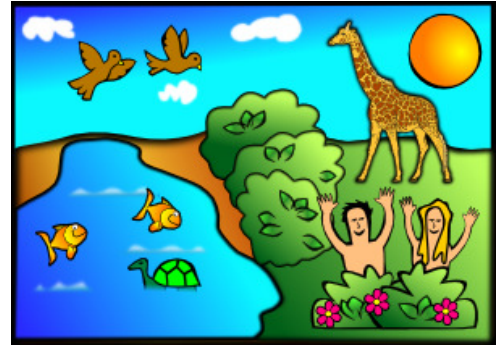


**St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church
1st Sunday after Pentecost
The Holy Trinity (series A.)
Sermon by Pastor Anthony E.
Schultz**

**Genesis 1:1-5
June 15, 2014**



1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day.

Children of our Heavenly Father, precious in His sight for Jesus’ sake:

There are in this world some very creative people. Back in 1941 there was an engineer named George – living in Switzerland. George went hiking with his puppy and they both got these little burdock seeds stuck to George’s socks and his puppy’s fur. Looking at the seeds under a microscope – George saw the little hooks. George realized what you needed were hooks and loops. Originally people refused to take George’s idea seriously. He managed to get one weaver to help him with 2 strips of cotton loops but they wore out quickly. People said to George, “See?” George was not discouraged. Nylon – which you sometimes think has been around forever – Nylon had just been invented. Nylon doesn’t break down – doesn’t rot – doesn’t attract mold – and can be made in threads of all different thicknesses! A little trial and error – and George discovered that – when sewn under infra-red light the loops worked. George was on the brink of giving up – when he realized – if he took shears and cut loops on one side – to make the hooks to catch the loops on the other side – it matched up perfectly! It took 8 more years – to create the loom that trimmed the loops – and George was in business! It’s very creative – seeing something in nature – and making something like it – that has very practical use! Again – pretty small potatoes – compared to Father, Son and

Holy Spirit – who invented the wool – from sheep – to make the socks – and invented the burdock seed to catch on the socks – and the Swiss Alps – where George was hunting – when the burrs caught in his socks! This morning – this Trinity Sunday – we will spend the next little bit – thinking about Creation and the greatness of the Trinity that we worship and praise! Today God’s Word reminds us:

In The Beginning Was God!

1. He made everything.

Today we celebrate Trinity Sunday – the fact that God’s Word teaches the triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You can’t figure that out! It’s not logical. It’s not reasonable. It doesn’t make sense. So some denominations don’t believe in the Trinity. One example would be Unitarians! There is a Unitarian Church in Madison. I go past it every time I go to University or St. Mary’s or Meriter or the VA. What do Unitarians do? They work to make this world a better place. We talked about this before. Everyone who comes to the meeting – gets a crisp \$100! When you come to the meeting next week – you need to report what you did with that crisp \$100. Did you buy a blanket for a homeless person? Did you buy seeds and grow vegetables to give to homeless people? Did you buy a little goat to make milk and cheese for malnourished children in Haiti? Did you buy yarn to knit sweaters for orphans? What did you do with that money to make this world a better place? And that’s wonderful! But the ultimate question remains – what is a person profited if you gain the whole world – yet lose your immortal soul? Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses do not believe in the Trinity – which is why we need to speak the truth in love to Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses! In Good Shepherd Bible Class that meets on Tuesday nights we talked about the Trinity. Some people who are very clever and inventive have tried to explain the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – three Persons and yet One God – by using an apple. The skin, the fruit or meat of the apple and the core – with the seeds inside – three parts – each apple – different yet integrated. A nice try – but how far short does that fall? The One true God – an apple? Another famous try is ice – in a puddle – with a little mist. Water, water, water – H₂O – and yet distinct. Again a nice try – but again – the eternal God – a melting ice cube? Seriously? Seriously? Would it not be far better simply to say the One true God – is so far beyond our little brain to understand – perhaps it would be

best to simply say, “Wow! Amazing! Incredible! Wow!” God doesn’t fit between my ears!

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. In the beginning God... Moses wrote that down. **In the beginning God...** God always was and God will always be. It has been said, “ The cover of the April 8, 1966 edition of *Time* magazine asked the question “Is God Dead?” and the accompanying article addressed growing atheism in America at the time. At the time, a movement called “death of God” was arising in American theology. The death of God movement is sometimes technically referred to as “theothanatology”, deriving from the Greek words theos (God) and thanatos (death).” God’s existence is not because people invented Him. God’s existence does not depend upon people believing in Him. God always was and God will also be! He is eternal – without beginning and without end – eternal, all powerful, all knowing – everywhere at once! He is beyond our ability to understand or explain. He does not depend on us. We depend on Him for every beat of our ♥, every breath we take!

