Vicarage Program is this:

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness (2 Corinthians 9:10).

My family and I have adjusted nicely to Hampton. My daughters are really enjoying attending St. Paul's School in Latimer. Abbey just finished playing fall soccer there, and I was able to help coach! Audrey and Amelia enjoy being able to walk up to the Church for the Monday Bible Study, and we all appreciate all the love and support we have from Trinity Lutheran Church! Thank you for all that you do for us.

I look forward to continuing to get to know everybody this year, and I'm pleased to serve as the 18th Vicar at Trinity Lutheran Church. May the Word of the Lord continue to be faithfully sown into our hearts this harvest season!

In Christ,

Vicar Micah J. Brooks
Trinity Lutheran Church