



# Trinity Topics

**August 2024**

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**“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,  
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”—Proverbs 9:10**

The arrival of August means the end of summer vacation and the start of school. When I was in school, I naturally looked forward to summer vacation. However, by the end of summer I was just as eager for the start of school. There is excitement and joy to be had in learning. I remember sitting over my math homework at the kitchen table puzzling for an hour or more over a single math problem. Then, like a bolt out of the blue, the concepts slid together, and the problem suddenly made sense. It gave me a feeling of relief and accomplishment to finally understand. I see this same delight in learning in my own children (though it's often directed towards matters like video games or Pokémon cards!). There is love in understanding, and this cycle is self-reinforcing. When we love a person, we seek to know everything there is to know about them: their favorite movies, their childhood memories, their political and religious beliefs, and more. As we come to understand a person, they go from being strangers to being loved ones that we care for more and more. Through understanding of another person, we love them all the more for all their virtues and their flaws. We never come to a sense that there is nothing more to know about someone we love.

Being a Christian demands this same yearning for understanding. Just as loving anything is a journey to understand the subject, loving God with all our hearts is a lifetime of faith seeking understanding. The good news of the Christian faith is that God has made himself known in the cross of Jesus. Christian belief is not a matter of dry academic inquiry for theologians. We cannot leave dogma to the priests while we do our good works. Jesus is alive and makes himself available to us every time we open the Bible. He certainly knows us and cares for us, for all our virtues and flaws. It is the fullness of life, it is joy and peace to know him in return.

This journey of knowing Jesus must start somewhere. Even those of us who have known the Christian faith our whole lives must always be ready to start the journey again. A good place to start relearning the Christian faith is found in the section of the *Book of Common Prayer* called the Catechism, which begins on page 845. The Catechism is organized as a series of common questions about Christian belief, with answers from the Anglican tradition. In ages past, bishops would ask candidates for Confirmation these questions, who would then be expected to recite the answers from memory. As children go back to school this month, how about those of us beyond school age continue our own learning with a refreshed interest in the Christian faith? Start with the Catechism, and then continue this study through continual examination of your own life. After all, the Catechism is only the beginning—we all have our own relationship with Jesus.

+ Fr. Zach Brooks

### *A Course in Anglican History: Part LXV*

Just like the population of the American colonies overall, the Church of England in the Colonies in the 1760's and 70's had a mixed response to the growth of revolutionary ideas. These ideas were not exactly new. The American colonies well remembered that the English Civil War resulted in the overthrow of a tyrannical king and the establishment of a republic. A few Anglican clerics would mumble the prayers for the King mandated by the *Book of Common Prayer*, or just switch them out with prayers for local leaders. Overall, however, the King's Church, as it was called, was mostly against any idea of revolution. From a strictly bureaucratic sense, the Church of England was literally a department of the British state. Its leaders were English civil servants, its worship was mandated by the government, its legitimacy came from being the official Church of the English nation. It was the English people at prayer. In a more theological sense, the Church of England's focus on the *Book of Common Prayer*, with powerful bishops able to enforce conformity, made it more resistant to the radical ideas espoused by the Founding Fathers. While proponents of the Enlightenment valued reason above all else, tradition and respect for authority were the central tenants of Anglican doctrine. Congregationalist and Presbyterian churches saw themselves as expressions of their local communities and were just fine with the idea of separating from England. Anglicans, and to a lesser extent the Methodists, were without a doubt expression of English colonial power, and separation from England would mean a loss of this identity. This connection to England would cost Anglicanism in the Colonies dearly in the decades to come.

*This column is a monthly series on the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church.*

### *Looking Ahead to September*

Be sure to read the **special insert** from Fr. Kip! He is introducing us to what the new Fellowship study will be. We hope many of you will join us in this study. Fellowship generally meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. The first meeting will be on September 3.



### **Founders' Day**

One hundred ninety years ago, on August 11, 1832, Trinity Parish, Jacksonville, was organized, making it the oldest parish in Illinois.

