

A GENEROSITY INITIATIVE OF
Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools
FALL 2026



*You prepare a table before me,
and my cup is running over.*

PSALM 23:5



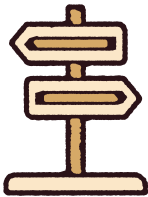
**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOLS**
BUILDING + BELONGING + BECOMING

How To Use This Brochure

This brochure is an invitation before it is anything else.

Before you read about budgets or giving levels or commitment cards, we invite you to slow down. To hold these pages with open hands. To ask God what this season of generosity is asking of you, and to listen for the answer over the weeks ahead.

There is no right way to move through what follows, just do so prayerfully:



PAGES 2-3

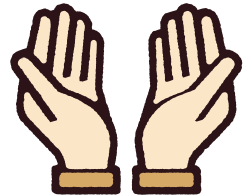
Begin Here

About this initiative
and why it matters this year.

PAGES 4-11

Pray First

Weekly scripture, reflection, and
conversation to guide your discernment.



PAGES 12-13

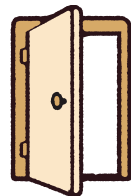
Understand the Impact

Where your gifts go and what they make
possible in our shared ministry.

PAGES 14-15

Reach Beyond These Walls

The Mission Giving Fund and the
neighbors your generosity reaches.



PAGES 16-19

Make Your Commitment

How to give and what Commitment
Sunday on October 25 looks like.

A Wider Table



At the heart of the Gospel is a table where no one is excluded, no one has to earn a seat, and there is always room to pull up another chair.

You know this table. You have come to it on ordinary Sunday mornings and on the most significant days of your life. You have received bread broken and cup poured and words spoken directly to you: Take and eat. This is for you. That table, God's table, has been set longer than any of us have been here, and it is wider than we have yet imagined.

This fall, Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools is gathering around that table for four weeks of worship, reflection, and commitment under the theme *A Wider Table*. This series invites us to move through the full arc of what it means to be a community shaped by God's hospitality: **recognizing the abundance** already set before us, **stepping into the welcome** that belongs to everyone, **serving as an expression** of our daily faith, and **inviting others** to find a place here.

This is not an initiative about institutional need. It is an invitation to join something God is already doing. The table does not belong to us. We did not build it, set it, or earn our place at it. What we are asked to do is recognize it, come to it, serve at it, and keep making room.

Your presence, your prayers, and your financial gifts are how that table stays set, and how it keeps getting wider.

"When we got to Trinity, we were welcomed, encouraged to come back, engaged with, and immediately shown God's love."

THERESA ANDERSON

SERIES RUNS OCTOBER 4–25, 2026
COMMITMENT SUNDAY: OCTOBER 25, REFORMATION SUNDAY

Join the Prayer Team for the month of October. Receive weekly prompts to hold the TLCS community in your personal prayers during this time of discernment and generosity. Sign up: tlcs.church/q/prayerteam.

WEEK 1 · OCTOBER 4, 2026

The Table Is Already Set

GOD'S PRIOR ABUNDANCE

Isaiah 5:1–7 · Philippians 3:4b–14 · Matthew 21:33–46



Read and Reflect

WHAT WAS PREPARED BEFORE YOU ARRIVED?

ISAIAH 5:1–7

This is a love song before it's a warning, tender in its opening lines. God clears the stones, plants the choicest vines, and builds the wine-press long before expecting a harvest. The investment comes first. Grace isn't a reward for good soil; it's what makes the soil good.

Where has God already prepared something you're only now noticing?

WHAT ARE YOU READY TO LET GO OF?

PHILIPPIANS 3:4B–14

Paul lists off his religious résumé, then sweeps it off the table like dust. He isn't earning God's love by giving things up; he's letting go of clutter because his hands are already full of grace. Generosity here starts less as sacrifice and more as finally having room to receive.

What are you still holding onto that grace has already replaced?

WHOSE VINEYARD IS IT, REALLY?

MATTHEW 21:33–46

The tenants in this parable aren't lazy; the vineyard actually produces a harvest. Their failure is a kind of spiritual amnesia. Because their hands worked the soil, they came to believe the soil belonged to them. Custody quietly became, in their minds, ownership.

Where might you be acting like an owner rather than a caretaker?