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters... Sometime in the vast eternal past – always and only according to His good pleasure the Almighty determined to make the earth – muddy and watery – the sea surging. This place – where God will make people – where God will send His Son to save us. It was all planned out from before the creation of the world. **³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.** How did that work? I don’t know! This is before the creation of the sun – the blazing fire that would ultimately be the center of our solar system. Before the sun existed – there was light. There had to be light – because the Almighty willed it to be so. What was that first and purest light like? Did it streak through space – like a laser beam piercing the blackness? Was it like the dawn – pink and pumpkin orange – and golden bright – and spreading – seeping into the darkness – brighter and brighter – more and more? Or was it like the grand finale of the greatest fireworks ever – exploding brighter and brighter more and more and more still. Did it light up everywhere? In the midst of all this – the Almighty created time! Think about that! Time! It was evening – it was morning – the first day! Time – measured and

recorded – time! The Almighty must like the number 60. 60 seconds in a minute. 60 minutes in an hour. He must like the number 12, also! Twelve hours of light and twelve hours of darkness. Twelve months in a year. 30 days in a month – sometimes 31 and once in a while 28 days. Seasons – 3 months of spring, then summer, then autumn and then winter – like clockwork! This too was part of God’s plan from the beginning.

You can see the power and wisdom and goodness in all that God made as step by step he organized and filled – organized and filled! Think about all the water God made. He made fresh water – and sea water – salt water – and muddy water like the Mississippi River. He made the Amazon River and the mighty Nile River – and water so cold at the top and the bottom of the world that there are massive pieces of ice – enough to sink the unsinkable Titanic! In the water God put all sorts of creatures – little amoebas – so small you can only see them through a microscope – with little hairs all around the edges to make them move. Then there are krill! Krill are kind of like little Crawfish – crustaceans – how many? In the Antarctic an estimate biomass of some 379 million tons! That’s a lot of Krill. They migrate – not horizontally but vertically – migrating from in the deep during the day and near the surface during the night – so fish and mammals like whales – can use their mouth like an enormous sieve to filter out Krill and eat them! And maybe Krill oil is good for us? There seem to be different opinions about that! There are Amoebas and Krill and Shrimp! Have you ever looked up Shrimp on the Internet? They say almost any little creature that looks like a Shrimp is called a Shrimp. They have little shells like a baby Lobster – lots of legs and long feelers. They say there are thousands of different species of Shrimp. How can that be? How can you take one of these little tiny Lobster like creatures and in the most subtle way think up a thousand variations – much less several thousand variations? Like the Pistol Shrimp – with these big front leg things that stun their prey by making sonic booms that are among the loudest noises in the ocean. Did you know that? There are Shrimp all painted up with spots and strips – and people eat some 7 million tons of Shrimp every year? And that’s not to mention fish – orange with white stripes with black to make them pop – and people will call them Clown Fish. There are Dolphins and Porpoises – little Guppies that swim in schools of a thousand and they all turn and nobody crashes into any body. There are Octopuses with their legs with little suction cups on them. There are Great White Sharks –

Sword Fish—Salmon and Tuna—Lake Trout—and Trout you can catch with a fly that you tie with the brightest little threads and feathers. There are Sting-rays—flat as a pancake with a spear tail with poison. There are Tilapia and Flounder—Halibut and Cod fish—Bluegills and Sun Fish and Crappies—and Sturgeon for spearing. There are Cat Fish and Bull Heads and Lake Perch and more! There are Penguins that swim like torpedoes—sea otters and walruses and so much more! All made by the creative will of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

It is sinfully horrible that Adam and Eve spoiled it all. And we have only succeeded in making it worse—by our wickedness and sin! Alexander Imich passed away the other day. Alexander was born in 1903 in a town in Poland that was then part of Russia. Alexander died at the age of 111. Alexander credited good genes and a general healthy lifestyle for his long life! What does that mean—a general healthy lifestyle? He did mostly good stuff—with how do they usually say—a little fudging on this or that—nobody's perfect, right? Did Alexander know Jesus died on the \dagger to take away all his sins? That's all that matters. That's all that counts! Jesus died and rose again to pay for the sins of Alexander's wife who died back in 1986! All that matters—all that has real and lasting consequences is that Jesus died and rose again to wash away all our sins. It means the difference between unspeakable horror and never ending pain—apart from God's love—and being with Jesus in peace and joy and rest forever. God made us and Jesus saved us by grace alone! Amen!