



The statistics indicate that 30% of people are LONELY¹. 30%! People have no one to share the joys of life with nor talk through problems and difficulties. They live without connections: physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The causes of loneliness are many and varied: TV, video games, longer work weeks, fenced neighborhoods, and broken relationships. Texts, email, social media, and the internet are not helping either. ***People are less likely to have strong friendships, know their neighbors, or have meaningful interpersonal relationships.***

Loneliness goes back to the Garden of Eden, where God created Adam and recognized that ***“It is not good for man to be alone.”*** So God created Eve out of the rib of man. The Lord God was so concerned about companionship that He **created marriage, commanded families, and established society.**

King Solomon, Israel’s wise **Teacher** in the Old Testament, echoes God’s concern for companionship when he wrote in the Book of **Ecclesiastes**:

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him--a threefold cord is not quickly broken. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

¹ In May 2023, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, M.D., M.B.A., called loneliness a public health epidemic. The latest Healthy Minds Monthly Poll from the American Psychiatric Association (APA) finds that, early in 2024, 30% of adults say they have experienced feelings of loneliness at least once a week over the past year, while 10% say they are lonely every day. “New APA Poll: One in Three Americans Feels Lonely Every Week” <https://www.psychiatry.org/news-room>.

King Solomon recognized the need for companionship. Solomon saw that life is immensely difficult on your own.

Unfortunately, sin destroys relationships;
whether that be marriage, families, friendships, or neighbors.

Sin shatters trust and alienates people. Hurtful words create lifelong wounds; careless actions drive people away. Your sin has even severed your relationship with God Himself. In fact your rebellion, disobedience, and immorality makes you an enemy of God. Your sin has created a hostile relationship between you and your Creator. *The ultimate loneliness is having NO RELATIONSHIP² with the One, True, and Only God.*

The Lord Jesus Christ, the New Testament *Teacher* who is “greater than Solomon³”, redeems and restores your relationship with God and with others. Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior of the world; through His death on the cross, your sin is removed and you are forgiven! In Jesus’ death and resurrection, you are reconciled to God the Holy Trinity. The separation of sin is removed; the relationship is restored. You are in a good, gracious, and perfect relationship with God.

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus *Romans 8:1* *You have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ* *Romans 5:1*

Having peace with God means that you have a loving, kind, and caring, relationship with God. You now know Him as your Father in Heaven, and He watches over your life with divine love, mercy, and compassion.

Having peace with God also leads you to live in peace with other people.

² I use “no relationship” as a colloquialism. The truth is is that NO ONE is in “no relationship” with God. You are either in a gracious relationship with God through Christ; or you are in a hostile relationship because of your sin because you reject God’s Son. There is no middle ground; There is no such thing as having “no relationship” with God. The use of the phrase “no relationship” in this sermon is congruent to not knowing the love, care, and kindness of God the Father through faith in Jesus the Son.

³ The Son of David (Jesus) is **greater** than the son of David (Solomon) ---- Note Luke 11:31: *The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here.* Jesus is the Messianic Son of David who is also the **Son of God** who is far “**greater than Solomon**”! Just as Solomon was the Old Testament Teacher of Israel (“*Ecclesiastes*”); so now Jesus is the **greater** New Testament Teacher of the Holy Christian Church (John 13:13: *[Jesus said,] you call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am*)!

You can forgive; you can reconcile with others; you can make a good faith attempt to repair broken relationships⁴!

Because Christ's death and resurrection restores you with God the Father, you can have Godly companionship and healthy relationships with people in your own life, starting with your family.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

YOUR FAMILY IS A GIFT FROM GOD. God created families when He brought Adam and Eve together in the Garden of Eden and commanded them to be “*fruitful and multiply*”. Children learn to live and interact with others first and foremost in their families. Someone once said that *the light that shines the farthest shines the brightest in the home*. Whether you are a husband or wife, mother or father, son or daughter, brother or sister, your family is a gift from God to you. Let your light shine in your home, in your family, and it will shine in all your other relationships as well. **YOUR FAMILY IS A GIFT FROM GOD!**

THE HOLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH: THE BODY OF CHRIST

Because Christ's death and resurrection reconciles you with God the Father, you also have companionship, community, and fellowship here at Church. As believers in Christ, we “share something in common”. That is the meaning of the word “fellowship”. The Christian faith and life is what we share in common – and it binds us together. **Trinity Lutheran Church is the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it.**

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

Trinity Lutheran Church is the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it. Our congregation is a place for Godly companionship, friendships, and fellowship⁵. This

⁴ If you are the cause of broken relationships, then humble yourself, admit your fault, and do what you can to repair the relationship! You can do this because you have been forgiven by the Lord Jesus and reconciled to God the Father! The Holy Spirit lives within you, and gives you the strength to “do the right thing.”

⁵ This is especially pertinent for us this year, in 2024, as we celebrate our 50th anniversary as a congregation. As members of Trinity Lutheran Church, we have a bond with those who have gone before us; a fellowship with those who worshipped in the same sanctuary, and a communion with those who knelt at the same altar. In faith, there are no “lone rangers” --- don't let Satan deceive you into thinking that you do not need other people ... or your Church. You belong here; here you have true fellowship with other Lutheran believers in Christ ... those who are presently here, and those who are now with the Lord!

is where we get to know each other: to worship together, to study God's Word together, and to love and care for others. This is where we use our gifts to help other people, to grow in faith, and to share the love of God in Christ Jesus the Savior. We are all walking together on the same journey to heaven! To use King Solomon's images, this is one of the places where we **pick each other up**, where we **stay warm** and where we **stand and defend** each other. Church fellowship is important --- there is a bond between believers in Christ here at Trinity.

THE MYSTICAL UNION

One of the most fascinating things that the New Testament Teacher, the Lord Jesus, teaches us is that we have an unseen travelling companion as we journey through life. **God the Holy Trinity lives within you!** God dwells in you! The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit lives within you in a mysterious, yet very real, way. The doctrine is called the "**Mystical Union**"; here is one of the places it is taught:

Mystical Union

The "Mystical Union" is the dwelling of God the Holy Trinity within each believer as a gift of faith. It is taught repeatedly in the New Testament, and each Person of the Holy Trinity is described as dwelling within believers:

God the Father (John 14:23)

God the Son (Galatians 2:20)

God the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19)

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:11

The Lord God Himself dwells within you --- creating and nurturing faith; guiding and leading you in life; defending and protecting you from sin, temptation and the devil; gifting you and empowering you to serve in His Kingdom.

The presence of the Holy Trinity in your life means that you will never be alone and isolated! Even if your family, friends, and Church let you down, God never will! He is your unseen traveling companion who is with you through everything that happens in your life! **God the Holy Trinity lives within you!**

The Old Testament **Teacher** King Solomon teaches us that **two are better than one**. Our New Testament **Teacher**, the Lord Jesus Christ, **confirms that**, and teaches that all your relationships have been redeemed and you are not destined to live a lonely life of separation and isolation.

Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ,
Family, Church, and even **God Himself** is where you find true companionship!
Amen!

Lord Jesus, we thank you for redeeming us and restoring our relationship with God the Father. We thank you for the gifts of family and Church, and ask that you would help us to be good and godly influences in all of our relationships. Help us to live in peace with all the people in our lives. Chiefly, Holy Trinity, we praise You for dwelling within us, and ask that You strengthen our faith and life as we live as Your People. Amen!

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

Again, I saw vanity under the sun: 8 one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, "For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?" This also is vanity and an unhappy business. 9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! 11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him--a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

1 Corinthians 12:12-20

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

Romans 8:9-11

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

John 14:15-27

[Jesus said,] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. 25 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.