Prayer for the Week

Limitless God, Source of All Love, when worry and envy threaten our peace, anchor us in the radical quiet of trust. We admit our faith often feels tiny. Help us to ignite it, showing us that this small conviction grows into power every time we dare to act on it. Fill us. Warm us. Propel us. Let our lives be the bold evidence that our faith truly works, through and for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Music for the Week

HYMN ELW 523 · *Let Us Go Now to the Banquet*

SONG Ten Thousand Reasons (Bless the Lord) by Matt Redman

AROUND THE TABLE THIS WEEK

Before your evening meal, pause before eating and reflect together:

- *Look at the food on your table. How many hands, soil conditions, and divine graces had to come together for this meal to reach you?*
 - *Where in your life right now are you acting like an "owner" rather than a "guest" or "caretaker"?*
 - *What is one way our household can express gratitude for God's prior abundance this week?*
-

"I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus."

PHILIPPIANS 3:8, NRSVUE

WEEK 2 · OCTOBER 11, 2026

Come to the Table

UNCONDITIONAL WELCOME

Isaiah 25:1–9 · Psalm 23 · Matthew 22:1–14



Read and Reflect

A FEAST THAT UNDOES GRIEF

ISAIAH 25:1–9

Isaiah paints a banquet on the mountain, rich food and aged wine, thrown for all peoples, not a chosen few. On this mountain, God removes the shroud of grief and death that has settled over every nation. This is what God's answer to sorrow looks like: a shared table, not a private comfort.

What would it look like to trust that this invitation includes you fully?

A TABLE SET IN THE PRESENCE OF ENEMIES

PSALM 23

In the ancient world, to host someone at your table was to offer them sanctuary and honor. God doesn't wait for circumstances to calm down before setting the table. Even amid hardship, God pulls up a chair, anoints our heads, and lets the cup run over.

Where do you need to receive welcome right now, not once things feel calmer?

THE DOORS THROWN OPEN

MATTHEW 22:1–14

When the expected guests decline the king's invitation, the doors open to the streets, and the hall fills with "both good and bad alike." Belonging comes before behavior. Even the robe offered at the door isn't a test to pass; in that culture, the host supplied the garment, and to refuse it was to insist on your own rags instead of the host's gift.

Who around you might need to hear that they're invited? Is there a "garment," a gift already offered, that you've been hesitant to accept?

Prayer for the Week

God of All Places, you are found in the middle of our differences and you heal what is broken. Your Holy Word draws us to reflect on the costly return of the one who understood that a grateful heart is a generous heart, and a loving heart is willing to sacrifice. Provoke us past a fleeting "thank you." Heal and liberate us when we are made outcasts, so that our restored lives may become a full offering of ourselves. Help us open our hearts to everyone we tend to ignore. Through Jesus, who gave everything. **Amen.**

Music for the Week

HYMN ELW 522 · *As We Gather at Your Table*

SONG "Crowded Table" by The Highwomen

AROUND THE TABLE THIS WEEK

Around your meal table this week, light a single candle and discuss:

- *When in your life have you felt like an "outsider," and who was the person that pulled up a chair for you?*
 - *Look around your daily routines. Who in our neighborhood or school community might be longing for a place of genuine belonging?*
 - *How can our household use our resources to keep extending this circle of welcome?*
-

"On this mountain, the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines."

ISAIAH 25:6, NRSVUE

WEEK 3 · OCTOBER 18, 2026

Serve at the Table

FAITH ACTIVE IN LOVE

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10 · Matthew 22:15–22



Read and Reflect

WHAT DOES FAITH SOUND LIKE?

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1–10

Paul praises a young church whose faith wasn't a private mood but something audible, a "work of faith, labor of love, and steadfastness of hope" that echoed far beyond their own walls. Their faith showed up in daily, visible ways, not just in what they believed but in what they did. This is the bridge from Sunday to Monday: the strength gathered at the table becomes the energy behind classrooms, workplaces, and quiet acts of care no one applauds.

Where has your faith become visible to someone else this year?

WHOSE IMAGE IS THIS?

MATTHEW 22:15–22

The Pharisees try to trap Jesus with a question about taxes and Roman occupation. He asks for a coin: whose image is stamped on it? Caesar's face is on the silver, so let Caesar have his metal. But Genesis establishes that every human being carries the image of God, stamped in a way no empire can claim or replicate. Caesar can have his currency; God claims the rest, our relationships, our vocation, our wealth, all of it.

What in your life still carries the wrong owner's mark? How does knowing you carry God's image change how you spend what you have?

Prayer for the Week

Source of Justice and Ever-Present Help, our eyes look to you for strength that will not fail, from the mountains of our hope to the valleys of our struggle. Grant us the courage to protest the world's wrongs, the persistence to pray without giving up, and the heart to love the world enough to never stop fighting for its healing. Give us the courage to protest and the persistence to pray, so that our whole lives pursue justice and compassion for all. Through Jesus Christ, the True Advocate who never gives up on us. **Amen.**

Music for the Week

HYMN

ELW 712 · Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

SONG

"Build Your Kingdom Here" by Rend Collective

AROUND THE TABLE THIS WEEK

Gather around your table this week with an item from your daily work (a phone, a tool, a school notebook) and reflect:

- *Where do you spend most of your energy during the week, and how can that place become a "table" where you serve others?*
 - *How does remembering that you carry God's image change how you view your daily work and your financial stewardship?*
 - *What is one practical way our household can support the weekday ministries of TLCS (the CDC, preschool, or outreach partnerships) this month?*
-

*"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's,
and to God what is God's."*

MATTHEW 22:21, NRSVUE

Invite to the Table

OUTWARD MISSION & COMMITMENT

Leviticus 19:1–2, 15–18 · Matthew 22:34–46



Read and Reflect

HOLINESS YOU CAN MEASURE

LEVITICUS 19:1–2, 15–18

In the ancient world, holiness often meant ritual separation, staying apart from what was considered unclean. Leviticus turns that expectation inside out. God's holiness is practiced through refusing slander, honoring the vulnerable, and seeking justice in judgment. It's economic, relational, and civic, measured by how far our care actually extends.

Whose dignity depends on a decision you'll make this week?

TWO COMMANDS, ONE WHOLE LIFE

MATTHEW 22:34–46

Asked to name the greatest commandment, Jesus links two separate passages, Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18, into a single, inseparable command: love God with everything, and love your neighbor as yourself. Then he turns the tables, asking the Pharisees a question about the Messiah that unravels their tidy, localized expectations. If their categories for God's kingdom were too small, ours probably are too.

*Whose presence at this table would stretch you most, and why?
Which comes easier for you right now, loving God fully or loving your neighbor fully?*

Prayer for the Week

God of the Open Door, on this Reformation Sunday we remember that your church is always being made new. Free us from the fear of scarcity and the temptation to guard what you have given us. As we bring our commitments forward today, let them be not a transaction but a declaration: we believe this table is worth sustaining, and we believe there is room for everyone you are calling to it. Send us out as inviters, with open hands and generous hearts, to pull up one more chair. Through Christ, who makes all things new. **Amen.**

Music for the Week

- HYMN

ELW 504 · *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*
- HYMN

ACS 1062 · *Build a Longer Table*

AROUND THE TABLE THIS WEEK

Around your dinner table today, after completing or returning your commitment card, discuss:

- *What does it mean to you that God’s grace is completely free, yet calls us into deep responsibility for our neighbor?*
- *Looking back over the past month of A Wider Table, what story or scripture touched your household most deeply?*
- *As we look to the year ahead at TLCS, who is one neighbor (in our school, neighborhood, or city) you hope finds a seat at our table?*

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

MATTHEW 22:39, QUOTING LEVITICUS 19:18, NRSVUE



OUR SHARED GOALS

Joining A Wider Table

COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT

Our annual generosity initiative is grounded in a simple conviction: faithful giving is not a transaction but a participation. When we commit our resources to this ministry, we are joining something God is already doing. Through *A Wider Table*, our shared goals for 2026 are:

INITIATIVE GOALS

ENGAGE FULLY IN PRAYER AND DISCERNMENT

Inviting 100% of the Trinity community to seek God's lead throughout October, and to approach this commitment with open hands.

SELECT OUR 2027 MISSION GIVING FUND RECIPIENT

Extending our table beyond these walls by directing a portion of our giving toward a community partner chosen together. Learn more on the following pages.

SUSTAIN OR GROW FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Ensuring the resources needed for vibrant ministry, hospitality, and mission in the year ahead.

REACH OUR 2027 MISSION BUDGET TARGET OF \$1,223,511

A 5% increase over 2026 projected contribution income, strengthening and expanding the ministry God has entrusted to us.

"I felt inadequate for the job, but after several conversations with our Lord, I decided to take the plunge and say yes."

JUDY JACOBSON

Where Your Gifts Go

Our annual budget is more than numbers on a page. It is a ministry plan: a table set with the resources needed to gather, welcome, serve, and send. Every dollar committed through A Wider Table supports this shared work across six core areas of ministry:

WORSHIP & HOSPITALITY 42% | \$513,875

Creating space where all are welcomed to the table: inspired, nourished, and sent through meaningful worship, music, and the sacraments.

SCHOOLS: PRESCHOOL & CDC 17% | \$207,997

Extending God's hospitality to children and families in our community through safe, caring, and faith-rooted learning environments.

DISCIPLESHIP & FAITH FORMATION 15% | \$183,527

Nurturing faith at every stage of life: through scripture study; family, children and youth ministry; adult education; and spiritual formation.

SERVICE & JUSTICE 12% | \$146,821

Serving at the table in our neighborhood and world through partnerships, advocacy, and ministries of compassion and systemic change.

CARE MINISTRY 8% | \$97,881

Walking alongside members and friends through prayer, pastoral presence, and tangible support in every season of life.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 6% | \$73,411

Building relationships and partnerships that invite neighbors near and far to find a place at God's wider table.

When we give generously, we are not funding programs. We are investing in people, relationships, and the ongoing story of God's love at work through Trinity.

Figures represent percentages of the 2027 Mission Budget Target. Personnel, facility, and mortgage expenses are divided proportionally between the Core Ministries. "Service & Justice" includes benevolence funds: 7% for Synod Mission Support and 1% for the Mission Giving Fund.



MISSION GIVING FUND

Beyond These Walls

REACHING THE WIDER TABLE IN OUR CITY AND WORLD

A wider table does not stop at our property line.

In addition to the 7% sent to the Northwest Washington Synod in support of the wider mission of the Church in our area and throughout the ELCA, Trinity's Mission Giving Fund designates **1% of our annual contribution income** to support the work of local and regional ministry partners whose mission aligns with our own. This is our congregation's way of extending God's hospitality outward: a concrete act of joining what God is already doing beyond our doors.

Each year, the Congregation Council **prayerfully identifies** a set of recipient options and invites the full congregation to participate in the selection. Your voice matters in this process. The organization you choose on your commitment card will receive these designated funds in the year ahead.

In past years, Trinity has directed Mission Giving Fund support to organizations serving youth experiencing homelessness, combating human trafficking, and providing wraparound services to families in South Snohomish County. Each choice has been a declaration: we believe **every person deserves a seat at the table**, and we are willing to put our resources behind that belief.

This year's options are presented on the following page. Read about each one, pray about which direction feels right for your household, and **make your voice heard on your commitment card**.

*"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have
entertained angels without knowing it."*

HEBREWS 13:2, NRSVUE

Choose Your Impact

The Congregation Council has prayerfully identified 3 organizations whose work reflects God's compassion in meaningful and transformative ways. Read about each option below and make your selection on your commitment card.

THE ACCESS PROJECT

The Access Project empowers youth in South Snohomish County, especially Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and other underserved young people, through mentorship, mental health support, and leadership development. Our own gym regularly hosts their Youth & Cops Basketball and Volleyball nights, building relationships between local youth and law enforcement. Directing your gift here joins work already underway, right here at Trinity, to help young people grow with confidence and hope.  [**theaccessprojectwa.org**](https://theaccessprojectwa.org)

BEST

Businesses Ending Slavery & Trafficking (BEST) works to prevent human trafficking and support survivors by equipping employers with tools to create safer workplaces and meaningful job opportunities. Through awareness campaigns, employee trainings, and partnerships with businesses across the U.S. and beyond, BEST addresses the root causes of trafficking while opening doors for survivors to rebuild their lives. Choosing BEST joins our giving to a global movement for freedom, dignity, and justice, one more expression of the wider table God is setting beyond our doors.  [**bestalliance.org**](https://bestalliance.org)

LNC PARTNERS

The Lynnwood Neighborhood Center opened its doors this year, bringing together trusted organizations to serve families and individuals across South Snohomish County. Partner agencies include the Boys & Girls Club, Latino Education and Training Institute, Cocoon House, ChildStrive, and many more. Choosing this option means our Mission Giving Fund will be distributed evenly among all service providers at the Center, multiplying the impact of our generosity across a broad spectrum of community needs, from childcare and health care to housing and education.