Be sure to look closely at the window above the east entrance as you enter the sanctuary. In the *Stained Glass Window* book, it is described in detail as *The Coming of the Church to Jacksonville, Illinois, in 1832*. The center lancet has a representation of our church building. In the left lancet you will see the cornerstone of our church.

Please join us for a Parish Picnic Potluck after the 10 o'clock service.

## News & Announcements

### ***Help Needed!***

After Labor Day regular church school will resume. We are blessed at Trinity Church to have dedicated teachers lead our children in worship and study. It takes many hands to conduct weekly lessons. There is a wide range of ages of our children. Our teachers want to be able to meet the needs of them all.

How can you help? Volunteer to be a teacher or teacher's aide. Volunteer to stay in the nurse's office with our youngest ones while the teachers conduct lessons. All extra hands are welcome. Although weekly help is needed, you can also offer help one or two Sundays a month. Let the Parish Office know how you can help.

*These children are the hope that this church will continue to be filled for years to come.*

### ***Women's Day of Appreciation at the Cathedral***

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul will host this special day on Saturday, **September 7, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm**. All women and young ladies are invited to share in this time together. The special speaker is Alexis King, a parishioner at St. Michael's, O'Fallon. She will share her journey and thoughts on roles of women in the Church moving forward. Following, there will be a luncheon, fellowship, and a fun activity together. Registration is at 9:00; Mass will begin at 9:30.

**The registration deadline is August 15.** Information is posted on the bulletin board.

### ***Choir***

Choir Rehearsals will soon resume. All are welcome to join! Contact Mary Wilson. Sunday, September 10 will be their first Sunday to sing at the 10 o'clock service.

### ***Outreach***

Our Doorbell Dinners coordinator K-Lou Ashmore would like to thank the following who delivered dinners during the week of July 22-26: Kip and K-Lou Ashmore, Keith and Maryjane Bradbury, Chuck and Joann Crim, Paula Herget, Forrest and Helen Keaton, Michele Quinones, and Jeff & Hilda Radcliffe with their grandsons.

Trinity Church has been a part of this ministry, along with other area churches, for decades. The recipients of the meals are thankful for the food and the personal contact that volunteers provide.

Our next week of duty is in October, and K-Lou will again be booking volunteers. Please consider getting involved in this ministry, if you are able.

### ***Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches***

Each fall Jacksonville welcomes numerous college students back to our area. The JACC will be distributing the items to all students at Illinois College's Community Involvement Night. Each student will receive snacks, as well as welcome messages and information from contributing churches. If you would like to donate, these items are needed: granola bars, peanut butter crackers, and cheese crackers. There is a box in the upper hallway for your donations.

***\*If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.***

**Lectors**

August 4: Alice Tracey  
August 11: Nancy Taylor Porter  
August 18: Cathy Nelson  
August 25: Paula Woods

**Eucharistic Minister:**

August 4: Forrest Keaton

**Acolytes**

August 4: Clayton Robb  
August 11: Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb  
August 18: Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb  
August 25: Bruce Evans & Clayton Robb

**Ushers**

August 4: Bob Hardwick & Jim Herget  
August 11: John Clancy & Chuck Crim  
August 18: Jim Herget & Volunteer  
August 25: John Clancy & Chuck Crim

Join us  
on **August 11**,  
as we celebrate our **Founders' Day**.

**Vestry Meeting**  
**Tuesday, August 20**  
**7:00 pm**

**SERVICES IN AUGUST 2024**

**SUNDAYS:**

August 4: **The 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

August 11:  
**The 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

August 18:  
**The 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

August 25:  
**The 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
8:00 am = Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

**WEEKDAY EUCHARISTS AT 10:00 am:**

Tuesday, August 6:  
**The Transfiguration**  
Wednesday, August 7  
Wednesday, August 14  
Thursday, August 15:  
**St. Mary the Virgin**  
Wednesday, August 21  
Saturday, August 24:  
**St. Bartholomew**  
Wednesday, August 28

**MORNING PRAYER AT 10:00 am:**  
On Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays