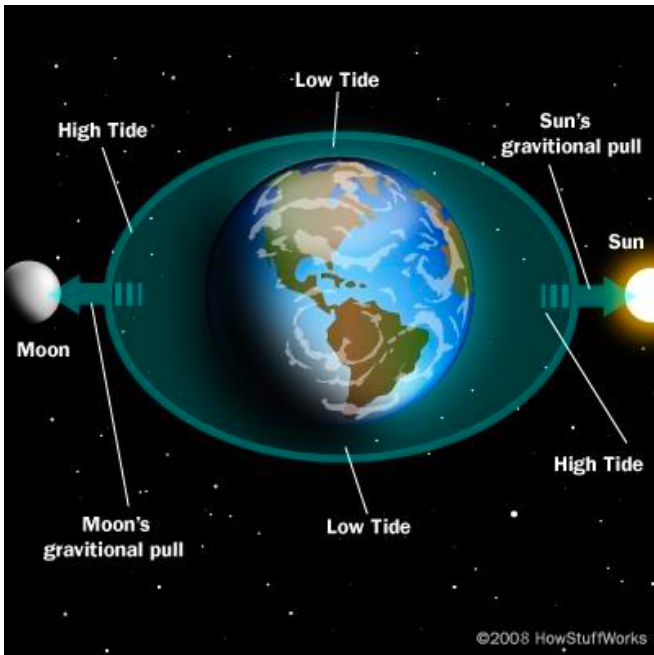


Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
November 18, 2020

"WORKING TOGETHER"

And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. Genesis 1:16

Wednesday morning is typically tennis time for Kay and I. She plays in a group at 9:00am and my group gets going at 10:00. I can honestly tell you, I'm an avid tennis player but certainly not an accomplished tennis player. Anyway, it was just after noon that we arrived back home and looking out from the back of the house we observed that it was low tide. It was not only low tide, but it was REALLY low tide...much lower than we'd seen since moving to Gulf Cove. The bottom of the canal was exposed along the sides for most of its length, and most of the boats would have been impossible to launch. Last evening, as it was getting dark, I noticed the tiniest little sliver of a moon setting in the west. The new moon was just a couple of days ago. At the time of the new moon and also the full moon the sun



comes into alignment with the earth and the moon and the gravitational attraction of these two heavenly bodies combines to put a greater pull on the tides, so the high tides are higher and the low tides are lower. Had this happened a week ago, as a tropical storm/hurricane was passing by we would have seen a lot more flooding. It's good that it didn't happen. We know from Genesis chapter one that God created the universe and everything in it in six days. On the seventh day God rested and admired what He had done perfectly. God not only created everything perfect, but He also ordered everything perfectly, setting it all in motion so that this new creation would be hospitable to the crown of His creation, mankind. On day four the stars appeared in the sky, and with them came the sun and the moon. Virtually all the energy that powers the earth-atmosphere system draws its origin from the sun. The moon radiates no visible light of its own but does reflect much of that which falls on it from the sun to offer light in the night for all of us here on earth. My point here is that when these two great celestial bodies combine their gravitational power, they exert much more

influence (power) than when they are in opposition...when the moon is pulling one way and the sun in another. The same concept applies to people, and specifically, to the people in the Church. It's heartbreaking to hear stories of churches that are filled with conflict. Many of the members here at Trinity Lutheran Church of SW Florida have experienced plenty of that, conflict. Strife and discord put a smile on the devil's face. They are tools that he often uses to tear congregations apart, and if he can't succeed in that then to neutralize the effectiveness of their witness. God's people working together in harmony can accomplish great things. The power of God the Holy Spirit is unhindered in producing the fruits of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23) within the fellowship. These fruits become evident in the community and draw others to the light of Christ. Jesus is the "Greater Light". He is the source of all true spiritual power. He shines on us and we, like the moon, reflect His light outward to others. As we remain aligned with Christ, with His will and His mission, our efforts will be blessed with greater success according to the purposes of God. We're called to listen to His Word, and not just to hear, but to do it.