 [**voaww.org/lnc**](https://voaww.org/lnc)



HOW TO RESPOND

Every Gift Matters

SUSTAINING GOD'S MISSION

When joined with the commitments of others, every gift of any size helps sustain this table and keep it growing wider. Your commitment is not a transaction. It is a declaration that you believe this community is worth sustaining, and that God's work through Trinity is worth joining.

There is no gift too small to matter, and no seat at this table that goes unnoticed.

WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE — RECURRING GIFT

Set up a recurring gift at **give.tlcs.church**. Recurring giving is the simplest way to make your commitment an ongoing practice rather than a single transaction.

BY STOCK OR OTHER ASSETS

Gifts of appreciated stock, IRA distributions, or estate gifts can be meaningful and tax-advantaged ways to give. Contact the church office to learn more.

BY CHECK OR CASH

Make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church & Schools and place in the offering plate or drop at the church office anytime.

EMPLOYER MATCHING

Many employers match charitable contributions. Check with your HR department to see if your gift can be doubled.

Questions about giving options? Contact Don Boelter at don@tlcs.church or 425.778.2159 x205

Joining the Table

This fall, every person who calls Trinity home is invited to take four steps:



1. PRAY

Ask God to open your hands and your heart throughout October. Use the weekly devotional sections in this brochure to guide your prayer and discernment.



2. DISCERN

Reflect on how God is calling you to grow in generosity this year: with your time, your presence, and your financial gifts.



3. COMMIT

Complete your Commitment Card at whatever level feels right for your household. Every commitment, of any size, matters.



4. RETURN

Bring your card to worship on Commitment Sunday, October 25, or anytime before or after at the church office or online.

KEY DATES

- **October 4** · Initiative kick-off Sunday. A Wider Table begins.
- **October 4–25** · Devotional weeks. Use this brochure throughout the month for prayerful consideration and reflection.
- **October 25** · Commitment Sunday. Bring your commitment card for a celebratory end to the initiative.

Can't make it on October 25? Drop your commitment card at the church office anytime, or set up a recurring gift at give.tlcs.church.



COMMITMENT SUNDAY

An Act of Joining

OCTOBER 25, 2026 · REFORMATION SUNDAY

A commitment card is a small piece of paper. But what happens when you sign it is anything but small.

When you write a number on that card and bring it forward, you are not paying a bill or meeting a quota. You are making a declaration: **I believe this community is worth sustaining.** I believe the table God is setting here is wider than I can see from where I stand. I am willing to put my resources behind that belief and trust that, joined with the gifts of others, something none of us could do alone becomes possible.

This is what the church has always been. Not a collection of individuals managing their own spiritual lives, but a **body called together**, shaped by word and sacrament, and sent back out into the world. The Reformation we celebrate on October 25 was, at its root, an insistence that **grace belongs to everyone** and that the whole people of God are called to live it out. Your commitment is one expression of that living.

*"We were sustained by all this grace
through a very trying time."*

MARY DENNY

We do not know exactly what the year ahead holds for Trinity. We know that God is faithful, that this congregation has been entrusted with a remarkable ministry, and that every person who signs a commitment card is helping to ensure that ministry continues and grows in the year ahead.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON OCTOBER 25

Reformation Sunday

Commitment Sunday falls on Reformation Sunday this year, a fitting convergence. **The church reformed is always the church reforming**, always being called back to its purpose and released into the world. We will gather for worship as we do every week, and within that gathering there will be a moment to **bring our commitment cards forward as an act of communal dedication**.



If you have not yet completed your card, cards will be available in the narthex from the Welcome Hosts before and during the service. If you cannot be present on October 25, you can return your card at the church office at any time before or after, or make your commitment online at give.tlcs.church.

A Closing Word

The table is already set. It has been set longer than any of us have been here, and it will be set long after we are gone. What we are asked to do in this season, in this community, with these gifts, is simply to come to it, serve at it, and help it keep getting wider.

Thank you for being at this table. We are grateful for you.





BUILDING. BELONGING. BECOMING.