

trinity *Tidings*

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reaching hearts, touching lives

Changing Leaves

If you look closely, it's already beginning. Within a few weeks, it will likely be in full swing as an early fall arrives and leaves change colors just before they end their season and fall to the ground.

Change is all around us. At home, at work, at school, at the lake, at the cottage. What they say is so very true, "Change is inevitable."

How do we deal with the inevitable, with change?



Accept

The leaves change every fall. They accept it and so do we without giving it a thought.

Many things change around us every year, every month, every week and we've learned to do what everyone does. We've learned to simply accept change. It happens; we can't stop it, so we've internally taught ourselves to accept it.

When we look back at how things once were, we realize that some change hasn't been all that great and other changes have surely been a good thing for us. Either way, whether we approve or disapprove, we deal with many changes by simply accepting.



Resist

How many leaves insist that they're not going to turn colors and leave the tree? Oak leaves always appear to be the most persistent, but they still turn and eventually fall.

Accepting some changes is a good plan, but there are other changes that we simply can't accept. Resistance may sound almost harsh, but if we merely accept every change that comes along, we

will throw away some of the most crucial aspects of our lives.

If our forefathers had not resisted change, where would we be as a church today? Would the Word still be the Word or would it be something so watered down that it would be useless?

When others want to change God's Word and the Sacraments, when someone wants to redefine the significance of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, we need to resist such change or soon we will have nothing secure to build our faith on and to protect us when the devil strikes again.



Embrace

Leaves do it every fall. We just don't realize it. They embrace the changing of the seasons and make the most of each day before their time comes to fall to the ground.

We know change will occur and some changes we can and should embrace. Embracing means that we utilize that change for our benefit, that we grab hold of that opportunity and use it to create something great.

As we embrace change, we become opportunity seekers as we look for ways to incorporate change into our lives. Many changes are good and when we embrace them, we make the most of the opportunity, and, as we do so, change, in those situations becomes a welcome guest that moves our faith and God's Church forward.

The leaves will change whether we approve or not. Our challenge is to determine our next move when change occurs - accept, resist, or embrace. Sounds like a bit of homework for the mind!

Have a great fall!